

# Westlake Boys High School

## Prospectus



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Te Kura Tuarua o Ngā Taitamatāne o Ururoto



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**VIRTUTE EXPERIAMUR**

Let Courage Be Thy Test

# A WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER

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Thank you for your interest in our school.

We're proud of the work we do here, both boys and staff. We work hard, we enjoy ourselves and our boys achieve amazing things.

For more than six decades, Westlake Boys High School has been a leading school in the New Zealand education system. We continue to innovate, to lead and pay attention to tradition, as we look to make our school the best school and the best boys' school possible.

To help our young men discover their talents and fulfill their potential, we provide endless opportunities inside and outside of the classroom so they feel that they belong here and that they can succeed.

We expect all of our boys to turn up every day, to work hard, to get involved, to treat each other well and to make the most of their five years here. We

expect volunteerism and we celebrate difference and diversity.

Boys do better in boys' schools. We know that boys are relational learners, and our staff know how to get the best out of our boys.

Our vision is to be the best school in New Zealand and our mission is to offer an outstanding, supportive and enjoyable learning environment for all our boys.

We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you.



**David Ferguson**  
*Headmaster*



# TEACHING AND LEARNING

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We are proud to offer an extensive curriculum, designed with high standards and abundant opportunities for every student to achieve substantial growth in their time with us.

We emphasise the importance of academic effort, and our students consistently rank amongst the top scholars in the country, and beyond. Our goal is that each graduate embodies the skills and motivation needed to be a lifelong learner.

In Years 9 and 10 you will experience a wide range of learning opportunities, both in and outside of the classroom. You will study English, Maths, Science, Social Studies and at least one language, where you will learn about other cultures alongside the language itself. You will also have a selection of courses within the Arts, Technologies and Physical Education.

In Year 11 you will participate in our innovative Elevate program. Designed for students to springboard from their junior subjects into the specialisms available in the senior school. This bespoke programme has been molded by our curriculum experts to be the best training ground for students to prepare to complete Levels 2, 3 and Scholarship.

In Year 12 and 13 we will support you to select specialist subjects that will keep your education rich and diverse, whilst preparing you for the potential career paths you are interested in. We have a wide range of options that cater for many different opportunities, and careers advisors on hand for advice and support.

Throughout your time at Westlake, our experienced and dedicated staff will ensure your academic programme is suitable for your passions and ability. Our extension classes offer challenge and rigor for those who excel in their academic pursuits, and our significant Scholarship programme is accessible for those who wish to succeed in these highly competitive examinations. Equally, if more academic support is needed, our Learner Support Centre is available and resourced to ensure all students can find success in the classroom.

We have highly experienced, dedicated and passionate teachers eager to nurture your potential. With a commitment to understanding each student individually, they craft engaging and relevant learning programmes. We invest significantly in the professional growth of our staff, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of excellence in boys' education.







# SPORT

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At Westlake Boys, we are strong believers in the value of sport to the development of young men. Beyond the physical benefits, sport provides a great opportunity to teach essential life skills like leadership, teamwork, empathy, and resilience.

These skills can enhance learning, foster better relationships, and provide a sense of belonging. We encourage our students to take advantage of the many sporting opportunities that will present themselves during their time at Westlake.

Our sporting programme offers more than 30 sports annually, accommodating all skill levels from traditional house events to our popular social and participation-based programmes, right through to our Premier pathways and teams who compete successfully on the regional and national stage.

Since the beginning of 2023, we have captured New Zealand Secondary School team titles in

Football, Sailing, Tennis, Cross-Country, Softball, Cycling, Ki-o-Rahi, Touch, Swimming & Road Race, we are also the current national runners-up in Rugby, Cricket, Badminton & Table Tennis.

We are incredibly well served by our passionate and highly skilled staff, who along with our externally engaged coaches and managers work hard to ensure our students continue to have the opportunity to compete and excel.

Our Academy of Sport is a selective, curriculum-based athlete development program offering outstanding coaching, state-of-the-art facilities, and comprehensive support to foster growth and success. Those selected will complete weekly strength and conditioning sessions as well as two sport specific lessons. Currently we offer Basketball, Cricket, Distance Running, Football, Hockey, Rugby Union and Rowing.







# PERFORMING ARTS – MUSIC AND DRAMA

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## Music

We love music at Westlake. We work closely with Westlake Girls, and together we run the largest secondary school music programme in New Zealand.

Our top choirs and instrumental ensembles perform to the highest standards both nationally and internationally.

Our wider music programme is designed to provide both instrumental tuition and ensemble performance opportunities for musicians of all tastes and at multiple levels of experience. We offer every student who wishes to take part the chance to do so, and we make sure that we provide the highest quality support to broaden and extend the skills of our best musicians.

You will be welcome to bring your talents to us, and to discover new ones as you grow. Most of our musicians are involved in more than one group.

These include:

Barbershop  
Big Band  
Camerata Strings  
Chamber Orchestra  
Choralation Choir  
Concert Band  
Dramatic Plays  
Jazz Combos  
Momentum Choir  
Musical Shows  
Rock Bands  
Stage Band  
Symphonic Band  
Symphony Orchestra  
Taharoto Orchestra  
Voicemale Choir

## Drama

The Westlake Drama Department offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities for students to enjoy and through which they can develop their skills. These include Theatresports, Dance Club, Special FX Club, and the University of Otago Shakespeare Competition.

