

# Otago Girls' High School



**QUALITY  
EDUCATION  
FOR GIRLS  
SINCE 1870**









# WELCOME

## TO OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



**We are proud and excited to present this profile to you as a taste of what Otago Girls' High School has to offer. For over 140 years our school has provided a high quality girls' education and we have consistently produced remarkable women who have gone on to achieve success in their chosen fields.**

Our history and our heritage are two things of which we are immensely proud. These elements, along with our Positive Behaviour for Learning approach, underpin our programmes of learning. Respect, Positivity and Integrity are the core values that bind and guide us.

Our facilities, teaching approaches and curriculum have been designed to provide you with the skills, attitudes and knowledge you will need to be global citizens of the future, while the supportive and friendly environment will encourage you to be the best that you can be. Complementing our excellent academic programmes is an exciting range of sporting, cultural and other



opportunities to learn outside the classroom. All of these opportunities are supported by a sophisticated e-Learning infrastructure and philosophy of teaching that increasingly allows you to learn anytime, anywhere.

Our school motto in Latin is *Recti Cultus Pectora Roborant* – *The Right Education Makes the Heart as Strong as Oak*.

The Māori parallel is *Mā Te Matauranga Ka Tū Teitei Te Tōtara* – *Through Education The Totara Tree Will Stand Tall*.

It is our aim to ensure that every girl who passes through our doors will indeed stand tall and be strong of heart.

If you require further information about the school please contact me on 474-0496. I would be happy to talk to you and answer any questions you may have.

**Linda Miller, Principal**

3





# HISTORY

## A school of firsts

Otago Girls' High School was the first state secondary school for girls in the Southern Hemisphere. We are proud of the young women of Dunedin who have achieved personal excellence since Otago Girls' was founded in 1870.

An unequalled tradition of success in educating girls has seen Otago Girls' graduates become New Zealand's first women doctors, lawyers and judges; win Olympic and Commonwealth games medals; and gain international recognition in cuisine, music and the arts.



Ethel Benjamin:  
New Zealand's first  
woman lawyer

Margaret Cruickshank:  
New Zealand's first  
woman doctor

Emily Siedeberg:  
New Zealand's first woman  
graduate in medicine

Yvette Williams:  
New Zealand's first woman Olympic gold medalist

Photos courtesy of Hocken Library Uare Taoka O Hākena University of Otago, New Zealand.  
Newspaper clipping: *The Evening Star*.

# OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

# LIFE-LONG LEARNERS AND THINKERS

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMME



### OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL PROVIDES:

- High quality programmes of learning underpinned by high expectations for all students.
- Facilities and opportunities that allow e-Learning to be integrated into all programmes.
- Scholarship Programme.
- A focus on extending literacy skills to enhance achievement.
- Learning support and extension for all students
  - Accelerate classes
  - Extension Programme for Gifted and Talented
  - Learning Support
  - Study skills
  - Tutorial support
  - Literacy and numeracy support
  - Global Leadership Programme.

### EXCELLENT RESULTS IN:

- NCEA, University Entrance and Scholarship.
- ICAS International English, Science and Mathematics Competitions.
- Xtra Spelling and Social Studies Quizzes.
- Ilford Photography Competitions.
- Chemistry Quiz.
- Otago Science Fair.
- New Zealand History Teachers' Essay Competition.
- Speech Competitions.
- SGCNZ/Bernina Shakespeare Costume Design Competition.





*"There are no speed  
limits on the road  
to excellence"*

## The goal of excellence

**Otago Girls' High School has a robust and vibrant academic programme. Students at each level have a choice of over twenty subjects, including seven languages. The size of our school provides girls with choice and flexibility.**

Our programmes of learning encourage and support students to become confident, connected, actively involved, life-long learners. A key tool in achieving this is the provision of e-Learning opportunities made possible through our vast wireless network. All students have access to this e-Technology. We encourage students to bring and use their own devices at school.

All teachers deliberately teach creative and critical thinking skills in the classroom. Students learn to move beyond recall and understanding, to analysing, evaluating and synthesising information.

The curriculum offered at Otago Girls' enables every girl to develop self-confidence; explore a range of learning, leisure and sports skills; extend special interests and talents; participate in social action; and make correct choices based on her abilities and interests while pursuing the goal of excellence.

Students excel in NCEA qualifications at all levels and we are proud of our outstanding results, which each year, include numerous scholarships of various types. Students receive excellent preparation for tertiary study.



