

Kia Ora, Hello



Welcome to the Dunstan High School website.

We hope you will enjoy browsing our pages to find out more about what we have to offer at our school.

If you would like to know more or would like to arrange to visit, please contact us (details below).

We are very proud of our modern co-educational school, set within the safe, rural environment of Alexandra, in the heart of Central Otago.

Approximately 550 students attend our school from the local area, throughout New Zealand and overseas.

At Dunstan it is a priority to provide quality education in a supportive environment for students from form three/year nine (12-13 years old), to form seven/year thirteen (17 -18 years old). Adult students are also welcome.

David Smyth

PRINCIPAL



Location



The school is situated in Alexandra in an area offering a wide range of recreational and cultural opportunities within the breathtaking landscape of Central Otago and the Southern Lakes District.

Central Otago is renowned historically for the discovery of gold in the 19th Century. Today, export quality fruit, flowers and fine wool are the 'gold' of the region, along with a growing viticulture industry and, of course, tourism.

It is the ideal environment in which students can develop both academically and socially in a safe, rural setting, whilst still having easy access to Dunedin (renowned for its university) and to New Zealand's popular tourist, ski and outdoor resort areas (Queenstown, Wanaka and the Southern Alps). The climate is a 'Continental type' with four distinct seasons. Summer temperatures can rise to 37°C and the winters are cool with snow on the surrounding mountains. The climate is dry with many sunny days.

Alexandra can easily be reached from Queenstown airport which is connected to all New Zealand International terminals. Queenstown also has a number of direct flights from Australia.

Learning Opportunities

The school exists to serve the learning needs of the community's young people and offers students a wide range of academic, sporting and cultural opportunities. The school provides a broad curriculum and the opportunity to gain formal New Zealand qualifications for entry to university or other tertiary institutions.

General Facilities

Dunstan has excellent general facilities. The school has the full range of specialist rooms including laboratories and workshops as well as an attractive library, school hall, two networked computer laboratories, with other computers around the school. The complex is surrounded by nine hectares of attractive, landscaped grounds including tennis courts, netball courts, rugby, soccer, hockey and cricket fields, a large gymnasium and high and low ropes courses. The school is adjacent to the town ice-skating rink, squash courts and golf course. A new town swimming pool is soon to be built nearby.

Outdoor Education Centre

Dunstan has developed the historical Mount Aspiring homestead as its outdoor education facility in the Mount Aspiring National Park. All students have the opportunity to spend time in this sub-alpine native bush environment. Several faculties conduct field work from the homestead. All form four students experience an eight-day multi-disciplinary camp at Mount Aspiring.

Buses

Local students attending Dunstan High School include those from outlying areas. A coordinated bus service transports these students to school. Many students are eligible for a transport subsidy.

Hostel

The school has a 61 bed, five or seven day boarding hostel. Homestay arrangements are made for international hostel students during the term holidays or where requested.

The complex is sited within easy walking distance of the school. Facilities include a modern kitchen and dining rooms, a large common room for recreation and supervised study. Accommodation is self contained with two or three bed units. These have their own shower, toilet, hand basin and tea making facilities. Students benefit from living with others their own age. The hostel philosophy is to supervise and guide students while allowing them a degree of privacy that is not available in traditional hostels.

Student Welfare and Support

Student welfare and support is of prime importance and is fundamental to the way the school is run. The school has a tradition and excellent reputation for using innovative strategies to help and guide students so they may achieve at their highest level at school and beyond.

The guidance and discipline system is firm but fair and students are considered holistically and as individuals. The school works in partnership with students and their families, including community agencies where appropriate.

International programme

The school runs an international programme for overseas students. The programme is usually limited to fifteen students each year and includes an ESOL (English) course as well as a language school component for students who will benefit from this extra help. Students can gain ESOL qualifications through Pitmans Qualifications exams. IELTSs, an English Language Qualification required for entry to New Zealand, Australian and other Commonwealth universities is offered to students at form seven (year 13) level.

The experienced Director of International Students and the ESOL teacher meet regularly with students to guide them socially, emotionally and academically. The support provided is essential to the adjustment of students to a new culture and the successful running of the programme.

Subjects Available Include

Year 9

Art, Design Technology, Dramatic Arts, Electronics, English/ESOL, Food Technology, Graphics, Information Technology, French, Maori, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education / Health, Science, Social Studies.

Year 10

Art, Dramatic Arts, English/ESOL, Graphics, Home Economics, French, Maori, Mathematics, Performance Music, Physical Education / Health, Science, Social Studies, Text and Information Management, Workshop Technology (Wood/Metal).

