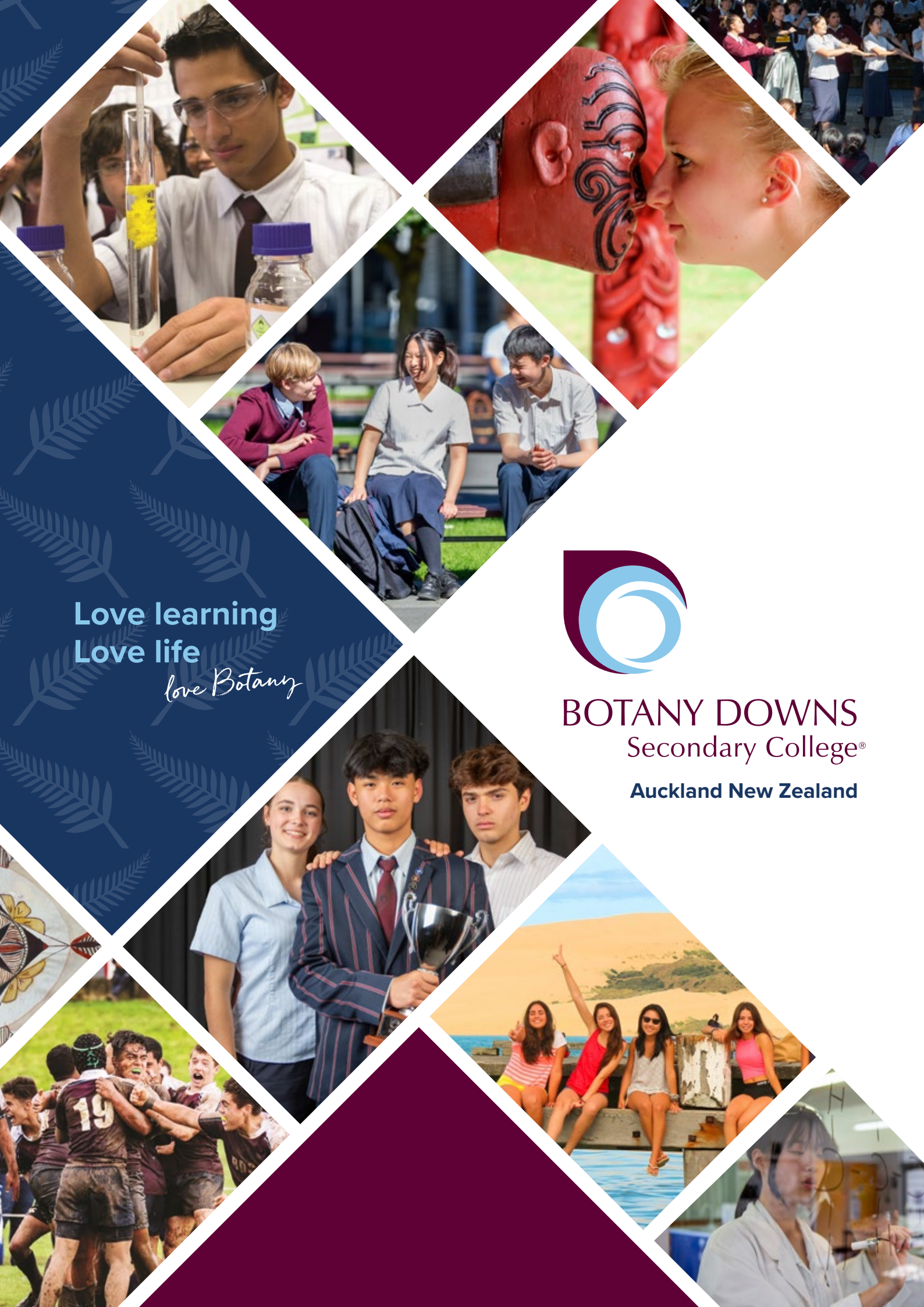




Love learning
Love life
love Botany



BOTANY DOWNS
Secondary College®
Auckland New Zealand

Kia ora,

We believe that the world is an exciting place, full of wonderful opportunities. Providing young people with a quality international education, in a place where they are cared for, is empowering. At Botany Downs Secondary College we provide a range of experiences that instil a sense of confidence and self-belief. We encourage students to seize these opportunities and pursue a level of success to create the best possible future for your child.

