



INFORMATION BOOK

 **tūmoetai**
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

HOPE · STRIVE · ACHIEVE

Kia oke ngātahi tātou, ka ekea te taumata o angitu
When we strive as one, we ascend the pinnacle of success



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Kia Ora

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Welcome to Ōtūmoetai Intermediate School

Nau mai, haere mai. A warm welcome to our families, caregivers, and students.

Ōtūmoetai Intermediate is a school filled with the most exciting young people, a committed and professional staff, and a modern, energetic environment. We are a school that cares deeply about ensuring every learner is successful, and we pride ourselves on being open, honest, and engaging.

The intermediate phase is a unique and vital window in a child's educational journey. These years are specifically designed to meet the needs of emerging adolescents, a stage of life that requires specialized relational teaching, guidance, and constant encouragement to truly flourish.

At Ōtūmoetai Intermediate, we understand that "learning is our work". To support this, we provide a curriculum packed with opportunity, ranging from the arts and sciences to coding, robotics, and outdoor education. We strive to provide the very best education for every student, catering to their individual strengths and needs.

Central to our mission is the concept of Tūrangawaewae creating a place where every student feels a deep sense of belonging and empowerment. We celebrate the diversity of our school and are committed to celebrating every learner's unique identity.

Our staff are dedicated to supporting and empowering our students to be the best versions of themselves. We want every student to leave our gates with the confidence and skills necessary to navigate their future.

We invite you to come and visit us, join our community, and see firsthand what makes our school so special.

Ngā mihi

Blake Carlin
Principal



INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL FOCUS

Through the delivery of a balanced curriculum, these basic skills and attitudes will be fostered:

- Well-developed literacy and numeracy skills;
- An ability to think critically and creatively;
- Respect for other people;
- An ability to adapt to change;
- Self-motivation and an independence of thought and action;
- A willingness to set high standards;
- Opportunities to develop leadership skills;
- A sense of personal responsibility.

Ōtūmoetai Intermediate School exists to provide and promote intellectual, social, emotional and physical development for Year 7 and 8 pupils. It provides an education which respects dignity, rights and individuality with the aim of developing children's skills to live successfully in tomorrow's world.

The school's programme follows National Curriculum documents and reflects the interests, values and expectations of the community. We seek to challenge children to extend themselves, achieve goals, promote initiative, foster positive interaction and build on emerging talents.

Ōtūmoetai Intermediate School is aligning the way our students learn with the 21st century world. This new, networked world of instantaneous access to information and communication around the globe, has rapidly emerged and is defining how people live, work and play.

Chromebooks are the standard device used by students to support learning in the classroom. Laptops and tablets are

not compatible with the school's digital systems. All Year 7 students have access to school owned chromebooks, although many families choose to purchase a personal device. Year 8 students are encouraged to have their own chromebook, as these devices continue to be used at college in Year 9. School chromebooks are also available for Year 8 students who do not have a personal device.

Cell phones may be brought to school to allow students to communicate with parents and caregivers before and after school. During the day, phones are securely stored in classroom safes and returned to students at the end of the day.

Our vision is to offer a secure, caring, learning environment where the unique potential of each pupil is developed and where appropriate life skills are provided through competent teaching and effective community support.

Ōtūmoetai Intermediate School is an inclusive school, where we have skilled teachers, a Board and Principal who welcome every child, regardless of that child's needs. We are a school where staff understand students learn at different rates, but with the right help and support, can and do progress. At our school, all teachers are expected to see children as learners, valuing each child's academic achievement, social and life skills and culture.

Our students feature prominently at the secondary schools they move on to including: Ōtūmoetai College, Tauranga Boys College, Tauranga Girls College, Bethlehem College, Aquinas College, St Peters in Cambridge, St Pauls Collegiate and Waikato Diocesan in Hamilton.



SCHOOL ORGANISATION

The school is divided into teams, each with its own Team Leader. The purpose of this school organisation is to:

- Allow students to be taught and become well known by a team of teachers;
- Allow teachers in each team to plan together in smaller groups;
- Provide greater security for children who may be overawed by a large school.

SCHOOL HOURS

School starts:

8:45 am



Lunch:

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm



Interval:

10:40 am - 11:00 am



Final Bell:

3:00 pm

Note: There are NO shortened lunch hours and school finishes at the usual time of 3:00 pm, irrespective of weather conditions.



SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

School rules and expectations reflect the values of our community. These will be fully explained to the students. We believe in the obligation to conduct oneself with courtesy and restraint, and to foster a caring/sharing attitude towards one another.

All students are expected to:

- Show courtesy and respect to all staff, other students and the general public;
- Show consideration towards others;
- Listen to and follow instructions provided to them by staff;
- Behave in a safe and hygienic manner;
- Wear the correct school uniform at all times;
- Show respect for school and other students' property.