ESSENTIAL LEARNING AREAS	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13	OPEN ENTRY
<b>Arts</b>	Music Art Drama Dance	Music Art Drama Dance	Music Art Drama Dance	Music Art Drama Dance Photography	Music Performance Music Studies Art History Drama Dance Painting Photography Design Art	
<b>English</b>	English	English	English	English Media Studies	English Media Studies	ESOL Elementary Intermediate Senior TOEFL, IELTS
<b>Languages</b>	Chinese Mandarin French German Japanese Latin Spanish Te Reo Māori	Chinese Mandarin French German Japanese Latin Spanish Te Reo Māori	Chinese Mandarin French German Japanese Latin Spanish Te Reo Māori	Chinese Mandarin French German Japanese Latin Spanish Te Reo Māori	Chinese Mandarin French German Japanese Latin Spanish Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori for Beginners
<b>Mathematics</b>	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics Calculus Statistics	
<b>Health &amp; Physical Education</b>	Health & Physical Education	Health & Physical Education	Health & Physical Education Outdoor Education	Health & Physical Education Outdoor Education Sport	Health & Physical Education Sport	Sports and Recreation
<b>Sciences</b>	Science	Science	Science	Biology Chemistry Physics Science	Biology Chemistry Physics	
<b>Social Sciences</b>	Social Studies	Social Studies	History Geography	History Geography Tourism	History Geography Tourism Classical Studies	
<b>Technology</b>	Hard Materials Textiles Digital Technology Food Technology	Hard Materials Textiles Design Digital Technology Food Technology Graphics	Hard Materials Textiles Digital Technology Food & Nutrition Graphics	Hard Materials Textiles Digital Technology Food & Nutrition Graphics	Hard Materials Textiles Digital Technology Food & Nutrition/ Hospitality Graphics	
<b>Commerce</b>			Economics Accounting	Economics Accounting Business Studies Office Management	Economics Accounting Business Studies Office Management Gateway	





*"We are free  
to choose  
our paths"*





"Endless places to learn,  
play and explore"



# Modern learning environment

**Modern, well-appointed and attractive facilities provide specialist learning environments for the broad range of curriculum areas delivered.**

- Performing Arts suite, including theatre, dance and drama rooms, and a recently refurbished music suite and recording studio.
- Extensive art facilities incorporating design, sculpture, painting and photography (both digital and film).
- International standard gymnasium with fitness centre and weights room.
- Tennis/netball courts, Astro turf field and three-storey climbing wall.
- Specialist computer suites and e-Learning pods.
- Laptop COWs (computers on wheels) in most departments.
- e-Learning technology network for all curriculum areas.
- Robotics.
- Carpeted classrooms with multi-media capabilities.
- Modern library and information centre with multi-media capabilities.
- Five specialist science laboratories.
- Modern textiles and food rooms.
- Hard materials workshop, including facilities for wood, plastics and jewellery.
- Common rooms with food preparation facilities for all levels.
- School hall large enough for whole-school assemblies.





## Go there

The Outdoor Education Programme at Otago Girls' High School is a comprehensive and highly regarded programme that offers a high level of participation and enjoyment.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To develop confidence, self-esteem, self-management, resilience and interpersonal skills
- To learn new skills (physical, social, spiritual, mental/emotional)
- To research and participate in field-work.

**Year 9.** An overnight camp for each form class is the highlight of the programme which incorporates bush-craft and water safety skills.

**Year 9/10.** Each year a group of ten students are selected to participate in the YouthTown Get2Go Challenge. They are presented with challenges that include mountain biking, orienteering, kayaking and rock climbing.

**Year 10.** Students attend a five day outdoor education camp with an emphasis on tramping, bush-craft and personal growth and development. It is a challenging and exciting week with options to meet the needs of every student. It is an opportunity to visit and explore beautiful and unique areas in Otago and Southland, many of which are not accessible by road. The options range from tramping on the Routeburn, Caples or Matukituki tracks, to camping in the Greenstone region.

**Year 10.** Every student attends an overnight camp at the local marae. The focus is on respect for the diverse ethnic and cultural heritage of New Zealand people and acknowledges the unique place of Māori.

**Year 11.** Geography students spend a week exploring the Aoraki/Mount Cook region as part of their programme of learning. The remaining Year 11 students engage in a five day work exploration programme.

**Year 11.** Outdoor Education students are engaged in a variety of overnight camps to participate in rock climbing, mountain biking and flat water kayaking.

**Year 12.** Geography and Biology students spend five days at Borland Lodge in Southland. This camp includes outdoor pursuits and field-work which contribute to their Level Two NCEA Achievement Standards. The other Year 12 students







attend an Outdoor Leadership camp based in Waikouaiti involving mountain biking, tramping, surfing, rifle shooting and abseiling.

