

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



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 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.



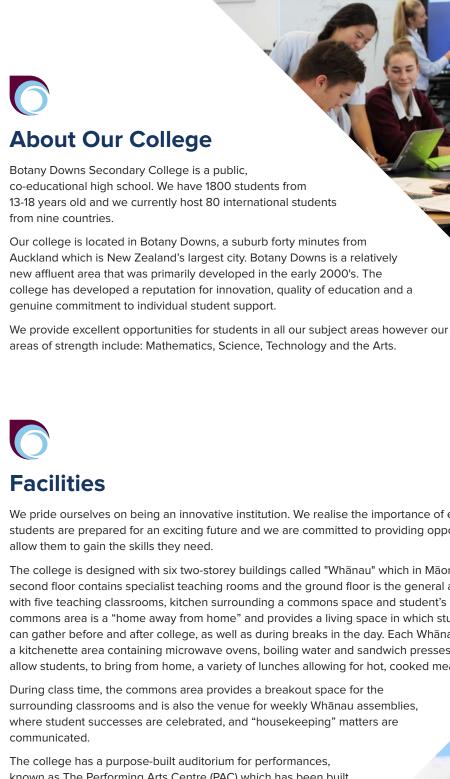


And A World Class Education System

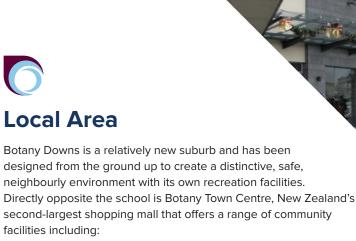
We live in a rapidly changing world and New Zealand's education system has been ranked by the Economist Intelligence Unit first out of thirty-five economies for instilling future skills in students.











facilities including: library,

cafés,

specialty shops,

multi-screen cinema,

food court,

· ice rink and tenpin bowling.

Botany Downs also features excellent transport options with pedestrian and cycle access and a bus hub allowing students easy access to Auckland city. We are close to Auckland Airport the largest and busiest airport in New Zealand. This is a real benefit for our international students as they do not need to take internal flights to return to their country.



Homestay Accommodation

We understand how important it is that students are placed in a family that is the most suitable for them. Our team of homestay coordinators take considerable care to make placements that consider proximity to school, family makeup and your child's individual needs.

When applying, students have an opportunity to tell us about their requirements in terms of allergies, medical issues dietary preferences and also to tell us about themselves, which is very important for us when making placements.

To make sure students are happy and cared for, our homestay coordinators visit host families at least twice a year and students are also interviewed at least twice a year.

HOMES

Most homestay families living in Botany Downs (or the surrounds) live in homes built in the early 2000s. You can be confident that you child will be in a home that is clean and safe, with appropriate space and facilities.



Student Support

We prioritise the quality of care and support of our international students

STAFF

Our office operates an "open door" policy where we are available to meet with students every day to help meet their needs.

It is important all international students have a place to go to for support and information specific to their unique needs. The international department building houses not only the team of people who work in the international department, it also offers an environment where students can come and feel comfortable and welcome

WHĀNAU

Our Whānau system is at the heart of the college and is the foundation of the holistic approach we take to student education and care. The College is made up of six distinct whānau buildings each is led by a Whānau Leader, who is responsible for managing the pastoral care, academic monitoring and discipline of each student

Having in effect, six small schools within the larger school provides students with a feeling of care, support and continuity that small schools are renowned for, whilst still retaining all the advantages that only a large

and continuity that small schools are renowned for,
whilst still retaining all the advantages that only a large
school can provide, especially in terms of subjects, sports and leadership opportunities.

Enda McKenna Andrea Donovan Cushla McLean CO-DIRECTOR OF CO-DIRECTOR OF **HOMESTAY** INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR **STUDENTS STUDENTS** Debby Henshaw Kerry Tukiri Kathy Kuang INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC DEAN CHINESE STUDENT DEPARTMENT DEAN **ADMINISTRATOR**

We take great care to ensure that students who speak the same language are evenly distributed between the six whānau. This helps to ensure that your child will have the best opportunity to integrate with local students.

