



JOURNEYS

WHANGANUI COLLEGIATE SCHOOL





Photo: WCS students exploring the Whanganui River



“...the neon on the river will light my way
and all the things that we’ve been dreaming of making real one day.”

KEANE / *Neon River*

Make Whanganui Collegiate School a part of your life journey.

Welcome to Whanganui Collegiate School — one of New Zealand's oldest schools, with rich traditions, beautiful grounds, heritage buildings and a reputation for educational excellence.

At Whanganui Collegiate School young people excel, attain independence, develop leadership and character, and so establish an unshakeable foundation for their futures.

...Which is, of course, exactly what you would expect us to say.

So instead, come and meet
some of our people and we'll
let them tell you their stories.

Because there is no better way we can think of to help you decide that Whanganui Collegiate School should be part of your own life journey.







JOSH BRUNGER

WCS student

Whanganui

Getting outdoors and giving things a go

"I think when I finish school, I'll travel the world," says Josh Brunger, inspired by a year the family spent living in France. He made a good friend at school there and that's one reason he's looking forward to starting Year 9 at Whanganui Collegiate School.

"Collegiate's a family so I expect I'll get to know the overseas students and maybe one day even go and see where they live."

But the main thing Josh is looking forward to? "Being with all the boys in my House. Even though we live in Whanganui, I'll be boarding, because I want to be immersed in the School with lots of boys. I like getting outdoors and giving things a go. Rugby and cricket: I love getting dirty and getting some runs."

"Boys," says Josh's Mum, Jodie—herself a former school teacher—"need structure and discipline, but they also need to be challenged and encouraged to step outside their comfort zone. Our year in France highlighted this and we really saw Josh flourish in this sort of environment."

Josh's sister, Tayla, is already at Whanganui Collegiate School although of course he'll be avoiding her. "But when she talked about the opportunities and all the new experiences she was having at Collegiate, I thought, 'that's a bit of me'.

"It's a really old school with cool buildings that have stood there for ages. I like the way they've kept their traditions, like 'don't walk on the grass' and 'pull your socks up': there are strict rules. I think boys need rules. It helps shape you into a better person."

RICHARD STONE

WCS Old Boy
Wellington

I'll be looking for good moral fibre

"Do you know, I'm godfather of seven children. They are all children of friends I made at Collegiate. A group of us are getting together in Taupō shortly, for a 60th. Lifelong friendships: for me, the best thing from my time at Collegiate.

"But to talk about my work: I'm the Executive Chairman of a recruitment agency in Wellington and whether we're looking for someone for our own firm, or for a client, of course academic results are important. Academic results tell me if the person has initiative, tenacity, resilience... and intelligence.

"But academic results are only part of it. It doesn't matter whether you're working in the private sector, public sector or NGO, you're there to achieve outcomes. They might be financial outcomes or social good. And you might be the brightest

person in the world, but if you can't work as part of a team, if you can't process other people's viewpoints, then you're not going to succeed.

"So, I'll be looking for good moral fibre: knowing the difference between right and wrong. Knowing your own mind and being able and willing to articulate a contrary view. I'll want to know if you are doing things for the benefit of others: making a community contribution in some way, or developing people, young or old. Are you willing to give something a go: a risk taker? Do you learn from mistakes? What's your leadership style? Are you a problem solver?

"Those are the life skills you need: emotional intelligence more than IQ. And that's why you'd choose a values-based education."





ELOISE TWISS

WCS student
Auckland

Values-based education for the whole child for their whole life

Eloise Twiss lives in Auckland...and yet she goes to school in Whanganui. She used to go to school in Auckland; a very good school, too: with first class facilities and resources providing, the Education Review Office says, 'excellent tuition'.

The problem, Eloise says, is that—with over 1200 students—it was too big. "The teachers would say they would help me, but then they'd forget." And then there was the traffic: out of the house at 7.20am, gridlock on the way home, murder getting to sport on weekends.

