



# WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL

QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND



# PROSPECTUS





REACH  
FOR  
YOUR HEIGHTS





**Kia ora,**  
Welcome

## **WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS STUDENTS FROM ALL CULTURES AN ENVIRONMENT FOCUSED ON ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND LEARNING IN A DYNAMIC AND INSPIRING ALPINE LOCATION**

Situated on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown is a world class destination. It is a vibrant and safe community with a reputation for being culturally intelligent. The region has developed into a globally renowned tourist location which is now also recognised as a serious study destination.

Our natural landscape offers an inspiring backdrop and gives Queenstown students access to New Zealand's best all round education experience. Whilst academic achievement is the priority, the ability to turn the environment into learning opportunities is a unique and valuable asset for the school.

The district has a rich sense of culture ranging from a respectful focus on Maori heritage through to visiting film-makers, artists and musicians.

The Queenstown community has expanded in recent years with the region attracting residents from all over the world wanting to make it their home. With a culturally rich population, Queenstown Education Providers have access to teachers and support staff who offer a diverse set of capabilities and experiences for students to learn from.

Our education programme reflects a distinct set of values which our team is dedicated to delivering, giving students a strong, all-round education and enabling them to reach for their heights.

## School Values

Our vision at Wakatipu High School is to deliver Aotearoa New Zealand's best all-round education.

The following values are our guiding principles:

**EXCELLENCE**  
PANEKIRETANGA

striving to achieve our personal best, in everything we do

**RESPECT**  
TE WHAKAUTE

for self, others, our high school and the environment

**RESPONSIBILITY**  
TAKOHANGA

choosing our responses and being accountable for our decisions, actions and consequences

**RESILIENCE**  
TE MANAWANUI ME TE Ú

being able to cope with and grow from challenge

**INCLUSION**  
KOTAHITANGA

actively welcoming and including all and creating a safe environment



## Message from the **Principal**

**WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL'S MISSION  
IS TO DELIVER A GREAT ALL-ROUND  
EDUCATION. OUR MOTTO IS  
"REACH FOR YOUR HEIGHTS"  
AND IT'S WHAT WE STRIVE  
TO DO EACH AND EVERY DAY.**

The key priority in this great all-round education is student engagement, learning, progress and achievement. Our academic results are testament to the high levels of achievement of our students and our recent Education Review Office (ERO) report states that our "rich and varied curriculum provides many opportunities for students to learn, be challenged, explore their local environment and develop competencies for lifelong learning".

Wakatipu High School students also achieve success in vocational pathways through our Careers, Trades Academy and Gateway programmes. In addition, we provide learning support in literacy and numeracy as well as a Gifted and Talented programme to support all of our students to reach their potential. Our timetable allows junior students greater opportunity for choice and engagement while experiencing the breadth of the curriculum. ERO's has noted that we have "continued to extend the breadth and depth of our curriculum to better provide meaningful learning pathways for an increasing number of students to achieve success". As well as our academic foundation, Wakatipu High School offers students a wealth of 'all-round' extra and co-curricular opportunities in sport, arts, music, culture, community and leadership.

Geographically the Wakatipu Basin is a unique environment, enabling us to offer outstanding Outdoor Education programmes including the iconic Branches Camp. Our environment also attracts international students from around the globe, giving our students the chance to learn and grow as members of a multicultural community - an opportunity normally reserved for larger urban centres. Students' wellbeing and engagement is very important to us and the very high results of our 'student voice' surveys show that our students feel safe and enjoy coming to Wakatipu High School. ERO's report included that "a positive tone, respectful relationships and interactions are strongly evident" and that "together with clear expectations they promote high levels of engagement, learning and wellbeing across the school".

**Mr Steve Hall**  
**Principal**



## Live & Learn in Queenstown

**OUR GOAL IS TO DEVELOP STUDENTS HOLISTICALLY. THIS INVOLVES PARTICIPATING IN OUR VIBRANT COMMUNITY AND LEARNING TO RESPECT OUR SPECTACULAR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.**

In addition to academic achievements and our drive to prepare students academically for their future lives we offer both Junior and Senior Outdoor Recreation programmes which make the most of our lakes, mountains and pristine landscapes. Students are given the opportunity to participate in winter sports, water sports, cycling, horse trekking, golf, tennis, tramping, bushcraft and conservation as well as learning survival skills and communal outdoor living.

