



*Rutherford  
College*

*Tohea – To strive for personal excellence.*

**Prospectus**

**Rutherford College is a community where striving for personal excellence is the focus. Student needs are put at the centre of a personalised learning system in which learning is made meaningful for them. A high expectations culture exists and high standards of academic, sporting, cultural and social achievement are attained.**



Thank you for taking the time to research and explore the opportunities that Rutherford College has to offer.

Education is a partnership between students, parents, staff, contributing schools and the wider community. We work hard to strengthen these partnerships to enable us to better provide for the individual needs of each of our students. Success is built on the development of these positive relationships and the creation of trust and open lines of communication.

Gary Moore  
Principal



# Rutherford Tikanga

## What can you expect at Rutherford College?

The focus at Rutherford is to build relationships and connections with our people and our place that will provide a solid foundation to serve students well throughout their journey in life. One of the important foundation stones that needs to be developed is Tohea – to strive for personal excellence. Being the best that you can be. At Rutherford you will learn that “We are what we repeatedly do; Excellence is not an act but a series of habits.” We recognise that everyone is unique and students are encouraged to never compare themselves to the best that others’ can be, only to the best that they can be.

We encourage everyone at Rutherford College to strive for personal excellence by respecting ourselves, other people, property and the environment. We treat people well and we value little acts of human kindness and care. People who display respect, whakaute and take personal responsibility manaakitanga choose their words and their actions carefully and by default choose to be positive.

As part of our Pono or integrity value, we strive to be honest in our dealings with other people but more importantly with ourselves. This includes respecting the Tikanga and values of our place.



**Big enough to offer choices,  
small enough to care.**



An aerial photograph showing the Rutherford College campus. In the foreground, there is a large green sports field with a few people on it. To the right of the field are several school buildings, including a large blue and white gymnasium and a swimming pool. The school is surrounded by a residential area with many houses and trees. In the background, a river flows through a green landscape, and further back, a large body of water is visible under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

# Life at Rutherford

Rutherford College is a positive environment where students are acknowledged and appreciated for role modelling the school values.

**Whakaute Respect**  
**Manaakitanga Responsibility**  
**Pono Integrity**  
**Kairangi Excellence**

## The School Week

Rutherford College runs a 5-day schedule with five timetabled classes a day plus a tutor class. Students should be on the school grounds by 8:40 a.m. each school day and ready in their classroom when the bell goes for Period 1 at 8:50am, except for Wednesday when school starts at 9.10am due to staff professional learning occurring prior to school. Students are not allowed to leave the school grounds during the school day without the proper permission.

## Tutor Class

We aim for each student's tutor teacher to be with them for their five-year journey at Rutherford College. The tutor teacher will form a relationship with each student's family/ wh nau and be the first point of contact for them while at Rutherford College. As a part of this journey each student will be challenged and supported to select appropriate subject pathways that enable them to realise their vocational pathway/career goals.



## Whānau House System

At Rutherford College, our House structure is designed to provide strong pastoral support for all students and their whānau. Each House is led by two Deans who work closely together to guide, support, and advocate for students throughout their time at school. They are a key point of contact for families, helping to ensure students are well supported both academically and personally, and that communication between home and school is clear and effective. The whānau House system fosters connection, leadership, and positive engagement across the school. It provides students with opportunities to participate in meaningful activities, build relationships, and develop as leaders, while promoting the Rutherford values of Integrity, Respect, Excellence

## Student Support

The College has developed an extensive network which responds rapidly to student needs. The network includes tutor teachers, subject teacher, Deans, Senior Administrators, Counsellors, our Health Clinic and outside agencies.

Our pastoral care system is based on the belief that we do what is necessary in order to ensure that your child's participation in class and the wider school is as rewarding and successful as possible.

## Devices for Learning

Rutherford College is a devices for learning school. Students are able to connect to the internet and carry out classroom activities and research digitally. Teachers use Google Classrooms and online learning sites to engage and support students academically. Rutherford College requests that all students have a Chromebook or digital device.

## Leadership opportunities

Rutherford College offers a wide range of opportunities for students to grow as leaders. Students can take on roles such as House Leaders, join cultural groups and sports teams, or be involved in Student Council and Cultural, Sports, and Environmental committees. Senior students can further develop their leadership through positions as Prefects, Sports/Cultural Captains, and Peer Mentors, making a positive contribution to the school community.