ORIENTATION

Starting a new school, in a new country is quite a challenge. We have a two-day orientation program that helps students adapt to this new environment.

Day 1

The first orientation day is designed to prepare students to start lessons. We start with an English language assessment to gauge how much English support they need; we then spend time with each student to understand their academic goals or what their subject requirements may be. With this, we then develop a personalised course of study.

Students are taken on a tour of the school, we cover basic rules and uniform expectations are explained.

Day 2

The second orientation day is usually held at the end of the first week when we feel students are better able to retain information. We go into the details of NCEA (our National Qualification system), banking options, trips we provide, support services and students' legal obligations.





	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
WATHEWATICS				Mathematics & Calc Health Health	
	Health & Sport	Health & Sport	Health	Health	Health
HEALTH		Sport	Sport	Sport	Sport
& SPORT		Outdoor Education	Outdoor Education	Outdoor Education	Outdoor Education
			Childcare Education	Childcare Education	Childcare Education
	Science	Science	Science	Biology	Biology
SCIENCE				Chemistry	Chemistry
				Physics	Physics
	Social Studies	Social Studies	Geography	Classical Studies	Classical Studies
		Geography	History	Geography	Geography
SOCIAL SCIENCES				History	History
				Psychology	Psychology
				Travel & Tourism	Travel & Tourism
		Business Studies	Business Studies	Business Studies	Business Studies
BUSINESS			Economics	Economics	Economics
			Accounting	Accounting	Accounting
	French	French	French	French	French
LANGUAGES	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese
27 11 10 07 10 20	Māori	Māori	Māori	Māori	Māori
				Chinese	Chinese
	Design	Design	Design	Design	Design
	Food Technology	Food Technology	Food Technology	Food Technology	Food Technology
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
	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance	Dance
	Drama	Drama	Drama	Drama	Drama
ARTS	Music	Music	Music	Music	Music
	Art	Art	Art	Photography	Photography
				Art History	Art History

^{*} Compulsory until Year 12 ** Compulsory until Year 11



Academics

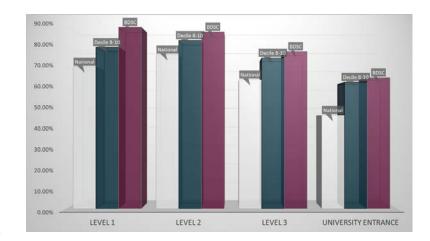
We believe that students perform best when the people around them understand their goals and the progress they are making. Our comprehensive mentoring system helps us to ensure your child can achieve their best.

A QUALITY EDUCATION

Botany Downs Secondary College delivers outstanding academic results surpassing both the National and Decile 8-10 averages for co-educational schools in New Zealand!

Primarily this success is achieved through students' determination and hard work but is also to the commitment of our fantastic teachers and our dedicated English support classes. Individual subjects also provide help after school and teachers also provide students with targeted individual support.

We monitor students results throughout the year and use this data to predict your child's likely outcomes and where necessary



provide help via our mentoring system. Our website allows you to view your child's results, attendance and much more, as it happens. So, although your child may be far away, you are never out of touch.

WHAT IS NCEA?

Our National Qualification is the National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) and was introduced between 2002-2004.

HOW DOES NCEA WORK?

The following is a simplified overview of the NCEA system. More details can be found at:

www.nzqa.govt.nz

NCEA is primarily taught in Years 12 and 13. To achieve an NCEA level, students need to achieve eighty credits. Credits are gained by passing subject assessments which are generally worth 4 Credits each.

THE ACADEMIC YEAR

Our academic year begins in February and consists of four, ten week terms. As NCEA assessment occur throughout the year students are able to begin school at any time but starting in February allows students to access all of the subjects, sports and clubs we have available.

NCEA students also have exams at the end of the year, these commence 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.

Precise Term dates are released when enrollments confirmed.

