

2025



Prospectus



**Burnside
High School
Te Kura o
Waimairi-iri**



Nau mai, haere mai ki te Kura o Waimairi-iri Greetings and a very warm welcome to Burnside High School.

Burnside High School is a very successful and highly regarded school. We work hard to place you at the centre of everything we do, offering a wealth of opportunities in all aspects of your learning.

We provide a world-class education with a huge range of subject choices and opportunities that come from being one of New Zealand's largest schools, yet our unique divisional structure offers you the warmth and encouragement of a smaller peer group.

Each year Burnside High School students achieve among the top NCEA results in New Zealand. They regularly win scholarships, as well as local, regional, national and international competitions. Our staff have high standards for themselves and high expectations of the students in their care.

At Burnside we strive to develop well-rounded, confident young adults who are equipped for our modern and changing world. Our school has a culture where we won't rest until every student in our care is engaged and achieving. We believe that every student, every day, in every class deserves our very best effort and we strive to make sure that we live up to this expectation.

Burnside High School is a vibrant and lively school. We know that success can take many forms and all of these are valuable. Some of you will shine in the classroom, some on the sports field and some in the arts. Our emphasis



on delivering a broad and balanced education ensures that you can discover and follow your passion to experience success in any field.

While providing outstanding academic education is our core business, our strong focus on values-based education develops strong citizens who will flourish in both the local community and on the world stage. As a graduate of Burnside High School you will have a sense of community and service, and the ability to relate to and work with others, including those socially and culturally diverse.

We are proud that parents both locally and from around the world entrust us with the care and education of over 2600 young people every day. We know that a strong relationship between home and school significantly contributes to your success as a student, and we look forward to partnering with your family to make Burnside High School the place where you find your path.

Scott Haines
Tumuaki | Principal



Find Your Path Kitea tō ara

Embark on your journey at Burnside High School, where opportunities, connection, and excellence converge. Discover your place to belong, nurture your talents, and explore the endless possibilities that await. Find your path at Burnside.

Our students and staff are guided by the wairua (spirit) of the Tī Kōuka that stand on our grounds. Historically used as a guiding landmark by Māori and early European Travellers, the Tī Kōuka now symbolises the guiding of our students on their unique paths.

At Burnside, we believe in the power of potential. Our dedicated faculty and staff are committed to ensuring that every student finds their place, providing support, encouragement and the tools needed for success. Whether your passion lies in the sciences, the arts, technology, sports or community service, Burnside offers a diverse array of programmes to explore and excel in.

Discover your place among peers who share the same aspirations and enthusiasm for learning and achievement — this is a community where you truly belong, are valued and can thrive. At Burnside, we cultivate a welcoming inclusive school environment of mutual respect, inclusivity, and collaboration, enabling students to connect, grow, and learn from each other. Our vibrant community encourages students to embrace their individuality while fostering a sense of belonging and togetherness.

Find your path at Burnside, where your journey to excellence begins.



BHS values

We are led by our values

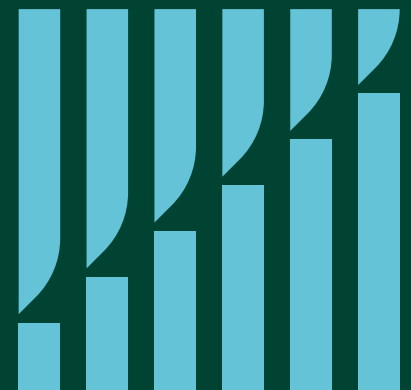
Bring respect
Manaakitanga



Have pride
Mana



Seek excellence
Rangatiratanga



Belong at Burnside

Our welcoming and inclusive school community is a place where everyone can belong. We are committed to providing a caring and nurturing environment where you are well supported through your learning journey, developing personal qualities and the confidence to excel in your chosen pathway in life.

Personal excellence and care for others

We celebrate diversity. It is our strength and a source of pride. It means that we respect, understand and celebrate the things that make each of us unique. By nurturing wellbeing and relationships, we create real connections with each other – by leaning into these we are supported to achieve personal excellence.