# To Strive for Personal Excellence

Rutherford provides many avenues for students to achieve their own personal excellence. The tutor teacher is a central figure in the life of a student at Rutherford and they develop meaningful relationships with their students and whanau over the five year journey.



Classroom teachers have high expectations and follow through with advice and guidance to further enhance students' learning experience and outcomes. The senior curriculum is centred around the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA). From 2028 our national assessment system is changing. This will affect those entering Year 11 in 2028. Details on the structure of the programme are yet to come. Year 11 will start with a foundational certificate focussing on Literacy and numeracy. NCEA Levels 2 and 3 will be replaced with two new qualifications (The New Zealand Certificate of Education at Year 12 in 2029 and the New Zealand Advanced Certificate of Education at Year 13 in 2030).

Rutherford College's Level 1, 2, 3 and University Entrance pass rates are above national averages and our students perform well in external examinations with high levels of Merit and Excellence endorsements. Many students choose to extend their knowledge through New Zealand Scholarship exams which enables them to be assessed against challenging standards in their particular subject. Rutherford students perform very well in these exams. Junior students follow a specialised induction programme at the beginning of each year to prepare them for the year ahead.

Outside of the classroom there exists a wonderful array of groups and clubs for students to become involved with.

## LEAP - Learning Extension & Acceleration Programme

Students for EXTENSION are selected through school testing, self, parent and feeder school feedback and other informal measures. Our Extension arm offers access to a faster pace of learning, wider content areas, opportunities to race alongside peers who thirst for challenge and at the same time, flexible supports for students who need to spend time out of school or have needs related to twice-exceptionality

Students who are supported through our ACCELERATION programme need support in single or multiple areas to achieve to their personal excellence. We seek to accelerate their pace of learning to help them catch up, meet and exceed age-appropriate targets.



**The wide choice of subjects offered at Rutherford College enable students to select programmes to suit their abilities, interests and future plans**



## Performing Arts

Dance is an area of strength at Rutherford College with a teacher at the forefront of her profession. Students are encouraged to aim for the highest level and in Scholarship the Dance results are the best in the country with students placing first in New Zealand four times previously. Students regularly showcase their talent in Dance, Drama and Music in our Studio and Drama performances as well as at events like our unique Rutherford Memorial Day and Talent Show.

Specialist music tutors provide instrumental and vocal lessons for students who are interested in developing their skills. Our Drama productions are highly anticipated events, regularly earning nominations at the Auckland Secondary School Showdown Awards, while our Concert Band performs at the KBB Music Festival Competition.

## Hospitality

Hospitality is a very popular choice at Rutherford. Students work in a commercial kitchen to plan, prepare and serve food. A career in hospitality can take you across the country or around the world. The skills you learn in this course can be transferred to any kitchen and provides students with the ability to gain valuable work experience.





The students participate in a large range of House activities encompassing the sporting, cultural and academic areas, competing in full school and interclass events. Through their houses students are also encouraged to be of service to the wider community by fundraising for charities.

## House System

The Whanau House system provides opportunities for students to interact with one another in positive and stimulating activities that enhance their connection with their Whanau Group and School, while providing leadership opportunities to aspiring students. It ensures Rutherford College develops a culture that fosters experiences that promote and instil the Rutherford Values of Integrity, Respect, Excellence and Responsibility, while enhancing the level of friendly competition to help build a positive Whanau House and School spirit.

The school is broken up into three Whanau Groups - Tāne Mahuta, Tamanui-te-rā, Rūaumoko. The student PE shirts were designed with a dab of colour on the sleeve to signify which whanau group each student represents. The dominant colour remains blue and the large kotuku on the back of the shirt is to symbolise that we are all part of the kotuku flock.

**Tāne Mahuta**

**Tamanui-te-rā**

**Rūaumoko**







## Sporting Opportunities

Rutherford College has a responsibility to all students to provide the opportunity to grow by engaging in our extensive co-curricular sporting programme. We feel that being involved in sports can lead to improved student outcomes in many areas.

At Rutherford College students are given the opportunity to participate in sporting recreational activities to learn new skills, improve skill levels and be able to enjoy the social fellowship from their chosen sport.