The town itself and the draw of the crowds also provides opportunities for our musicians. Award winners at the South Island Championships, our jazz band performs at venues around Queenstown. We put on a musical and dramatic production each year and all of our students see visiting productions. There are also opportunities available either onstage or in production roles with community groups Remarkables Theatre and ShowBiz Queenstown.

The natural and cultural environment that we live in is truly unique and the teaching and learning at Wakatipu High School reflects and embraces the special character of our slice of New Zealand.









Location within  
New Zealand

QUEENSTOWN IS LOCATED IN  
THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF  
NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTH ISLAND.

QUEENSTOWN INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT HAS REGULAR FLIGHTS  
TO AIRPORTS THROUGHOUT THE  
COUNTRY AND TO AUSTRALIA.



DIRECT FLIGHT TIMES  
FROM QUEENSTOWN TO:

**45** CHRISTCHURCH  
MINS

**80** WELLINGTON  
MINS

**110** AUCKLAND  
MINS

**200** SYDNEY  
MINS

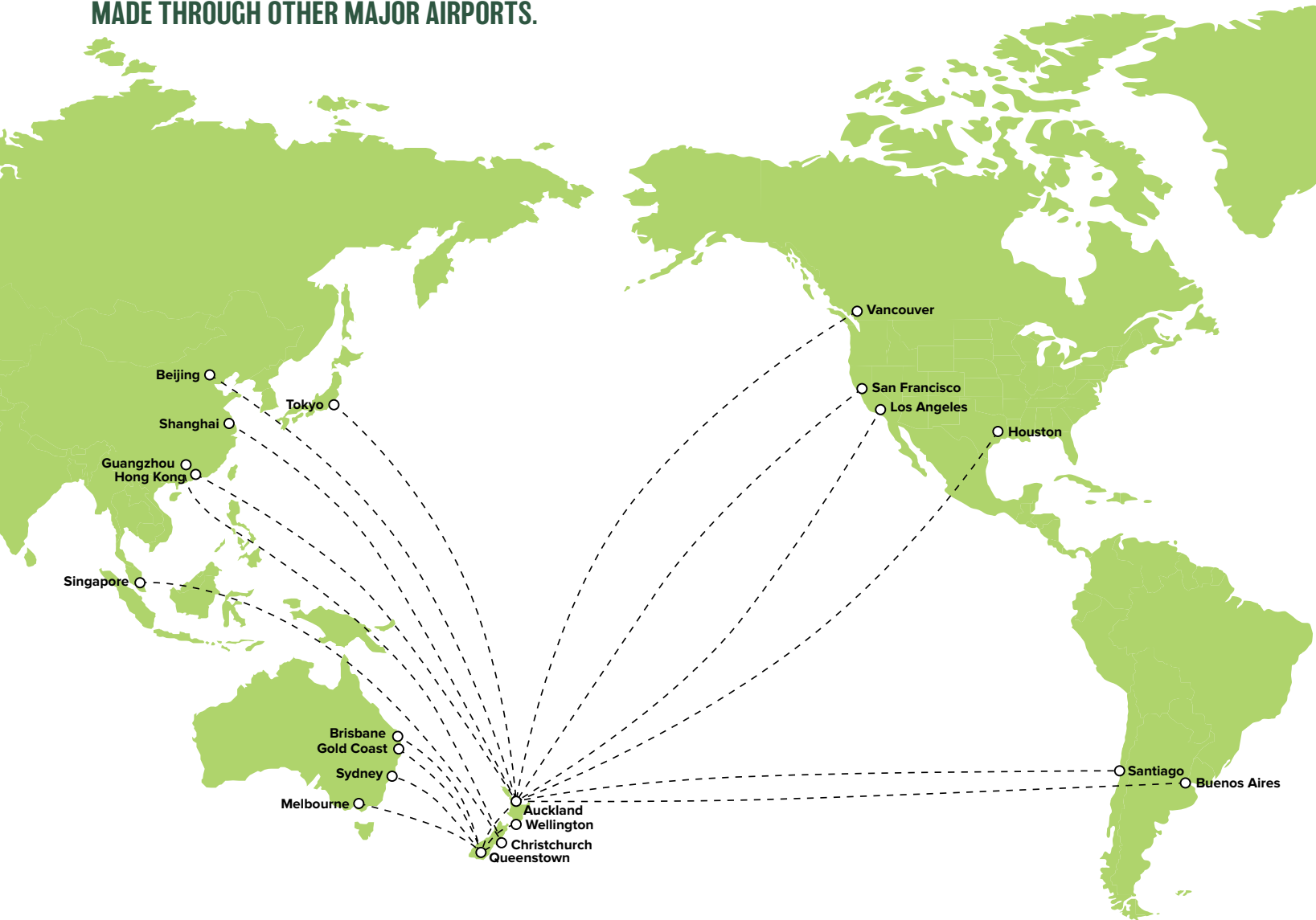
**210** MELBOURNE  
MINS

**230** BRISBANE  
MINS



## Connected to the World

A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS COME DIRECTLY  
INTO QUEENSTOWN, OR CONNECTIONS CAN EASILY BE  
MADE THROUGH OTHER MAJOR AIRPORTS.







# LEARNING TO EXCEL





## Academic Success

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IS OUR  
KEY PRIORITY. OUR DEDICATED  
FOCUS ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT  
AND LEARNING IS OUR KEY TO  
DELIVERING OUTSTANDING  
ACADEMIC RESULTS.**

Wakatipu High School's Innovative Learning Environment (ILE) provides open, flexible learning spaces. Paired with technology, ILEs offer opportunities to enhance teaching and learning. Our preparation over the last few years and the completion of our brand new school in early 2018 ensure a great all-round education for every student.

As well as our solid academic foundation, we offer students a wealth of all-round extra and co-curricular opportunities in sport, arts,

music, culture, community and leadership as well as trips and exchanges to places like Aspen, Japan, Sri Lanka, Noumea and France. We offer students an incredible range of opportunities from which to learn, grow and develop holistically.

Welcome to the Wakatipu High School community where students truly receive a great all-round education and 'reach for their heights' in this special part in the world.







“YOU HAVE TO BE BRAVE FOR THE FIRST FEW WEEKS BUT ALL THAT HARD WORK PAYS OFF. I HAVE REACHED MY GOALS ALREADY.”

SALLY BROWN, GERMANY





