



Hillcrest High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Tihipuke

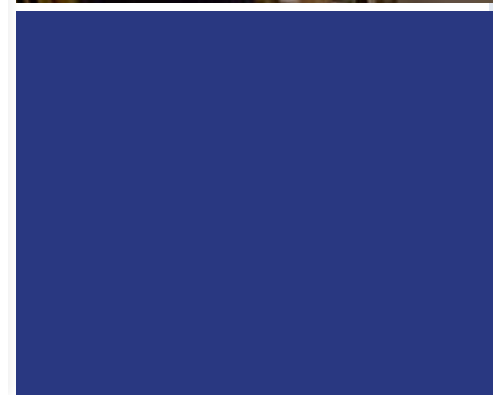


International Prospectus



“Hillcrest has given me a high quality learning environment that I find academically fulfilling. Not only that, but I have been welcomed into an amazing social life, forming life-long friendships.

YEAR 12 STUDENT



Principal Welcome

Nau mai, haere mai.

Welcome to Hillcrest High School, a place where young people learn, develop, grow and thrive.

Teaching, learning and academic achievement is our core business. We aim to provide every student with the opportunity to excel and gain the qualifications, skills and experiences they require for their future pathways.

The beliefs and values of Hillcrest High School are based on our RAPID values which are firmly embedded in the culture and ethos of the school. Within the framework of these values the school promotes high standards of student conduct and behaviour.

We believe in empowering our students to make decisions, be accountable for consequences, and lead their own problem-solving.

Quality experiences and meaningful interactions help shape our young people into well-balanced and successful people. The concepts underpinning the Hillcrest High School experience include positivity, fun, inclusivity, appropriate levels of challenges, and young people feeling valued.

We are incredibly proud of the inclusive learning environment at Hillcrest High School. We welcome all cultures, languages, religions, and abilities, and ensure everyone has the resources they need to succeed.

Whatever your young person's strengths, interests and dreams, they will have the opportunity to do their best and be their best at Hillcrest High School.

We look forward to welcoming you on your journey with us.

Kelvin Whiting

Principal



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About our School

Hillcrest High School's vision is to educate and develop young people of whom our community will be proud.

We are renowned for producing well-balanced young people. We achieve this by providing students with a holistic education with opportunities to engage in meaningful learning pathways to attain qualifications, skills and confidence that will prepare them for life beyond school. Our aim is to develop our students to be successful all-rounders and good people who contribute positively to our community and as citizens of the world.

Hillcrest High School is committed to delivering a high standard of academic, cultural and sporting excellence. Student wellbeing is incredibly important, and every student participates in our Hauora wellbeing programme.

As a school we value the community, and we embrace the cultures and diverse backgrounds of all our students. Our diverse student body and teaching staff means that students become comfortable interacting with different cultures and learning behaviours.

Our student body includes students who require additional learning and physical support, and international fee-paying students who represent many countries. These students form a valuable part of our school community.

Fast facts:



School Values

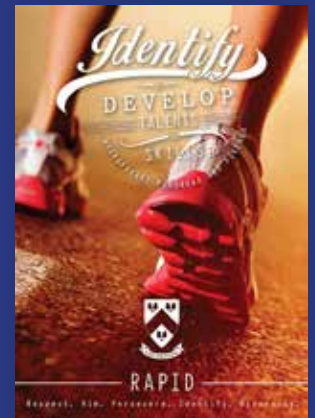
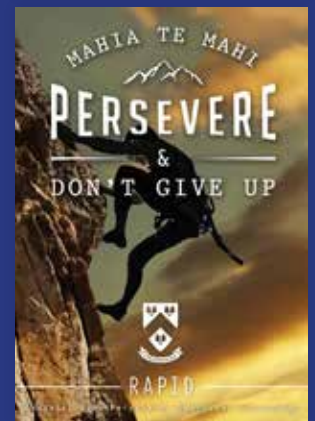
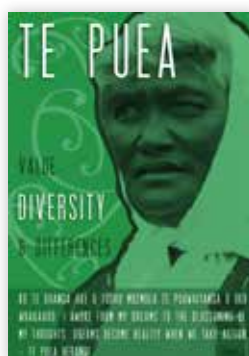
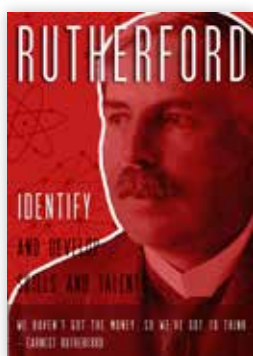
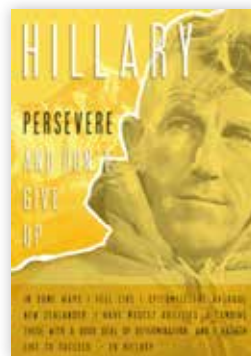
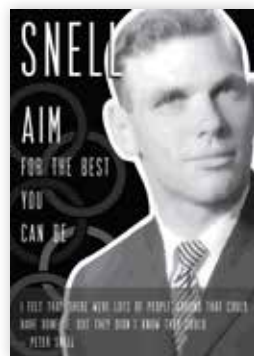
Our **RAPID** values were designed in partnership with the school community and are foundational in how we behave and learn successfully at school.