## Sports Performance Academy

The Sports Performance Academy is an elite, in-curriculum program for Year 9 and 10 student-athletes aiming for higher-level sporting pathways. This two-term option combines high-quality, code-specific training and professional strength and conditioning with essential sports science theory, including nutrition, recovery, and sports psychology. Students benefit from expert guest speakers and visits to high-performance facilities like AUT Millennium, while also gaining leadership experience through introductory coaching and officiating qualifications. SPA is designed to upskill and challenge athletes, providing a comprehensive foundation for excellence both on and off the field.






## Cultural Opportunities

There are multiple opportunities for students to participate in cultural events and groups such as; Kapa Haka, Samoan Group, Indian Dance, and others. Our groups perform well at the annual ASB Polyfest. Cultural performances provide opportunities for interaction with our local schools and community. We also have an Annual Art Show and Cultural Awards Night to celebrate the success of our students.

The Cultural Committee helps design, create, and run many events, making sure to celebrate Rutherford's diverse variety of cultures and talents. Students participate in a large range of activities encompassing the sporting, cultural and academic areas, competing in full school and interclass events. Through their houses students are also encouraged to be of service to the wider community by fundraising for charities.

## Clubs and Committees

There is over thirty-five groups that students can join and participate in, such as the Environmental Committee, Art Club, Library Monitors, MUNA, E-Sports, World Scholars' Cup to name a few.



The Arts are powerful forms of personal and social expression. They link imagination, thinking and feeling. They provide essential learning for living and develop a wide range of both general and specific skills, which are significant in many aspects of life, including employment.





**We have delivered very successful academic, artistic, sporting and cultural programmes for International Students for the past two decades.**

# International Students

Rutherford College has been welcoming international students from all over the world for more than two decades. Our priority is to provide a nurturing learning environment that students thrive in whilst encouraging them to discover different opportunities and establish new friendships.

Our location on Te Atatū Peninsula in West Auckland offers breathtaking views of the upper Waitematā Harbour, is conveniently close to Downtown Auckland and has public transport on the doorstep. This makes Rutherford an ideal location for international students to explore West Auckland's scenic surf beaches, peaceful bush walks, and abundance of sports facilities, parks, cafes, and shopping centres.

Our international students benefit from an educational programme that supports their individual academic goals. This includes English Language classes that cater for students at all levels of proficiency, helping them to improve their language skills and academic progress. We also offer a wide range of academic subjects, sporting and cultural opportunities that help students integrate into school life.

Located in our purpose-built International Village, our dedicated team of experienced, caring educators work closely with our homestay provider, teaching colleagues, homestay families, guardians, and agents to ensure that all students receive the support and care they need during their stay.

At Rutherford College, the ultimate goal is to help our international students achieve their academic objectives while ensuring that their time at Rutherford College and in New Zealand is a truly enjoyable, memorable, and rewarding experience. To learn more about our programme or to apply, please visit our website or contact our Director of International Students



**Rutherford College warmly welcomes  
International Students from all over the world.**

# Uniform

Rutherford College has a gender-neutral school uniform policy.

The College has a Junior and Senior uniform as well as a Sport Uniform in House colours. Also available are jackets, hats, caps and scarfs. All items are available from The Uniform Shoppe, 521 Rosebank Road, Avondale.

[www.theuniformshoppe.co.nz](http://www.theuniformshoppe.co.nz)

If students come to school in non-uniform items, they are to obtain a permit from the Deans by 8:25am. Persistent wearing of non-uniform items without appropriate explanation will result in a loss of school privileges. Assistance with uniform is available for students under financial duress, students should see their Dean. Limited second-hand uniform items are available to purchase through the school, please visit reception at the Student Services Centre.



## Cultural and Religious Considerations

Rutherford's uniform and grooming standards are flexible to meet cultural, religious and other needs. In these circumstances, the parent or caregiver needs to write to the Principal requesting special consideration.

## Presentation

- Hair must be of a natural colour and no extremes of fashion.
- Young men's facial hair should be neat, tidy and short.
- Discreet use of foundation and mascara is permissible.
- Clothing cannot be deliberately chosen or altered to be over or undersized.
- Garments worn under the school uniform must not be visible.



### Shoes, Socks and Belts

- Ankle socks in plain black, navy or white.
- Shoes must be plain black leather (faux-leather) lace up or slip-on shoes (boots, sports shoes and suede unacceptable).
- Black or dark brown leather sandals including Birkenstock (No beige or white permitted). No socks are permitted when wearing sandals. No scuffs, crocs or jandals are permitted.
- Closed toe shoes must be worn during all Science and Technology lessons.
- Plain leather belt (max. 2.5cm wide with a small plain buckle).