**Year 12.** Physical Education students participate in a five day camp based at Moke Lake, Queenstown. The activities contribute to NCEA Level Two and include white-water rafting, overnight duo, tramping and mountain biking.

**Year 12.** Outdoor Education is an extension of Year 11 where we build on skills and experiences in a range of settings. Activities include mountain biking and touring, adventure-based learning, low and high ropes, and kayaking.



**Year 13.** Physical Education students plan and attend a five day cross-country ski expedition at the Waiorau Snow Farm. Spending a night sleeping in a snow cave is one of the highlights of the trip. This is part of students' assessment for NCEA Level Three.

**Skiing and snowboard trip.** An annual skiing/snowboarding trip to Coronet Peak for four days is open to students at all year levels and abilities; from non-skiers to advanced. This trip has a reputation of being value for money, fun, challenging and extremely worthwhile.

**Outward Bound / Spirit of Adventure.** Scholarships and opportunities are available for students to attend either of these programmes.

**Rock climbing.** Rockclimbing is open to students in all year levels and is an opportunity to develop the skills of rock climbing on the wall. There is a South Island competition each year.

**Hillary Award (Duke of Edinburgh).** Students at all levels can work towards their Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Awards. There is an annual expedition to Stewart Island along with trips organised by the students obtaining their Gold Award.

**Curriculum subjects.** Subjects including Geography, Biology, History, English, Physical Education and Health, Outdoor Education, Textiles, Food and Nutrition, Languages, Art, Tourism, Classical Studies and Photography can involve field trips.



## Participate and enjoy

Otago Girls' High School has a commitment to fostering and encouraging participation, as well as excellence, in sport. Many of our teams and athletes excel at provincial and national level. Girls are also encouraged to develop new sporting interests.

Emphasis is on enjoyment and participation while ensuring that girls achieve their sporting potential.

Every year Otago Girls' High School has sporting exchanges with Waitaki Girls' High School (Oamaru) and Southland Girls' High School (Invercargill). Many girls take part in these exchanges and enjoy the broadening experiences that participation provides.

For many students the ultimate of school sport is realising the dream of competing at South Island, national and international events.

Opportunities and coaching are offered in the following sporting codes. Practice times vary to meet the commitments of coaches and players.

Aerobics	Football	Rugby/Sevens
Athletics	Futsal	Sailing
Badminton	Hockey	Skiing
Basketball	Ice hockey	Squash
Canoe polo	Multi-sports, triathlon, duathlon and biathlon	Surfing
Cricket		Swimming
Cross-country	Netball	Tennis
Curling	Orienteering	Touch
Equestrian	Rock-climbing	Volleyball
Fencing	Rowing	Waterpolo





*"Learning is not a spectator sport"*



*"Playing music is like  
going to another place"*



# Showcase your talents

**Otago Girls' High School celebrates cultural diversity through an extensive cultural programme that enables each girl to realise their strengths and talents.**

**Choral music.** Otago Girls' High School is highly acclaimed throughout New Zealand for its choirs, especially Southern Hesperides and Barock. There are always places in these choirs for Year 9 and new students.

**Orchestra.** Otago Girls' High School and Otago Boys' High School have a large combined orchestra that plays at school events and festivals.

**Jazz band.** Otago Girls' High School has a strong jazz band that rehearses weekly. The group performs at school events, concerts and festivals.

**Music groups.** Chamber music groups, string quartets, jazz bands and rock bands are all part of the music scene at Otago Girls' High School.

**Lessons** are available for individual students and small groups in brass, strings and woodwind instruments, piano, singing, guitar and drums.

**Combined OGHS/OBHS production.** Each year Otago Girls' High School and Otago Boys' High School produce a show. Productions in recent years include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Back to the 80s* and *Rush*.

**Junior production.** In the third term each year 80 to 90 juniors perform an entertaining show for parents, friends and neighbouring schools.

**Stage Challenge.** Every second year 80 to 100 students take part in this competition. Many of these students are in Years 9 and 10, and Otago Girls' High School has recently achieved top results.

**Wairua Puhou.** The school is well known for its strong Kapa Haka group, Wairua Puhou. This group welcomes visiting groups to the school and performs at provincial and national events.

**Tagata Pasifika.** The school has a strong Pacific Island choir and cultural performance group that meets regularly and performs each year at school functions and at local festivals.