Staff work collaboratively to support and promote a sense of belonging and well-being in all students. We all contribute to a safe, inclusive environment where positive and supportive relationships exist among all students and their teachers.

Divisional structure

With more than two thousand six hundred students, Burnside High School is one of the largest schools in New Zealand, yet as a student you will be known and supported as an individual.

Our school is divided into four divisions. Teachers and other staff across these divisions get to know each of the

approximately 600 students in their division quickly on their arrival in Year 9. Students remain in the same division for four years, allowing the relationship between the divisional staff members and students in each division to grow stronger each year.

The benefits of our divisional structure are two-fold – you are able to reap all of the advantages and opportunities of a large school, while enjoying the sense of identity and security within a smaller peer group.

Student Support

Attention to the health and well-being of all students is of significant importance to ensure everyone is able to participate and engage in school activities to the best of their ability. This support and guidance builds a sense of belonging.

Your Support Network:

- Your divisional team follows your year group throughout your time at Burnside High School
- Our Counselling Team comprises five full-time Counsellors with Masters Degree qualifications in counselling, assisted and supported by Counselling Interns on placement working towards a Master of Counselling degree.
- Te Whare Akoranga, the Burnside High School's Learning Support Department is a student-focused learning hub, welcoming students who find learning challenging. This is where a number of programmes and supports are delivered. Our team consists of highly qualified and experienced teaching and support staff from a diverse range of backgrounds.



Celebrate our bicultural heritage

Mauri ora ki te rangi, mauri ora ki te whenua, mauri ora ki a tātou katoa! Anēi mātou ngā whānau o te Kura o Waimāiri-iri, i raro i te maru o Kāi Tūāhuriri me Kāi Tahu whānui e.

Life to the sky, life to the land, life to all of us. Here we are the Waimāiri-iri whānau, under the shelter of Kai Tūāhuriri and the wider Kāi Tahu.

At Burnside High School we integrate Te Ao Māori into our curriculum and learning environment, including a Year 9 cross curricular Turangawaewae theme, ki-o-rahi and a trip to Te Puna Wānaka marae at Ara Pukenga that includes a hikoī to experience Christchurch’s cultural narrative. Te Reo classes and kapahaka are available to all students at all levels. We are proud participants of regional kapahaka competitions as well as the Manu Kōrero competition.

Kia mau a Waimairi-iri ki te hirahira tō Aotearoa tikanga ahurea e rua. E whakauru ana Te Ao Maori ki te matauranga me te akoranga, apiti atu ki tenei, ko te akomanga Tūrangawaewae mā te tau iwa, ko te hakinakina o ki-o-rahi, ko te haerenga ki te marae o Te Puna Wānaka i Ara Pukenga me te hikoī ki te wheako i nga kōrero ahurea o Ōtautahi. E wātea ana te reo Maori me te kapahaka mō nga tau katoa. A, kei te tautoko rawa matou i nga whakataetae kapahaka o Waitaha, i te Manu Kōrero hoki.



“Te manu e kai i te miro, nōnā te ngāhere. Te manu e kai i te mātauranga, nōnā te ao.

The bird that eats the miro berry owns the forest.
The bird that partakes of education owns the world.”



Reach your potential

Burnside High School has earned the reputation as one of the top academic schools in the country with students, past and present, being at the forefront of academic success.

There is a culture of success at our school which recognises students at all levels achieving to their potential whilst working towards customised and planned learning goals. We aim to have each student leave Burnside with qualifications that will enable them to successfully enter life beyond school either in employment or tertiary study.

All students are expected to develop career plans linked to their studies and qualifications, and our mission is to provide a safe, positive and inclusive learning environment where you can attain the knowledge, skills and personal qualities to experience success on your path.

Curriculum

Students have a wide range of options available to them at each level, largely due to our size. This begins with a broad range of core and option classes in Year 9, and leads towards a recommended five option classes in Year 13. Each of the eight curriculum areas are represented by high level courses and expert teachers who are specialists in their teaching area.

Learning Support

Individual learning support is provided for students with specific learning needs. The Learning Center is able to provide specialist reading tuition, assistance with correspondence courses, tutoring in a range of subjects, catch-up opportunities for students who have been off school for a period of time, provision for special assessment conditions and a myriad of other opportunities.