Love learning Love life

love Botany



Ōmana Regional Park

One Of The Most Peaceful Countries In The World

As New Zealanders we value human rights, we are nuclear-free and we have been ranked the second most peaceful country on Earth. New Zealanders are friendly and welcoming. The Māori spirit of manaakitanga, being hospitable, looking after visitors and caring how others are treated is very important.

One Of The Most Liveable Cities In The World

Auckland is a beautiful coastal city that has been recognised as one of the most liveable in the world. Auckland combines the energy and excitement of our largest city with spectacular natural beauty in every direction.



Auckland City



Botany Downs Secondary College Campus

And A World Class Education System

We live in a rapidly changing world and New Zealand's education system has been ranked by the Economist Intelligence Unit first out of thirty-five economies for instilling future skills in students.

AUCKLAND – 40MIN

New Zealand's largest city

BOTANY TOWN CENTRE

Shopping and entertainment complex

**BOTANY DOWNS
SECONDARY COLLEGE
CAMPUS**

**AUCKLAND
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT – 30MIN**

Quick & easy access for travel



RESIDENTIAL AREA

Location of some
host families

MARAETAI AND OMANA – 20MIN

Beautiful beach and
Regional Park



ABOUT OUR COLLEGE

A place to learn and grow

Botany Downs Secondary College is a public, co-educational high school. We have 1,800 students from 13-18 years old (Years 9-13) and we host around 100 international students from 16 countries across Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Our school has a reputation for innovation, quality of education, and a genuine commitment to individual student support.

OUR FACILITIES | A modern student-centric campus

The college opened in 2004 and was designed specifically to meet the needs of modern learning and teaching.

Science & Technology: We have a range of purpose-built science labs, as well as metal and woodworking workshops, and a commercial kitchen for Food Technology.

Arts: Our Performing Arts Centre (PAC) is an auditorium that hosts dance, drama, musical concerts, student assemblies, and prizegiving ceremonies. The school also has specialised teaching staff in the fields of Dance, Drama and Theatre, Music, Visual Art, Art History, Design and Photography.

Sports: We have two gymnasiums, a large playing field, and covered courts with a professional surface for basketball, netball, tennis, and other racquet sports. Students can take part in a wide range of sports throughout the year. (See more on the 'Co-Curricular' page.)

Health Centre: The school has a registered nurse on site daily during school hours and counselling services available. The Health Centre offers culturally sensitive, supportive and professional medical care and education to all students.

School Café: An on-site café offers a wide range of healthy options for hot food, sandwiches, snacks and drinks.

OUR WHĀNAU | The best of both worlds

A system of six school 'houses' within Botany Downs Secondary College means we can offer the support, care and community of a small school alongside the benefits that come with a larger campus, such as more subject choices, facilities and co-curricular activities. We call this our Whānau system.

'Whānau' is the Māori word for 'family' (pronounced 'FAR-no'). Each Whānau house has its own building containing specialist teaching rooms and common areas with lockers, kitchen facilities and break spaces. Teachers assigned to the different Whānau make sure that students' needs are well looked after. These Whānau buildings give students a 'home' during the school day and are an important part of life at our college. (See more on the 'School Life' page.)

OUR LOCATION | Everything you need close by

Our college is in Botany Downs, a suburb of Auckland 40 minutes from the CBD. Botany Downs is an affluent area developed in the early 2000s and is where most of our homestay families live. It is a safe, neighbourly environment with playing fields, parks, and gym facilities.

