

WHANGAREI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



2020 *Prospectus*



Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome to your new school.

Founded in 1881, Whangarei Girls' High School is a dynamic and vibrant school community dedicated to excellence and one where students will leave well prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities in their futures.

We aim for each and every one of our students to leave us as confident, well-balanced and successful global citizens. Student success and achievement lies at the heart of all our decision making. We “empower tomorrow’s women” to be leaders, to make positive contributions to society and to have the skills, knowledge, values, attitudes and aptitudes required to be able to follow the career path of their choice.

Maori students achieving success as Maori continues to be an area of focus for us. The student-written ‘Timatanga’ is now firmly embedded in the culture of our school, giving us all a positive start to each day. We work closely with kaumatua and our newly established whanau group and whanaungatanga and manaakitanga are actively fostered to build strong learning relationships.

Our curriculum is changing in response to the changing world and society around us. Our students will feel inspired, challenged and supported as they learn to take responsibility for their learning, make the most of their opportunities, think critically, use their creativity and believe in themselves as they progress from Year 9 through to Year 13.

This is reflected in our curriculum for 2020 as students are supported and guided from the beginning of Year 9 to explore their talents, try new things and apply their new found knowledge and skills. This will continue to be built on in Year 10, and Year 11 will see a new emphasis on putting more depth into the teaching and learning and a two year approach to the high stakes qualifications in Years 12 and 13. Year 11 courses will be offered in six month blocks with students able to choose from a wide variety of courses.

NCEA Level 1 will not be offered as a qualification as students will be working towards gaining credits towards the Level 2 qualification. This gives time for more in-depth study, with value being placed on the learning and its application rather than on the past practice of credits being all that matter.

Our curriculum at all levels provides quality learning in all the learning areas, including Te Reo Maori and foreign languages, with leading art and technology courses and technological learning systems. It caters for all strengths and interests and reflects a strong commitment to our bi-cultural heritage. Education outside the classroom is an integral part of making learning relevant for students. We value the close working relationship we have with parents and whanau and the wider community on so many levels and are immensely appreciative of the high level of support we receive as we strive to offer the best possible education for our students.

Over the last few years we have undertaken major property changes. We are proud of our new Manawa Ora block, newly refurbished and modernised classrooms, specialist areas such as three gymnasiums, astro turf, swimming pool, weights room, Food rooms, Science laboratories, library and modern technology rooms. Our students are learning in modern environments which are, in themselves, conducive to student-centred teaching and learning.

We are proud of our students and their many and varied achievements and welcome new students and their whanau to join our school community, bringing their own sets of strengths and interests and enriching our school even further.

Anne Cooper
Principal





WELCOME FROM OUR STUDENT LEADERS

Whangarei Girls' High School is a thriving hub of opportunity. Whether you have a passion for sport, academics, culture, or are still seeking to find what you're passionate about – Whangarei Girls' High is the high school for you!

Here at WGHS, there is a largely student-driven emphasis on 'empowering tomorrow's women', where we collaboratively support our peers. We do this through our annual 'Work Day' which funds the 'Girls Working for Girls' scholarships. It is a supportive team environment that creates comfort and security among the students and staff.

Prefect led committees such as Environmental, Cultural, Sports, Citizenship, Global Issues, Health, Honorary Big Sisters, and House Councils provide the perfect platform for students of all ages

to get involved. There are endless amounts of opportunities to make friends or take on leadership roles.

The inclusion of 'student voice' is an integral part of our school culture – the Student Council, which is run by the Head Girl team, plays a big part in initiating discussion amidst the school community. This helps to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to let their voice and opinion be heard.

The opportunities here at WGHS are endless, as each student's potential to excel academically, socially and personally, in an environment where our education is crafted specifically to help us grow and develop as young women

Grace Moscrip, Pippa Saunders, Lucy Greig & Harna McKenzie

Head and Deputy Head Girls 2019

THE FIDELITER CODE

The Fideliter Code was created by our entire school community, and represents the values and principles that our students strive for every day.

The Fideliter Code has four goals:

Working together - Mahi tahi: by working with others, listening to other people's points of view, negotiation and sharing ideas.

Giving our best - Kia kaha, kia toa: by being responsible, extending yourself, being cooperative, working hard, being on time.

Having integrity - Tika me te pono: by being honest and truthful, showing sportsmanship, being fair to others, taking responsibility.

Showing respect - Manaaki tangata: showing good manners, being polite and thoughtful of others, caring for the environment, always wearing the correct uniform.

Switch

STUDENT VOICE

I love the Switch project and would recommend it to anyone. I have learned vital skills and a little about how I learn as well. **Emma, Year 9**

I have learnt that that I'm capable of opening my mind to other ideas, learning from failure and solving problems that you really need to put your mind to. **Jamie, Year 9**



SWITCH PROJECT

The Switch Project offers an integrated curriculum for Year 9 and 10 students.