February	Ju	ıly	November	
Seme	ester 1	Semester 2		
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	
Summer	Winter		Summer	



Uniform

Botany Downs is proud of the positive reputation it enjoys in the community and presentation contributes to this. All uniform items, except for shoes can be bought from the school's on site uniform shop when you arrive.

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

JUNIOR UNIFORM YEAR 9 - 11



SENIOR UNIFORM YEAR 11 - 13





Devices & Stationery

We expect all students to bring their own device to support their learning at school. Our teachers expect students to bring this to lessons every day, just as one would expect stationery or any other materials

We believe that learning is enhanced when students are able to use the device they prefer and it also increases the amount of time they can use this for their learning. We've found that the most suitable option is a laptop with a keyboard and a reasonable screen size. Smart phones or tablets have not been found to be suitable. Our partnership with Microsoft allows students, to install the Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, etc.) free of charge.

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 themselves.





Sports And Clubs

Being active, being involved, and being challenged is an intrinsic part of being a "kiwi kid".

TERM TERM TERM TERM **Aerobics** Athletics (Track and Field) Badminton Basketball Cricket (Outdoor) **Cross Country** Equestrian 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 achting

To enhance citizenship and put into practice the values of the college, we have a comprehensive co-curricular programme.

Providing opportunities for students to experience and develop skills and personal qualities through activities beyond the classroom.

40 Hour Famine Costume Crew Fiji Service Trip Kapa Haka Media Club Set & Props Crew Crochet Club Amnesty International Flute Choir Knitting Club Model UN Shakespeare Back Stage Crew Culinary Club Korean Dance Front of House Crew Orchestra Spoken Word Poetry Barbershop Chorus Debating Hauora Council Lalaga Origami Club **Sports Council Board Game Club** Desi Dance Off Librarians Health Council Pasifika Student Group Street Dance Cafe Assistants Computer Club Lion Dance High School Rockerz Polyfest Stage Hosting **Tech Crew** Career Guides Duke of Edinburgh Indian Dance Makeup Crew Production Theatre Sports Chess Enviroschools Inter-cultural Council Market Day Robotics Club Wearable Arts





Experience and Culture

We believe that a student's time in New Zealand should be a mixture of education and experience.

The Māori culture is the heart of our country's unique make-up and its influence is present in our everyday lives from the College's Whānau (family) structure our sports team's haka and our annual trip to Rotorua, the home of 'Māori-dom'. We provide opportunities for all our students to experience many aspects of this amazing culture which of course, is something only New Zealand can offer.

Each year we bring students on two three-day trips to the beautiful Bay of Islands and to Rotorua and Hobbiton each semester and for Non-NCEA students we have an extraordinary End of Year Program.

BAY OF ISLANDS

A New Zealand summer is something quite special and this trip is a showcases of the summer experiences that Kiwis hold dear.

Day 1

Our trip to the Bay of Islands is a great opportunity to start the new year. We begin the trip in Paihia and take in the stunning views along the Rakaumangamanga Peninsula to Cape Brett, where a historic lighthouse keeps watch over Motukōkako, or as it is popularly known the 'Hole in the Rock'. According to Māori legend, warriors used to paddle through here before departing for battle. Drops of water from the cave roof above were a good omen. If conditions permit, the skipper will also guide the ship through the narrow space... and if you get dripped on, consider yourself lucky!

We frequently see dolphins, whales and other marine life during the cruise, you'll get close to the action as the crew have years of experience locating dolphins in these waters.

On the return voyage, we take a tour of beautiful Russell, New Zealand's first capital. We grab some ice cream, visit some of its historic locations and learn about the town's surprising past.

Day 2

We set off early in the morning to make the most of a visit to Opononi, a little seaside settlement of just over four hundred people. This is the perfect place to experience Kiwi beach life. We catch a 5min water taxi to the giant sand dunes on the other side of the Hokianga harbour where we have a go at one of the lesser-known New Zealand adventure activities: Sandboarding! The Dunes here reach over 100m high and you guessed it, we climb up 'em (partially) and slide down 'em, and at high tide, it's even possible to slide into the water!