So, she followed her older sister and brother to Whanganui Collegiate School. "It's a smaller school, and you get to know people from all over New Zealand and every different country. I can talk to the teachers and I'm not scared to tell them I need help. And I'm really into my sport: especially the football 1st XI and cox for the U16 girls' rowing."

Eloise's mum, Sarah, says other parents can be puzzled by the decision, but "We want more for our children than schooling. We want values-based education for the whole child for their whole life. All private schools promise that, but the Collegiate experience really delivers it. Of course I miss them, but we talk and text and see them frequently, either at School or at home. In any case, I think teenagers benefit from time away from their parents—it helps develop independence—and they are in a healthier environment: away from inappropriate social activity that can be hard to avoid in Auckland with peer pressure and too much spare time." "I was a bit homesick the first night," says Eloise, "but then I was so busy with everything that it was great to be back in the House for a good night's sleep. I enjoy school so much."



WAYNE BROWN

WCS Headmaster
Whanganui

We will know your child

"Everyone, I'm sure, has moments when things come together in ways that couldn't be predicted. The opportunity to become Headmaster at Whanganui Collegiate School was such a moment for me. At a personal level, it enabled Alycia and I to bring our children home to Whanganui, where Alycia grew up and where her family are. That itself is a blessing. But as well—professionally—it is the meeting of two educational pathways: my own journey and the long and illustrious thoroughfare that is Whanganui Collegiate School.

"The landscape around us has changed considerably since 1854 when Whanganui Collegiate School was founded, but as we traverse the 21st century our purpose remains unchanged: developing good people. We've all heard it said, 'What kind of planet are we leaving our children?' but my question is 'What kind of children are we leaving our planet?' At this School the development of character is at the forefront of everything we do. We know that if we are values-led; if we challenge, nurture and support our students and develop their sense of accountability and responsibility and of compassion and kindness, then they will make better decisions in life.

"But what about learning?" you say. How will you encourage my child to excel? Well, that's about the way we teach. Every child is different—each child learns differently—and so the quality of the learning depends on the quality of the relationship we form. And so my answer to you, on behalf of Whanganui Collegiate School, is that we will know your child. And we will join you, working in partnership, to prepare them for their future, inspiring excellence and their development as good people."







JACOBIE ABSOLOM

WCS student
Hawke's Bay

You're with your friends all of the time

"At first, I didn't want to go," says Jacobie. "because I wouldn't know anybody and so I was worried about leaving home and my Hereworth friends. But my Dad and his three brothers went to Collegiate like my grandfather and great-grandfather and he wanted me to have the same experience". Jacobie is from Hawke's Bay, where his family has been breeding bulls for four generations.

"But as soon as I arrived, it was okay. I had my roommate—we're really good friends now—and the older boys in the House are looking out for you. And straight away all the Year 9 boys in my dorm were going around doing things together. I was phoning my parents maybe three times a week at first, but soon it was much less often and my parents and grandparents are always coming over throughout the term to watch me play sport.

"The Cricket Academy is so good. There are just three of us in a group with the coach and he's watching what you're doing, encouraging you and showing you how to improve, teaching you new ways. It's the same on the academic side: you're with others of the same ability and you get the personal attention you need.

"What you learn is how to be away from home. I don't know what I'm going to do yet, in my life, but I know it won't be back on the farm. My younger brother is interested in that, but not me.

"So, I'd tell others to choose boarding at Collegiate because it's not like when I was a day boy at prep school. You don't go home after school. You're with your friends all the time."



JANE LOVE

WCS Matron (Harvey House)
Whanganui

A special privilege to be part of these boys' lives

"I'm the Matron of Harvey, one of the boys' Houses. I have my own flat in the House and the boys know I'm here for them if they want to talk about something. Sometimes a new boy might be missing home a bit and I'll make him a hot chocolate and help him feel better.

"Mostly, of course, it's day-to-day stuff. Making sure they are up in the mornings and have made their beds. Got everything they need for the day. Mending things. Putting on a plaster, taking them to the doctor. Just like their mother would do for them.