The school values reflect the inclusion, diversity and high standards that we set for all our tamariki. We know that positive interaction and engagement with students is a prerequisite for improving achievement and behaviour.

School Houses

Our school houses celebrate influential New Zealanders: Te Paea, Snell, Sheppard, Hillary and Rutherford.

Houses create a sense of belonging and healthy and fun competition. Students are placed into a house when they start with the school. Students compete in their houses in a range of activities including sports, team relays, haka, house chants and quizzes. Houses include students from years 9 to 13, providing an opportunity for senior students to take on leadership and mentoring roles with younger students.



Our Local Area

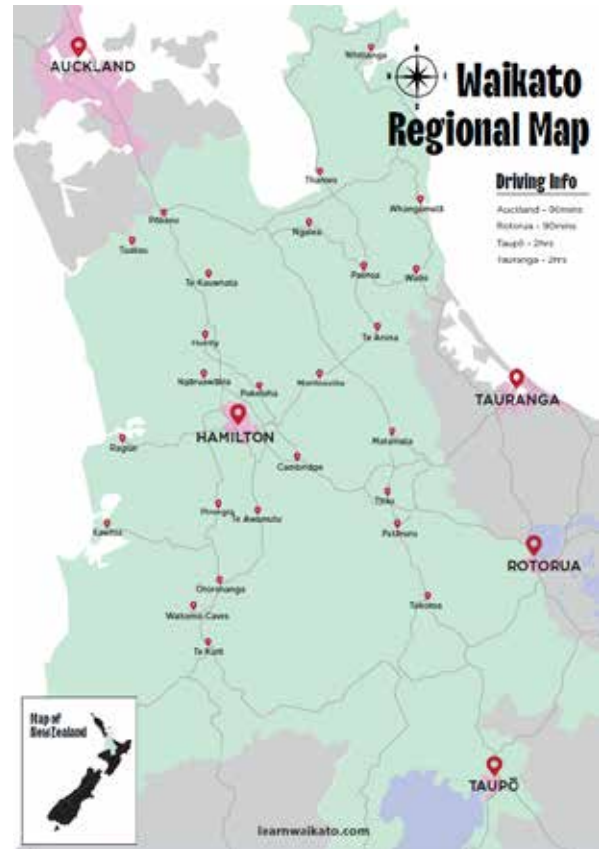
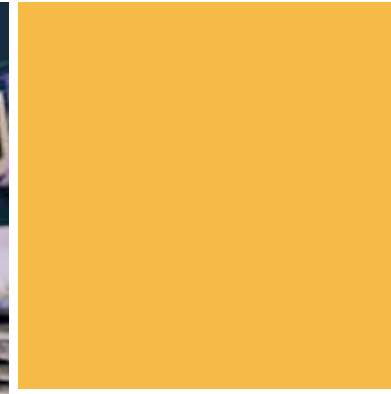


Photo credit: Mrs Lianne Moore, Art Teacher

Hamilton Gardens



Photo credit: Hamilton Gardens by Roy Javier, Unsplash.com



Supporting and Growing our Students

As a school we have a strong focus on student wellbeing, positive relationships and supporting our students to become the best versions of themselves. We provide a range of support, career and leadership opportunities to enable students to succeed.

Student Support

Dedicated year level class

Students have a dedicated Hauora form class with students from their year level and usually stay with the same Hauora teacher and Dean for the full five years. This fosters strong positive relationships as students move through the school years.

Peer support programme

All year 9 students are buddied with a year 12 student as part of the peer support programme, helping to support their transition into high school.