Returning to Opononi, we have lunch at the pristine white sand beach where we are usually the only people to be seen. We swim and take turns jumping off the jetty before moving on to see the Koutu Boulders and visit Waipoua forest to see Tane Mahuta, the largest and oldest living Kauri tree in New Zealand.

Day 3

Sheep and wool production is one of New Zealand's oldest and largest industries, on our return trip to Auckland we visit Sheepworld where students get to learn first-hand about sheep farming in rural New Zealand.

A live demonstration begins with sheepdogs rounding up and bringing in the sheep, which are then sorted and shorn by a professional shearer. Students get a

can feed the lambs and one lucky person can even have a go at shearing a real sheep!

close-up view of everything they



Experience and Culture

ROTORUA

Our Rotorua trip is a great mixture of cultural and adventure experiences timed to ensure that our new Semester Two students have a chance to get to know each other and to learn about the culture of the country they've chosen to study in.

Day 1

New Zealand has a reputation for adventure, and we kick start this trip with a visit to Velocity Valley which gives students a chance to take part in a selection of adrenalin pumping activities in one location; jet boating, a bungy swing, a wind tunnel skydive and more!

The action doesn't stop there, we continue to Skyline Rotorua where we take a relaxing gondola ride where students can experience spectacular views of Lake Rotorua, the city and its steaming geothermal vistas. Once at the top students climb into a Luge Cart and zip off on these gravity fuelled toboggans.

Once the adrenalin is spent, we have lunch and explore the scenic nature trails that are around the mountain. Thousands of native trees and cherry blossoms have been planted on-site and feeding troughs in the trees encourage birdlife into the area. Students can even interact with friendly Alpaca and spot the Sheep, Deer and Rabbits that live there.

The absolute highlight of the day has to be our visit to Tamaki Māori Village. After facing a challenge from the tribe's warrior, the students' Māori experience starts as they are led through a captivating, interactive exploration of traditional games, stories and art. They are guided by master storytellers who will share customs, and insights to the traditions of the Māori way of life. Students will even have the opportunity to see a geothermal hangi meal being prepared and then enjoy a traditional dinner and dessert buffet feast!

Day 2

For our second day, we change focus to experience the array of geothermal features that Rotorua offers as one of the world's most active geothermal fields. We begin with a visit to Lady Knox Geyser which provides a unique opportunity to see a controlled eruption to heights of 10 to 20 meters You'll see volcanic crater lakes, spouting geysersand bubbling mud pools. A real bucket list item is a visit to Kerosene Creek. A little-known spot set in the middle of some beautiful bush is a river, where a hot water spring and chilly freshwater stream meet to create an amazingly warm two-meter waterfall.

HOBBITON

The world-famous Lord of the Rings film set has justifiably become a must-do for visitors to New Zealand. A guided tour goes through the entire twelve-acre including the Party Tree, and Bilbo's Bag End home. There are over forty unique hobbit holes on view and students have the chance to learn how the movies were filmed and have pictures taken among these intricately detailed sets. It's a rare opportunity to visit a film location that really does looks and feels just as like did in the movies!

END OF YEAR PROGRAM

This three-week mix of experiential and learning activities is designed for students who are not participating in our national exams which happen at the end of our academic year (November). Students can expect a number of day trips, a three-day adventure camp and some in school activities.

We also include International English Language Testing System (IELTS) training and testing. IELTS results are often requested by tertiary institutions so this is a great opportunity for students to have a chance to qualify their English ability.



