



RICCARTON HIGH SCHOOL
Te Kura Tuarua o Pūtaringamotu



PROSPECTUS 2026

MANAWANUI
COMMITMENT

NGĀKAUPONO
HONESTY

KAIRANGI
EXCELLENCE

MANAAKITANGA
RESPECT



*Tēnā koutou, ni hao, kamusta, talofa lava,
al salaam alaikum.*



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Greetings and welcome to Riccarton High School.

At Riccarton we pride ourselves on the individual attention and support we give our students as they strive to become graduates who will be achieving, independent, lifelong learners as well as caring, responsible, involved and globally connected citizens.

The school also focuses on the importance of character building through Te Wairua o Pūtaringamotu – the Riccarton Way, and its associated values of Kairangi (excellence), Ngākaupono (honesty), Manaakitanga (respect) and Manawanui (commitment), in addition to the meaning behind the school's motto: Disce ut prosis – learn that you may be of service.

We are a vibrant and wonderfully diverse community of approximately 1,100 students that defines success in a number of different ways. Each year we celebrate our academic achievements, which remain above national averages. A large number of our students represent the school, our province and our country in a wide range of sporting, musical and cultural endeavours.

We are proud of our modern student-centred curriculum that is technology rich and responsive to the needs of our students, with a strong focus on a philosophy of blended learning.

Our school works hard to meet the expectations of our community. We aspire to be the school of choice for every family in our community.

We very much look forward to meeting you and forming an exciting and fulfilling partnership in the pursuit of success for every student.

Ngā mihi nui.

Neil Haywood
Principal





*“We are one – we share
and live our values –
he whānau kotahi tātou”*

FINDING YOUR PLACE IN OUR SCHOOL



The Riccarton Way is the spirit, the wairua that underpins the way we think, act and feel about ourselves, others at the school and those in our local and international community.

By emphasising the key values of Kairangi, Ngākaupono, Manaakitanga and Manawanui, the school ultimately promotes a caring, supportive learning culture focused on progress and achievement.

The Riccarton Way is about:

- showing a positive attitude
- having high expectations of our staff and students
- taking pride in our work
- being confident to take risks
- showing a desire to improve
- achieving to the best of our ability
- getting involved
- taking advantage of opportunities

It is about how we treat others:

- acknowledging cultural differences
- being tolerant of differences
- accepting community responsibility
- treating others with courtesy
- respecting other people's property
- caring for others
- being aware of bullying and helping stop it

We pride ourselves in encouraging and celebrating behaviour that reflects this spirit every day throughout the year.

*We are one – we share and live our values –
he whānau kotahi tātou.*





STUDENT SUPPORT

Pastoral and Learning Support

The Riccarton Way values underpin how we care for our students and the importance we place on positive relationships. All students are placed in one of four whare, where they are supported by a Kaiarataki (Head of whare) who works alongside a Kaitiaki (Dean of whare) and a group of whānau teachers. Students will be connected to their allocated whare throughout their time at Riccarton High School. Help is also available from the Guidance Counsellors, Learning Support Coordinator and Careers Advisor.

We have a reputation for a strong school spirit and sense of community. We work to provide the best possible learning pathways for our students within an inclusive family/whānau atmosphere.

➤ www.riccarton.school.nz/pastoral-care/

English Language Learners

All our teachers maintain ongoing professional learning in working with students who are English language learners. Specialist EAL (English as an additional language) teachers work with students who need extra support to improve their skills in reading, writing and speaking in English so that they can be well-prepared for their studies across the curriculum. Programmes are flexible and target students at their level of need. Students in the senior school can enter for NCEA assessment in most of our EAL courses.

➤ www.riccarton.school.nz/international/esol/

CURRICULUM

YEAR 9 AND 10

The Riccarton Way of Learning

Our Riccarton Way of Learning encourages our teaching staff to be the activators of learning, the builders of positive learning environments and collaborators when it comes to students, colleagues and whānau.

It centres on:

- Combining effective and innovative pedagogical practices
- Ensuring that effective learning partnerships are developed and maintained
- Building learning environments which incorporate a culture of safety and belonging
- Effective use of digital technologies which accelerates access to knowledge beyond the classroom

We aim for all our students to be successful academically, and to strive to reach their goals. Our community tells us they want our students to be engaged, confident, resilient, risk-taking, flexible thinkers, who respect and value others.

We encourage students' strengths and interests and support them to identify their future pathway

beyond school. Our curriculum is structured to provide students with a depth of experience in a broad range of programmes.