Directly opposite the school is Botany Town Centre, one of New Zealand's largest shopping malls, which also offers a library, cinema, food court, skating rink, and ten pin bowling. This is a popular place for students to meet their friends and provides great shopping and entertainment within the Botany Downs area.

A local bus hub gives students easy access to Auckland CBD if needed, and Botany Downs is also close to Auckland International Airport, meaning students have only a short trip from the airport to their new homestays.





LIVING IN NEW ZEALAND

Accommodation to suit you

There are three residential options for international students wishing to study at Botany Downs Secondary College.

- **Parent:** living with a parent who may apply for a Guardian Visa in New Zealand.
- **Designated Caregiver:** living with someone known to the student's family (e.g. a relative or close family friend).
- **Homestay Family:** living with an approved Homestay Family arranged and overseen by our International Student team at Botany Downs Secondary College.

Additional fees apply for Homestay Family accommodation. (See the 'Fees' page for details.)

THE HOMESTAY EXPERIENCE | Be part of Kiwi life

Living with a New Zealand family is an important part of the international student experience as it is a chance to experience Kiwi life and improve spoken English.

Our homestay families love welcoming international students. For them, it is a chance to bring the world into their homes, to meet new people and to learn more about their way of life too!

We have a wide range of homestay families, from professional couples with young children to families with their own children at Botany Downs Secondary College, and older couples with no children living at home.

Our homestay families live in and around the Botany Downs area, where the school is located. Most live in modern homes and are only a short walk or drive from the school. You can be confident that your child will be in a home that is clean and safe, and with people who will care for them and help them to get the most out of their New Zealand experience.

We understand how important it is that students are placed with a family that is the most suitable for them. When making placements, our homestay coordinators carefully consider the best match for your child's needs. When applying, students can tell us about themselves and their interests, as well as any other information that could be important when assigning a homestay family.

Our homestay coordinators visit host families at least twice a year to make sure students are happy and cared for, and they also meet with students individually at least twice a year.

STUDENT SUPPORT |

Here to help

We prioritise quality care and support of our international students. Students can always access our friendly International Student support team, who work on site at the school.

Our International Student Office operates an "open door" policy where we are available for students every day to help meet their needs. It is important that all international students have a place to go for support and information, and our International Student Office is an environment where students can come and feel comfortable and welcome.



			
Enda McKenna CO-DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	Andrea Donovan CO-DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	Kerry Tukiri INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR	Ana Kireka HOMESTAY COORDINATOR
			
Lindsay Upton HOMESTAY COORDINATOR	Debby Henshaw ACADEMIC DEAN	Kathy Kuang CHINESE STUDENT DEAN	Alice Vickers ACADEMIC DEAN



STARTING AT SCHOOL

Support from the first day

Starting a new school, in a new country, can be a challenge. We have a comprehensive Orientation Programme that helps our international students to settle in and adapt to their new environment.

ORIENTATION

In the first few days at Botany Downs Secondary College, we cover the following areas with our international students:

- Tour of the school and its facilities
- Explanation of basic rules and the school uniform
- Assignment to a 'Whānau' house
- Information about school support services
- Information about local services such as banking options etc.
- Introduction to school computer network and IT programmes
- English language assessment (to gauge how much English support they need)
- Subject choice discussion and confirmation (See more on the 'Subjects' page)
- Explanation of NCEA (for students in Years 12 and 13)
- Meet key staff members
- Meet student 'buddies'
- A pōwhiri (traditional Māori welcome)

TRIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES | So much to experience

We believe that a student's time in New Zealand should be a mixture of education and experiences. Alongside a world-class academic programme, Botany Downs Secondary College offers a range of sporting, musical and cultural activities (see the 'Co-Curricular' page).