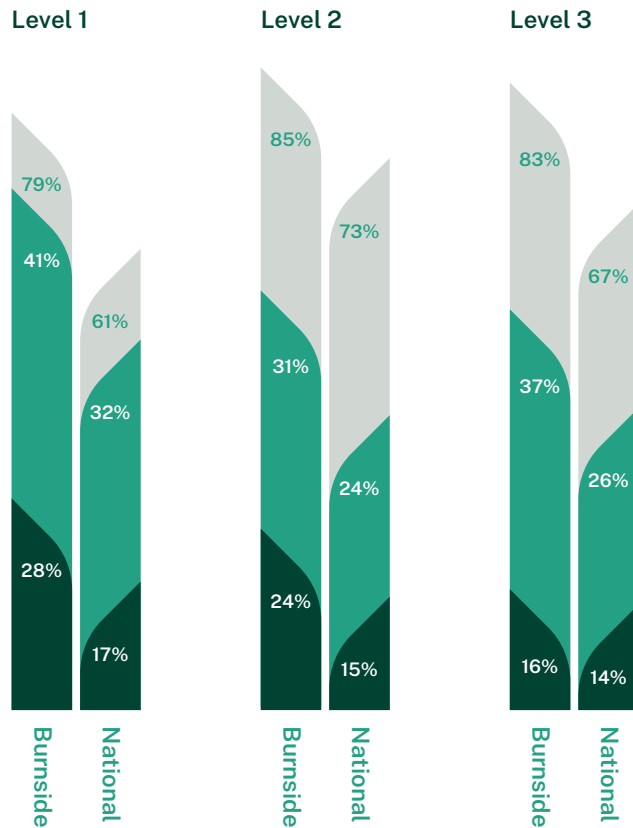
English for Speakers of Other Languages

Students with English as a second language receive personal support in the ESOL Department where English language tuition is offered. Trained language teachers help students develop the skills they need in order to thrive in the school community and in everyday life.



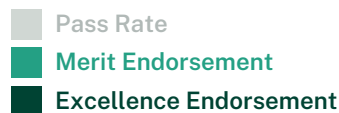


2023 NCEA Outcomes



Academic Achievement

At Burnside, our school values encourage students to have pride in their work and strive to excel in all areas of their learning. We see this commitment reflected each year in our NCEA results which are always far above National averages, and over half of our Year 13 students passing Level 3 with an Excellence or Merit Endorsement. We are also regularly in the top ranked schools in the city in our Scholarship results, with 51 in 2023, of which 8 were at Outstanding level.



Unleash your creativity

The Creative Arts are more than just extracurricular activities – they’re an integral part of our curriculum, fostering innovation, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Creativity is an important part of the Creative Arts programme at Burnside High School. The opportunities are vast and varied from designing to performing, devising, choreographing, and composing. Through timetable classes co-curricular and extracurricular activities, students from all levels are encouraged to participate in developing and expressing themselves creatively in Drama, Dance and the Visual Arts.

Our dedicated faculty members inspire students to push boundaries and think outside the box, whether they’re studying Visual Arts, Drama or Dance. Within our programmes, students develop collaborative skills and the confidence to create new and innovative performances and visual work. We also offer an extensive extracurricular programme that includes:

Drama

Students can partake in Theatresports, Canterbury and National Shakespeare Festivals and of course Drama Club, which performs a show each year for the community to enjoy.

Dance

In the Dance Academy programme both juniors and seniors work tirelessly for regional and national competitions, with titles annually.

Arts

Our Visual Arts students compete in competitions and take part in exhibitions that allow them to sell their work to the general public. We also offer a huge variety of clubs and arts-related groups for students to engage in.

“Whatever your interests, passions, and curiosity, there is no restriction on your creativity at Burnside High School”

Linh Nguyen, Year 13



Nurture your talents

Burnside High School is committed to providing a sports programme that accommodates the varied interests of our diverse student body. With a broad array of sporting activities on offer, encompassing both traditional sports and modern disciplines, every student has the opportunity to engage in the physical activities they enjoy.