### Jewellery

- Two small gold or silver studs or sleepers in each ear and a single small stud nose piercing. Septum piercing is not permitted.
  - A taonga of cultural, spiritual or religious significance.
  - Large or dangly jewellery are a health and safety risk and are not permitted.
  - All jewellery may be required to be removed in some lessons for health and safety reasons.
- Any jewellery items apart from those stipulated in these regulations are not permitted. This includes but is not limited to necklaces, bracelets, facial piercings (other than ear and nose), anklets and toe rings.

### Prefects

The Prefect Group is made up of two Head Students, four Deputy Head Students, and a team of 16 Prefects, appointed annually by the Senior Leadership Team. Prefects wear the standard senior student uniform and are additionally distinguished by a school-issued blazer, which is not available for purchase or included in the general uniform range.

# Curriculum

## Course Progression

Subject	Year 9	Year 10
ARTS – Visual	Visual Arts	Art Art Design
ARTS – Performing	Dance Drama Music	Dance Drama Music
ENGLISH	English	English
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ESOL)	ELL	ELL
LANGUAGES	Chinese German Japanese	Chinese German Japanese
TE AO MĀORI	Te Reo Māori Te Ao Māori	Te Reo Māori Te Ao Māori
MATHEMATICS	Mathematics	Mathematics
HEALTH EDUCATION PHYSICAL EDUCATION SPORTS ACADEMY	Health Physical Education	Health Physical Education Sports Performance Academy
SCIENCE	Science	Science
SOCIAL SCIENCES	Social Studies Pacific Studies	Business Studies Financial Literacy Philosophy Social Studies Pacific Studies
TECHNOLOGY	Computer Science Digital Technology  Fashion Design Food Technology & Nutrition Hard Materials	Computer Programming Digital Technology Electronics  Fashion Design Food Technology & Nutrition Hard Materials Graphics DVC
VOCATIONAL ACADEMY / PATHWAYS		

## Year 11

## Year 12

## Year 13 <sup>\*UE Approved (Bold)</sup>

Art Photography/Design	Art Design Photography	<b>Art *</b> <b>Design *</b> <b>Photography *</b>
Dance Drama Music	Dance Drama Music	<b>Dance *</b> <b>Drama *</b> <b>Music *</b>
English Media Studies	English Media Studies	<b>English *</b> <b>Media Studies *</b>
EL3	EL4	ELL / EAP
Chinese German Japanese	Chinese German Japanese	<b>Chinese *</b> <b>German *</b> <b>Japanese *</b>
Te Reo Māori Te Ao Haka Mahi-ā-Toi	Te Reo Māori Te Ao Haka Mahi-ā-Toi	<b>Te Reo Māori *</b> <b>Te Ao Haka *</b> Mahi-ā-Toi
Mathematics	Mathematics Calculus Mathematics Statistics	<b>Mathematics – Calculus *</b> <b>Mathematics – Statistics *</b>
Physical Education Physical Activity & Leisure Studies Health	Physical Education Physical Activity & Leisure Studies Health Outdoor Education	<b>Physical Education *</b> Physical Activity & Leisure Studies <b>Health *</b> Outdoor Education
Science	Biology Chemistry Physics General Science	<b>Biology *</b> <b>Chemistry *</b> <b>Physics *</b> <b>General Science *</b>
Commerce  Geography History	Accounting Economics Geography History Travel and Tourism Classical Studies	<b>Accounting *</b> <b>Economics *</b> <b>Geography *</b> <b>History *</b> Travel and Tourism <b>Classical Studies *</b>
Computer Programming Fashion Design Food Technology Hospitality Graphics/DVC Building Engineering	Computer Programming Fashion Design Food Technology Hospitality Graphics/DVC Building Engineering Mechatronics	<b>Computer Programming *</b> <b>Technology Fashion Design *</b> <b>Food Technology *</b> Hospitality <b>Graphics / DVC *</b> Building Engineering <b>Mechatronics *</b>
Skill Pathways	Skill Pathways Early Childhood Gateway Automotive Academy Health Pathways	Skill Pathways Early Childhood Gateway Automotive Academy Health Pathways Police and Uniformed Services



### Timeline for choosing

During Options week (usually mid-August) work with your Tutor teacher looking at possible subjects – using the online Senior Option Handbook and online Course Selection in the Schoolbridge KAMAR Student Portal.



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