We also offer special trips created exclusively for our international students. Our International Student teaching staff love leading these trips as part of the care they provide for our students and as a way of getting to know them better. There are two 3-day trips, where students visit the beautiful Bay of Islands north of Auckland, and the stunning geothermal wonderland of Rotorua in the central North Island, with a tour of world-famous Hobbiton on the way.

These trips are also a chance to experience Māori culture, which is at the heart of New Zealand's history and shapes everyday life in New Zealand today.





STUDYING AT BOTANY DOWNS SECONDARY COLLEGE

Love learning, love life

Botany Downs Secondary College delivers outstanding academic results, surpassing the national averages for co-educational schools in New Zealand. We have particular strengths in Mathematics, Science, and Technology, where our Year 13 students consistently achieve Scholarship Awards, which recognise the top 3% of New Zealand students.

Our professional teaching staff work closely with all our students. We have a comprehensive mentoring system that will help us ensure your child is achieving to the best of their ability and is well-supported in meeting their academic goals. We have dedicated English support classes and after-school help for some subjects. We monitor students' results throughout the year and provide help where necessary.

You can see your child's progress at school using the Parent Portal on our website. This lets you view your child's subject results, attendance and much more.

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM | Building strengths and aspirations

All international students are part of the same academic programme as other students in the college, so have the same opportunities as New Zealand students (although additional fees may apply) and are taught side-by-side with Kiwi kids.

Students in New Zealand are divided into Year groups, based on age. The approximate ages for each year level are:

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
13 years old	14 years old	15 years old	16 years old	17-18 years old

Botany Downs Secondary College teaches the national curriculum created by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), as do most secondary schools throughout New Zealand.

Within this, students in Years 10-13 can choose from a range of subjects across English and Arts, Maths and Sciences, Social Sciences, Business, Languages, and Technology.

The opportunity to choose subjects may be a different experience for students from countries where their curriculum is set. The New Zealand system of choosing subjects is a chance for more in-depth learning, and to tailor a student's study to their particular career goal.

In Years 9, 10, and 11, students take part in assessments throughout the year. In Years 12 and 13, students work towards achieving New Zealand's National Qualification, known as NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement). This qualification is used by New Zealand universities and other tertiary institutions (in New Zealand and internationally) for admission selection.

NCEA | Innovation in the pursuit of excellence

Students in Years 12 and 13 work towards NCEA Level 2 and 3. To achieve a Level, a student must earn credits across their subjects. Schools use a variety of assessments to measure how well students meet these standards. When they achieve a standard, they gain credits.

You can find out more about NCEA and how it works at www.nzqa.govt.nz

USING NCEA OVERSEAS | Learning that travels with you

Several international agreements ensure New Zealand's NCEA results are understood and accepted overseas. The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) is recognised in the European Union (including Britain and Germany), Australia, Thailand, and India.

We also have extensive experience in working with students from Latin American countries and can arrange con-validation of NCEA qualifications.

Wherever you come from, we can work with your country's education system to have your child's study time and qualifications recognised. The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is also available to students wishing to become accredited.



THE ACADEMIC YEAR

Ready when you are

The New Zealand academic year starts in February and ends in early December.

International students can join the school at any time during the year, but starting in February gives them access to the full range of subjects, clubs, and sporting opportunities that we offer.

The school year is divided into four terms of 10 weeks each, with school holiday periods of two weeks between each term. These holidays occur in April, July, and late September-early October.

NCEA students (Years 12 and 13) have exams at the end of the year, starting in November. The number of exams a student has and when their final exam will be varies, based on the subjects your child has chosen.

