



BIRKENHEAD COLLEGE



CREATING CONFIDENCE AND OPPORTUNITY

A SCHOOL THAT GETS RESULTS

Welcome to Birkenhead College. We look forward to working with you and your child over the very important years ahead.

Birkenhead College is a co-educational school with a roll of approximately 650 students. It is an attractive environment with well laid out buildings and amenities set in very pleasant grounds on Auckland's North Shore. The College offers excellent facilities, many of which are also used by the community around us.

Two key statements drive all educational policies at Birkenhead College. The first is our mission statement, "To provide education of the highest quality for all students". The second is, "Where everybody is somebody."

These two statements provide the visionary background that leads to a culture of excellent teaching, learning, and achievement, within a caring and supportive framework of relationships. The Board of Trustees and the well-qualified teaching staff have high aspirations for all students and a commitment to developing their full potential. The College has a consistently strong academic record and is proud of its significant successes in sport, cultural and community activities. The College has a reputation as a caring school. An extensive guidance network exists to monitor and assist with the progress and welfare of all students.

Effective learning cannot take place unless there is an ordered, disciplined environment. We are committed to fair but firm discipline based on commonsense rules which are consistently enforced.

It is clear that students whose parents take an active interest in their school work gain more from their secondary school years. At Birkenhead College we encourage parents to be involved and we are very proud of our interactive role in the local community.

Craig Waller
PRINCIPAL



WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY



Our Principal, Craig Waller, came to Birkenhead College in 2016 with a depth of teaching and leadership experience from Auckland Grammar and Westlake Boys High School, where he was a Deputy Principal, Cairo English School where he was the Head of Secondary and Takapuna Grammar as a Deputy Principal.

His own high standards, passion for quality teaching and learning, and his leadership experience in a number of schools play an important part in getting the best outcomes for students at Birkenhead College.

Craig is a recipient of a Woolf Fisher Travel Scholarship. He is married, with three children.



A PROVEN RECORD OF ACADEMIC

SUCCESS

The consistently high grades achieved by many Birkenhead College students in national examinations speak for themselves. Recent scholarship and NZQA results have been amongst the best in the country. These results lift the performance of all students and have set the benchmarks that the College continues to strive for. Such high performance is a strong reflection of the calibre of our teaching staff. Beyond the core curriculum, the school offers a wide range of subject options.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Students in Years 9 and 10 are placed, largely on their academic ability, into one of three broad bands of classes. An accelerate/extension class provides motivation and challenge for top students. All students must take a set of core subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, Technology, Physical Education, Health and a Language. In addition, further options are chosen.

SENIOR SCHOOL

Students in Years 11 and 12 must take six subjects in each year of study. In Year 11 they must take English, Mathematics and Science with three other chosen subjects. English is compulsory at Year 12, and Year 13 students may choose five or six subjects.

QUALIFICATIONS

The College has an excellent record in preparing students for all major New Zealand examinations and certificates, including:

- National Certificate of Educational Achievement, Levels 1, 2, 3
- NZQA Scholarship
- NZ Mathematics Certificate
- Goethe Institute
- Alliance Francaise
- Australian Maths, English, Science competitions
- NZEST Scholarship

NURTURING FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS

Gifted and talented students may be placed on an advanced programme to extend them in their areas of strength. Our co-ordinator ensures provision is made for students with learning difficulties.

"There is a strong focus on learning. Students are punctual to class and make good use of their time during lessons. They are responsive to their teachers."

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)



SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESSES

- Sir George Elliot Scholarship
- Russell McVeagh Law Scholarship
- Auckland University Chancellor's Award - for Top Maori and Pacific Island Scholars
- Massey University Scholarship
- AUT Vice Chancellor's Scholarship
- AUT Significant Student Scholarship
- First Foundation Scholarship

RECENT STUDENT SUCCESSES

- Joseph Lane Otago University \$100,000 grant for doctoral studies
- Anna Winkley Canterbury University Emerging Leaders Scholarship, NZ Energy Education Trust Scholarship
- Paige Boyed Sir George Elliot Scholarship \$25,000
- Simran Rughani Sir Peter Blake Scholarship Young Blake Explorer Expedition
- Alex Shegay Auckland University Fullbright Scholarship PhD studies at the University of Washington
- Emma Jameson MA at Auckland University Awarded top undergraduate student Peggy Guggenheim Scholarship to Venice
- Jake Howe Sir George Elliot Scholarship \$25,000 PhD Cambridge University

A STRONG FOCUS ON LEARNING

For a detailed flowchart of subject options at all levels, please refer to enclosures.

FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL RESPECT

High quality human relationships are a feature of the school and great value is placed on these. Birkenhead College is a community secondary school where many students build long lasting friendships.

Because it is a medium sized school your child cannot get lost in the crowd. There is a friendly atmosphere where students and staff get to know each other as individuals. Emphasis on co-operation and respect is high and filters through the entire school. At Birkenhead College 'everybody is somebody'.

Student interaction is centred around the spacious cafeteria and adjoining courtyard, providing a focal point and social heart for the school community.

A strong pastoral care network is in place to provide educational, vocational and personal guidance for students. Deans, Form Teachers and an experienced Guidance Counsellor are always available to support and assist.

A peer support programme ensures students feel they belong. Year 13 students work with Year 9 students to help them settle well into their new environment.

Our overseas students bring an international dimension to the school which enriches the culture.

"There is an enhanced atmosphere of mutual respect and co-operation between the students and their teachers. The students are tolerant of each other's differences and support each other in their learning."

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)

ACCEPTING EACH OTHERS DIFFERENCES

HIGH QUALITY E-LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY

In our rapidly changing world of technology, Birkenhead College is working hard to ensure that our students are competent, confident and safe when working online. Many classes use Google Apps for Education to share information between students and teachers. This allows students to submit their work electronically, and to access resources at any time.

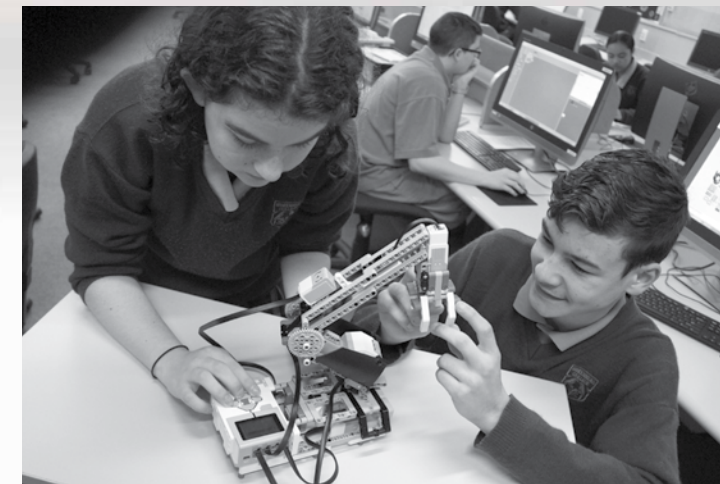
All students are encouraged to bring their own devices, and to connect to our robust Wifi system. To ensure that students have the skills to work well with all the tools offered at Birkenhead College, each Year 9 student is timetabled into an eLearning option class. Here they learn how to be good digital citizens and how to be confident in a variety of software applications that can be used in their classes.

Birkenhead College uses the KAMAR Parent Portal to keep parents up-to-date with their child's absences, internal assessments and reports. We also communicate regularly with the school community through emails, Facebook, School Interviews, and other sites and apps.

A selection of technology classes are available to our students. These include Print Design, Digital Art, Photography, ICDL and Digital Media. Students are also given the option to become proficient with Microsoft Office, so that they can be competent on all workplace platforms.

"The board of trustees ensures that learning programmes are well resourced. An example is the high quality computer resources."

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)



WELL RESOURCED E-LEARNING

OUTSTANDING ARTISTIC PERFORMANCE

MUSIC

The College is well-known for its music programmes and participation is impressive. We offer a wide variety of activities including composition, orchestras, concert band, chamber orchestra, choirs, jazz, rock and percussion groups. Music is encouraged at all levels and tuition for most instruments is provided by itinerant tutors. Student achievement in this programme has become a focus for community interaction and involvement through high profile music performances at all levels. In external exams our students have performed consistently above the national average.