However, the pre-eminent extra-curricular activity of the drama & theatre arts department is its annual school production, with Westlake Girls, which often boasts over 125 student participants. These participants might be performing as actors,

as musicians, or in backstage roles. Each year a musical is produced along with a play, in a two-week season. In 2024, Westlake produced the Gershwin musical *Crazy for You* along with *The Three Musketeers*.

Westlake Productions have won over 30 regional and national awards for its output, and in both 2019 and 2023 won the coveted Auckland Live Showdown Outstanding Production Award, for its productions of *Les Misérables* (2019), and *Into the Woods* (2023).

# CULTURE

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## TE PUNA

Te Puna o Ngā Mātauranga Māori is the heart of Te Ao Māori at Westlake. Te Puna aims to provide a learning environment where students are encouraged to find their cultural identity, to then have pride in their mātauranga and themselves. As the central hub of Māori kaupapa at Westlake, we have a multitude of programmes and learning experiences that further enhance the essence of tikanga Māori.

- We provide a Māori Immersion Programme that promotes the excellence of Te Reo Māori in their daily learning. Te Whānau Rūmaki o Te Puna, is a programme built for our students who want to further embrace Te Ao Māori, to immerse themselves in Māori culture, incorporating it into their day to day lives.
- We have a Māori Leadership Group which is an opportunity for our young men to lead and guide, not only their fellow students, but also staff through their own journey through Te Ao Māori.

- Our kapa haka group, Ngā Tamatoa o Ururoto, is an integral part of our kura (school). Students compete in two major competitions a year and perform at many events, providing an opportunity for them to showcase their talent.
- Our Māori centric 'Te Kauri' programme is underpinned by tikanga Māori, and is responsive to the cultural needs of our young men. Through this, we embrace tuakana / teina, a concept that allows our older students to mentor our younger students, fostering relationships that may last a lifetime.

Irrespective of who you are, where you come from, or what your beliefs are, Te Puna fosters growth within Te Ao Māori, having many opportunities for young men to learn and develop their knowledge and own cultural identity.

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Being a bicultural school in a multicultural community, we reflect this through the celebration and acknowledgement of the many cultures and traditions our students bring to Westlake.

Our Pasifika students participate in Polyfest each year, perform at other school events, and enjoy culturally orientated school structures such as Pasifika classes and assemblies. In these, Pasifika students meet at the beginning of each school day to work with selected staff and to share in cultural practices and bond with one another. Our Pasifika

Komiti ensures connection with the community to ensure excellent engagement and outcomes for these students.

Our annual Korean Night and Chinese Night events are incredibly popular and throughout the school year we enjoy cultural performances and activities which are further highlighted during our annual Culture Week and Languages Week.

The diversity and backgrounds of our students, staff and wider community are embraced and bring a richness to the Westlake experience.



At Westlake, we are aware that many of our young men aspire to enter the world of business in the future. Our Openground programme provides a supportive environment that nurtures Year 13 students' entrepreneurial skills, encourages their personal growth, and equips them with the confidence and knowledge needed to pursue their entrepreneurial endeavours.

Openground is an immersive and practical experience where those involved create and run their own business ventures. Students are matched

with a mentor, who we select from our suite of local and successful business people, and they are exposed to a series of high calibre guest speakers who inspire and share their insights into developing successful businesses.

Alongside their mentors and the teachers of this programme, students are giving time in their school day to start and run their business whilst still participating in a traditional timetable which is structured to meet University Entrance requirements.



# FUTURE SPORT

Future Sport is a programme designed for students who are passionate about pursuing a career in the sports industry. With over 80,000 sports-related jobs in New Zealand, Future Sport allows students to access essential skills, knowledge, and industry insights, to help them explore a future in this industry.

An important feature of Future Sport is the speaker program, where students hear from a selection of experts, tertiary professionals, and Westlake Alumni

who offer valuable real-world insights into the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities within the sports sector. In addition to engaging classroom activities, Future Sport includes site visits to witness career sports professionals in action. This direct access to first-hand experiences is unique to Westlake and equips students with a deeper understanding of the industry, allowing them to envisage their goals.





# HOW TO ENROL

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If you would like to join our school, the first step in the process is to complete an online enrolment form on our website.

## For In-Zone Students:

All students living within our school zone are entitled to a place at our school and can enrol at any time throughout the year.

You will need to provide evidence to support your in-zone application.

A full list of required documents, along with the zone map and frequently asked questions, can be found on our website.

## For Out-of-Zone Students:

Applications for an out-of-zone placement are only accepted during our mid-year enrolment window, and you may only apply for a place in the following academic year. We do not take out-of-zone students for the current year.

After we have received all enrolment submissions, a ballot will be drawn. Boys with a connection to our school (sibling/father/grandfather) are given priority in the ballot. The remaining students are then drawn randomly until all places have been filled. Unsuccessful students are automatically placed on a waitlist, in the order they were drawn.

Academic or sporting abilities do not influence the ballot, and we do not collect any school reports, certificates, or testimonials until after the ballot has been drawn.

Full information on the ballot process, including important dates and a list of frequently asked questions, can be found on our website.

[www.westlake.school.nz](http://www.westlake.school.nz)

# GRADUATE PROFILE

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Inspiring our students to become ...

Boys of Character



Boys with Promise



Boys of Courage



Boys of Kindness



Boys who Persevere



Boys with Resilience





## Westlake Boys High School

30 Forrest Hill Road, Forrest Hill, 0620, Auckland, New Zealand

Phone: +64 9 410 8667

Email: [office@westlake.school.nz](mailto:office@westlake.school.nz)

[www.westlake.school.nz](http://www.westlake.school.nz)