## Results Driven

### OUR ACADEMIC RESULTS ARE TESTAMENT TO THE HIGH LEVELS OF MOTIVATION, ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS.

A particular focus has been students achieving National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) Level 2. We have embraced this educational challenge and have worked to support as many of our students as possible to achieve this important qualification. In 2019, our academic results rank us as one of the top state co-educational schools in New Zealand.

Higher education is also a main focus for our students. Last year, 80% of our Year 13

students gained University Entrance, well above the national average of 33%. In addition to tertiary education, students are fully supported to go into vocational pathways.

As well as key educational qualifications we also have a focus on 'high performance', which includes Merit and Excellence endorsements and Scholarships. We are consistently getting double-digit Scholarships, with students achieving Top Scholar awards.



## A Time for **Exploration**

**AT WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL, WE BELIEVE THAT STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE FULL BREADTH OF THE CURRICULUM IN THE JUNIOR YEARS BEFORE BECOMING MORE SPECIALISED IN THE SENIOR YEARS.**



### **CURRICULUM**

**Students have the opportunity to experience the full breadth of the curriculum in the junior years. This incorporates future-focussed, personalised learning to drive engagement which becomes more specialised in the senior years.**

Students in Year 9 and 10 experience the eight learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum and get to choose subjects to allow them to explore their passions, while ensuring that they meet the literacy and numeracy thresholds required for academic success in the senior school.

We offer English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class for second language learners, literacy and numeracy support, a Talent Development (Gifted and Talented) programme, separate Scholarship support, plus extension and accelerated learning opportunities across all the learning areas.

For more information about the curriculum go to: [www.wakatipu.school.nz](http://www.wakatipu.school.nz)

### **TIMETABLE**

**Choice is a key characteristic of the timetable. It is a key facilitator of engagement which supports learning, progress and achievement.**

Year 9 and 10 students can choose twelve courses per year and senior students select up to six courses per year. The seamless timetable for juniors and seniors gives students the flexibility to study at a level that best suits them.

Students also have three dedicated periods per week where they meet with their Ako groups (formerly Tutor groups) and Kaiārahi (Learning Adviser) who supports students with their pastoral and academic needs and monitors students' well-being.



