



Timaru Girls' High School Prospectus

Scientia Potestas Est - Knowledge is Power





A Rich History

Generations of South Canterbury women have passed through the school, from its beginnings as Timaru High School in 1880, to the current single sex school that has been in operation since 1898.

Our heritage is based on friendship, pride, respect and understanding. Over the years, many traditions unique to the school have developed. It is these traditions that give the school its special character. Events such as Aitken and Waters Cup Day and the House Choir Festival provide memories that stay with students for many years after they have left the school.

With under 500 girls we enjoy and support a safe and caring

family atmosphere. We pride ourselves on the fact that we know every girl personally.

When our girls arrive at school they automatically join a much larger family; the Timaru Girls' High School Old Girls. Old Girls' Associations are active throughout New Zealand and they value their long standing association with Timaru Girls' High School.

Timaru Girls' High School prides itself on its rich 125 year history and values its traditions, but remains focused on the needs of today's students.



From the Principal



Thank you for expressing an interest in Timaru Girls' High School.

We value academic excellence and believe it is best achieved within a single sex environment where learning styles specific to girls are understood and best catered for.

Girls' personal welfare is of utmost importance to us, as is maintaining high standards of discipline in a supportive and caring learning environment.

We offer a broad, interesting and challenging curriculum, and all girls are encouraged to participate in the sporting, cultural and service activities that are available.

'Girls' High girls' are expected to demonstrate kindness and respect to others at all times. We have a proud tradition of 129 years as a provider of education in New Zealand. We know every girl will maintain and foster our beliefs and values for the rest of their lives.

I give my commitment to your daughter that she will be given the opportunity to achieve and excel at Timaru Girls' High School.

Helen Vear (Mrs)
Principal





Our Mission Statement and Values

Timaru Girls' High School, with pride in its history and traditions, provides an innovative education which encourages personal excellence in all fields of endeavour, and develops confident, caring, well educated, young women, within a safe and supportive community.

We value personal excellence for every girl, individual achievement, and creativity. We believe it is best achieved within a single sex environment where learning styles specific to girls are understood and best catered for.

Our curriculum offers a wide variety of achievement opportunities and we encourage participation in a diverse range of cultural, sporting and service activities.

Our learning and teaching programmes support positive outcomes for our girls. We expect them to work hard to achieve to their full potential.

We value the partnership between school, students, their families and the wider community towards better achievement for all.



The Curriculum

Programmes for all students

During Year 9 and 10 all students study a number of core or compulsory subjects. These are English, Mathematics, Health and Physical Education, Science, and Social Studies. Some of these subjects remain compulsory at higher levels, while others become optional.

At Years 9 and 10, students also study between three and six optional subjects. These include French, German, and Te Reo Maori in the Languages area; Art, Dance, Drama, and Music in the Arts area; and Business Basics, ICT, Materials Technology, Graphics, and Food Technology in the Technology area.

At Year 11, English and Mathematics are compulsory and Science is highly recommended. Most students choose two (or, in some cases, three) additional Level 1 subjects from the following areas: The Arts (Art, Dance, Drama, Music), Technology (ICT, Fabric, Food Technology), Languages (French, German, Te Reo Maori), Social Sciences (Geography, History, Tourism, Economics and Accounting) or Physical Education and Health.

At Year 12, English is compulsory and students study four (or five) additional subjects, usually at Level 2.

At Year 13, students study five subjects, usually at Level 3. Students with a strong academic focus are also encouraged to work toward scholarship in their strongest subjects

Programmes to meet individual student needs

Specialist teachers tutor individuals and small groups in reading and Mathematics. Help is offered by staff within classes and in withdrawal situations to assist students who have difficulties in these areas.

Extension opportunities are provided for able students who are encouraged to extend themselves within subjects and through additional programmes.

Alternative programmes are provided in the senior school to ensure that all students are able to achieve to the best of their ability. Most subjects offer either Achievement or Unit Standards courses, or courses which contain both.

For students with special learning and physical needs, the school provides a purpose-built suite. The suite is staffed by a specialist teacher who is assisted by skilled teacher aides.

Students with English as their second language receive personal support in the ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages) area. A specialist teacher works with students to develop the skills needed to successfully adapt to schooling and life in New Zealand.



Support and Guidance

Timaru Girls' High School has a strong support and guidance network. It is designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students.

The network begins at the classroom level. Subject teachers set a learning environment that encourages academic achievement and creates a positive classroom community.

