

Rotorua Girls High School PROSPECTUS



2017

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Each student at Rotorua Girls High School will attain academic, cultural and social goals, which truly reflect individual capabilities, interests, and maximise her future choices. On leaving school, each student will value herself positively as a woman and will possess the potential to enhance the status of women in society.

Our Vision

Our young women are leaders in the global environment.

Our Mission

To create a connected culture of Excellence

Our Values

T - The willingness to learn:
RESILIENCE

E - Engaging to achieve:
INTEGRITY

A - Always shows respect:
RESPECT

O - Offers to serve: EMPATHY

Our Principles

The foundations of our curriculum decision-making are:

- Innovate through personalised learning
- Engage through powerful partnership
- Inspire through deep challenge and inquiry



“Academic achievement is of course a priority here at Rotorua Girls High, and it is evident in the classroom that every teacher wants every student to achieve to the best of their ability. The teachers here teach with so much passion and energy, and the lessons are always

very interactive, making learning more pleasant. In addition, there are many extra opportunities available to extend personal learning, such as ICAS exams and other subject related competitions.”

Chantelle Cobby, Year 13



every girl counts

“ We are proud of our school which has challenged and supported young women since 1959. All the girls who attend our school are encouraged to believe in themselves and their ability to succeed. Leadership is an important issue for us and we provide many opportunities for our young women to experience this. Rotorua Girls High embraces the challenges of the 21st Century to support our girls to become creative, critical and caring thinkers and confident resilient young women



Rotorua Girls High has a tradition of academic excellence and crafting remarkable leaders of the future. Our history of academic excellence reiterates the calibre of the young women who have understood that Rotorua Girls High School is the school of choice. We have nurtured the development of Olympic athletes and our alumni are leaders in their respective fields. Our vision of excellence is inspired by dedicated classroom teachers and personalised learning environments, that meet the aspirations of students, their families and ultimately society.

Our young women are the heart of our school and core values underpin an innovative and vibrant learning environment. Our young women are respectful and caring. They are challenged to achieve. It is not a question of **if** you are intelligent, it is a matter of **how** you are intelligent - Rotorua Girls High is the school of choice!

A. Gibbons

We actively offer:

- **EXCELLENCE** in the four cornerstones of learning -- Academic, Leadership, Culture and Sporting endeavours
- A **RIGOROUS** and challenging academic environment
- A safe, caring, friendly and disciplined **ENVIRONMENT** conducive to learning
- **EXCELLENT** facilities
- A full **PASTORAL** programme that encourages leadership, citizenship and participation.
- **POSITIVE** and respectful relationships
- **EXCELLENT** Teachers are skilled, inspirational and friendly. They focus on interacting with students individually and as a group.
- A **GROWING** number of personalised programmes
- **INNOVATIVE** pupil centred learning.
- A full **SPORTING** and cultural programme
- **Bicultural PARTNERSHIP**



Achievement and Learning

We pride ourselves on our ability to cater for the academic needs of all students by offering innovation and flexibility within our curriculum. We offer creative and innovative subjects alongside traditional subjects.

Innovative Curriculum

Students have five periods per day, over a six-day cycle. Senior students also have one double period every six days for each subject in order to support and extend their learning. We offer the traditional English, Maths, Science, Physical Education and Social Science subjects along with vibrant Technology and Arts options such as Dance, Drama, Fine Arts, and Music.

Students are fostered into adopting a love of life-long learning. This is achieved by placing emphasis on the development of skills such as Literacy, Numeracy and ICT across all subjects.

Junior Students

Students are placed in mixed ability classes. In Year 9 they complete a core programme which includes a range of subjects from every curriculum area. This allows for each student to work towards their Foundation Certificate of National Achievement (FCEA). Students in Year 10 follow a core programme and can select options as they work towards the Junior Certificate of National Achievement (JCEA). This programme enables students to become familiar with the process of gathering credits towards a qualification and be better prepared for Year 11.