As part of the Hauora programme, peer support leaders work alongside year 9 students utilising EndorseMe – a digital work-readiness tool that helps young people identify, develop and record real skills for the real world.

Careers Centre

Our careers centre provides students with information and support on taking their next steps after secondary school, including education and job-seeking.

Students can drop in during lunchtimes or organise a one-on-one consultation by appointment.

Our centre provides students with access to the following services:

- One-on-one career consultation
- Career taster courses
- Gateway work experience placements
- Access to enrolment in level 1 university papers (from all New Zealand universities)
- Information and advice on study options including subject selection for university, polytechnic and te wānanga
- Information on apprenticeships
- Information on jobs including job market data
- Short courses in a range of interest areas that include NCEA unit standard credits
- Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) timetabled classes to match students' vocational requirements and obtain NCEA unit standard credits



Health and Wellbeing

Health clinic

Students can visit our on-site health clinic to receive care from our registered nurses if they become unwell or injured at school.

Our registered nurses can also offer advice and health information including mental and emotional health. A doctor and physiotherapist visit the health clinic at designated times each week.

Guidance counselling

Guidance counsellors are available for confidential counselling services with students upon student request or referral by teachers or parents. Our counsellors are trained members of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors.



Student Leadership

We are committed to providing leadership opportunities for our students to help them develop leadership skills for the future.

The student body is led by four head students, and the house system is led by house captains. These students work with staff (including the Principal and Board of Trustees) on behalf of all students to raise issues and concerns.

Our leadership opportunities reflect the range of interests of our students, and students of all ages are encouraged to participate. Students can join committees, chaired by students, across the school in arts, culture, environment, events, Maaori, sport and Toiora.

Our school leaders are also invited to participate in external leadership programmes.

Health and Wellbeing: Hauora

Our school-wide Hauora programme is based on the Maaori philosophy of health and wellbeing. Hauora is inextricably linked to all elements of life, including employment, family, social and economic outcomes.

Our Hauora programme aims to build relationships and connections, enhance identity and self-worth, promote help-seeking, build connections to school, strengthen hauora and develop life skills.

About Hauora

Our Hauora programme is focused around the concept of Te Whare Tapa Wha, which is made up of four pillars that together are hauora.

Taha tinana: **Physical wellbeing**

Taha hinengaro: **Mental and emotional wellbeing**

Taha whanau: **Social wellbeing**

Taha wairua: **Spiritual wellbeing**

Students participate in Hauora activities for 80 minutes across the week. These include topics such as financial literacy, school spirit, work readiness, goal setting and future pathways.

A Sense of Belonging

Hauora is connected to our school-wide activities which provide a sense of belonging and connection such as our house chant, sports competitions, arts week, diversity weeks and Haka practice. Students are encouraged to take on leadership opportunities so they can role-model the values of the school and contribute to the wider community.

As a school, we are continuously investing in the Hauora programme through the upskilling of staff to ensure that the programme provides value to students.

“
We have learned more about what we are good at and it will help us pick a good career path.”

STUDENT

“
Hauora has made me think about my hauora and others' hauora, and how I can help others.”

STUDENT



Why Hauora

Through the Hauora Programme, we are seeking to address the concerns raised as part of the Waikato Wellbeing Project and the Youth2000 survey, and to respond to the needs of our school community.

The Waikato Wellbeing project aims to have all young people engaged, thriving, and learning or earning a livelihood.

Throughout the year, Hauora teachers conduct Hauora conversations with students to discuss their individual journey through school, highlight any potential barriers to engagement and celebrate successes. These conversations aim to empower students to seek help, build relationships and aid decision-making.

“It's based upon wellbeing which is really important and may not be taught in other schools.

STUDENT



Learning, Curriculum, NCEA

Our learning curriculum offers a comprehensive range of opportunities for all our students, both inside and outside the classroom.

Hillcrest High School is proud of the exceptionally high standard of academic, cultural and sporting excellence achieved by our students.

Teaching and learning are the cornerstones of our school. Our curriculum meets the needs, abilities and aspirations of our students. Our focus on multi-level study gives students more flexibility to select their level of learning.

We have designed a broad-based curriculum for junior students which provides a range of learning opportunities and enables us to cater for individual subject choices and learning needs as much as possible. The senior school programme allows students to specialise in their areas of interests and strengths.

As a Year 13 student who is approaching the end of their time at Hillcrest High School, I have benefited from the wide range of subjects available and the opportunities to discover new passions and career pathways. Combined with the support from all the staff who are subject experts, I believe I am well equipped for my future.

