



 Waihi | *Nurturing Success*





*“Ehara taku toa, he  
takitahi, he toa takitini”*  
*“Success is not the work of  
an individual but the work  
of many”*

# Welcome to Waihi School

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**At Waihi School, we are proud to be guardians of a rich tradition — one that has grown from humble beginnings in 1907 to a vibrant, co-educational community today. Each generation of Waihians has left its mark “Behind the Hedge,” and it is now my privilege to lead the next chapter in this school’s remarkable story.**

As Headmaster, my commitment is to nurture confident, kind, and well-rounded young people. We know that the preparatory years are some of the most formative in a child’s life. The values, habits, and character built during this time shape not only academic outcomes, but a child’s confidence, resilience, and sense of self.

Waihi offers a truly holistic education - one that balances strong academics with creativity, sport, wellbeing, and a deep respect for the natural world. We believe in developing the whole child — academically, socially, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Our small class sizes allow for tailored teaching, enabling each child to be extended, supported, and seen. We build strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, preparing our students exceptionally well for their next steps in secondary education.

Set in the heart of rural South Canterbury, our location offers something truly unique - a chance for children to explore, take risks, and grow in the outdoors. Our Outdoor Education programme is a cornerstone of life at Waihi, with activities like bushcraft, kayaking, tramping, and camps all designed to develop leadership, teamwork, resilience and independence.

As an Anglican school, our values are lived each day - through chapel services, relationships, and daily life. Kindness, respect, gratitude, service, and integrity are more than ideals here; they are part of who we are. We believe in growing not just capable learners, but good people.

The boarding experience at Waihi is a key part of what sets us apart. Pyne House is a warm, supportive environment where children develop independence, responsibility, and a

strong sense of belonging. Led by exceptional staff who provide daily care, guidance, and encouragement, our boarders are well looked after in every sense. With caring staff, structured routines, and weekend adventures, boarders at Waihi form deep friendships and build life skills that will serve them well beyond their time here.

One of the things that strikes me most about Waihi is the strength of the relationships - between staff and students, between families and the school, and among the children themselves. This is a place where every child is known and valued, where individuality is celebrated, and where effort and enthusiasm matter as much as achievement.

Our students enjoy a wide range of opportunities — in the classroom, on stage, on the sports field, and in the outdoors — and are encouraged to give everything a go. We inspire each child to become the best version of themselves, recognising that success looks different for every individual. At Waihi, we believe success comes in many forms, and we take great pride in celebrating growth, courage, and character.

We are fortunate to have strong relationships with leading secondary schools across New Zealand, and we work closely with each family to ensure a smooth and confident transition beyond Year 8 - whether as a day student or a boarder.

I warmly invite you to visit Waihi, explore this special place, and see first-hand the spirit and possibility that define our school. I look forward to meeting you, and to welcoming your family into our community.

He waka eke noa

We are all in this together.

Warm regards,

**GARETH WOOD**  
**HEADMASTER**







# Nurturing Academic Success

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**Waihi School has been a proven performer in education since its inception in 1907.**

Our school values the traditional role of academia for our children. We understand that each child is an individual, and we need to be mindful of this in our direction of each student's learning journey.

Working alongside you and your child, we gain a good understanding of where their strengths lie and in which areas we can work for improvement. We can tailor a learning journey that will see your child develop confidence and success in the classroom.

We have a strong and specialist team of teachers who work with your child to ensure that goals are set and met. With small class sizes, our teachers have a greater ability to be aware and mindful of each student's individual needs.

We offer specialist science lessons, small, streamed maths groups, and a strong focus on literacy to ensure the fundamentals of your children's education create the building blocks they need for their future education.

Inquiry-led learning and hands-on subjects - such as robotics, music, visual arts and craft, wood technology – and involvement across the school by all students in everything from choir to sport

ensures a holistic and well-rounded approach to all aspects of learning.

As in everything we do – we nurture your child, their nature and approach and ensure they achieve success during their time with us.

Small class sizes enable our staff to deliver focused tuition, providing opportunities for the most able students to extend themselves, and dedicated learning support for those who need it.