How To Apply

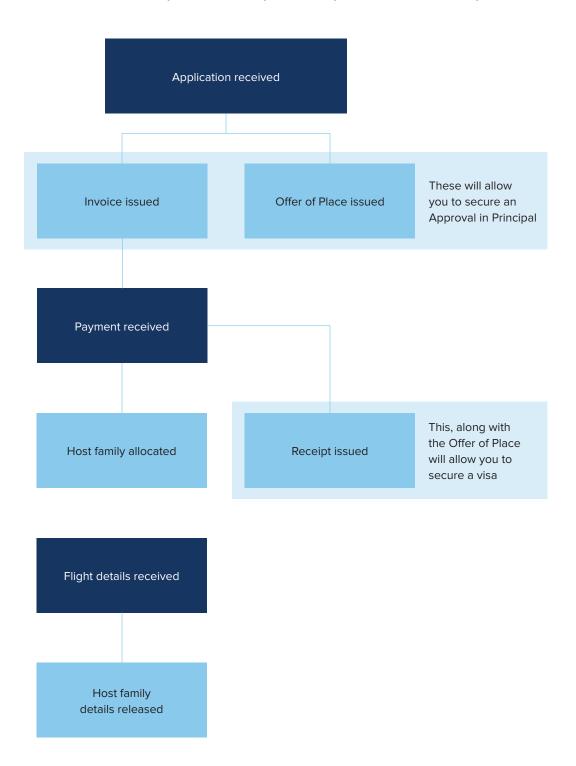
To allow speedy processing, all our applications are submitted via our website:

www.bdsc.school.nz/international/apply-to-study/

You will need to provide a copy of your:

- Passport
- Most recent school reports

To help us make the most appropriate home-stay placement please take time to provide a full description of you including your likes and dislikes. This will allow our homestay team to allocate you to a family that is the best match for you





Testimonials

Name: Nont Fakungkun

Age: 18

Country: Thailand

Hello there, my name is Nont Fakungkun and I am studying in Year 13 at Botany Downs Secondary College. I still remember being in a hard time when I know I was going to live in another country, being in a completely different environment and people. Moving into New Zealand is the biggest and the most important decision I have ever made, and it pays me off very well.

I and my family have had a plan of attending university aboard in the first place, and we agree that going as early as high school would be a great preparation so it will not be too difficult for me adapting in an unfamiliar place in most of all terms like culture, food, lifestyle, etc. Another main reason I decided to study my high school abroad is to allow myself to see the world from a wider angle and gain an open mindset which accepts and embrace the difference in each individual. I am fortunate enough to have an opportunity to study in New Zealand for short periods in Dunedin and Wellington. Since then, I am impressed by the experience I received in this beautiful country and New Zealand has become my main choice for studying abroad. The country is rich of stunning nature and friendly people. Especially, Auckland, the city where I am living is compacted with a harmony of nature aspects e.g. mountains, beaches and unique native animals where are well preserved and remain clean. The city is also highly multi-cultural which further improve my experience quality with various group of people.

Choosing to study in Botany Downs Secondary College or BDSC has allowed me to have an experience with the New Zealand education system which is significantly different from when I was in Thailand. Studying in this school, you will be able to pick up what you want to study from a wide range of subject pool depending on which year you are. 3 for Year 11, 5 for Year 12, and 6 for Year 13, while there will be some compulsory subject needed to be taken in the earlier years and will become less in your higher years. Still, this gives you high flexibility where you can design your own course based on your interest which directly preparing you up for your university goal and dream career. The subjects in the pool are comprehensive yet can be very specific like Food science, textile material, tourism, Business studies and much more. More than education, BDSC also gives you a great number of opportunities in diverse co-curricular activities within an encouraging environment. I decided to give myself a shot in badminton team and EnviroSchool where I met a people with the same interest as me and improve my social network. The most important opportunity I received this year is a position of Head Boy within international student council where I, along with other members, participate to organize international events within school and support other international students in need of help.

Since the first day I arrived at this lovely home called BDSC, the staff, especially the International department, never let me down for a moment. It is certain that moving into another country where almost everything is different from what I used to would be difficult. However, what I can assure you is the staff from international department will always be on your side and help to work out for the solution to any of your problems. They are keen to support you throughout your academic, co-curricular, and social life, to make sure that you will gain the best experience while studying here. BDSC has a great number of international students from many places around the world e.g. Japan, Vietnam, Brazil, etc. Being an international student here allows me to build up close friendships and connections with international friends. This has allowed me to open myself up to different cultures, exchange our experience to each other, and creating wonderful memories I will cherish forever.