ART

The art department maintains an excellent reputation for providing opportunities for students to score highly in national exams, and to succeed in tertiary art courses and art related careers. The large number of students taking art at senior levels is an indicator of an effective art department.

DRAMA

The College has excellent drama facilities with specialist teachers and a 300 seat theatre. The school offers drama courses to students in Year 9 to 13. Our courses are well delivered and students attain high standards. We have a number of very successful school productions every year.

DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Students participate in public speaking at every level and Birkenhead College debating teams compete successfully in interschool competitions.

CULTURE GROUPS

The College encourages students to be proud of their culture and to participate in cultural activities and represent the College in the wider community. Our International Day and Maori Culture group are well known.



A RICH ARRAY OF THE ARTS

"The school has developed a reputation for the quality of its co-curricular programmes and many parents look for high levels of performance in these areas."

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)

SYMPHONIC BAND

This is the largest school ensemble comprising of students from Year 9 - 13. The band usually has 50 members. The Symphonic Band is a competitive group that competes in local and national music festivals regularly.

JAZZ ORCHESTRA

A traditional Big Band set up. This ensemble is selected by the results of the audition process that takes place at the beginning of Term 1 every year. The Jazz Orchestra is also a competitive ensemble.

JAZZ COMBOS

There are two levels of Jazz Combos, the Junior Jazz Combo and the Senior Jazz Combo. These combos are made up of no more than 6 students per group with instruments ranging from woodwind, brass and rhythm section.

FLUTE CHOIR

This group is comprised of flutes only. The skill of the group ranges from very beginning to highly advanced technique.

ROCK BANDS

They compete at the annual, national Rockquest competition and have gotten as far as the North Shore finals and won a national award for lyrics in the past years. Students who choose to form rock bands are self-directed and produce original songs as well as cover popular songs from different rock genres.

CHAMBER GROUP

This group is made up of a few students who are interested in playing music in a woodwind "combo" type setting, but on symphonic instruments

CHOIR

The Birkenhead College Choir is a medium sized ensemble that focuses on singing a wide variety of music. They sing popular, gospel, musical theatre, renaissance and traditional New Zealand music.

BARBERSHOP QUARTET

The quartet is an auditioned group that is comprised of four confident, independent singers who are most comfortable singing advanced harmonies.

MARCHING BAND

Most of the students who participate in the Symphonic Band are also in the Marching Band. This group primarily practises from the middle of the year up until their performance – marching in the Highbury Santa Parade in December.



FLYING HIGH

IN A WIDE VARIETY OF SPORTS

Birkenhead College has a strong sporting tradition and high level of participation. Students have excelled in a variety of sporting codes.

Many of our students have gained national and regional representative honours in a wide range of sports including: rugby, netball, soccer, basketball, hockey, cricket, athletics, orienteering, table tennis, water polo, karate, judo, and curling.

Sports academy classes for talented sports students begin at Year 9.

A full-time Sports Co-ordinator ensures teams are well managed and coached, and that high standards of fair play are maintained. Participation rates continue at very high levels. Many teachers are talented sports people and pass on their enthusiasm and skills to students.

The school has excellent facilities and very well appointed playing fields for rugby, hockey, soccer, cricket, softball and athletics. There is a swimming pool, surrounded by the impressive new sports centre with two gymnasiums and a fully equipped fitness centre. In addition, there are eight netball and tennis courts.

"The dedication and expertise of the coaches and strong parental support have been major factors contributing to the high levels of student achievement."

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)



DEDICATED AND EXPERT COACHING

SPRINGBOARD TO A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

The secondary school years are a very important grounding for the future. Students at Birkenhead College are presented with many opportunities and given great encouragement to develop the skills and commitment to realise their ambitions. Our senior students go on to higher education and to a wide range of successful careers.

All students are well guided in their study choices and given extensive information on the many career pathways open to them. Our careers team provide information and guidance on any matters which concern future careers and school courses.

In a dedicated and proven learning environment, our students are very well prepared for a successful future.

"The learning climate is characterised by high expectations, wide learning opportunities, good resourcing and high quality human relationships."

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)



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