February	July		November
Semester 1		Semester 2	
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Summer	Winter		Summer

2026

		START	END
SEMESTER ONE	Term 1	30/01/2026*	02/04/2026
	Term 2	20/04/2026	03/07/2026
SEMESTER TWO	Term 3	20/07/2026	25/09/2026
	Term 4	12/10/2026	08/12/2026**

*Staggered start

27 January (New International students)

30 January (All students return)

** To be confirmed

2027

		START	END
SEMESTER ONE	Term 1	28/01/2027*	09/04/2027
	Term 2	27/04/2027	02/07/2027
SEMESTER TWO	Term 3	19/07/2027	24/09/2027
	Term 4	11/10/2027	07/12/2027**

*Staggered start

** To be confirmed



SUBJECTS

Choose your path

This is an overview of the subjects available to students at Botany Downs Secondary College.
At Year 9, all subjects are compulsory.

	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
ENGLISH*	English	English	English	English	English
	ESOL	ESOL	ESOL	ESOL	ESOL
		Media Studies	Media Studies	Media Studies	Media Studies
MATHEMATICS**	Mathematics & Stats	Mathematics & Stats	Mathematics & Stats	Mathematics & Stats	Mathematics & Stats
				Mathematics & Calc	Mathematics & Calc
HEALTH & SPORT	Health & Sport	Health & Sport	Health	Health	Health
		Sport	Sport	Sport	Sport
		Outdoor Education	Outdoor Education	Outdoor Education	Outdoor Education
			Childcare Education	Childcare Education	Childcare Education
SCIENCE	Science	Science	Science	Biology	Biology
				Chemistry	Chemistry
				Physics	Physics
SOCIAL SCIENCES	Social Studies	Social Studies	Geography	Classical Studies	Classical Studies
		Geography	History	Geography	Geography
				History	History
				Psychology	Psychology
				Travel & Tourism	Travel & Tourism
BUSINESS		Business Studies	Business Studies	Business Studies	Business Studies
			Economics	Economics	Economics
			Accounting	Accounting	Accounting
LANGUAGES	French	French	French	French	French
	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese
	Māori	Māori	Māori	Māori	Māori
				Chinese	Chinese
TECHNOLOGY	Design	Design	Design	Design	Design
	Food Technology	Food Technology	Food Technology	Food Technology	Food Technology
	Materials Technology	Materials Technology	Materials Technology	Materials Technology	Materials Technology
	Digital Technology	Digital Technology	Digital Technology	Digital Technology	Digital Technology
		Textiles Technology	Textiles Technology	Textiles Technology	Textiles Technology
ARTS	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance
	Drama	Drama	Drama	Drama	Drama
	Music	Music	Music	Music	Music
	Art	Art	Art	Photography	Photography
				Art History	Art History

* Compulsory until Year 12 ** Compulsory until Year 11



SCHOOL LIFE

A place to learn, make friends, and grow

WHĀNAU | The best of both worlds

Our Whānau system is at the heart of the college and the foundation of our comprehensive approach to student education and care.

Every student is assigned to one of six Whānau 'houses' when they start at Botany Downs Secondary School. Each Whānau house has its own building, overseen by a lead teacher. The Whānau buildings contain specialist teaching rooms, a kitchen, commons area, and students' lockers.

The commons area is a relaxed space where students can gather before and after school, as well as during breaks in the day. It is also the venue for weekly Whānau assemblies where student successes are celebrated, and important matters are communicated. The kitchens have microwave ovens, boiling water, and sandwich presses so students can bring meals from home to heat up at lunchtime.

Our Whānau houses let us offer the support, care, and community you'd find in a smaller school alongside the benefits that come with a larger campus, such as more subject choices, facilities and co-curricular activities.

International students who speak the same language are spread evenly between the six Whānau as this gives them the best opportunity to integrate with local students.

UNIFORM | Creating a feeling of belonging

All students at Botany Downs wear the school uniform, with different styles for the Junior and Senior schools. We are proud of the positive reputation the school enjoys in the community and the presentation of our students contributes to this.

All uniform items (except for shoes) can be bought from the school's on-site uniform shop when students arrive.

Details of our uniform regulations are available on our website www.bdsc.school.nz.

DEVICES AND STATIONERY | Ready to learn

International students will be provided with a basic stationery pack on arrival. Some subjects will have additional specific stationery requirements that students may have to purchase.

