

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED



**HENDERSON**  
HIGH SCHOOL



# Welcome to Henderson High School

We offer a  
high quality education  
for students from  
Years 9 to 13





## OUR VISION

To foster a progressive learning environment that helps all our students graduate as mature, confident young people who have the know-how and drive to achieve success in their chosen fields.



# A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Much has changed at Henderson High School since I joined as Principal. The direction I am taking the school is a pathway I have travelled before. I have a proven track record as the successful principal of two other secondary schools in New Zealand. The priorities that I believe in have been tested and proven.

I make no apology that behaviour, personal appearance, respect and high standards are an important part of daily school expectations. A great advantage of being a small school is that we can ensure those expectations are met.

Prior to joining Henderson High School, I had the privilege of travelling the world looking at education systems. My review also included the opportunity to watch Roger Federer and Raphael Nadal, two of

the best tennis players in the world, at work on the practice court. I believe the discipline, focus and determination that they bring to their training is what makes the difference to their successful performance in matches. Their daily routines matter.

We are a school that, like Federer and Nadal, is driven by performance. Every chance I have, I stress to students that how you approach learning, everyday, is what makes the difference to your academic performance. Parents tell me they share this belief in the value of disciplined and focused work habits.

It is a privilege to be a Principal, and I enjoy the buzz of seeing young people succeed. A few years ago, I was fortunate to be in London to see one of my former students compete against the top public speakers from secondary schools around the world. This success was a direct result of the communication programme that all students undertook at my previous school. We are continuing that programme at Henderson High School.

We are doing this and much more to innovate and improve engagement in the classroom. It's another great advantage of small class sizes, that we can focus on ensuring all students have access to a high-quality education.

This prospectus explains more about our programmes. I welcome your enquiries, and the opportunity to meet with you.

Mike Purcell  
BA, Dip Spec Ed., MEd. (Cant), MEd Admin (Massey)

**PRINCIPAL**

**Secondary school is where the future begins.** It is a place where academic potential is transformed into achievement and – with discipline – into outstanding performance. So your choice of school is a significant step.

What's important in your decision? At Henderson High School we consider it is to choose a school where there are:

- **Passionate and enabling teachers**
- **Engaged and happy students**
- **High standards of discipline**
- **Plans and measures to guide progress and performance**



# QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING



In today's classroom, effective learning is based on a partnership between teacher and student.



We believe that learning happens best when:

- Both teacher and student share responsibility to create an optimum learning environment.
- Students understand how they contribute to the learning process, through a better understanding of their own learning needs.
- Parents/whānau are involved in student learning.

At the heart of this is the knowledge that students who truly understand and are involved in their learning have accelerated rates of achievement.

To support the development of Teaching and Learning, the school staff also work in partnership. They identify and share best practice to provide a curriculum that is stimulating and relevant.



# THE CURRICULUM



We offer a full range of mainstream core education alongside a variety of non-traditional subjects on the National Curriculum Framework. This mix gives every student the opportunity to achieve their best.

We also extend learning opportunities through external partnerships and specialist programmes that make a huge difference for our students. This includes the Liggins Institute at the University of Auckland, and the Museum of Transport and Technology.

## THE ALPHA PROGRAMME

Alpha is our Enrichment Programme, which adds depth and breadth to academic performance. It allows high-achieving students to collaborate with schools and academic institutes outside the classroom environment, to enrich their learning experience. It develops their thinking skills and extends their knowledge of their chosen courses of study.

The programme facilitates research and information gathering using a variety of methods.

## THE WIRELESS CAMPUS

We use the latest technologies to help develop 21st Century skills – creativity, collaboration, communication, research and critical thinking. The networked classroom is buzzing with Chromebooks, video and handheld devices to create a learning environment that is hugely engaging for students and teachers. It supports fast-paced, advanced learning and is a distinct advantage of our educational approach.

## SPORTS, MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Our students are inspired to participate in co-curricular activities that they would not have dreamed of taking part in at their previous schools. Because of our small size, they grow in courage and confidence, and reap the benefits of stretching out of their comfort zones.

Each year more than 100 students take part in the National Stage Challenge Foundation event, and consistently win awards.

Our sports facilities include an artificial hockey turf, all-weather netball/tennis courts, and extensive grounds for a variety of winter and summer codes. The neighbouring Waitakere Ranges and beaches provide further rich playgrounds for education outside the classroom.



## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- Speech Competitions
- Drama Club
- Dance Groups
- Science Roadshow at MOTAT
- Choir, Orchestra, and Modern Music groups
- Access to learning resources and ICT before and after school
- Learning Support
- Safe Driving Programme

## MEASURING SUCCESS

Student attainment and progress is closely monitored to ensure that no student falls behind. We use data and on-line information sharing systems to review each student's progress and welfare. If we identify underachievement, we work with students to help them improve.