Form teachers provide the next level of support. They meet with their classes four times a week and monitor the academic progress and social development of their students. They may also contact parents to discuss issues or concerns related to individual students.

Further guidance and support is offered by deans who oversee the progress and welfare of students in a single year group. The Dean follows a year group from Year 9 until they leave in Year 13; this gives the Dean a chance to really get to know the students in their year group and provide personal guidance.

More specialised help for individual students

can be sought from the Guidance Counsellor, or the Careers Advisor.

The Guidance Counsellor offers advice on emotional, or social issues; she works individually with students who have been referred, or who just need to talk. The Guidance Counsellor also works closely with outside agencies in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for students.

The Careers Advisor is available to students who need help deciding which courses they need to take in order to meet their career goals. If a student is unsure of what she wants to do when she leaves school, the Careers Advisor will work with her on goal setting and suggest suitable career paths.

The last part of the support and guidance network is the senior team: Assistant Principal, Deputy Principal and Principal. The senior team works with all of the people mentioned above in order to make Timaru Girls' High School the best possible environment for the academic and social development of each student.



Student Leadership

A strong emphasis is placed on developing leadership skills, particularly in the senior school. Each Year 13 student is expected to sit on one of a number of committees that organise events and promote key ideas around the school.

Staff and students vote each year to elect students to the key offices of Head of School, Head of Arts, and Head of Sports. Each of these positions also has a deputy who works in a support role.

Junior students may also take leadership roles, such as class representative on the School Council, sport team captain, or even class librarian.

A student representative to the Board of Trustees is elected annually. This important position ensures that an advocate for the student body is part of key decision making processes.

The popular and successful Peer Support programme provides leadership training and opportunities for Year 13 students while also

providing support for students in Years 9 and 10. Complementing the Health Curriculum, the programme focuses on key issues such as dealing with bullying, making new friends, and starting at a new school.

A team of fully trained and very approachable senior students forms the Anti-Harassment Committee. These students are available to offer advice to individuals needing help, support, or just someone to talk to.

Every student is assigned to one of the four houses: Rata, Konini, Kowhai, and Ngaio. Inter-house competitions provide some of the highlights of the school year, with a variety of titles and trophies on offer during the year. Leadership of the houses is by senior students who are elected at the beginning of Term One.



Sport

Our school employs a Sports Coordinator who works with staff and students to ensure our girls have access to coaching and equipment so that they can participate in a wide range of winter and summer sporting activities.

The sports captains and senior student representatives from each sport work with the sports coordinator to provide a range of lunchtime activities.

Sporting activities currently offered by the school include: Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Croquet, Cross Country, Cycling, Equestrian, Hockey, Indoor Bowls, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Petanque, Rowing, Rugby, Skiing, Small-bore Shooting, Soccer, Squash, Table Tennis, Tennis, Touch, and Volleyball

The school gymnasium is open every lunch hour, with supervision from Physical Education department staff, for students to pursue individual fitness programmes.

Classes such as self defence and yoga are also offered in the lunch hour.

The school participates in a range of sports, at all levels, in an annual summer and winter sports exchange with Waitaki Girls' High School.

The Senior A Basketball, Hockey, and Netball teams compete in an annual quadrangular tournament with Waitaki Girls' High School, Christchurch Girls' High School and Avonside Girls' High School.



Arts and Culture

The school's Arts Department offers classes in Visual Art, Drama, Dance, and Music. These classes often lead to performance evenings and other presentations.

Along with these subject offerings, there are many other arts activities available to students. Our Head of Arts and Deputy Head of Arts work with the Arts Coordinator to provide a variety of activities giving our students the opportunity to explore a wide range of artistic expression, and develop their talents.

Cultural activities offered by the school include: Choir, Chorale, Lip-sync, Public Speaking, Orchestra, Shakespeare Festival, Speech Cup, Public Speaking, Kapa Haka, Debating

Musical Productions

A combined musical production with Timaru Boys' High School is performed annually. Each school alternates responsibility for producing and hosting this event.

Drama

Every alternate year Timaru Girls' High School enters Stage Challenge

Music Tuition

Students are offered music tuition in a range of instruments from the pool of itinerant music tutors.

Wearable Art

Over the last few years, the school's Technology Department has run a very successful Wearable Arts unit and evening for Year 10 and senior students.





Uniform

Uniform is an important part of school tradition. Wearing correct uniform in a neat and tidy fashion is a way for students to show self-pride and discipline, as well as pride in the school and respect for its traditions.

