



NELSON COLLEGE

TE KURA TAMATĀNE O WHAKATŪ





# WELCOME NAU MAI, HAERE MAI

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*Richard Washington*  
Principal | Tumuaki

Welcome to Nelson College, New Zealand's oldest state secondary school. Since 1856, Nelson College has provided boys with a supportive, purpose-driven environment to succeed academically, personally, and socially.

We specialise in boys' education, and tailor our approach to meet the unique needs of young men. From our curriculum to our pastoral care, every aspect of our school is designed to engage boys in meaningful learning experiences that prepare them for life in a rapidly changing world.

With learning and sporting opportunities constantly evolving, and our ever-strengthening relationship with Nelson College for Girls, your son will be joining a place of potential and possibility.

I look forward to working with you as your son embarks on his learning journey at Nelson College.



# DISCOVER CHALLENGE SUPPORT

Young men want to explore.

They want learning to be fun and challenging; They want school to be a place where they can question and test new ideas, as well as acquire the skills and knowledge they'll need to succeed in the next chapter of their education and life beyond college.

At Nelson College our curriculum and teaching is designed with boys in mind. We want our students to be excited about life, knowing that it's often challenging, and to discover and pursue their dreams.

School should be somewhere that provides the space and support for young men to learn and find their passion—a place where they are encouraged to succeed in learning.

## ACADEMIC MĀTAURANGA



Our Deans, subject teachers and support staff all work together to ensure that our rangatahi are fully prepared for learning, and for success in NCEA and NZ Scholarship during their senior years at Nelson College.

We offer a wide range of academic and vocational courses that prepare students for tertiary study, apprenticeships, and other opportunities beyond college.

In the junior school, students experience a range of subjects like technology, arts, music and languages alongside their core subjects. Our focus is on building students' key competencies such as literacy, self-management, and critical thinking, to build a foundation for further learning.

From Year 10, students choose progressively more options as they start to specialise ahead of graduating to tertiary study and apprenticeships.

Our Gibbons Trade Academy is the best secondary school trades centre in the top of the south. It is a specialist facility for young men looking to enter the trades, especially in building and motor engineering. Students from this programme progress directly into apprenticeships or tertiary courses in the trades.

All students receive regular careers advice, starting in year 9 and increasing in their senior years. Our careers staff help students and their whānau to select subjects at school, apply for external courses and scholarships or find jobs in the workforce.





# SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS OF ALL ABILITIES



## SPORT HĀKINAKINA

Nelson College offers an exceptional sports experience from social to high performance programmes that prepare our young men to compete on the national and international stage.



We want every student to participate in a team activity on the field, court or stage. This builds a sense of belonging, and is a place for our rangatahi to learn values such as loyalty and self-discipline, develop their physical and mental wellbeing, and to have fun.

That's why we invest in running multiple teams across a wide range of sports. Mountain biking, rowing, underwater hockey, rugby, and athletics are just some of the 35+ codes on offer at Nelson College.

Our first focus is on participation and engaging all students at a social level. Our school enjoys one of the highest co-curricular participation rates in New Zealand.

We also provide high-performance programmes that focus on all-round player development and specific skillsets to create pathways for students who want to compete at the highest level.

Many of our high-performance athletes go on to play for Tasman and New Zealand, and in professional teams across multiple codes. To support this, students may select extra sports options where they will receive specialist training in their code.

Most importantly, sport is a vehicle for our ākonga to learn and practice values. We want our young men to learn and demonstrate character.



# ARTS / LEADERSHIP

## NGĀ TOI / MANA WHAKATIPU

Nelson College students participate in a wide range of artistic and leadership activities at school. Involvement in the arts and leadership underpin a culture of creativity and service.



### ARTS

The college's arts and culture programme enables students to develop their musical and artistic skills in a range of performance environments.

Students in all year levels perform in our concert band, ensemble groups, drama groups, debating and other groups — enjoying success in various performances and competitions.

Many of our groups combine with Nelson College for Girls to broaden the opportunities for involvement. The two colleges regularly stage a school production that becomes a highlight of the school year and is embraced by the local community.

### LEADERSHIP

At Nelson College we want to see our rangatahi grow as leaders in and beyond the school. We want to see them serve others and take responsibility for others' wellbeing.

Through our Head Boy positions, we develop students' understanding of leadership and service to others.

The college runs a strong House system with six houses (Boarders, Chaytor, Domett, Kahurangi, Monro, and Robinson) with many informal competitions through the year. These provide opportunities for our young men to learn about their leadership style with the guidance of staff. In addition to our Kaitaunaki (House Leaders), we have established roles for Tētē Kura (Junior House Leaders).