Year 9 Future Focused Learning Class

Students are posed real life problems which they are supported to explore and research. They have an integrated approach where Maths, Science, Social

Studies and English are interwoven into a Project-based learning method. Their learning provides them with the understanding of their local, national and international context from a safe and supported environment. They must consider how they can contribute to positive solutions, participating in designing their own projects around a “wicked problem” as innovative, creative 21st Century thinkers.

They will be involved in two Learning Fairs where students showcase their design projects.

Senior Students

Students can choose from an extensive range of courses leading to credits at National Certificate in Educational Achievement (NCEA) level 1, 2 and 3. These courses have been carefully crafted so that students have the right skills for their chosen future pathways.

Deliberate Strategies to Increase Academic Success:

- Academic planning and mentoring
- Bay of Plenty Trades Academy
- Gateway
- Alternative Education
- Vertical Whanau classes for Pastoral Support

Honour Society

Is made up of invited students who achieve an NCEA Certificate endorsed with either Merit or Excellence in the preceding year. These students choose a Mentor (Teacher), with whom they will meet throughout the year, to discuss their ongoing academic achievement.

Gifted and Talented Students

(GATE) Students are identified during the enrolment process and during their time at Rotorua Girls High. They are mentored and coached to embrace academic, cultural, sporting, performing arts and leadership opportunities.

Accelerate students

Students follow an enrichment programme. All Year 9 and Year 10 students also take part in the Accelerate Mentoring Programme which includes goal setting for academic, cultural and sporting endeavours at school. A Student Portfolio is also constructed including their own Curriculum Vitae, and students are encouraged to get involved with a range of leadership opportunities that will come available at various times throughout the school calendar.

Support for students

Learning support is given to students with learning difficulties. A Junior Multi Literacy Programme and a Senior Mentoring Programme are two strategies used to enhance literacy achievement and to generate confidence in students.

Foreign language students - English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) classes are available to girls from non-English speaking backgrounds. Students can study towards ESOL unit standards at NCEA Level 2 or 3.



Arts and Cultural Achievement



We strive to provide excellent Arts and Cultural opportunities at Rotorua Girls High. Students have the opportunity to study dance, drama, Maori Performing Arts, Music as well as Fine Arts such as painting, design and photography.

EXCELLENCE in Opportunities:

Including but not limited to:

- Performing Arts and our joint school productions with Rotorua Boys High
- Drama - Regional and National Shakespeare competitions
- Raukura - joint Kapa Haka
- The Great Debates
- Pacific Island Group
- ICAS exams
- Model United Nations Assembly
- Music
- CreationFest
- Talent Quest
- Maths Mind
- Exchanges
- Stage Challenge
- Cactus
- OneChance Youth Project
- Uniformed Services

EXCELLENCE in Performing Arts:

Raukura

With Rotorua Boys High, we have won the Regional Secondary Schools Kapa Haka Competition in 2009, 2011 and 2013. At the National Competition in 2010 and 2014 we were runners up.

Stage Challenge

Rotorua Girls High won Stage Challenge in 2015. We have previously won three other regional Stage Challenge competitions and come runner-up in 2010 and third in 2012, 2014 and 2016.

Production

School Productions are held each year with Rotorua Boys High. Jesus Christ Superstar, Passengers, Aida and The Wiz are some of the most recent shows.





An Inclusive Supportive Learning Environment

Every girl counts - Every student is respected, challenged and inspired. We care about students from all cultures and backgrounds and ensure each one leaves as an empowered young woman. The total well-being of all students is paramount here at Rotorua Girls High.

Here at Rotorua Girls High you will find a strong community feel about the school including:

- Warm relationships with teachers.
- Teachers encouraging you to gain all the NCEA credits you need.
- Small whanau groups where you develop close relationships with students and your tutor.
- Close mentoring.
- Learning dialogues where you share your learning with your family.
- Individual counselling for personal issues available at all times.
- Careers advice available at all times.
- Families always welcome in the school.

WE BELIEVE that you learn best when you feel valued and are actively engaged in your learning.

Warm, positive relationships between teachers, students and whanau are essential for learners to thrive.