"But part of the job is instilling standards: the behaviour we expect. Things like showing respect, and giving time to others, not just thinking about themselves. Boys like boundaries. Of course, they'll always test them, but they like to know where they stand. Sometimes, I'll see from the body language that something's not right and I'll quietly let them know that I'm willing to listen. Slowly they'll open up and we can resolve whatever is the problem.

"I've been here fifteen years now and I think it's a special privilege to be part of these boys' lives. We form a special bond. I'm always sad when they leave, but it's wonderful if I meet them later: they'll come up to me in the street and give me a big hug. They're always pleased to see me."





ANGELA WU

WCS student
Taiwan

People get to know me through my music

"I remember my very first violin lesson. I was about seven and I was so excited that I was jumping up and down in the car. My mum couldn't calm me down!" Angela was already studying piano and it wasn't long before she was playing flute as well. "I'm still learning all three, but flute is my favourite."

Angela is from Taipei, Taiwan. When she arrived at Whanganui Collegiate School for Year 9, she spoke no English and there was no one else at School who spoke her language. "It was really hard at first, learning the language, keeping up with what people were saying. But the girls in my House were so good: they don't judge by your outside. My year group is the best!

"The music tutors here are amazing. They give a lot of their own time to be sure we get good results and last year one of my tutors arranged for the second violinist of the New Zealand String Quartet to give us coaching. The year before we had a famous pianist, Jian Liu.

"I'm now part of the student leadership programme at School and I asked the Head of the Music Department if I could take charge of the orchestra, because I had some suggestions about how we can make the orchestra better. The answer was 'Yes' and now we are all playing the same rhythm, the same melody and we finally sound like we are playing the same piece.

"In my future I want to be a dentist and maybe I'll teach music as well. But now, music is who I am. People know me for my playing and get to know who I am through my music. It's an international language. And if I'm thinking of home, I can just sit and play the piano and it takes me home: home in Taiwan with my parents."



ED, KIRSTY, SAM, LILY, AND MONTY SHERRIFF

WCS Old Boy, current students and future student
Marion

Producing great kids

A disproportionate number of top CEOs grew up in regional towns, the University of Sydney Business School found. As one of the CEOs they identified put it, "Life in the country is really down to earth. You learn to engage with people no matter where they're from and what they're doing."

No surprises there for Ed Sherriff, who runs Pine Park—a 600ha sheep and beef stud near Marton in the Rangitikei. "The ability to get on with other people is fundamental to success, no matter what you do. Above all, that's what Kirsty and I want for our children. We are not pushy parents, but we do want them to do well and we expect them to try their best."

Two of their children, Sam and Lilly, are at Whanganui Collegiate School and Monty will follow when he finishes at Huntley. "We didn't look at other schools: Collegiate just pulled us in," says Ed, and even though Whanganui is just half an hour away, both Sam and Lilly board. "It's good for them to board. There's this idea that you go to school to learn, but actually they learn more from being in their House, and playing sport. I think every kid should play a team sport and at Collegiate sport's compulsory. Sport teaches them it's not all about them: it's about doing your best and winning depends on everyone playing their part."

"It's character building," says Ed. "Sam and Lilly are doing well in the classroom and Sam's passionate about cricket and rugby—Collegiate punches above its weight in sport— but really it's all preparation for the realities of life. At Collegiate, they learn how to cope with what comes at them and to get along with others. That's why it's a tradition in our family: Collegiate produces great kids."







Photo: WCS students cycle past the Whanganui welcome sign

“A grammar school of the highest value and best possible kind”



Whanganui Collegiate School's own journey began in 1854. New Zealand was being colonised: Britons were being promised a new beginning in a new land. Whanganui, “at the mouth of one great river”, was the site of a New Zealand Company settlement and Governor George Grey thought it was, “desirable that a great grammar school should be established there”: one that would offer “education of the highest possible kind.”

Of course, Māori had lived along and travelled that great river—Te Awa o Whanganui—for over 800 years before then. In mythology, the Whanganui River follows the path carved by Taranaki when Tongariro banished him to the coast and today is recognised in law as “an indivisible and living whole, incorporating all its physical and meta-physical elements”. It is a mecca for canoeists, cyclists, hikers and day-trippers, keen to connect—perhaps reconnect—with New Zealand's natural beauty and history.