The learning programme for Year 9 and 10 students includes all eight Learning Areas from the New Zealand Curriculum: nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/

These programmes run for the whole year in both Year 9 and 10:

- English, Health and Physical Education, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies

Year 9 students also learn in:

- Arts: a semester each in Dance, Drama, Visual Art, and Music or Performance Music
- Learning Languages: students choose ONE of: French, Japanese, or Te Reo Māori
- Technology: a semester each in Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, Food Technology and Hard Materials

Additionally, Year 10 students choose combinations of Arts, Learning Languages and/or Technology courses as listed above. Year 10 students may also choose Enterprise Studies and/or Business and Personal Financial Skills.

Connectivity and Collaboration

We have a strong focus on encouraging connections across all learning areas within the school. This includes:

- Teachers of the same learning groups working together
- Teachers in different learning groups working together
- Teachers sharing best practice with each other
- Students working together to develop their skills around problem solving, collaboration and resiliency
- Students and teachers working together to develop the most effective teaching practices from the student's perspective

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)

Our GATE coordinator mentors students who have been identified as gifted and talented. In addition to supporting their teachers in the classroom, we offer enrichment programmes, extension within school learning programmes and support for students working towards competitions and scholarships. We have established links with the University of Canterbury and with professionals working in a variety of industries and educational institutions.





LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



Riccarton High School is dedicated to providing a variety of learning opportunities and environments that will enable our students to learn to the best of their abilities and in their own style.

A vital part of this is using the wide variety of facilities we have access to, both on and off the school campus. From the use of our Orohaki outdoor education facility, to the community library that is housed within our school property, and the integration of technology around the school, we can provide an environment that will stimulate and enrich learning for our diverse student population.

As students progress through the school our comprehensive careers programme can provide practical pathways for the future. The programme gives students the opportunity to gain valuable real life and workplace experiences.

Orohaki Outdoor Education Centre

Riccarton High School is very fortunate to have its own superb outdoor education facility at Orohaki in North Canterbury. Year 9 and 10 students engage in a programme that provides the opportunity to develop self-confidence, team and leadership skills in an outdoor education setting that is facilitated by specialists.

At the senior level, students are able to utilise the facilities to support them in curriculum areas such as Biology and Geography.

The programme is a compulsory part of the school curriculum and it serves us well in helping to develop well-rounded individuals. Often, our graduates refer to the outdoor education experience as the highlight of their time at Riccarton High School.



www.riccarton.school.nz/outdoor-education/



Library

The school's unique partnership with the Christchurch City Council has created a state-of-the-art school/community joint-use library on our Main South Road boundary.

This wonderful asset increases the learning opportunities for our students by giving them access to not only excellent study facilities, but also an extensive range of printed and electronic resources, two dedicated school librarians and the expertise of city council staff.

The library is also very well utilised by a range of community groups looking for meeting spaces and a venue to host a range of activities, benefiting both the public and the school.

> www.riccarton.school.nz/library/

Blended Learning and Bring Your Own Device

At Riccarton High School, we firmly believe the best approach is blended learning, where the primary focus is on the learning rather than the tools used to deliver it.

Blended learning draws from many teaching styles such as group work, discussion and presentation.

Digital tools support this rich learning environment through collaboration, feedback and access to varied media.

An internet capable device is now an important part of a student's toolkit, giving them access to unlimited resources and enabling them to support, extend, collaborate and share their learning in a way that prepares them for the future.

For more information, please go to our school website:

> www.riccarton.school.nz/devices/



BYOD

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



As Riccarton High School strives to create well-rounded individuals, there are numerous opportunities available in both the sporting and cultural arenas.

Sport

With the school set on 10 hectares of park-like grounds, including all-weather netball and tennis courts and two gymnasiums, students have excellent facilities for sport.

Our impressive participation rates as a state co-ed school is largely due to the significant commitment of staff, senior students, parents and 'friends' of Riccarton High School.

School teams are involved in competitions on Wednesday afternoons, some evenings and weekends, in addition to annual summer and winter exchanges with other schools.

Riccarton High School is committed to the Fair Play charter and SPARC Sportsmark programme, emphasising all the positive qualities sport can bring to our students.

Arts and Cultural Activities

The arts and cultural areas of Riccarton High School continue to experience significant growth.

Music thrives in a supportive and collaborative environment, with

opportunities provided at both the individual and group level by our highly experienced teaching staff and tutors.

Drama is both a curriculum subject and an opportunity to get involved in a range of extra-curricular activities, such as Theatresports, Shakespeare festivals and major school productions.

Dance is also offered as a subject at all year levels and students are given opportunities to perform at a number of school events.

A large number of performance groups, including Pasifika, Kapa Haka, Filipino and Chinese, perform at both school and community events.





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