To conclude, choosing to study here in BDSC is one of the best decisions I have made in my life, and creates the most impact at the same time. I have grown myself into a proper and mature person with more leadership and responsibility, as well becoming more adaptive to unfamiliar places and cultures. Also, the 3 years of quality time while I am studying here, is memorable and irreplaceable. I would have no chance to encounter all of these amazing experiences if I cannot break through my comfort zone and stay where I am. Now, it's your turn.



2024 Fees (\$NZ)

FULL YEAR				
Tuition Fee (one full year) *		\$17,000	Airport Meet	\$50
Administration Fee		\$1,800	Airport Farewell	\$40
Weekly Homestay Fee inclusive^		\$340	Medical and Travel Insurance (cover for one year) ** +	\$596
Residential Caregive	er Support Fee	\$500		
ADDITIONAL FEES	S			
Subject Fees	Some practical subjects have a charge for materials or workbooks used. Outdoor Education fees: \$1,000 (full year), \$750 (semester) and \$500 (1 term).			
Exam Fees	\$383.30 entry fee	\$383.30 entry fees for NCEA Levels 1 to 3 (Years 11-13) must be paid where necessary.		
Competitions	Students will have the opportunity to enter national competitions. Typically, these are in Mathematics, Science, English and Chemistry. These have their own entry fees.			
School Trips	Day field trips to Art Galleries, Historic Sites etc some costs may apply.			
Stationery Approximately \$100 - \$150 per year (dependent on chosen subjects. Initial stationery pack is provided containing basic exercise books/files)				
Uniform	Approximately \$350 to \$400			
School Camps	Some subjects have extended camps as part of their fieldwork. Costs will vary.			
Textbooks	Supplied on loan free of charge (but there will be a charge if books are lost or damaged)			
ID Cards	ID Cards Student ID cards are available for \$11.50.			
Homestay Moves	First move free. Subsequent moves at the request of the student/parents where the host family have met requirements will incur a fee of \$200.			
EQUIPMENT				
Laptop	Students will require a laptop for all subjects Tablets are not recommended due to their reduced functionality			
Calculator	Mathematics students are require to use a scientific calculator			

^{*} This includes: GST, textbooks on loan, ESOL tuition if required, initial stationery pack, airport meet-and-greet on first arrival

^{**} Unicare International Student Insurance Cover Quoted. Insurance fees are subject to change by the Insurance Provider

⁺ Insurance premium is calculated on exact travel dates and may, therefore, differ slightly from these estimates

[^] Homestay fees subject to change



Dates

2023

		START	END
SEMESTER ONE	Term 1	02/02/2023*	06/04/2023
	Term 2	24/04/2023	30/06/2023
SEMESTER TWO	Term 3	17/07/2023	22/09/2023
	Term 4	09/10/2023	08/12/2023**

^{*}Staggered start

2024

		START	END
SEMESTER ONE	Term 1	01/02/2024*	12/04/2024
	Term 2	29/04/2024	05/07/2024
SEMESTER TWO	Term 3	22/07/2024	27/09/2024
	Term 4	14/10/2024	06/12/2024**

^{*}Staggered start to be confirmed

Approximate ages for each year level

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

Fees Protection

Botany Downs Secondary College has a Fee Protection policy to safeguard the fees paid by International Students, in the unlikely event that the school may not be able to commence or continue to deliver tuition to the international student. The School Board guarantees to hold in reserve sufficient funds to meet the requirements of any refund in these circumstances.

Please note:

- 1. The administration fee is payable on enrolment/re-enrolment. It is non-refundable
- 2. Homestay fees must be paid in advance to Botany Downs Secondary College.
- 3. 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 view the website: https://www.uni-care.org/Policy/NzStudentPlan
- 4. All prices have been quoted in New Zealand Dollars.

² February (New International students)

⁶ February (All students return)

^{**} To be confirmed

¹ February (New International students)

⁵ February (All students return)

^{**} To be confirmed

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.