Whanganui itself is home to 40,000 people: big enough to be interesting, small

enough to represent the best of New Zealand. Whanganui has everything you need for a good life: successful businesses, a vibrant arts and cultural scene—the Sarjeant Gallery is nationally significant—interesting architecture, funky cafés, a relatively warm and dry climate, the lake, the beach, the river.

Traffic jams are unlikely and the airport is just 8 mins away. Wellington is an easy, 2½ hour drive (or you can take the InterCity bus) and there are three return flights a day from Auckland on an Air Chathams' 34 seater SAAB340. At the beginning and end of every term, Whanganui Collegiate School runs its own bus to and from Hawke's Bay. And there are excellent accommodation options when you come to visit for School events.

Whanganui has changed a lot since 1854. But the river is still here. And here too stands Governor Grey's grammar school: “of the highest value and best possible kind”...just as he imagined.

SARAH CAUGHLEY

Past WCS Parent
Wellington

Actions and consequences

Ask Sarah Caughley to tell you the story of Matron throwing her son George's clothes out the window. "It reminded me of Celia Lashlie," she says, referring to the author of *He'll Be OK*, widely considered the 'bible' on raising teenage boys.

Before she'd heard of Celia Lashlie, Sarah thought she was doing the right thing by her children. "I just thought my parents were so strict: we couldn't leave the table if we hadn't eaten everything on our plates. So, with my children, if they didn't want to eat it, they didn't have to. It was only later I understood that boys need boundaries."

One night the police brought George home. Soon after, despite being in the A stream at a highly regarded Wellington school and a boy who'd been assessed as one of the brightest in Australasia, he failed NCEA Level 2.

"He needed a new start and we told him he could choose any school out of Wellington. I really couldn't believe it when he chose Collegiate: I said, 'It's so traditional: there're hundreds of rules!'. And yet when the Headmaster told George he wouldn't be giving the cross country a miss, because it was compulsory, George sat up straight in his seat and said, 'I think I'll give it a go'.

"It was just the best thing. He was so happy there. He loved the structure. The House system. The teachers absolutely got him. He achieved Level 2 and 3 in one year. Played 1st XI Cricket and 1st XV rugby. And he adored Matron. He thought it hilarious that rather than tidy his room, she just threw all his stuff out the window. He certainly got the message: actions have consequences."





MAX CROWLEY

WCS student
Wellington

Boarding is awesome



I was a day boy at a Wellington school, a boys' school, but I felt like a change would be good... give another school a go." says Max Crowley. "Mum wasn't too keen when I said Whanganui Collegiate, but I love the idea of boarding, and I love being in Whanganui: you're surrounded by your mates 24/7 and there's always something to do.

"Sport's big at Collegiate. There's a lot of resources. I've always loved my rugby and I'm focusing on that, but I'm also into basketball and athletics. And I love surfing and skiing: you can get a leave pass and Ohakune's an easy drive after rugby.

"The academic's all good: I'm getting 'With Excellence', which is cool because I want to go to Canterbury and do Engineering and you need good

grades, especially in Physics and Calculus. It's easy to get help because the teachers are around after school and your peers too. You can just ask.

"Turns out I really like the co-ed. You realise girls aren't strange: you learn to talk to them and they're like friends and sisters. They're not a distraction in the class. I'd say the integration with boys and girls is more free.

"So, yeah, boarding is awesome. You're on the school site, so everything's right there and you're in your House, so the other boys are almost your brothers. I think you learn how to be better around people and you make friends for life.

"Oh, and Mum's okay now. She can see it was the right choice."



CHRIS BUCKLEY

WCS teacher
Whanganui



Discipline is expectations

"Before heading to university to do a commerce degree, and then working for a company in Auckland, I had a gap year in the U.K. as a tutor at a prep school. At the time, it was just a way of getting to England, but I looked back later and realised I wanted to be a teacher. And now here I am.