**Public speaking and debating.** Otago Girls' High School plays an enthusiastic and successful role in debating and public speaking competitions locally and nationally. All students take part in public speaking and inter-class debating. Private speech lessons are also available at school.

**Hip hop.** Over the past few years hip hop dance has become increasingly popular at Otago Girls' High School and we have achieved success at a national level.

**Creative writing.** There are many opportunities for young writers to join the publishing club, enter competitions, write articles for the school magazine and newsletters, and attend the writers' camp.

**Visual arts and photography.** Otago Girls' High School has always enjoyed success in local and national art competitions. Students are able to get involved with Wearable Arts, and in creating props and sets for school productions and Stage Challenge.

# CULTURAL





# STUDY ABROAD



**Otago Girls' High School has strong international links through exchange programmes abroad and with international students at our school. Each year some of our students choose to take up opportunities provided by the school to study in Germany, France, Japan, Canada or New Caledonia, or to take part in educational trips to Japan, New Caledonia or Argentina. The length of those study programmes varies between three weeks and one year.**

The school has strong sister school relationships with:

- Bunkyo Gakuin University Senior Girls' High School, Tokyo, Japan
- Yasuda Girls' High School, Hiroshima, Japan
- Guangming High School, Shanghai, China
- Elmwood School, Ottawa, Canada.

We welcome their students each year and some of our students make the return journey.

There are opportunities each year for our students and families to host students from overseas.

Each year we welcome 30-40 students who come from Germany, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, China, Malaysia and Thailand to study with us. Some of these students come for one year and some for two or three years. We provide intensive English language courses for these students and they can complete University Entry qualifications that will give them access to universities in New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, United States of America and their own country.

These exchanges and reciprocal hosting of students provide experiences which contribute to the Global Leadership Programme.



# CLUBS



All girls take part in a recreational clubs programme. Clubs offered vary. Recent clubs have included:

- Aerobics
- Art Exposure
- Board Games
- Bone Carving
- Card Games
- Choir
- Cross Stitch
- Cue Sport
- Digital Photo Albums
- Food From Around The World
- Future Problem Solving
- Golf
- Kapa Haka
- Leap
- Pacific Island Choir
- Planning Your Career
- Power Walking
- Reading Club
- Robotics
- Running
- Science Investigators
- Social Justice Club
- Squash
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Tennis For Beginners
- Textiles Appreciation
- Volunteering & Active Citizenship
- Writing For Pleasure
- Zumba





# CARING FOR OUR GIRLS

**Otago Girls' High School takes the trouble and has the time to make sure that every girl feels she is a valued member of the school community, that she has positive self-esteem and is getting on well with others. There is a range of programmes, resources and individuals to support girls at all levels.**

The form teacher is responsible for all the students in his/her form class. It is important to the form teacher that your daughter is happy, working hard and making friends. Form classes develop special bonds which often endure far beyond school.

The dean has responsibility for all the students in a year group. If there are any problems with health, courses, homework, or any other matter, parents and pupils are invited to consult with the dean. Māori, Pasifika and International deans offer further support.



Each girl in Years 10 to 13 has a mentor who supports them and tracks their progress throughout their time at school.

Year 13 Peer Support students support and help every Year 9 class, acting as 'older sisters'. They give advice, and encouragement.

The Career Education Leader and her team meet with each girl to explore future plans and study options. They help with decision making and goal setting. Parents are also welcome to meet with the Careers team.

The Guidance Support Network helps a girl through any difficulties whether they are educational, vocational or personal. The Guidance Counsellor is available to help girls and their parents.

Outside agencies are involved as appropriate.

The principal and senior staff take a close and personal interest in all students and play an active role when required.



# House system

The House system at Otago Girls' High School was introduced in 2014 and has been growing in popularity since its introduction.

The four houses are named after former students, all of whom are ingrained in the history of Otago Girls' High School and New Zealand. Flora Allan was principal of Otago Girls' from 1912-1921, Ethel Benjamin was the first woman law graduate in New Zealand, Margaret Cruickshank was the first medical doctor to practise in New Zealand and Yvette Williams was the first New Zealand woman to win an Olympic gold medal. Their names are synonymous with high achievement.

Throughout the year students compete in a range of competitions for which they earn points for their house. Athletic sports, swimming sports, cross country and choral competitions are some of the events that will contribute towards winning the Dalrymple Shield.