The Switch Project is an exciting initiative for students who wish to be involved in an integrated approach to learning.

This innovative curriculum is based on developing learning, leaders and change-makers who use knowledge meaningfully in our local community across the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Technology, Arts, PE and Health. The first pilot programme ran in Year 9 in 2019 and will be extended to Year 10 for 2020 as well as retaining the programme in Year 9.

Our students are entering a different world to that of their parents and teachers, with new job and learning opportunities. These opportunities need students that can think deeply about issues, solve problems creatively, communicate clearly in a variety of media, learn ever-changing technologies and deal with multiple sources of information. Most importantly, these opportunities need students who can adapt thoughtfully to different situations and take ownership of their learning and actions. It is with these opportunities in mind that we have designed The Switch Project curriculum.

The Switch Project aims to develop global competencies through six areas of deep learning such as Character, Citizenship, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking.

Students will spend approximately 18 hours a week in The Switch Project. For the remainder of the time they will learn alongside other students in a range of option subjects and mixed year level groups at whanau time.

OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

We make a genuine effort to introduce Year 9 students to as many subjects as possible, to help them choose their future pathway.

Both Year 9 and 10 students enjoy a wide sampling from all the essential learning areas of the national Curriculum, giving each student a sound foundation for informed choices in the senior school.

This was recognised by our latest ERO Report, which describes our curriculum as "highly effective in promoting and supporting learning".

The report also noted that our school "fosters change and innovation to benefit students", with students learning "in caring, collaborative and inclusive learning communities".

All Year 9 and 10 students follow a compulsory programme in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health and Physical Education. In addition, students also choose from an extensive range of option subjects to help them define their interests and make informed decision on their subject choices each year.

In Year 11, students will choose twelve courses over the year, studying six for one semester and the other six in the second semester. Twenty internal literacy and numeracy credits will be banked towards their NCEA Level Two qualification which they will complete in Year 12.

Students choose six subjects for study in Year 12 and five in Year 13 when they also have a study line.

SchoolPoint – Choosing your Pathway



STUDENT VOICE

During my time at Whangarei Girls' High School, I have developed a new and greater level of self-confidence through the endless opportunities I have had the privilege of experiencing.

From day one, I have been allowed to feel a valued member of our school, giving me a sense of belonging that every young girl desires when entering a new environment.

Whangarei Girls' High School's motto 'Empowering Tomorrow's Women' is a true testament to my experience here at school.

I have been provided with the resources that have enabled me to identify what I want to do once I leave school, and this has helped me every step of the way.

Sophie, Year 12

Students at Whangarei Girls' High School choose their courses through SchoolPoint, an online course selection programme which allows you to compare all the courses available, learn about your teachers as well as consider the pathways of each course.

From the Whangarei Girls' High School website www.wghs.school.nz, click on 'Course Selection' in Quick Links and you will be taken to the SchoolPoint landing page.

Here you can view the public pages to see the wide array of subjects of offer at our school. Under the 'Useful Information' tab, you will find year level specific information. In addition, there is information about learning support, NCEA, qualifications, pathways and careers along with many useful links to community, training and employment sites.

Subjects are grouped under broad headings and when you click on these headings, individual course become visible. For each subject you can also access the teacher in charge by email, if you wish to get further information about a particular course.

The course descriptions include information regarding level, content, assessment and pathways. For Year 12 and 13 courses, information about standards and credits are also shown.

Take the time to explore the breadth of learning opportunities on offer at Whangarei Girls' High School. Every year we evaluate our programmes to ensure we are providing a range of programmes suitable for our school community and necessary for the success of our students in the 21st century.



COMMERCIAL KITCHEN Our Food and Nutrition Department offers a full hospitality kitchen for budding young chefs, purpose-built to give students the perfect place to learn.



HALL THEATRE The Hall Theatre seats up to 165 and ensures our talented Dance and Drama students can regularly showcase their talents for families, friends and the wider community.



MANAWA ORA Our newest, purpose-built classrooms are equipped with the latest technology and furniture and provide modern learning environments for students and teachers to work collaboratively.



WORKSHOP Product and Design has grown in popularity and students are producing truly inspiring work. Equipped with a laser cutter, machinery and tools, students have an ideal environment to create their designs.

50+ SCHOOL CLUBS AND SPORTS TEAMS

We encourage all students to be involved in school activities outside the classroom as an important part of their individual growth and development.

We have over 50 clubs and committees available for students to join, with support from teaching staff and leadership from the senior students. Students are encouraged to join at least one club as a great way to make friends, contribute to the school and develop personal skills and qualities outside the classroom.