"The reason I'm at Whanganui Collegiate School rather than some other school is because I have very firm ideas about what should be delivered by a school, and by a teacher. I don't see myself teaching the students economics...I'm teaching them how to succeed in the outside world. I've seen people who are brilliant academically—apparently well-educated—totally baffled by the consequences of their actions.

"You could call it discipline. I call it expectations. At the start of the year I tell the students that I expect

excellence; that I expect them to display the right attitude: a work ethic, respect, punctuality, social intelligence. We talk about how they are likely to have five or more careers in their lifetime, and that those are the qualities that will transcend all five.

"Having said that, being in the classroom has to be enjoyable as well. It's my job to take the curriculum and make it modern and relevant to them. Economics is about how the world works and so, for example, we're debating topics like how they would use the principles of economics to solve the housing crisis.

"One of the unique things about Collegiate is that many of the staff live on site and so the students have access to them outside the classroom. That's a huge benefit to their learning and development."



EMILY BOLT

WCS Old Girl

Auckland/Christchurch

Far more than facts and figures

"My sister Annabel came home after the first term, babbling on about all these amazing friends she'd made," says Emily Bolt. Auckland is home for Emily and her sisters, but when Annabel switched from their school there to Whanganui Collegiate School Emily soon followed.

"We saw an immediate change in her," says Emily. "She was more confident; she came into herself. Deciding to go to Collegiate was one of the best decisions I've made. The teachers inspired me: they had faith in me and my abilities. I used to be just 'all right' at English and now it's what I'm majoring in. They don't just focus on the top kids, they want everyone to do well and the smaller class sizes really help: they can tailor their teaching for the individual.

"It's the same with sport. At Collegiate, everyone has to play sport, whereas at my Auckland school they just focussed on the elite and if you didn't want to play you didn't have to, so I didn't. Now I realise just how important sport is: for staying healthy, clearing your mind; dealing with stress.

"Getting out of the Auckland lifestyle, living away from my parents, has given me confidence. I'm at University now and I know how to look after myself, how to manage my time and I'm comfortable trying new things. But, more than that, Collegiate has inspired me to become a teacher and that's what I'm studying for. What I experienced at Collegiate is that being a teacher is far more than facts and figures: it's about developing the individual."

PETER PRESTON

WCS Senior Master
Whanganui

Young adults of character

"You know, I see our students walking down The Drive, with their heads up, shoulders back, smiling, looking me in the eye, and I think, 'that's what it looks like'. At Whanganui Collegiate School we talk about children of promise becoming young adults of character, but how can we measure that? Simple: it shines in their eyes."

Almost half of Peter Preston's forty-year teaching career has been spent at School, twelve years as a Housemaster, followed by six as Senior Master, and for him the development of character, and leadership, and the instilling of values, is the primary purpose of education. "Talk to business leaders and they all say they want more people with leadership skills. Think about Kate Sheppard, fighting for equality for women: she'd be thrilled to meet our confident, accomplished, young women."

Peter will talk you through the specifics of the comprehensive Character and Leadership Development Programme—it starts in Year 9 and progresses through to Year 13. He'll tell you the day pupils are just as involved. "They're completely integrated into the Houses and they come in early or stay late to be part of everything."

But what he'll also tell you is that developing young adults of character permeates every aspect of School life. "Sport...of course we play to win, but there are some who think children shouldn't experience failure. In fact, it helps them learn you don't always win in life: they develop resilience. Our cultural programme develops confidence to speak and perform in public, Chapel teaches the importance of being of service to others. At Whanganui Collegiate School, development of character is happening 24/7."