On average, there are 40 different sports available at various skill levels, allowing you to participate on a social sport level or represent your school in competitions throughout the year. Our New Zealand Roll of Honour is extensive and varied, with a large number of our students representing New Zealand in their chosen fields.

You will be encouraged to pursue your goals in our inclusive sports environment. Participation in sport will offer the opportunity to excel in your chosen activity and form lasting friendships. We are dedicated to supporting both recreational participants and high-performing, competition level athletes, ensuring every student can find their place in our sports community.

For further information on each sport, please visit the BHS Sporty page: <https://www.sporty.co.nz/burnsidehigh/>

“Burnside High School sporting opportunities are immense. We cover a vast range of sports that enable everyone to have the opportunity and get involved not only at a competitive level but to also develop new connections with new people and create valuable friendships throughout their years at Burnside.”

Natalie, Sports Leader, Year 13





Follow your rhythm

Burnside High School has a well-deserved reputation for excellence in Music. The co-curricular music programme is large and diverse, with an emphasis on achieving the very highest possible musical standards. The opportunities for you to pursue your musical passions are endless.

Music Programmes

A wide range of music courses are available at every level, including a unique Performance Music option for year nine, and the option to study Cambridge Music at GCSE, AS and Advanced level in senior years. As well as the full-time music staff, we also benefit from a large team of visiting itinerant teachers who provide specialist tuition in a variety of instruments.

Our young musicians are provided with outstanding experiences and students regularly achieve outstanding success in competitions and festivals such as The Big Sing, NZ Essential Jazz Band Competition, Jazz Quest, Aurora Festival, Rockquest and The NZCT Schools' Chamber Music Contest.

Each year many Burnside High School musicians successfully audition for nationally selected groups such as the NZSO National Youth Orchestra, New Zealand Youth Jazz Orchestra, New Zealand Secondary Schools' Choir, New Zealand Youth Choir and New Zealand Secondary Schools' Symphony Orchestra.

Specialist Music Programme (SMP)

The SMP is designed to cater for students with considerable experience and talent as musicians. The students are selected to partake in the programme by audition.

The programme is unique within New Zealand and offers the highest possible standard of musical education and opportunities. As an SMP student you maintain a focus on music throughout your time at high school, however you follow the same timetable and have the same subject options available as other students.

Major scholarships have been awarded to our SMP students entering tertiary music education in recent years by institutions such as the YST Conservatory (Singapore), Sydney Conservatory, Royal College of Music (London), North Texas University (USA) and the New Zealand School of Music (Wellington).





“The Music Department at Burnside High School is one of a kind. The teachers are passionate about giving students invaluable opportunities to cultivate their skills and develop a lifelong love for music. There are numerous musical groups to get involved in and collaborate with other like-minded young musicians and, for those that want to take their music to the very highest level, the Specialist Music Programme (SMP) provides a unique opportunity to do exactly that.”

Chloe, Year 12



“Environmental club is a place where students and staff work together to bring back New Zealand’s diverse ecosystem, one plant at a time. From planting trees around our forest Te Uru, to picking up rubbish around school, our community is as strong as ever and determined to make a difference.”

Ella, Year 13



Discover Opportunities

Burnside High School offers a variety of clubs, teams, and organisations that allow students to explore interests beyond the classroom, develop new skills, and form lasting friendships. The launchpad to pursue success starts here.

Music

Aurora Voices
(Yr 9 & 10)
Bel Canto (Yr 11-13)
Big Band
Chamber Music
Chamber Music
Ensembles
Funk Band
Jazz Combos
Jnr. Concert Band
Jnr. Contemporary
Band
Jnr. Guitar group
Jnr. Jazz Band
Jnr. Percussion
Ensemble
Jnr. Performance
Choir
Jnr. Rock Band
Jnr. String Orchestra
Magna Voce Choir
(Yr 11-13)
Orchestra
Snr. Contemporary
Band
Symphonic Band

Sports

Archery
Athletics
Badminton
Basketball
Canoe Polo
Cricket
Cross Country &
Road Race
Cycling
Disc Golf
Equestrian
Fencing
Football
Futsal
Golf
Gymsports
Hockey
Ice Hockey
Ki-o-rahi
Korfball
Lawn Bowls
Mountain Biking
Multisport (Duo/Tri)
Netball
Orienteering