## LEARNING SUPPORT AND WELLBEING HAUORA

The college provides outstanding learning support and pastoral care. This underpins students' learning and personal wellbeing, and defines our students' behaviour and relationships between teachers, students and their peers.



### LEARNING SUPPORT

The college employs Learning Support Coordinators and a number of teacher aides to support students with learning differences such as dyslexia and dysgraphia.

These staff work closely with their counterparts at our contributing schools to identify students' needs early and provide them with the programmes and support they will need to succeed at college.

The college runs extra learning support classes in the junior school to assist students who require extra literacy and numeracy support, as well as placing teacher aides into classes to support students in their subjects.

The college runs an extensive ESOL support programme for our international and migrant students. We recognise the language and cultural challenges of learning in a language other than your mother tongue.

We run immersion English classes for students with high needs, as well as providing teacher aide support for students in their regular classes.

### WELLBEING

The mental and physical wellbeing of our students is paramount. Students must feel safe and supported in order to learn.

The college provides outstanding pastoral care to our young men. The popular Year 13 mentoring programme is available to any students who require some extra help with their studies.

We also employ two Guidance Counsellors, Wellbeing and Engagement Coordinators, Careers Counsellors, and five Deans across the year levels to support our young men. The college also works closely with community support agencies to further support our students in and beyond college.





# A VILLAGE FOR EVERYONE



## COMMUNITY WHANAUNGATANGA

Students from Europe, Asia, The Pacific, The Americas and beyond make up our diverse student body. Whatever their origin, all students are welcome at Nelson College and we encourage them to celebrate and share their culture with the wider student body.

Our annual Diversity Day is a great example of this and brings all cultures together in a day filled with music, dance and celebration. This day is a true highlight in the school calendar and the wider community is invited into the college to join the celebrations.

## TE AO MĀORI



Settlement in Te Tau Ihu dates back to the first Māori settlement in the 12th century, and the founding of Nelson City in 1841.

Today, Nelson College is proud to have over 100 students who can trace their whakapapa back to one or more of the eight Iwi of the region. This strong Māori presence within our school reflects the enduring legacy of the first peoples of Te Tau Ihu.

Through participation in Kapa Haka, Kī-o-Rahi, Ngā Manu Kōrero and a dedicated house of learning (Te Ara Poutamu), we continue to honour and celebrate this heritage, ensuring that Māori identity and traditions remain a vital part of Nelson College life.

Our thriving Rumaki programme, and leadership opportunities for Māori and Pasifika students, foster cultural strength through education.

The success and popularity of our combined kapa haka group Ngā Aho Rau has led to the formation of a second group, extending the opportunity for students to immerse themselves in their cultural heritage.





## BOARDING TE KURA NOHO



Boarding is at the heart of Nelson College, with boarders from throughout New Zealand and across the world.

Our hostels are situated on-campus where boarders enjoy immediate access to a first-class boarding environment. Boarders live in newly refurbished houses and after hours they enjoy the school facilities of two gymnasiums, pool, weights room, playing fields and music suites.

A close-knit family environment in both houses adds to the experience, making the boys feel at home. Students enjoy a safe and busy lifestyle which gives them access to structured academic support, widespread opportunities, and the beautiful Nelson region.

We emphasise strong communication between home and boarding staff who ensure the safety and development of your son. These staff also have close links to the day school, strengthening the academic support for all boarders.

Boarding provides an organised week that includes school, sports and outside activities, as well as academic support through our regular tutorials.

Our boarding community organises many weekly and annual activities each year that include trips to the local beaches and rivers, ski field and lakes, as well as city-based recreational facilities.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS NGĀ ĀKONGA Ā-AO



Nelson College runs an extensive and highly successful international student programme, with students coming from many countries around the world to study with us.

Spaces for students from each country are limited to ensure that we provide a balanced programme.

We believe that it's important that international and local New Zealand students enjoy interacting with a broad range of cultures, helping them to develop as global citizens.

For all international students coming to Nelson College, a minimum level of English is required to fully participate in our courses and have the best chance to excel in NCEA.

During your stay in New Zealand, we provide extensive support. The majority of our students stay in our boarding hostels, with a small number choosing to live with a local "Kiwi" or homestay family.

We also link students with other providers to give them the opportunities to discover more of New Zealand and learn about our incredible country.

Nelson College agrees to observe and be bound by the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students published by the Ministry of Education. Copies are available on request from the college or the Ministry.





# NELSON COLLEGE

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