Allan



Benjamin



Cruickshank



Williams

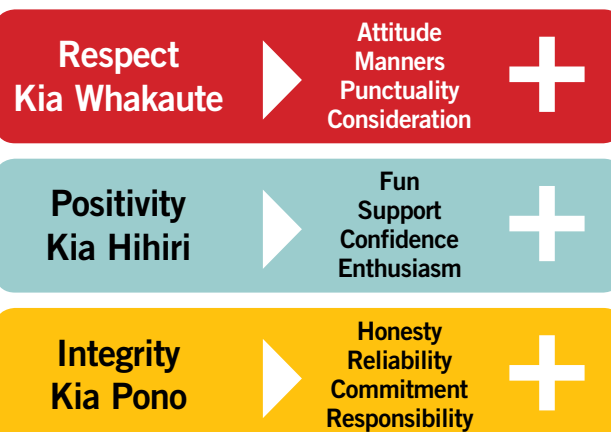
## Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)

Otago Girls' High School is a participant in the Positive Behaviour for Learning project that has been operating at OGHS since the beginning of 2014.

PB4L has had a significant impact on the culture of the school.

The essence of the project is the encouragement and reward of positive behaviour that enables students to learn more effectively. The focus of the initiative is on the three core values of **Respect, Positivity and Integrity**.

The Shelley card and badge system rewards students for meeting expectations and doing the right thing. All students are clear about the school's values and we have exemplary positive behaviour data.





# OUR MISSION

Otago Girls' High School is committed to the highest quality education for all girls in a safe, caring and inclusive environment

## WHY CHOOSE A GIRLS' SCHOOL?

Because girls have a far better chance to learn in a single sex school, and girls are therefore more successful in national examinations.

Because the focus of school life is on the strengths and individual nature of girls.

Because the strong academic focus will be targeted to the unique learning needs of young women.

Because girls can learn and participate in a secure environment without fear of social failure.

Because leadership and accomplishment in every area are in the hands of girls.

Because there are fewer harmful social pressures on girls to grow up too quickly.

## WHY CHOOSE OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL?

We have a long, proven record of academic excellence.

We foster talents in music, art, public speaking and drama.

We offer coaching for participation in top level sport.

We provide an unrivalled variety of activities outside the classroom, with something to involve every girl.

We provide a large range of additional programmes to extend the able and assist those needing extra help.

All students take part in a cross curriculum thinking skills programme.

We are large enough to offer the full range of option choices and small enough for every girl to be treated as an individual.

We have an unequalled tradition of success in educating girls.



## OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL EMPHASISES LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Students can become:

- Prefects
- School Council Representatives
- Form Captains
- House Captains
- Peer Support Leaders
- Sports Captains
- Sports Co-ordinators and Coaches
- Cultural Co-ordinators
- Librarians
- Laboratory Monitors
- Information Technology Angels
- School Environmental Representatives
- Board of Trustees Representatives
- Canteen Assistants.

## OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL ENCOURAGES SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Our school encourages the enjoyment of social activities including:

- School formals
- Writing camp
- Noho marae
- Co-curricular activities
- Clubs
- School camps
- Lunchtime programmes
- Class outings
- Ski trips
- Activities with Otago Boys' High School, Dunedin
- Exchanges with Southland Girls' High School, Invercargill, and Waitaki Girls' High School, Oamaru
- 'Spirit of New Zealand' voyages
- World Challenge
- Language and science camps.

## OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTES TO THE COMMUNITY

Otago Girls' students are encouraged to look outward, to play a part in the affairs of their community, their country and the world. They have a proud record of supporting many organisations, including:

- Guide dogs
- Easter baskets for elderly
- 40 Hour Famine
- Model United Nations Assembly
- Hospice Can Appeal
- Amnesty International
- Braille Week
- Daffodil Day
- Red Cross
- Save the Children
- Dunedin Youth Forum
- Enviroschools
- Salvation Army
- Mufti Days to raise funds for emergency appeals
- Christmas hampers for Presbyterian Support.

## OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL PREPARES YOU FOR YOUR FUTURE

Otago Girls' offers an extensive careers education programme to every girl. This includes:

- Extensions opportunities in career-related areas
- Career competency development in all curriculum areas
- Curriculum vitae preparation
- Careers advice and information
- Careers evenings
- Option selection advice
- Gateway Programme
- Interview skills
- Job seeking skills
- Trades Academy
- Tertiary qualifications information
- Work exploration
- Visiting speakers
- STAR programmes
- University visits
- Year 13 Programme.



## Otago Girls' High School

41 Tennyson Street, Dunedin 9016, New Zealand

Email [admin@otagogirls.school.nz](mailto:admin@otagogirls.school.nz)

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

Phone +64 3 474-0496 | Fax +64 3 474-1668