STUDENT

NCEA

Academic success is a key feature of our school, with many students gaining Merit and Excellence endorsements at all levels of NCEA. We are also proud of the consistently high number of students who gain NCEA Scholarship, placing them in the top 3 percent in New Zealand. Several of our students have gained Top Scholar Subject Awards and Premier Awards.

Our focus is on maintaining the academic rigour of NCEA and ensuring that students obtain meaningful qualifications that lead to the next level of learning and provide a positive and productive pathway for the future.

We have programmes in place to help identify and support students who are at risk of not achieving their NCEA to ensure they are well supported to be successful.

Senior school programmes are tailored to individual students, including multi-level NCEA courses which allow students to take the Level 1, 2 or 3 courses appropriate for them – regardless of their year level.



Junior Curriculum

Our junior curriculum provides a broad base for students with subjects including maths, English, science, social studies, arts, health and physical education, languages, technology and digital technologies. Our student-centred curriculum enables students to select the subjects that suit them best.

Arts subjects: Art, drama and music

Language subjects: Maaori, French, Spanish, Japanese and Mandarin Chinese

Technology subjects: Food technology, electronics, design and visual communication, digital technology programming and digital technology media, materials fabrics, materials metal and materials wood

Senior Curriculum

All students must enrol in a full-time programme of study which includes five NCEA subjects. Some students may take six subjects. Compulsory subjects are English (NCEA Levels 1 and 2), mathematics (NCEA Level 1) and physical education (years 11 and 12).



Enrichment and Extension

We provide a wide range of extension and enrichment opportunities at all levels of study. This is a key part of our school's curriculum.



Junior Enrichment and Extension Programme (JEEP)

Year 9 and 10 students who excel academically can participate in the Junior Extension and Enrichment Programme (JEEP). JEEP offers students opportunities to enrich and deepen their thinking and learning through inquiry-driven activities and experiences, both inside and outside the classroom. Experiences include trips to the international film festival, live performance, exhibitions, tours of thought-provoking places and physical challenges.

Sports development

Year 9 and 10 students can extend their sporting capabilities through our sports development programmes. These programmes support students to learn skills and develop attitudes that will shape them into sportspeople and sports leaders of the future.

Senior enrichment and extension

Senior students are encouraged to explore and develop their strengths through our enrichment and extension initiatives.

Year 12

- Cambridge AS level is available for students in English and mathematics.
- Computer programming students can enter for the University of Waikato Computer Science Scholarship.

Year 13

- Eligible year 13 students can choose to study first-year university papers.
- Opportunities are available to participate in national and international competitions.



Janet Guo

Year 13

"Supportive, diverse, comforting, exciting, community." These are the words year 13 student Janet Guo uses to describe Hillcrest High School.

Janet joined Hillcrest from Fairfield Intermediate and says one of the aspects she enjoys most about the school is the "opportunities available".

Janet's diverse school portfolio includes service captain, debate team captain, Lion dance leader, biology Olympiad team, the SAGE science initiative and Shakespeare. She enjoys giving back to the school and community through these roles and seeing the change and potential impact.

In year 12 Janet achieved the Premier Scholar Award, including top in New Zealand for classical studies.

Her advice to new students is take advantage of all the opportunities and resources available.

"Teachers are willing to provide you with the resources necessary to extend you and help you succeed and go above and beyond. You will get a lot from it."

After high school, Janet wants to explore the world. She is considering her options for overseas universities – most likely in America.



Hayley Sharpe

Year 13

Head student and ultimate frisbee sports person, Hayley Sharpe has also represented the school in swimming, athletics, team triathlon, problem solving, maths, science and spelling.

Hayley says one of the aspects she enjoys most about Hillcrest High School is the massive range of opportunities on offer for students. "Regardless of what you choose to involve yourself in, you'll have encouragement along the way."

Hayley joined Hillcrest from Berkley Normal Middle School. She says she loves being a head student and being a voice of her peers. "I really enjoy leading the SSL team. I'm an organiser and a do-er and love being busy, and this job fulfils both of those things for me."

Hayley's advice to new students is "Don't be afraid to get involved in things you are interested in, no matter how out of the box they may be, or how scared you may be to give it a go! By being brave and trying new things, you may find a new passion you never expected to enjoy!"