# OUR VISION





**“LIVING IN QUEENSTOWN AND  
STUDYING AT WAKATIPU HAS  
ESTABLISHED A CLEAR PATHWAY TO  
MY TERTIARY GOALS AND PREPARED  
ME FOR A SUCCESSFUL CAREER.  
I HAVE HAD GREAT SUPPORT AND  
FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT MY FUTURE.”**

**CHAO HAN, GUANGZHOU**







## Method of Reporting

### **REGULAR FEEDBACK SUPPORTING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, LEARNING, PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT.**

Learning Engagement Reports (LE Reports) are issued every three weeks to parents and students via email and through our online WHS Portal. The reports provide a clear overview, giving students the opportunity to modify learning behaviours, and giving parents the information they need to support learning and achievement.

Senior students and parents receive feedback each term as to how students are tracking towards their NCEA Qualification and the academic goals they set for themselves at the start of the year.

Kaiārahi provide mid-year and end-of-year comments summarising students' academic achievement, engagement indicators, extra and co-curricular involvement as well as an overall summary in relation to student citizenship.



## Arts and Culture

**WE OFFER AN EXTENSIVE ARTS PROGRAMME THROUGH OUR VISUAL ARTS, MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENTS, ALONG WITH EXCITING EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES. THE ARTS ARE OFFERED FROM YEAR 9 AND CAN BE STUDIED AT ALL NCEA LEVELS.**

### MUSIC

Music is an exciting part of our school curriculum and we have an award winning popular music band. Our jazz band regularly performs at venues around Queenstown and has won the South Island Championships.

Music is taught to both juniors and seniors plus individual tuition is available for many instruments such as guitar, keyboard and saxophone. We also have dedicated recording studios for our music and drama students to use.

### DRAMA

Drama is available as a specialist option as well as being incorporated into our English programme with all our students seeing visiting cultural productions each year.

We also undertake a major musical and dramatic production each year and our international students are strongly encouraged to take part. Our new theatre accommodates 400 people and can be configured for a variety of different stage layouts.

### VISUAL ARTS

Our Junior Art programmes are centred on developing skills understanding and appreciation for art works, artists and art making processes. This provides a strong foundation for completing art at a senior level.

Our Senior programme allows students to specialise in the fields of painting, photography and design and go on to study these at NCEA Level 2.

### MAORI CULTURE

We have a Kapa Haka group to showcase our Maori programme and teach Maori as a language option.

### DEBATING

Debating and public speaking are actively promoted through class, school and inter-school competitions.







## Sports and the Snow

### OUR SPORTS COORDINATOR AND ARTS COORDINATOR PROMOTE AND ENABLE STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND EXCELLENCE IN THEIR CHOSEN SPORT OR ACTIVITY.

As part of our great all-round education our goal is to have all students involved in extra and/or co-curricular activity. We offer a wide range of sport, cultural, leadership and arts opportunities to our students.

#### SPORTS

Many sports are available as extra-curricular activities. Local clubs offer coaching and team competition in sports that are not based at school. Queenstown has four excellent golf courses for golfing enthusiasts, tennis courts, a swimming pool and ice-skating rink in winter.

We have had multiple athletes succeed on the national and international stage in a variety of sports. Recently three students have attended the Winter Olympics and one has been selected for the Japanese Davis Cup Team.

For more information about the curriculum go to [www.wakatipu.school.nz](http://www.wakatipu.school.nz)

#### YEAR 9 SNOW PROGRAMME

During Term 3, Year 9 students take part in a ski/snowboard programme that runs once a week for six weeks. This programme gives all students access to this very special aspect of our local environment and enables them to learn to ski/snowboard under the guidance of professional instructors as part of our Health and Physical Education programme.

#### NEW ZEALAND ALPINE SPORTS ACADEMY

Wakatipu High School has developed this unique programme as a successful high-level training option for elite athletes. Ski racing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding and tennis are among the Academy's sports.

This successful programme has been operating for 20 years and we have had members from New Zealand, Germany, France, Japan, Italy and England.









# LIFE'S RICH OPPORTUNITIES







## Camps and Recreation

### SOME OF THE MOST MEMORABLE SCHOOL DAYS AT WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL ARE THOSE SPENT ON SCHOOL CAMPS AND IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

The school has developed a comprehensive and coordinated Junior Outdoor Education programme in our unique Queenstown environment. The Senior Outdoor Recreation courses build on the junior programme and mirror the special character of our school utilising the surrounding local area.