Our school has a strong tradition of high levels of participation and excellence in sport, with our students achieving national honours and representation in a wide range of sporting activities.

School teams participate in local, regional and national competitions. The sports programme is led by the Sports Department with lunchtime activities organised by the student-led Sports Committee. Senior students are expected to provide leadership at all levels, and many coach junior teams.

Our three gymnasiums are well used for a range of activities, with the Manawahine Gym featuring full size basketball and netball courts. Our swimming pool is enjoyed in Terms 1 and 4 for Physical Education and Outdoor Education classes, as well as for our famous annual Swimming Sports. An all-weather astro turf and dedicated weights room complete a comprehensive set of sporting facilities.



Clubs and SOCs Opportunities at WGHS

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| CULTURAL & LEADERSHIP | Orchestra | Health Committee | Teen Ag Club | | Choir | | |
| | Debating | Scrapbooking | Rockquest | WGHS Radio Station | | | |
| | The Rock | 40 Hour Famine | Sport Committee | | | | |
| | Design Committee | Student Council | Music Committee | | Citizenship Committee | | |
| | SADD Committee | House Committees | Media Committee | | | | |
| | | Global Issues | Kapa Haka | | International Committee | | |
| | Cultural Committee | Peer Tutoring | Ball Committee | | Environmental Committee | | |
| SPORT | Hillary Challenge | Football | Golf | Aerobics | Hockey | Volleyball | Table Tennis |
| | Sailing | Tennis | Futsal | Gymsports | Rugby League | Cricket | Squash |
| | Fencing | Ki O Rahi | Athletics | | Rowing | Weight Training | Get 2 Go |
| | Shooting | Triathlon | Badminton | Swimming | Basketball | Mountain Biking | Adventure Racing |
| | | Surfing | Cross Country | Equestrian | Touch Rugby | Indoor & Outdoor Bowls | |
| | Cheerleading | Orienteering | Netball | Beach Volleyball | Rugby 7s | Waka Ama | |
| | | Karate | | | | | |
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CELEBRATING ARTS AND CULTURE

Whangarei Girls' High School is very committed to supporting, developing and celebrating the Arts.

Students are actively encouraged to get involved, as we believe the arts and cultural life that exists here creates a healthy and stimulating environment in which young women can flourish physically, mentally, academically and spiritually.

We have a proud and long history of high achievement in all arts and cultural disciplines, including Kapa Haka, Design, Fashion, Fine Arts, Debating, Speech, Writing, Dance, Drama, Performing Arts and Music. In the last two years we have also held highly successful Fiafia Nights,

which celebrate the wide range of Pacific Island cultures to which a growing body of our students belong.

The 2017 senior Drama performance "Waiora" gained such wide acclaim, it was invited to Wellington to open the 2018 Wellington Arts Festival. Our Music Department has just been awarded a second New Zealand Teaching Innovation Scholarship.

Led by senior students and a dedicated Cultural Coordinator, our Cultural Council is very active and effective in organising and supporting a packed calendar of cultural events throughout the year. We take a pride in the presentation of all public performances, investing heavily in the Hall Theatre.

STUDENT VOICE

One of the greatest aspects of our school is its diversity. There is such a huge range of people that no matter who you are, you will always find your own friend or group of friends. WGHS welcomes every student, no matter who they are, what they believe in, or what they stand for.

Suzi, Year 10

It is equipped with state-of-the-art technology which students are encouraged to become skilled in using.

The same is true of our other purpose-built facilities. Students are able to utilise the latest technology such as 3D printers, laser cutters and our fully modern, well resourced Art and Technology classrooms.

Kaupapa Maori is intrinsic to our own school culture and programme delivery across all subjects. We have a close relationship with local iwi and are grateful for the ongoing support of our Maori leaders, kaumatua, Ngati Wai Iwi and whanau.



DRAMA

Our vigorous and energetic Drama Department provides performance opportunities at every year level and challenges students to reach the highest standards in performance, stage management and technical design. Drama students are encouraged to take risks, broaden their thinking, be empathetic to other points of view and to build self-confidence in a safe environment. The key words at junior level are focus, participation and fun. At senior level, strong emphasis is placed on commitment, skill development, self-expression and performance excellence. Opportunities are broadened to include script-writing, design and direction.



MUSIC

Our vibrant, innovative Music Department offers students an incredibly wide array of opportunities to discover and grow a passion for music.

As well as classroom learning, students of all year levels are welcome to perform in one of our many concerts, or on one of our music groups including Rockquest bands, Chamber Group or Pasifika Group.



KAPA HAKA

Kapa Haka provides a passionate connection to tikanga Maori. The learning environment is safe, warm and inviting. We believe in displaying and role modelling positive and disciplined attitudes that inspire and motivate.