Hayley describes Hillcrest High School as a place with "great people and modern perspectives". After finishing high school, she plans to attend university to study either computer science or mathematics.

Education Outside the Classroom

Year 10 Great Barrier Experience

We are the only public school in Hamilton to deliver an outdoor education course. Delivered in partnership with the Sir Edmund Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre of New Zealand, our programme for year 10 students promotes teamwork, confidence and leadership.

The programme runs over either four or five weeks on Great Barrier Island or Tongariro. The course is device-free and students are encouraged to write letters home.

While the focus is on the outdoors, English, maths, social studies and science are integrated into the programme. Students also participate in projects with the Department of Conservation and undertake a localised pest eradication programme.

Activities include:

- Sea kayaking
- Canadian canoeing
- Rafting
- Caving
- Tramping
- Rock climbing
- Abseiling
- Navigation
- Camp craft
- High ropes
- Food preparation for the group



Girls' and boys' courses are delivered separately under the guidance of two school teachers and three or four expert instructors from the Hillary Outdoors Education Centre, alongside additional centre staff.

The programme culminates in a graduation at which students share aspects of their personal and educational growth and development gained through the course.

The Great Barrier Experience is the most effective way for me to give him the gift of experiencing the great outdoors, independence and connecting with other people. My instincts tell me, the programme you have organised with Hillary Outdoors is a better investment than a first car or university for the first year.

PARENT

School Trips

Local, national and international trips are available to extend learning opportunities for our students. Education outside the classroom provides students with real-life learning experiences that contextualise learning gained inside the classroom.

Opportunities include:

- Year 9 overnight Marae Noho at Te Iti o Haua Marae in Tauwhare.
- Year 10 Great Barrier Island Experience.
- International trips for senior students. Previous trips have included Vietnam for social science, NASA for science, Argentina and Spain for Spanish students, and New Caledonia for French students.



English Language Learning

At Hillcrest High School we offer comprehensive English Language Learning Support Programmes for students from a non-English speaking programme.

We offer specialized English Language classes at Foundation (beginner) level as well as junior classes at Years 9 & 10.

In the senior school we offer classes which focus on academic English and NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3 assessments. We take great pride in the academic achievement of our English Language Learners.

As well as ELL trained teachers, we have ELL trained support staff who work with small groups of students in mainstream classes or in small tutorials.

We have a strong pastoral focus to ensure that our students are not only supported academically but we also work to ensure that they join in with the other curricular activities that are on offer at Hillcrest High School. We offer many opportunities for our English Language Learners to connect with other students in the wider school community.



Education Review Office

Background

The Education Review Office reviews schools that are signatories to the *Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021* established under section 534 of the Education and Training Act 2020.



EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE
Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga

Findings

At the time of this review, the school had 34 international students. The school's self-review process for international students is thorough and contributes to further developments. Policies and practice suitably guide the provision for international students. Students can access comprehensive curriculum experiences and subject choices. Clear processes are in place to track and monitor students' progress and achievement towards intended destination pathways.

International students receive high quality pastoral care. The promotion of their wellbeing is a strong focus. Homestay accommodation is well supported and closely monitored.

International students benefit from positive, respectful relationships. They are encouraged to participate in a range of cultural and sporting activities, and in the wider community.

Phil Cowie
Director Review and Improvement Services (Central)
Central Region | Te Tai Pūtahi Nui

How to Enrol



Please visit our school website
for all enrolment information

Visit www.hillcrest-high.school.nz/

Whaanau / Maaori

Maaori Students

Te Whaanau O Tihipuke

E ngaa mana, e ngaa reo, e ngaa kaarangatanga maha, teenaa koutou katoa. E te whare o Wiremu Tamihana, te tumuakitanga o te Kiingitanga, Ngaati Hauaa tangata, e te marae o Te Iti o Haua, nei raa ka mihi. Teenaa koutou, teenaa koutou, teenaa koutou katoa.

At Hillcrest High school we understand that Maaori succeeding as Maaori is important and an integral component of the growth and development of our rangatahi. We focus on providing a culturally responsive school community and classroom to eliminate barriers to learning.

We want our Maaori students to:

- have a sense of belonging: Tuarangawaewae
- be culturally strong and stand with confidence and competence: Kia tuu maaia
- be successful and proud to be Maaori, representing their whaanau and culture: Kia maatau Maaori.

Our Te Reo Maaori department offers further learning in Waikato Reo me ona Tikanga. Various programmes are provided to encourage, support, mentor and give leadership opportunities for students to participate in, including our annual year 9 Tauwhare Marae Noho.