Year 11

Art, Dramatic Arts, English/ESOL, Food and Nutrition, Geography, Graphics, History, French, Maori, Mathematics, Performance Music, Outdoor Education, Physical Education / Health, Sciences, Text and Information Management, Transition Education, Workshop Technologies.

Year 12

Accounting, Art, Art History, Biology, Chemistry, Dramatic Arts, Design Technology, Economics, English/ESOL, Independent Living, Information Technology, Geography, Graphics, History, Hospitality and Tourism, Mathematics, Maori, Performance Music, Nutrition and Food, Outdoor Education, Physical Education, Physics, Rural Pathways, Science.

Year 13

Accounting, Adventure Based Leadership, Art, Art History, Business Administration, Biology, Chemistry, Communication English, Design, Economics, English/ESOL/IELTS, Geography, History, Maori, Mathematics with Calculus, Mathematics with Statistics, Painting, Photography, Physical Education / Outdoor Education, Physics, Print Making, Science, Sculpture, Senior Independent Programme, Tourism.

Curriculum Features:

The school has a priority to provide students with a comprehensive range of subjects to choose from. This enables the students to meet the requirements of their long-term goals as they plan a course of study each year. At the end of their time at Dunstan High School we are proud that our students are very competitive with students from other schools in the job market and higher education.

- Each year students receive a comprehensive Course Choice Booklet to help them plan a course of study for the following year. This includes new entrant students.
- Deans and the Careers Guidance staff work with students and families to ensure prospective courses meet the needs of long-term goals.
- Correspondence courses are possible where criteria are met.
- The school endeavours to satisfy the curriculum needs of as many students as possible within the curriculum framework.
- At all levels, except Year 13, some subjects are compulsory to ensure students have a balanced course to study.

The school is justly proud of the range of opportunities available to students in and out of the classroom.

Many present and past pupils who have achieved success at regional, national and international level have donated photos and mementos for display in the school's Hall of Fame; inspiration to other students.

School Facilities

Dunstan High School has a full range of quality buildings and nine hectares of extensive and attractive grounds.



Specialist Rooms Include:

- Five Science Laboratories (Chemistry, Physics, Biology)
- Two Design Technology Workshops
- Food Technology/Hospitality/Tourism
- Art Complex including print making, photography, sculpture and painting
- Careers Room
- Four Computer Rooms - the school is equipped with a network of PC and Macintosh computers
- Senior Study Room
- "User Friendly" Library with expanding technology
- School Hall
- Learning Support Centre
- New Dramatic Arts and Music Suites are scheduled in a comprehensive school development plan

Ground Facilities Include:

- Multi-purpose hard courts
- Rugby, soccer, hockey, cricket and softball fields
- Full school time use of Community Gymnasium
- Outdoor Education High Ropes Course
- With access to:
 - § Community Swimming Pool
 - § Ice Skating Rink
 - § Alexandra Bowling Club
 - § Alexandra Squash Club
 - § Molyneux Park Stadium and Grounds
 - § Molyneux Tennis and Netball courts



Mount Aspiring Mountain Lodge Outdoor Education Centre:

The historic Mount Aspiring Homestead (West branch of Matukituki) has been developed as an Outdoor Education Centre. All students have the opportunity to experience this facility for at least one week during their time at Dunstan High School. Several subject areas conduct field work from the homestead base. Students are proud of the facility and remember their experiences at Mt Aspiring as being something very special.

Hostel:

- Modern co-educational boarding hostel operates on a five or seven day basis.
- Accommodates sixty students in self contained units.

Sporting and Cultural - Activities & Achievements

At Dunstan High School there is a high level of participation in sporting and cultural activities. The school is recognised for its level of achievement in many of these areas.

Features:

- Strong partnership with committed people in the community provides students with a wide range of activities and a high level of coaching and training expertise
- Students compete and perform regularly in the Central Otago area and enjoy many opportunities to travel to other country and city venues
- Dedicated staff are committed to ensuring high level participation and excellence in the co-curricular activities they are involved with.
- High level of participation by students in a variety of activities, including:

Sporting:

- § Aerobics, athletics, basketball, bowls, cricket, cross country, curling, equestrian, golf, hockey, ice-hockey, ice-skating, kayaking, mountain biking, multisport, netball, rock climbing, rowing, rugby, skiing (including cross country), snow boarding, soccer, softball, Spirit of Adventure, squash, swimming, tennis, trapshooting, tramping, volleyball.

Cultural:

- § Choir, Circle of Friends, dance, debating, Duke of Edinburgh, International Buddy Group, Kapa Haka Maori club, magazine, photography, public speaking, rock band, school productions, speech, Stage Challenge, swing band, theatre sports.