All students need to bring their own laptop to school each day to support their learning. Tablets are not suitable. High-speed WiFi is available throughout the school.

We have a partnership with Microsoft that allows students to install the Microsoft Office suite free of charge (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, etc).

SPORT, ARTS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES | Discover your passion

We believe that being active, being involved, and being challenged is an important part of being a "Kiwi kid". Learning doesn't only happen inside the classroom, so we really encourage students to take part in our extensive co-curricular programme. Playing a sport, joining a club, or trying a new activity is a wonderful way for students to get even more out of their New Zealand experience. (See the 'Co-Curricular' page for more.)





CO-CURRICULAR

Gain new skills, be challenged, and have fun!

Students have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of sports, as well as musical, cultural, and other activities throughout the year. We believe that co-curricular activities are an important part of students growing and developing skills and personal qualities beyond the classroom. Taking part is a chance for students to try something new and make friends along the way.

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
Aerobics	✓	✓	✓	✓
Athletics (Track and Field)	✓			✓
Badminton		✓	✓	
Basketball		✓	✓	
Cricket (Outdoor)	✓			✓
Cross Country		✓	✓	
Football (Outdoor)		✓	✓	
Golf	✓			✓
Gymsports Artistic, Rhythmic, Tumbling, Trampoline	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hockey (Outdoor)		✓	✓	
Ki O Rahi	✓			✓
Lacrosse		✓	✓	
Lawn Bowls	✓			✓
Multi Sports (Triathlon)	✓			✓
Netball		✓	✓	
Orienteering	✓			✓
Cycling (Road Race, Velodrome)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rugby Sevens		✓	✓	
Rugby Union		✓	✓	
Softball	✓			✓
Sport Climbing (Bouldering)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Squash		✓	✓	
Swimming	✓	✓	✓	✓
Table tennis		✓	✓	
Tennis	✓			✓
Touch	✓			✓
Ultimate Frisbee	✓	✓	✓	✓
Volleyball	✓			✓
Yachting	✓			✓

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Crochet Club
Culinary Club
Knitting Club
Origami Club
Wearable Arts

CULTURAL

Chinese Dance
Indian Dance
Inter-cultural Council
International Club
Kapa Haka
Korean Dance
Lalaga
Lion Dance
Pasifika Student Group
Polyfest Stage
Hosting
Samoan Polyfest Group

DANCE, DRAMA, PERFORMANCE

Desi Dance Off
Juggling Club
School Production
Spoken Word
Poetry
Street Dance NZ
Theatre Sports

Crew: Back Stage
Crew: Costumes
Crew: Front of House
Crew: Makeup
Crew: Set & Props
Crew: Tech

GAMES

Board Game Club
Chess Club

LEADERSHIP

Duke of Edinburgh
Model UN

MEDIA AND ARTS

Debating
Media Club
Shakespeare
Writing Club

MUSIC

Barbershop
Chorus
Choir
Concert Band
Flute Choir
High School
Rockerz
Jazz Band
Orchestra

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

40 Hour Famine
Amnesty International
Cafe Assistants
Career Guides
Enviroschools
Fiji Service Trip
Hauora Council
Health Council
Librarians
Market Day

SCIENCE & TECH

Computer Club
E-Sports Club
Math Council
Robotics Club
Science Club

SPORTS

Sports Council





HOW TO APPLY

Come and join us at Botany Downs Secondary College

We welcome applications at any time during the year. All applications are made via our website. You'll find a summary of our International Student Fees on the 'Fees' page.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1:

Apply online via our website at www.bdsc.school.nz/international/apply-to-study

You will need to provide scanned copies of:

- your passport (and visa if you have one)
- your most recent school report (in English)
- a photo of yourself (school photo, passport photo or similar)

Step 2:

Decision on Application

Once your online application has been received and reviewed, you will be notified of next steps within 48 hours.