Our Kapa Haka group stands with mana and pride in everything we do. He rauaroha whakato, he rauaroha whakaputa. The abundance of love we sow, the abundance of love is shared.

LEARNING WITH TECHNOLOGY

WGHS has a comprehensive wireless network and a BYOD scheme in place. All students are requested to bring a personal laptop to school, enabling them to engage in 21st century learning skills, through 24/7 access to classroom resources. Also, very importantly, students will need to be ready for online NCEA assessments being introduced by NZQA.

The junior school uses Google Classroom as the medium for sharing resources with students and whanau, while the senior school uses a range of platforms and tools such the Adobe Creative Suite.

The school has a free mobile app which is used by both students and whanau for communication and information from the school. WGHS also has an online Parent Portal which enables parents and students to track progress, attendance, involvement in activities, along with other useful information.

A subsidised laptop purchase scheme is available to ensure all students can access technology. Adobe Creative Suite is available at a minimal price for all students.





Our School Community

Within our school community, we have many people committed to creating a safe and supportive learning environment for our students.

Importance of our Whanau Structure

All students have a whanau teacher who is key to their pastoral care. Students stay in the same whanau class, with the same teacher, throughout their time with us. In each class there are students from Years 9 to 13, with strong support from the senior students.

Each whanau class belongs to one of our school houses: Bell, Lovelock, Manaia, Mansfield, Rutherford and Sheppard. With nine whanau classes in each house, students can be well known within their class, their house and the school. Strong bonds form within the whanau class and with the whanau teachers who become trusted advisors of each student.

First Point of Contact

Each House has a Dean who has a complete overview of the whanau classes in his/her House. The Dean takes responsibility for the progress and welfare of your daughter and is the first point of contact for parents and whanau.

Needing Support

Our Guidance Counsellors provide students with a confidential service to look at difficult issues and to learn strategies that improve coping skills and increase resilience.

The Student Support Centre also provides general first aid, and is supported by weekly visits from outside agencies such as physiotherapists and health nurses. We are also grateful to Manaia Health for enabling us to have a doctor on site two hours a week.

SUPPORTING FUTURE SUCCESS

We work hard to ensure our students leave us well prepared for the next step in their lives.

Our Careers Team offers guidance to students who are having difficulty making decisions about career-related issues, and ensures students are well informed on their career options.

The Gateway Programme also provides the opportunity for students in the senior school to apply their general skills and knowledge in a workplace context.

OUR SCHOOL'S ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

It is important to our school and our students that we have strong links with our community.

We are fortunate to enjoy strong support from a wide range of community networks and agencies, and in return we aim to give back to our community wherever we can.

We have an active Parent Teacher Association and whanau group and engaged Board of Trustees who show a strong interest and commitment to our students.

We also work hard to keep whanau updated, through the parent portal which enables monitoring of attendance and progress at school, monthly newsletters (sent by email to most families) and Student Parent Teacher (SPT) meetings held during Term 1 for all students new to the school to give families a chance to discuss all aspects of their daughter's schooling with their whanau teacher.

A number of student-led committees actively support their community by raising funds or providing goods to a wide range of organisations, such as SPCA, Women's Refuge, Cancer Society, Red Cross and Soul Food. They also readily respond to global needs such as aid requests for natural disasters and the World Vision 40 Hour Famine.

Our curriculum supports community events by providing help with officials and other forms of assistance at community events, especially Primary and Intermediate sports events.

Junior students, through curriculum programmes put together a business plan in response to an identified community need and then implement their plan. Primary and Intermediate students are also invited to matinee shows put on by Dance and Drama students.

A large number of individuals and groups of students undertake community service activities.



WGHS Uniform

Our school uniform is an important part of showing pride in our school and in ourselves.

The Year 9-12 uniform includes:

- Black skirt or trousers
- White shirt
- Blue jersey
- Black shower proof jacket (optional puffer jacket)
- Black PE shorts and blue PE t-shirt
- Plain flat black shoes and white socks or black sandals with one ankle strap.

All items must be regulation WGHS uniform items showing the school logo (except black jacket).

For school swimming, students may wear one piece togs, board shorts, rash vests or a combination of these. We do not permit cotton clothing to be worn for swimming.

We ask that students wear little or no make-up, and keep hairstyles simple. We also ask students to restrict jewellery to:

- ID or medic-alert bracelet
- Neck chain or bone carving
- Watch, ring and two studs or two small sleepers in pierced ear lobes only.
- No other piercings permitted

Uniform items can be purchased from Bethells Uniforms in the Whangarei Strand Arcade, Northland School Wear (Kamo) and The Warehouse. Second-hand uniforms are available through the WGHS PTA- please contact the school for details.

Prefects have a unique blue and grey uniform so they are easily visible in the student body, and for all other Year 13 students, uniform is optional, with the Year 13 dress code on our school website.





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