These noho are an integral part of our year 9 programme, assisting in the whakawhanaungatanga of our students with each other and our mana whenua.

Whaaia te pae tawhiti kia tata, whakamaua te pae tata, kia tina!

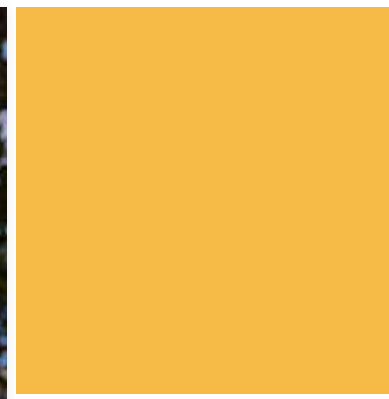
Pasikifa

Bula Vinaka, Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu and warm Pacific greetings.

Approximately 5 percent of Hillcrest High students identify as Pacific. Students are well represented in our academic and cultural achievements, leadership roles in the school and participation in our competitive sports teams.

The Talents of the Pacific Academy (TOPA) are actively involved with teaching and mentoring of cultural competencies, with dance students able to gain credits towards Levels 1, 2, and 3. Music credits are also available.

Additional opportunities for students include Pasifika Camp, participation in Pasifika by Nature Cultural Festival 'Power Up', and subject-specific mentoring.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities play a large role in the school experience for students, and help to foster social development, connection and health and wellbeing.

At Hillcrest we provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities and student clubs that reflect the interests of our diverse student body. If your student has an interest that is not offered we can generally help them to set this up through the school.

We are home to more than 90 student clubs, groups, and teams

- 37 sports
- 19 music and performance groups
- 7 speech and writing groups
- 2 creative clubs
- 5 groups focused on improving the world
- 8 school community groups/councils



Subject Focus: Arts and Culture

Hillcrest High School has a strong reputation of producing students who have excelled in the arts. We offer a range of art-related subjects, with art, drama and music at the core. Our programmes enable students to develop real-world skills which they can use as they journey through life.

Arts Academy

Arts Academy is an extra-curricular activity for junior students who wish to extend their knowledge and skills in the arts. Students create art showcases within a theme.

Art subjects on offer

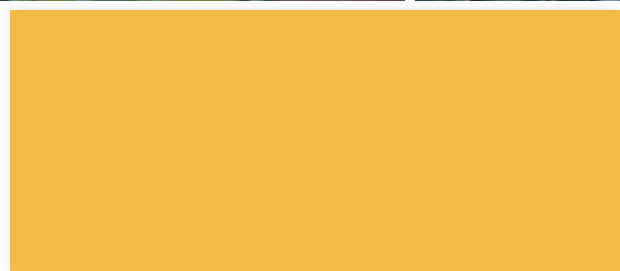
- Visual arts
- Drama
- Music
- Media studies

Extra-curricular arts, dance, culture and music

Students can explore their interests further through extra-curricular activities, clubs and performances on offer. **These include:**

- Art club
- Concert band
- Chamber music
- Dance club
- Guitar group
- Musical instrument tuition
- Musical theatre
- Orchestra
- Rock bands
- Shakespeare club
- SCAT Jazz Choir
- Theatre sports
- Music technology





Visual arts

Visual art develops students' practical skills and creative thinking. We offer a range of subjects including painting, printmaking, photography, design, sculpture and art history.

We encourage students to be confident in their own identity and personality to help them achieve personal success.



Drama

Drama can help students develop practical, people and personal skills. They learn to be a valued member of the creative community, develop their strengths and take their talents into a real-world context.

We aim to create and inspire confident, reflective and vital members of our society who can apply their skills in any career.

Music

The music department is extremely well-resourced with industry standard technology. Music as a subject focuses on growing musical discipline and knowledge. Students are encouraged to self-lead their studies to explore aspects of music that interest them and broaden their understanding of different genres.



“The Hillcrest Music department was the most important influence in setting my life on a course that I never really varied much from, and has led to a wonderful career in the music industry for me over the last 26 years.

MATT WALSHAM
(ROLAND CORPORATION)

Subject Focus: Sports and Physical Activity

Hillcrest High School has a proud sporting history with a wide range of sports on offer for students. We believe that sport is more than just a physical and mental game. Sport helps students to foster interpersonal skills, emotional confidence and social skills.