Pistol Shooting

Powerlifting
Rowing
Rugby
Snow Sports
Squash
Surfing
Swimming
Table Tennis
Tennis
Touch Rugby
Ultimate Frisbee
Volleyball
Wall Climbing
Water Polo

Clubs

Burnside
Environment Group
BHS Rocketry
Book Club
Dance Academy
Debating
EPro8 and DnD club
Esports/Gaming
Frisbee Golf
It's My Move

Knitting

Pasifika
Philosophy Club
Programming Club
Rainbow Club
Robotics Club
SADD Students
Against Dangerous
Driving
Science and
Technology Club
Showquest
Spirit of Adventure
Student writing
group
Sustainability
Council
Theatresports Club
The Duke of
Edinburgh's
International Award
Unfazed Christian
group
United Nations Youth
Whaikōngi Karapu
Chess Club
World Scholars Cup
World Vision

Make global connections

There are numerous advantages to pursuing your education abroad, and Burnside High School is dedicated to tailoring a study programme that aligns to your unique needs and goals.

Our International programme is well established and run by dedicated and experienced specialist staff. We cultivate a welcoming and inclusive school community where you can find a place to belong in an environment where everyone respects diversity.

We offer abundant opportunities for both personal growth and academic achievement, and provide academic and pastoral support to all of our International students with a focus on pathways to tertiary study.

Our International programme provides:

- Support from Youth Workers, International Student Support Prefects and Deans
- Access to over 220 academic courses (Y9-13)
- A comprehensive ESOL Department – Foundation to English for Academic Purposes.
- Academic monitoring
- Connections to the University of Canterbury
- A wide range of cultural, sporting and recreational activities.



Build skills for the future

Burnside High School's emphasis on future focussed skills, particularly in digital technologies and information technology (IT), reflects our forward-thinking approach to education.

Our curriculum is designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to participate and succeed in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. We offer an extensive range of subjects in digital technologies and computer science, covering basic computer literacy through to more specialised areas such as coding, software development, digital design and electronics.

We place emphasis on the importance of digital literacy for each individual student, so you can reach your full potential and excel in the modern world.

IT Facilities

Our dedicated computer labs with up-to-date hardware and software allow students to practice skills, work on projects and explore the latest in digital technologies.

We cater to a range of subjects that utilise modern technology – Art and Design, DVC, Music and Maths classes all have specialist computers, computer rooms and software.

For advanced Digital and Electronics subjects, we have invested in specialised equipment and software, such as 3D printers, robotics kits, and design programmes. This enables students to explore innovative technologies and creative projects with advanced, fit for purpose technology.

BYOD

Burnside High School adopts a blended e-learning approach to teaching and learning. We seamlessly integrate technology into the classroom allowing for a more personalised learning experience. Our blended approach ensures that students are always ready to engage with digital learning resources, both in and out of the classroom.



Explore our campus

Burnside High School is situated on an attractively landscaped 16 hectare site, providing high quality indoor and outdoor learning spaces and a place for everyone to belong.

Our facilities effectively meet the diverse and changing learning needs of our students. We have specialist rooms fit for purpose including well equipped areas for Music, Art, Drama, Dance and Languages. Science and Technology will be operating out of our newest state of the art and purpose built block, Pukehinau.

The gymnasium complex comprises two gyms, a weights room, physical education classrooms and spacious changing facilities. High quality playing fields, a hard court turf and a newly constructed 25 metre outdoor heated pool also give our sports people a place to excel outdoors.

We have a designated Whare, and a meeting place for Pasifika students, that ensures students can express and practise their cultures and feel a sense of belonging.

Aurora Centre

The Aurora Centre is a 229sqm state of the art, multi-purpose venue designed for the presentation of a wide range of activities. The venue complex is air-conditioned and contains a large auditorium, meeting and functions room, dressing rooms and foyer areas. The auditorium accommodates 700 people in ergonomically designed, tiered seating.



A school's facilities are not just structures, they are the foundation for a successful and enriching learning journey.





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