You will:

- Know what you are learning and why.
- Connect your learning to real life situations.
- Have multiple opportunities to build on your existing knowledge.
- Examine and use new knowledge.
- Have time to reflect on your learning.

Wellness Centre

Our onsite wellness centre offers students confidential advice from the centre coordinator, school nurse, guidance counsellor, visiting GPs, drug and alcohol counsellors, adolescent health nurse, psychologist and youth worker.

eVolcanics

Rotorua Girls High supplements onsite support with learning opportunities through the eVolcanics (Virtual Learning Network) with students enjoying subjects such as Japanese, French and Web Design.

Alternative Education

The school also caters for alternative education, disabled students and operates the Rotorua School for Young Parents.

Academic Planning

All students meet with their whanau teacher and parents/caregivers to discuss academic achievement, attendance and career options.

“The question is not **if** you are bright, but **how** you are bright.”

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Crafting Remarkable Leaders of the Future



Jordyn Tereu - Head Girl (left), Awatea Leach - Deputy Head Girl (middle), Chantelle Cobby - Deputy Head Girl (far left) with Principal Ally Gibbons

Throughout our time at Rotorua Girls High School we have been supported and given so many opportunities to develop into the empowered young women we are today.

Our school's community environment is guided by the values of our Te Arawa ancestress Te Aokapurangi.

The four values, which our school embodies, are The Willingness to Learn, Engaging to Achieve, Always show Respect and Offers to Serve.

It has been an honour and privilege to lead the junior students and our peers. Rotorua Girls High has helped us find our strengths and passions and the staff have always found ways to help us flourish as individuals.

Being a student leader has been one of the many highlights for us during our years at the school.

No matter where you fit across our four cornerstones of leadership, sporting academic and cultural achievement, there will always be opportunities for you to improve and excel.

We are proud to say that we are Rotorua Girls High School students and are grateful for the experiences we have had here.

The school has set us up to be leaders in the global environment.

We will leave school with many fond memories. We will never forget our years at Rotorua Girls High School and the many connections we have made with staff and students alike.

Jordyn Tereu, Chantelle Cobby and Awatea Leach

Leadership Opportunities

Students are encouraged to explore and accept leadership opportunities. Elected positions held by our senior girls include: Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl, Academic Captain, Arts Captain, House Captains, Sports Captain as well as the chair of the student council, Kahui Rangatahi and CATCH committee.

Representatives from both junior and senior school make up a number of committees, chaired by elected senior students.

Student Council and Kahui Rangatahi meet regularly to share student opinions on school matters, and are involved in fundraising. They give support to local and national community appeals.

Year 13 Students take part in a leadership camp which prepares them for the leadership positions as well as trains them to lead the peer support programme.

CATCH committee gives opportunities to students to share their own culture with others.



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Marina Tahana-Beazley, 2016 New RGHS Record Holder for Senior Javelin and in 2015 New RGHS Record Holder for Intermediate Shot Put, Javelin and Discus.

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Excellence in Sport and Outdoor Education



Sport and Outdoor education is considered an essential component for the development of all girls. There are many opportunities for students to broaden and enhance their education through sport and regular local and international field trips.

RGHS continues to produce and foster athletes who represent at Regional and National levels with a few reaching International fame. We have teams and individuals who are at the top of their chosen sport.

This year we had two students make the New Zealand Secondary Schools Netball team that competed in the Transtasman U19 Netball event. This team went on to win the championship for 2016.

Our RGHS U15 Sevens Rugby team are the Bay of Plenty and North Island Champions and we have a number of girls who have now been selected for the Bay of Plenty U18 Sevens team, including

two of our U15 girls. Two students were selected to attend the New Zealand Secondary Schools Sevens camp. Waka Ama continues to be an ever growing sport at RGHS with several girls placing at nationals each year, both as individuals and in team events.

Our RGHS Touch team won Regionals and then went on to take 2nd Place at Zonals and have qualified for the New Zealand Secondary Schools Touch Nationals later this year. From this team we now have one U15 NZ Touch Representative.