#### STUDENT CAMPS - YEAR 9 / 10

Our programme of backcountry school camps provide great opportunities for personal growth, learning skills in outdoor survival, caring for the environment, gaining new interests and developing responsible social interaction with others. International students often contribute in leadership roles for the junior camps.

#### SENIOR OUTDOOR RECREATION COURSE

Year 12 and 13 students gain credits and experiences in kayaking, tramping, bushcraft, mountain expeditions, snow caving and safety management. Highlights of the programme include tramping the Rockburn Valley, kayaking the Clutha River and a snow expedition at The Remarkables. A skills and aptitude assessment is needed prior to participation for qualification.

## Student Support and **Guidance**

**THE PASTORAL NETWORK INVOLVES THE ENTIRE STAFF WORKING IN A SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENT, ENSURING STUDENTS REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. THIS NETWORK HAS BUILT A SOLID FOUNDATION BASED AROUND CARING FOR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS - ACADEMIC, SOCIAL OR EMOTIONAL.**

All students are assigned to a Kaiārahi (Guide or Mentor). The Kaiārahi supports and enables students' educational achievement and holistic development from the day they enter our learning community to the day they exit. Kaiārahi are the key point of contact for parents, students and staff when dealing with the pastoral life of students.

In partnership with parents, we ensure that each student has optimal opportunity to become an independent, caring, reliable and responsible member of the community.

## HOUSES

The students are each assigned to one of five Houses – Arthur, Duncan, Fox, Hay and Mackenzie – each named after early settlers in the Wakatipu Basin.

Each House has a Dean who is responsible for the overall welfare of all students in their House. Each House is divided into a number of Ako groups with a Kaiārahi who meet three times per week. Students remain in the same Ako groups throughout their time at Wakatipu High School and as a result Kaiārahi get to know their students extremely well.

A strong and important aspect of the House system is the Inter-House competition. This is a fiercely-fought feature of the school calendar kicking off with Participation Day early in the year and includes a range of activities from the arts, sports and academia.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

There are numerous student leadership opportunities available, many of which are fostered through our Inter-House competition.

The Student Council and its sub-committees are responsible for developing our vibrant Inter-House competition which includes events such as Participation Day, Swim Sports, Haka/Waiata Competition, Debating, Waka-Maths and much more. There are multiple sub-committees of the Student Council, including Academic, Arts, Community and Service, Environmental, Sports and Whanaungatanga (Support) Councils.

House Leaders are responsible for organising students, developing House spirit and leading the charge in the Inter-House competition. We also run the Duke of Edinburgh programme for students from Year 10 and above.





## International Student Support

**Wakatipu High School has developed an excellent programme for international students. Our current mix of nationalities includes students from 18 different countries.**

We have dedicated services for International students such as visa application, quality homestay placements and an approved study programme for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

### HOST FAMILIES

Wakatipu High School has a network of experienced host families who enjoy providing long-term homestay accommodation for our international students. Queenstown has a long history of looking after our guests well and welcoming them into our community.

### CAREER AND GUIDANCE COUNSELLING

International students are also offered career and guidance counselling to ensure that their subject selection and progress match their tertiary goals. Students are provided with pathways to study in New Zealand universities, overseas universities, and/or return to their home countries.

### ESOL TEACHERS

We have two specialist teachers who provide classes at five different levels. They offer skills, pathways to NCEA and preparation for IELTS (International English Language Testing System).



“THE SCHOOL PROVIDES WELL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. THEY RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT AND PASTORAL CARE, ALONG WITH APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF SUPPORT WITH THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. STUDENTS ARE INVOLVED IN A RANGE OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.”

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (2017 REPORT)

## Homestay and Community

**THE QUEENSTOWN COMMUNITY IS RENOWNED FOR WELCOMING OVERSEAS VISITORS AND THIS REPUTATION IS BUILT ON OUR PASSION FOR HOSPITALITY AND A DESIRE TO SHARE OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA.**

All international students at Wakatipu High School are given the opportunity to join Queenstown families through the Homestay programme and many of these families have children already attending the school.

This close integration into the community gives students a real sense of belonging and provides a head start, allowing them to get to know the town and make friends quickly.

The Homestay programme is a well established and proven part of the Wakatipu High School culture with a dedicated Homestay Co-ordinator taking care of vetting, home visits and providing a liaison for everyone involved to help make the process straightforward and rewarding for everyone.