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS

We ensure there is a smooth transition from intermediate to secondary school, with peer support, experienced form teachers and deans, and an induction programme. Our emphasis on positive, happy students is supported by school rules that maintain high standards and ensure a safe environment for all.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

We offer a range of financial scholarships to students who excel in their chosen field. Scholarships cover Academic, Technology, Sports, Performing and Visual Arts, and specific rewards are available for successful students.



**Valerie Lui**

Head Girl Valerie is a positive role model and true all-rounder. She has been the top academic student in her year level since year 9 and also contributes her time to school cultural, arts and sports groups.

Valerie has been involved in Polyfest for the past three years, this year taking on the role of the Samoan Group leader. During her time at Henderson High School she has also been involved in a number of sports teams including netball, touch, volleyball, tennis and badminton.

Valerie says "The strong teaching staff and high standards of achievement, presentation and behaviour make Henderson High School a great place to learn."



**Matt Billington**

Head Boy Matt has achieved excellence endorsements in NCEA Levels 1 and 2. Matt is involved in the arts and brings his expertise in stage, sound and lighting to his role as school technician.

Matt is also the CEO of his own company, OLelei, which he started in 2015 with two of his classmates as part of his business studies course.

Matt brings enthusiasm and commitment to his role and credits his success to the supportive learning environment at Henderson High School.

Matt says "I like the inclusive environment here at Henderson, there is great support from teachers and the technology is next level".



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



**Henderson High School** welcomes International Students to experience the benefits of studying in a New Zealand multi-cultural, co-educational school.

We provide a friendly supportive community environment, in a convenient location 20 minutes from central Auckland, and close to the beautiful Waitakere ranges and West Coast beaches.

We have enjoyed hosting International Students for some 20 years and greatly appreciate the special contribution they make to the character of the school. We host students from many countries, including Taiwan, Thailand, Germany, Brazil, Iran, China, Japan, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Macau and Korea.

Henderson High School is a community-minded school with a big heart, an excellent all-round teaching programme and talented teachers. It is also a school that encourages students to excel.

Being a smaller school, students enjoy individual attention from our highly qualified teachers, ensuring quality learning and strong academic results. The subjects and qualifications available can enable International Students to enter a New Zealand tertiary institution, and lead on to careers that offer life-long opportunities.

## STUDENT WELFARE

Henderson High School has a well-established guidance network. There is a full time guidance counsellor and a school doctor. We provide assistance with enrolment, orientation, academic options, insurance, caregiver and homestay arrangements. We are a signatory to the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students. Regular contact is maintained between school staff, the homestay service and each student and their homestay family.

## ACCOMMODATION

The school arranges quality homestay accommodation with specially chosen local families through an excellent homestay company.

## BENEFITS

- New Art, Technology, Science, Mathematics and Computing facilities
- Modern laboratories which are used for General Science, Physics, Chemistry and Biology
- Excellent library with full computer services
- Swimming pool and full Gymnasium
- Spacious park-like grounds
- Emphasis on academic excellence
- Multi-faceted co-curricular programmes in Sport, Arts and Music
- Talented, enthusiastic, well-qualified staff
- A good teacher-pupil ratio, smaller classes than many other schools
- Large, spacious classrooms
- Superb homestay programme
- Close to a large shopping mall and community sporting facilities
- English Language Proficiency opportunities



**Miku Nakatsuka**

Before I came to New Zealand I looked on the internet to find a safe country where I could study and learn English. I wanted to be at a small school so I would not feel lost in the crowd and it would be easier to fit in. My family were happy that Henderson High School has strict rules about behaviour and academic expectations so I was enrolled. Auckland has many cultures so I would feel included.

I feel that my English is getting better already and the ESOL class is helping me become more confident in speaking.

My homestay family is busy with 2 small children, it is just like normal family life. We go to play netball at the weekend and enjoy lots of different kinds of food.

To anyone considering coming to New Zealand to study I would just say "Try it, or you will never know what you can do".



**Oscar Wong**

My family and I chose Henderson High School because our friend had studied there in 2013 and recommended it to us. My homestay family are very kind and have a lovely home near school. I have been there nearly 1 year now and really like it. The meals are good and my room is warm and comfortable.

My family and I think that I am making good progress, which is important for my future plan to become a teacher. At Henderson High School we move to another room for each subject during the day so we don't have to sit in the same place all day. It is helpful that I have a teacher who understands Cantonese.

I would tell any student considering studying in New Zealand to try Henderson High School. Everyone is friendly and helpful.







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