Formal Winter Uniform

Napier tartan kilt
White cotton shirt, button to neck with pointed collar
Regulation blue tie
Regulation blue V-neck jersey
Wool vest (optional)
Navy blue tights (full or knee-high)
Brown leather shoes with low heel
Regulation blazer
Regulation blue and white striped, or plain navy scarf
Plain navy jacket or coat for wet weather

Summer Uniform

Regulation blue and white checked skirt
Regulation white blouse (embroidered crest on sleeve)
Brown low-heeled sandals with a heel strap and $\frac{3}{4}$ filled in front
OR brown leather shoes with white ankle socks
Blazer
Jersey (optional)
Vest (optional)

Sports and Physical Education Uniform

Plain white polo shirt
Plain blue shorts
Regulation blue and white tracksuit purchased through school (optional)
sports shoes with non-marking soles

School facilities

Timaru Girls' High School is committed to providing facilities which enhance the learning opportunities of all students. We have:

Attractive, park-like grounds with extensive lawns and mature trees that provide welcome shade in the summer.

Extensive sports fields, netball and tennis courts, a gymnasium, squash courts and a swimming pool support our students' strong sporting involvements.

A well stocked library which regularly purchases a wide variety of texts and provides access to both print and electronic resources.

Two computer suites with high speed internet access and clusters of computers around the school give more students access to this technology when they need it.

A well equipped performing arts area with hall, music suite with practice rooms, and a drama suite to encourage students' strong cultural involvements. Also, construction will soon begin on a new dance studio.

An ongoing property development programme which has included extensive refurbishment and decoration of classrooms, the building of a new science laboratory and a technology block with modern facilities.





Boarding Facilities

Timaru Girls' High School can provide full accommodation at its hostel, called "The House", which is situated right next to the school. There is also the option of 5-day boarding if required.

Casual accommodation can also be arranged - for example, if a girl has a regular sports practice it is often easier for all is she stays that night at the hostel. Costs or such are very reasonable.

Each girl has her own room, and all meals are provided. There is supervised prep in the evenings and the girls have access to computers which are connected to the school's network. This ensures that school work and the internet are easily available.

As The House is adjacent to the school, the girls have full access to the school's recreational amenities such as the

swimming pool, tennis courts, music practice rooms and library.

The House also has its own television lounges with videos and the girls have access to tea and snack-making facilities. The House offers Timaru Girls' High School students a safe and secure environment, in which to focus on their studies, discover and explore new opportunities, and have fun while they're doing it.

Our caring staff develop close relationships with the girls and are committed to making boarding at Timaru Girls' High School a rewarding, productive and enjoyable experience



International Students

Timaru Girls' High School welcomes International Students from all over the world. We aim to provide a quality education for each student in a secure and caring environment.

When you arrive in the South Island of New Zealand we will pick you up at Christchurch International Airport and drive you to Timaru.

After you have settle in we will help you buy your school uniform, open a bank account and select the subject you will study at school.

Mrs Wiberg is the Homestay Coordinator and she will work very closely with you in these first few weeks.

Mrs McKinnon, the International Student Coordinator, will also work very closely with you at school. She will meet with you every week to discuss any concerns you may have with your studies or personal issues.

At Timaru Girls' High School you can board either at the school hostel or in homestay accommodation. We have many high quality homestays and the large school hostel is situated on the school grounds. In the hostel you need to be able to speak in English to both the staff and the girls.



The House System

At the beginning of the year, all new students are put into a House. There are four Houses: Konini (blue), Kowhai (yellow), Ngaio (green), and Rata (red). Students then have the opportunity to represent their House in four major activities during the year.

The first of these events is Swimming Sports, which is usually held at Maori Park pool. Students can compete in championship events, or accumulate points for their house in a variety of fun novelty events.

The next major House event on the school calendar is Athletic Sports. The format is similar to that of Swimming sports - participation and enjoyment are the main goal of both events.

House Choirs is the traditional third event on the House activity calendar - Houses compete against each other for the Dorothy Gibb Cup by performing two songs, one a test piece and one chosen by the House.

Finally, the Houses square off on Aitken and Waters Cup day in various sporting events including Netball (for the Aitken Cup) and Hockey (for the Waters Cup), Wearable Art, a quiz and other activities.

House activities give students the opportunity to get to know and work with students from every year level. This association creates a feeling of community within the school and the friendly rivalry of House competition is one of the bases of our school's unique spirit.





Timaru Girls' High School

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