Ōtūmoetai Intermediate School is recognised as a leading Intermediate School in New Zealand, with a strong focus on student learning. We aim to develop truly independent learners who gain an understanding that they can make a positive difference for their own future. We expect students to realise that learning is a process in which they participate, with learning being seen as something they do, not something done to them.





OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Every year all students will experience education outside the classroom in the form of trips, camps and other activities.

All Year 7 students will be given an opportunity to attend a school camp at Ngatuhoa Lodge in the Kaimai Forest Park. This will provide them with opportunities to challenge themselves as independent, resourceful individuals who can work as a team.

Year 8 students will experience a range of education outside the classroom (EOTC) activities during the school year.

During the year, classes will be encouraged to include other opportunities for education outside the classroom, to enhance the way information is gathered and used in an active learning approach. If teachers are planning these, parents will be advised of the nature of the activity well in advance. Parents will also be given the opportunity to make prior payments by instalments throughout the year thus making it easier for families to budget for anticipated camps.

SCHOOL HOMEWORK

The Home Learning Grid includes a range of tasks and activities, some school based and some home based.

Feedback from our school community indicates that home learning activities are highly valued by families and teachers. It is clear that there are a wide range of these activities and that many families have numerous commitments in addition to the home learning activities set by classroom teachers.

The Home Learning Grid allows for a combination of relevant and achievable tasks set by your child's teacher (these could be individual, group or whole class tasks) and activities and tasks that are an important part of your child's family routines. The Home Learning Grid places value on both sets of activities.

A fuller description of our Home Learning Grid can be found on our school website.

Homework includes classwork but it also recognises the things we do outside of school. I enjoy completing my homework tasks and look forward to earning my home learning badge. - Isabella Kawana





INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Overseas students are welcomed and encouraged to be involved in the life of the school. Enquiries for enrolment can be addressed to the Principal at admin@otuinter.school.nz.

Ōtūmoetai Intermediate School has agreed to observe and be bound by 'The Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students' published by the Ministry of Education. Copies of the Code are available on request from the school or from the New Zealand Ministry of Education website at www.minedu.govt.nz.

At OIS, international students meet many new people and improve our English skills in ESOL lessons. We also get the chance to participate in sport, Showcase and many other activities. - James Go



SPECIALIST COURSES

Ōtūmoetai Intermediate offers students a variety of specialist subjects.

Year 7 students rotate through introductory sessions in 7 subjects: Visual Art, Music, Performing Arts, Hard Technology, ICT Digital Technologies, Food, and Science. In Year 8, students select 4 focus areas for deeper term-long study.

VISUAL ART

Visual Arts students develop creativity, visual literacy, and confidence through hands-on exploration, creation, and sharing of ideas in drawing, painting, and design. They express stories, respond to artworks, and gain cultural understanding, including Māori, Pasifika, and global perspectives.

MUSIC

Music class fosters personal and cultural expression through creating, performing, and responding to diverse acoustic and digital music. Collaborative learning develops creativity, confidence, instrumental skills (practical/theoretical), composition, and digital music literacy. Private onsite lessons and lunchtime bands/groups offer further musical growth.

PERFORMING ARTS

DANCE

Dance builds expression, confidence, creativity, and coordination through movement. Students perform, create, and analyze diverse styles, exploring identity. Collaborative and independent work fosters communication, teamwork, and appreciation for historical and contemporary dance forms.

DRAMA

Drama builds students' expressive confidence and collaborative communication skills through performance, role-play, and movement. Students create, perform, and analyze live theatre, exploring cultures while developing creativity and practical communication abilities.

HARD MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

Hard Materials Technology is a hands-on course where students develop creativity and problem-solving. They design and create products from concept to finish using various materials and digital tools, building practical skills and confidence.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Digital Technologies provides hands-on learning in coding, animation, design, and video editing, preparing students for the digital world. Students build problem-solving, computational thinking, and digital confidence using industry tools, connecting classroom skills to real-world creative and tech careers.

FOOD

Food is a specialist subject fostering real-life skills and confidence. Students learn about food, nutrition, and wellbeing, making informed choices when planning and preparing meals. It encourages creativity and practical, hands-on skills to solve real-world problems through designing and cooking.

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

Science encourages understanding the world through curiosity, investigation, and discovery. It connects to everyday life, fostering problem-solving skills by encouraging students to question, test ideas, and gather evidence through experimentation





TE AO MĀORI

At Ōtūmoetai Intermediate, there are a range of Te Ao Māori programmes that students can be involved in. These programmes support the learning of Te Reo Māori, tikanga, history, and viewing local and world issues through a Māori lens.