Participation is encouraged and all our students are stepping up to take part

in the school's annual sporting events including Athletics, Cross Country, Swimming and Inter-house. Sport will always be a big part of our students' lives at RGHS and they continually strive to be the best in their pursuit of excellence at all levels.

We offer international exchange opportunities with our sister schools in Cornwall, United Kingdom, New Caledonia, Japan and China. Rotorua Girls High works with international exchange groups such as AFS, who offer year long exchanges.

Head Girl of 2007

"It all started at Rotorua Girls High for me. As a young girl I was exposed to so many amazing opportunities that helped me to become an empowered young woman. I will be forever grateful for the life skills and education that I gained at Rotorua Girls, which I use in my every day life as a University graduate. I am extremely proud to have attended such an exceptional High School and feel that I have the skills needed in order to thrive in life!"

Taki has completed a biology degree at the Dominican University of California in San Francisco, USA. She was captain of the university basketball team. She is currently training for the Na Wahine O Ke Kai - a prestigious Waka Ama event in Hawaii.

- **Taki Te Koi**

Our Olympians:



Julia Edward Sports Captain (2008) and Sarah Cowley Head Girl (2001)



First-rate Facilities and eLearning



Outstanding Facilities

Rotorua Girls High boasts some of the finest educational facilities on offer.

Classrooms are well equipped with data projectors and TVs in every room. We have embraced the technology era and encourage our students to bring their own devices to enhance their education. We are one of the first secondary schools in Rotorua to run the BYOD program and have ICT facilities available to all year levels which includes four specialist computer suites.



Cafe

Our onsite cafe is open from 8.15am, at interval and during lunchtime. It offers a wide range of healthy foods, both hot and cold, at reasonable prices. Girls can enjoy eating in the Cafe or outside in one of our many recreational areas.



Rotorua's ARENA

Opened in 2005 and is located at Rotorua Girls High. The ARENA house the school gym, providing students with first-rate sports facilities including basketball/netball courts, four volleyball courts and weights/aerobic area.



Outside Space

Outside the ARENA we have a number of grass and Astroturf sports fields and also have a dedicated Dance Studio, Wharenui and Performing Arts Centre.

eLearning

At Rotorua Girls High we are continually striving to improve capability. The New Zealand Curriculum recognises eLearning as a necessary component of the 21st Century classroom.

We believe eLearning has considerable potential to support effective teaching and learning.

Rotorua Girls High is an early adopter of ICT and has a full fibre backbone and high quality wireless spanning the campus making our network one of the best in the region. We are connected to the Network for Learning managed network which provides high speed internet to the school.

WITARINA

2016
House Captain

MAPIHI KAHURANGI TINI

Deputy
STACEE MAKI



TAINI

2016
House Captain

TE AROHA HEMI

Deputy
XIANAR PIKE



MAKERETI

2016
House Captain

SHAKAILA KATENE

Deputy
JUDAEA
NEWTON-TE RIINI



School Spirit

To encourage team building and friendly competition, Rotorua Girls' High has three houses named after Maori women - Witarina (orange), Makereti (pink) and Taini (purple).



Leadership opportunities:

House captains and deputies are elected by students and weekly lunch-time inter-house competitions take place throughout the year.

House Competition:

Annual swimming sports, athletic and haka days are the pinnacles of house competitions. Girls dress head to toe in their house colour for a day of fierce rivalry.



Student Voice

“At Rotorua Girls High, every girl counts. Every girl is offered the same wide range of academic, sporting and cultural opportunities. For me, academic subjects are my focus.

Rotorua Girls High School provides me with a range of extra curriculum activities and encourages me to take all of them on board. The students and teachers form a strong bond that enhances positive learning in a safe and friendly environment. We get a lot of one on one time with teachers, which is important and helps me strive as an individual to extend my learning.

We have great school spirit with enjoyable things that everyone is encouraged to participate in. Even if you are not so good at something whether it is sports or Kapa Haka, you will still be supported to try your best.

Coming to Rotorua Girls High has allowed me to explore new things, create long-lasting friendships and grow as a person into a confident woman”
-Keighley Jones, Year 12



ROTORUA
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HIGH SCHOOL
every girl counts

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