We encourage our students to explore, inquire and investigate, and develop the skills to take responsible risks in learning about their world. Your child will have a purpose for their learning, and this is more than mere knowledge acquisition: it is about gaining a more in-depth understanding.

Technology is an integral part of that process: each student has their personal device, and our classrooms and learning spaces are set up to take advantage of the latest eLearning resources, without this being the sole focus of our curriculum.

# Nurturing Family Success

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**We believe that boarding creates successful, happy, confident, courteous, independent, and ambitious young people.**

Boarding nurtures your child's ability to live and work alongside others; along with providing each individual with the preparation for them to do their very best academically.

Boarding - when treated with the right amount of care, dignity and thoughtfulness - creates a confident, resilient, happy and successful young person, one who is empathetic to others and has the ability to be exposed to experiences that will create friendships and habits for life.

Our boarders are treated with the utmost respect and care, we supervise, nurture and guide them as our own children. When you

speak with our boarders, you cannot get past the fact that they genuinely love our boarding experience and view Waihi as their "home away from home".

Our staff are indeed what makes the experience so enriching and successful with a real family atmosphere. Our committed pastoral care team including Head Matron, Assistant Matrons and Gap Tutors are ably supported by our residential team who live and work alongside our boarders whilst raising their own families on-site also. Your child always has someone to guide, advise and support them on their boarding journey at Waihi.

As a parent, you will still be strongly connected with your boarding child. Technology means that communications are continual and easy. Flexibility allows boarders to travel home at weekends, should

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***Your child always has someone to guide, advise and support them on their boarding journey at Waihi.***

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they wish. Some of our boarders have taken this option, meaning that whilst gaining the enrichment of the boarding environment during the school week, they can fully participate in your family life at weekends.



# Nurturing Sporting Success

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Through sport, our children learn about friendship, comfort zones, leadership, teamwork, communications, accountability, and responsible risk-taking. They gain self-esteem, determination, and organisational skills.

Our students also learn about winning and losing. To be humble in victory and gracious in defeat is one of the hardest, but most important, life lessons. It is certainly part of a resilient child's package, preparing them for life's ups and downs.

Our students are passionate about sport, and as a school, we encourage every child to take part in a team sport. Our grounds are set up to help our children achieve in sport, with cricket, football and rugby fields, tennis and netball courts, a mountain bike track, outdoor climbing equipment and our heated swimming pool. In 2024 we opened our Waihi Equestrian Centre on site.

Literally and metaphorically everyone at Waihi takes pride in pulling on the school jersey. In winter children have the option of playing rugby, hockey, netball, basketball and football, switching in summer to cricket, tennis, swimming and touch.

We also have the opportunity to provide more individual sports - such as skiing, triathlon, athletics, road cycling, karate, and mountain biking. If your child has a particular interest, please do communicate with us so that we can endeavour to ensure that they can take part in whatever direction their physical passion lies.

Across the year, we take part in many fixtures with other preparatory schools from across New Zealand, challenging and growing our student's abilities and character. Through these fixtures with other schools, our children achieve local and national representation in many sports.

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*Through sport, our children learn about friendship, comfort zones, leadership, teamwork, communications, accountability, and responsible risk-taking.*

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# Nurturing Creative Success

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**Creativity: Noun:**

**“The use of imagination or original ideas to create something, inventiveness.”**

At Waihi, we celebrate children’s passion for creativity, we nurture their inner artist, musician, technician or acting ability. Through our broad programme in arts and technology, we nurture your child’s sense of discovery and unlock their passions for the task at hand. Our specialist and skilled teaching staff nurture the student’s thirst for discovery and what drives them, working alongside them in our small and dedicated classes to ensure that each student can reach their full potential in all areas of the curriculum.

Waihi is passionate about affording your child the opportunities that can help them become a well-rounded, successful learner and individual. We drive this with our broad participation for all students in the creative arts. A child must be challenged and extended to reach their full potential. We know at Waihi your child will surprise themselves with what they can achieve!





# Nurturing Values

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**We are lucky to have the beautiful Anglican church of St John the Evangelist on our grounds.**

It is here that our whole school chapel service is held each Monday morning to set the tone for the coming week, placing emphasis on the traditional values of good manners, courtesy, considerate behaviour, graciousness and respect. We encourage participation in chapel duties such as serving as sacristans or singing in the choir as part of your child's education.