Our classes are led by our kaiārahi i te reo (specialist language teacher) and include the Manukura leadership group, Te Kāhui Tui ā Kinomoerua oratory group, Te Okohanga and Poutama Kapa haka, as well as mau rākau and class te reo in Te Whare Wānanga. Lessons are woven into our school through localised lessons, waiata, haka and pūrākau (traditional Maori stories). These classes build a sense of whanaungatanga, mana, identity and pride within our taura.

Our cultural programmes are led by our Kaiārahi i te Reo (specialist language teachers) who guide students through mutual cultural immersion. The core academy pathways are our Manukura student leadership group fostering future community leaders. Te Kāhui Tui ā Kinomoerua, a select oratory group developing confidence in whaikōrero (speechmaking). Te Okohanga and Poutama kapa haka cultivating performance excellence and encouragement. Mau Rākau: Traditional Māori martial arts teaching discipline and physical coordination. Classroom-based Te Reo Māori instruction takes place within Te Whare Wānanga, our dedicated house of learning where lessons are woven into daily school life through a localised curriculum. Students engage with local waiata (song), haka, and pūrākau (traditional Maori stories). Through this approach, we actively build a strong sense of whanaungatanga (belonging), mana (standing), identity, and pride within all of our taura (students).

Manukura is a great way to develop your leadership from a Māori perspective. Ko au, ko koe, ko koe, ko au – I am you, and you are me, it's about unity. - Isabella Church

ACADEMIC ACCELERATE CLASSES

(Friday Programme)

Our Academic High-Performance Classes for Children with Special Abilities (CWSA) operate during Blocks 2 and 3 on Fridays.

These classes are designed for students who demonstrate giftedness and talent in the areas of science, mathematics, and literacy. They are intended to complement the differentiated learning that takes place within home classes for CWSA student groups.

Entry into the programme is by invitation and is based on a range of academic data, including previous achievement and current assessment information.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

To be selected, students must be achieving at a minimum of stanine 8 or 9 in PAT tests and asTTle Level 5. The top 25 students will be selected for these programmes.

Being selected for Mansfield is not only a great privilege, but it's also a lot of fun too. We get to do subjects that challenge us, with students who have similar interests and ability levels. - Dilsher Kaur

PROGRAMME:

The programme is structured into three rotations across the year, with students completing two options in each rotation. This allows students to experience a total of six different options throughout the year. These options include:

- Japanese
- Food Technology
- Science
- Mathematics
- Engineering / Building & Design
- Digital Technologies

Students accepted for these classes will not be able to participate in the other Friday academies, however, they will have many opportunities to become involved in sports, digital learning and the arts outside of the Friday programme.



ARTS ACADEMY

Ōtūmoetai Intermediate Students have the opportunity to audition for places in the school's Arts Academies.

The Academies are Performing Arts, Music and Visual Arts. Students who are selected have a full day programme on Fridays to enable genuine extension for those who are gifted and talented in these areas.

Students in the Arts Academies will have opportunities to showcase their skills, both individually and collectively, throughout the year.

It's great being able to meet new people with the same interests and abilities as you. The Arts Academies allow students to do what we are passionate about every Friday, as well as challenging us and pushing us out of our comfort zones. - Holly Fitzgerald





SPORTS ACADEMY

The Ōtūmoetai Intermediate Sports Academy provides students with a programme designed for high performing athletes across all sporting codes. Selected students will show a consistent and high level of involvement and application to sport in general.

The Sports Academy meets once a week on Fridays. Students selected for this group are expected to be fit, show consistent sportsmanship and teamwork, and are committed to attending and fully applying themselves every Friday.

The Sports Academy provides a programme of seminars and practical training sessions focusing on the following goals:

- **Fitness combined with health and wellbeing.**
Aim: To continually improve fitness levels through

strength and conditioning activities and to maintain health and wellness by learning about a range of topics including the body's physiology, injury prevention, eating for sport and mindfulness.

- **Leadership through sport.**
Aim: To develop leadership skills in our athletes through participating in lessons and then leading lessons of their own. This will involve coaching at other schools and learning umpiring/refereeing skills.

Sports Academy students are viewed as, and are expected to be, role models in sport and PE within our school. There is also a general expectation that they will model leadership qualities within the school in general.

Being able to learn coaching skills and then practice them with friends is the perfect Friday for me. As part of Sports Academy we get to go into other schools and teach them what we've learned. - Lochy Webb



For information on any of the following areas or general enquiries please check the school's website or contact the school office:

- Uniform requirements and options
- Stationery requirements
- School buses
- Student awards
- Outdoor education
- Student welfare
- Absences from school
- Cellphone and BYOD protocols
- School hours, school terms and holidays
- Parent Teacher Association
- Bicycles
- School donations and costs
- Lost property

www.otuinter.school.nz