Our sports strategy, *Raising our Game*, sets out our commitment to:

- growing and improving our sport offering
- ensuring we have the resources to support optimum participation
- ensuring programmes are well-balanced and suit the interests of all our students.

This strategy places a greater focus on developing programmes that foster healthy minds and healthy bodies, and promoting awareness of physical movement, being fit and building resilience. Our goal is to produce students who are equipped with the skills for success, both within and outside of sport.

Participation Growth

We believe sport is a vehicle to developing the core values of a successful life. Our goal is to increase and exceed our current strong targets of sports participation to 60 percent, which is 10 percent above the national average and 5 percent above the regional average.

Tier One Sports

We have identified 5 sports that we will become renowned for, and in which we will focus on lifting performance and participation. We have dedicated additional support and coaching expertise to grow performance and participation and develop pathways in these sports.

- Volleyball
- Football
- Cricket
- Futsal
- Netball

Youth Athlete Development

Created and led by a specialist strength and conditioning coach, our new Youth Athlete Development programme is designed to enhance athletic capabilities in a safe, structured and monitored environment. The programme includes recovery sessions, group conditioning sessions, injury prevention, rehab, mobility and flexibility.

Holistic Health and Wellbeing

At Hillcrest High School we promote health and wellbeing, while fostering a lifelong love for physical activity.

Our programmes encourage holistic wellbeing and include topics such as food as fuel, hydration, sleep, energy, resilience, grit and social connections, alongside developing physical capacities.

We recognise the alarming New Zealand rates of mental health issues and youth suicide. As a school, we aim to tackle these real issues through education, awareness and action. We believe in creating meaningful sporting programmes for students to enjoy and grow within. Sport is a wonderful vehicle for developing quality values, which has a positive effect on health and wellbeing for all.

House Sports

House pride at Hillcrest is strong. Our house sports competitions play a pivotal role in showcasing sport in a positive light and increasing sports participation. A sense of belonging as a house group whaanau is an important part of school life that we continue to grow.



School and Community

At Hillcrest High School, community and school go hand in hand. We want all our students to be proud students of Hillcrest, and to be easily identified in the community. Our community including parents, caregivers and whaanau are an important voice in our school and students' achievements.

Uniform

All students in years 9 - 12 are expected to wear the correct school uniform each day, including to and from school or when representing the school at a community or sporting event. Year 13 students wear their own clothing but must always maintain a clean and tidy standard of dress.

Students have a separate uniform for all physical education classes and activities. Sports uniforms are provided by the school.



Stationery and Devices

Students use digital devices to complete their school learning and homework. A Chromebook or laptop which students can take between school and home is highly recommended to help support and enhance learning.

The use of digital devices to complement traditional learning strategies ensures that students develop their digital literacy and fluency skills and will have the skills, tools and confidence for the workplace and future learning. More information on devices and our school policy can be found online at hillcrest-high.school.nz/byod.

Stationery lists are available online for each year level and additional learning materials may be required for different courses.

Canteen

Our school canteen (run by a local family) provides a range of healthy and affordable food options for students. The canteen is open before school with free breakfast available, and at interval and lunch.

Parent/Caregiver and Community Involvement

At Hillcrest we value the role our whaanau plays in supporting our rangitahi towards a future of success. Communication between home and school is key. We recognise that as parents and mentors, our own learning is critical, as we develop and adapt to life's challenges and those of our rangitahi. We connect and partner with our families and communities, working together to support our students.

Parent and School Communication

Communication between home and school is key to helping students get the most out of their education and experience at school. We use a range of communication channels to stay connected with parents and whaanau.

If we need to communicate about your child at an individual level, our staff will make direct contact by phone or email.

We use the Hillcrest High School website, Facebook page and regular email newsletters to keep parents and whaanau up-to-date with school events, activities and news.

Our student management system Kamar enables you to check your child's attendance, financials and assessment results.

Our learning management system Schoology enables you to follow your child's learning and view live reporting and feedback comments.

Meetings and Community Connection

Each term, a meeting is held with our Maaori community and whanau. Each meeting has a unique theme of focus.

Our relationship with Ngaati Hauaa has strengthened through our collaboration in writing a Treaty of Waitangi Policy and Memorandum of Understanding to construct a Wharenui on our school site.

Our relationship with Pasifika families is reinforced through Fono, Pasifika Camp and participating in the Pasifika by Nature Festival.





Hillcrest High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Tihipuke

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