## Pathways to the Future

### WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS STUDENTS THE NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

NCEA is the main qualification for secondary students in New Zealand and it comes in three levels: Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 which students usually work through from Year 11 to 13 (usually ages 15-18).

Students can also enter for the more academic Achievement Standards and/or Unit Standards which usually assess a more vocational based skill.

Students are assisted each week in their Ako (tutor/home room) time to choose the most appropriate subjects and plan pathways to achieve their goals. Their Ako teacher regularly checks that they are meeting these objectives.

Our Careers Teacher meets with senior students to discuss their goals and explain to them tertiary and job opportunities available for them. Some Year 12 and 13 students do work experience on a work visa to enable them to meet these goals. The Careers Teacher takes Year 13 students to selected New Zealand universities for Open Days to enable students to make informed choices.

The International Director checks with students, their agents and thus their parents that a student is working towards an agreed goal. Most students choose a tertiary course in New Zealand while others choose to work or study overseas. If a student chooses to return to their home country for further study or another overseas destination we can assist with this.





“ A RICH AND VARIED CURRICULUM PROVIDES MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN, BE CHALLENGED, EXPLORE THEIR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOP COMPETENCIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING.”

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (2017 REPORT)



## Student Testimonials

### BECOMING PART OF OUR SCHOOL IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ACHIEVING NOT ONLY HIGH EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES, BUT FOR ONCE-IN-A-LIFE-TIME PERSONAL EXPERIENCES



“ My experience in Queenstown was wonderful. While I was in NZ, I've done so many amazing things that I couldn't even imagine before leaving France. The outdoor activities where I was involved such as snow caving, river kayaking, tramping, sky diving heavily contributed to the wealth of my experience in New Zealand. I was surrounded by a great host family who definitely enriched my time here for example bringing me to a rugby match in Dunedin or to involve me in the conservation of Queenstown during the planting trees sessions or the renovation of hiking tracks on Pigeon island. I thank the school which organized amazing trips in the South Island and I thank anyone who was in my path in New Zealand. ”

**ILIAS – FRANCE (17 YEARS)**



“ Once I heard that being an international student is not one amazing year in your life, is a life in one year.

You will learn a lot about yourself, you'll make friends for life, friends all around the world, you will earn a second family that will be there for your every single time you need them and that wouldn't be possible if I wouldn't come here, I'm so glad I did it and I can proudly say that it has been the best year of my life. ”

**TOMAS – COLOMBIA (18 YEARS)**



“ My name is June. I'm currently in my last year of high school, and I have been an international student at Wakatipu High School for over 2 years. Studying in Queenstown has been a life-changing experience for me. The breath-taking landscape and exciting range of activities are enough to charm the heart of any newcomer to this little town.

However, the people of Queenstown, especially the students of Wakatipu High School, were what made me decide to further my education in New Zealand. Since my very first day, I have always felt welcomed and included in a multi-cultural environment that encourages international students to explore their potentials and reach for their heights. Ad Alta Wakatipu. ”

**JUNE – VIETNAM (18 YEARS)**



“ Queenstown and surroundings gave me completely new and incredible experiences. But first I want to say thank you to the school which gave an amazing support in all kinds of problems.

Wakatipu High is an incredible school with a huge amount of possibilities, be it Outdoor activities like Rafting, Snow Caving, Hiking, etc or other possibilities, which I would have never found at a German school. The key to be a part of that school is talking to students, teachers and enjoy what you like to do. All that together will give a perfect year with a lot of new experiences and friendships in New Zealand. ”

**MAXIMILIAN – GERMANY  
(16 YEARS)**



# THE FUTURE IS HERE

## Contacts and Information

All students who attend Wakatipu High School have the opportunity to reach their full academic, physical and social potential in a positive and caring environment. We place the highest priority on the happiness and well-being of our international students.



### MARCELO CARNEIRO

#### DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Marcelo assists with everything from enrolment to visa application, subject selection, communication with agents and parents, and general pastoral care of students.



### OLIVIA JOHNSON

#### ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT AND HOMESTAY COORDINATOR

Olivia inspects prospective accommodation, interviews hosts and carefully matches students to homestays. Olivia also provides ongoing pastoral support.



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**Wakatipu**  
HIGH SCHOOL