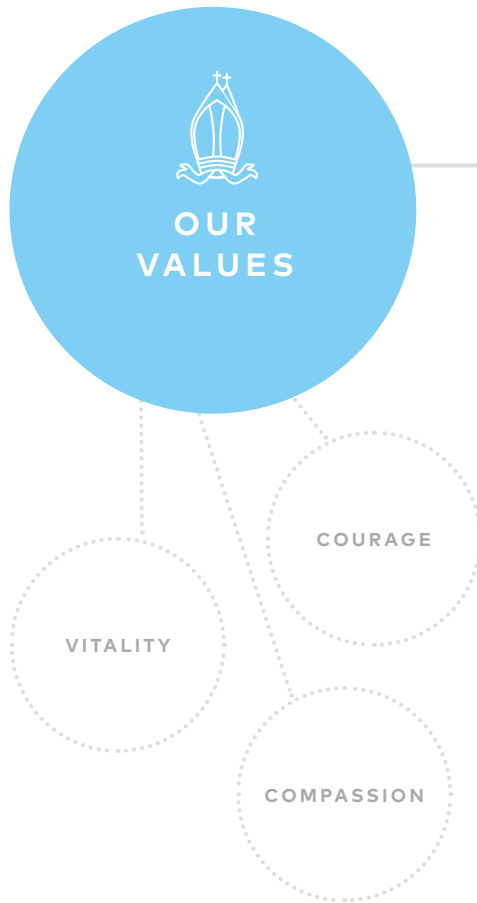








Plan your own journey



YOUR HOUSE

At Whanganui Collegiate School, everyone is part of a House: if you're living in, it's where you sleep, but for everyone, it's home base: where you and your tribe study, relax...and prepare for victory in the next Inter-House competition.



DAY STUDENT OR BOARDER

At Whanganui Collegiate School, you can live at home or you can live with us. Either way, you will participate in everything on offer and fully benefit from the Whanganui Collegiate experience.



OUR FIVE PILLARS

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT
CULTURAL ENRICHMENT
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS



CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

At Whanganui Collegiate School, we'll encourage you to think about more than just your own success: we'll expect you to grow and develop as a person: You'll attend Chapel, you'll learn to respect and care for others and to take responsibility for your actions.

TIKANGA MĀORI

At Whanganui Collegiate School, you'll learn about Māori culture and customs: including how to perform our haka and about waiata and powhiri.

You'll become a more confident New Zealander.





ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

At Whanganui Collegiate School, we'll help you plan a journey through secondary school that's right for you and will prepare you for university, for your career interests and your life.

Commerce

Accounting
Economics
Business Studies

English

Written Texts
Visual Texts
Media Studies

Humanities

History
Geography
Classical Studies

Languages

Spanish
Te Reo Māori

Mathematics

General
Calculus
Statistics

Performing Art

Drama
Music

Physical Education

Science

Biology
Chemistry
Physics

Technology

Materials
Product Design
Textiles

Visual Art

Design
Painting
Photography

Vocational Studies

Agriculture
Building
Engineering
Gateway
Star
U-Skills



LEARNING PATHWAYS

To prepare you for what follows Whanganui Collegiate School, we have created career learning pathways: connections with all New Zealand Universities, UCOL and the International Commercial Pilot Academy. Whether your future is in food production, or flying, in health or hospitality, science or engineering, these programmes will give you a head start on the next stage of your journey.

SPORTING PATHWAYS

At Whanganui Collegiate School, everyone plays sport and receives coaching. We think it is an essential part of growing up: it builds healthy bodies and minds, helps you become a good team player. And so we offer a wide range of winter and summer sports and have professional sports coaches to ensure you get the encouragement and skills training you need, whatever level you're at.

Athletics	Netball
Badminton	Rowing
Basketball	Rugby
Cricket	Sailing
Cross Country	Skiing
Cycling	Swimming
Football	Triathlon
Hockey	

PERFORMING PATHWAYS

At Whanganui Collegiate School, our mission is to prepare you for life: develop your confidence, your ability to work with others and your creativity. That's why we place so much emphasis on participation in the performing arts:

Music	Debating
Choir	Speech and Drama
Drama	

FIND OUT MORE

Learn more about Whanganui Collegiate School on our website www.collegiate.school.nz or call **06 349 0210** and ask for Admissions. We'll answer your questions, talk about fees, bursaries, send you more information and invite you to one of our Open Days. Every year in May we have a 'sleepover': the perfect way to experience the live-in educational experience at Whanganui Collegiate School.

Email: admissions@collegiate.school.nz



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