Step 3:

Conditional Offer of Place

If your application is successful, you will be sent a Conditional Offer of Place and an invoice will be issued. This Offer can be used to begin your visa application process (if required).

Step 4:

Payment and Offer of Place

Once payment has been received, we will issue a receipt and an Offer of Place. This can be used to finalise your visa application process (if required).

Step 5:

Flight Details

Homestay accommodation is arranged after we receive your flight arrival information. Please send this to us as soon as possible. We recommend students purchasing flexible flight tickets*.

Step 6:

Host Family Allocated

You will receive details of your New Zealand Homestay Family. Where possible, your Homestay Family will meet you at Auckland International Airport when you arrive, or the school will arrange a transfer from the airport to their home.

Visit our website at www.bdsc.school.nz/international/apply-to-study to apply directly.

* Students require a return flight ticket to enter New Zealand. Should the student's intended departure date be unavailable at the time of booking, and to allow for flexibility in changing the exact departure date, we recommend students buy a flexible return ticket.



International Student Fees | 2026

(Fees are shown in New Zealand dollars and include GST of 15%)

FULL YEAR 12 Months		2 TERMS 6 Months		1 TERM 3 Months	
Tuition Fee	\$21,000	Tuition Fee	\$10,500	Tuition Fee	\$5,250
Administration Fee	\$2,000	Administration Fee	\$1,000	Administration Fee	\$500
Homestay Fee (per week, to be paid in advance)	\$400	Homestay Fee (per week, to be paid in advance)	\$400	Homestay Fee (per week, to be paid in advance)	\$400
Accommodation Support Fee	\$500	Accommodation Support Fee	\$250	Accommodation Support Fee	\$125
Medical and Travel Insurance	\$700	Medical and Travel Insurance	\$380	Medical and Travel Insurance	\$240
Contingency Fee*	\$1,000	Contingency Fee*	\$500	Contingency Fee*	\$500
TOTAL	\$43,600	TOTAL	\$22,630	TOTAL	\$11,415

ADDITIONAL COSTS

*Prices are subject to change. Additional costs are an approximate guide only.

Laptop	Students will require a laptop each day for all subjects. Tablets are not recommended due to their reduced functionality.
Stationery	\$100 - \$150 per year depending on chosen subjects. Mathematics students in Years 12 and 13 are required to use a scientific calculator.
Outdoor Education fees	\$500 - \$1000 per year
School uniform	Approximately \$350 to \$400 (excluding footwear) (Can choose to use contingency fund for these items.) This is available from the uniform shop on site at school.
School camps	Some subjects have extended camps as part of their fieldwork. Costs will vary.

Notes:

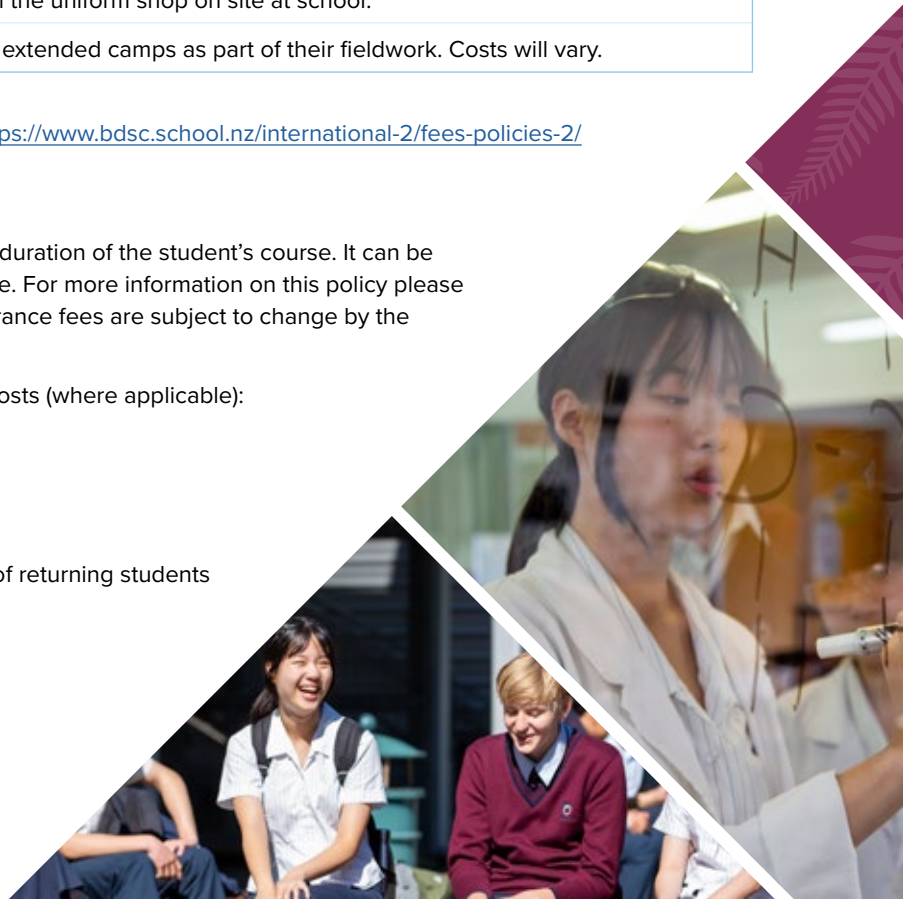
Please see our website for our relevant policies <https://www.bdsc.school.nz/international-2/fees-policies-2/>

- Refund policy
- Fees protection policy

Medical and travel insurance is compulsory for the duration of the student's course. It can be arranged through the school with Unicare Insurance. For more information on this policy please visit <https://www.uni-care.org/nz-student-plan>. Insurance fees are subject to change by the Insurance Provider.

*Contingency fee may contribute to the following costs (where applicable):

- NCEA fees
- Subject fees
- Subject related day trips
- Co-curricular fees (e.g sports etc...)
- Airport transfers for new students or by request of returning students
- Uniform



A World-Class Education

Whānau (House) System

The Māori concept of Whānau means family. Each student is part of one of our six distinct whānau buildings. This allows us to provide a level of care, and a sense of belonging, that typically only small schools are able to provide.

Success

Understanding what success means for each of our students is where we begin. In a world that's constantly changing we work to guide students towards achieving their goals. We have an excellent academic record, consistently delivering results that exceed New Zealand averages.

Experience

We believe that your child's time at our school should be a mixture of high-quality education and enriching experiences. We provide opportunities for students to participate in a variety of clubs, cultural activities, sports and trips giving them the opportunity to have some truly amazing experiences, whilst making new friends from around the world.

Location

Our school and our homestay accommodation are in a safe, modern, affluent neighbourhood. We are close to Auckland International Airport and directly opposite New Zealand's second-largest mall, which provides a raft of opportunities to keep students occupied during their stay.

Accommodation

We understand how important it is that your child is placed with a family that suits their unique needs and our homestay coordinators take considerable care to do this. You can be confident that your child will be placed in a home that is clean and safe with appropriate space and facilities.

Facilities

Our facilities are technologically advanced with fibre optic broadband and Wi-fi throughout the school. Our custom-built spaces cater for the large range of subjects available – from science labs, to performing arts spaces and media suites.



Enquiries And Applications:

Botany Downs Secondary College
575 Chapel Road, East Tamaki,
Auckland, 2016,
New Zealand

-  [bdsc.international](https://www.instagram.com/bdsc.international)
-  Facebook: [bdsc.international](https://www.facebook.com/bdsc.international)
-  [bdsc.school.nz](https://www.bdsc.school.nz)
-  International@bdsc.school.nz



Botany Downs Secondary College's location