Waihi is an Anglican school, and we believe in a world where traditional values are being constantly challenged, an education rooted in a Christian-based values system is more relevant to our children than it has ever been.

Our values are at the centre of all we do. We have developed our list of eight values as a focus for both students and staff as a guideline for use both within and outside of the classroom every single day. These reflect what our students aspire to be and the expectation of those around them also.

Our values measure everyone's behaviour within the school and are on display in each of our classrooms as visual reminders of this expectation for the whole Waihi family.

**Consideration and Cooperation -**

We try to be a good friend to others, support our peers, be inclusive and be a good listener.

**Kindness** – It is important to be caring, to be compassionate and kind to all.

**Love of learning** – We have a positive attitude to our learning. We are focused, we take on challenges, and we are curious and creative.

**Tu Igitur Perfer Adversa (Thou shall therefore endure hardship)** –

This is our school motto. It means that in striving for success, we are persistent, we have determination, and we value the struggle that comes with difficulties - it makes us stronger!

**Responsibility** – It is important to be responsible and reliable so that people can depend on you.

**Honesty** – We want everyone to be honest and trustworthy and always to tell the truth no matter what.

**Respect** – We need to have respect for other people, for property and for our environment. We want our world to be safe, tidy, clean and green.

**Manners** – Everyone at WAIHI should be courteous and polite. Good manners show that you care about other people.

# Nurturing Tradition

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The founder and first headmaster, **Joseph R Orford**, opened the school doors for the first time on 5 September 1907 to just three boys.

He was a quite exceptional character, a top academic and sportsman, with a real sense of compassion and generosity of spirit along with being a very humble man.

Waihi values and respects its traditions and for over a century, our past students have done outstandingly well in their chosen fields. Waihi School would not be the place it is today, steeped in tradition and success, without our pioneering founders and those that have gone before.

An important part of your child's journey is learning about our shared history. The building blocks our successful past students, and indeed the staff, have laid for those that are present today, continue to create a strong sense of the deeper values that we hold dear. We ensure that the children understand our past, and that the paths forged before us by hard work and commitment are now in their hands.

The thriving Waihi Association continues to ensure that enduring friendships and connections continue to last a lifetime.







## *The School Crest*

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**The school crest is a white Maltese cross on a dark blue background. (This is also the crest of Joseph Orford's Shrewsbury School Rowing Club.)**

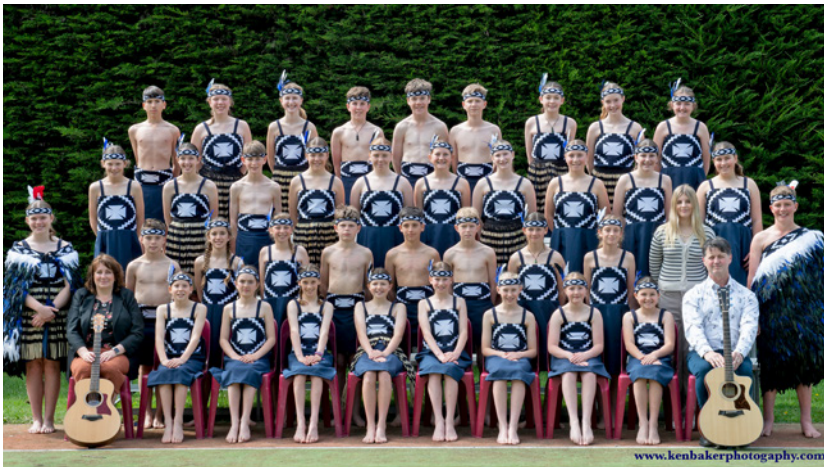
The eight points of the cross represent the eight beatitudes: to live in truth, to have faith, to repent of one's sins, to give proof of humility, to love justice, to be merciful, to be sincere and

wholehearted, and to endure persecution which originated from the bible and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

These values hold true today for Waihi School; they help our students become good young men and women who are compassionate, confident, courageous citizens prepared to contribute to their communities.









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