

SELWYN COLLEGE



THE
BEST
YOU CAN BE

PROSPECTUS



FROM THE **PRINCIPAL**



I am delighted you are interested in Selwyn College. We are on an exciting journey where each student is learning to be *'The Best You Can Be'*.

Academic achievement is a significant priority for us. We are proud of our high NCEA pass rates and that many of our students

are gaining Excellence and Merit endorsed Certificates and University Scholarships.

We have capitalized on the size of our school to develop a unique personalised mentoring system which supports each student to pursue their goals with confidence.

We have also embedded a unique learning toolkit called Selwise, which is empowering our students to

be successful agents of their own learning.

The development of each student's all-round competencies is also a significant priority. Participation in our rich leadership, sports, performing arts and cultural programmes is expected and we delight in celebrating students who achieve their best.

We want our students to love coming to school every day. So we have built a welcoming, vibrant, respectful and purposeful learning community, to which our students feel strongly connected.

Our comprehensive student support services, exceptional commitment to our teachers' professional learning and our strong home-school partnerships also underpin our students' wellbeing and success.

Hence, Selwyn is recognised as a leading school in the type of professional practice that truly enables each student to become *'The Best You Can Be'*.

Sheryll Ofner
Principal



IT'S ABOUT LEARNING AND ACHIEVING

Academic achievement is of central importance to us. Our focus is on building each student's capacity to achieve their personal best. This requires a rich and exciting curriculum, with authentic learning experiences that enable students to see connections between their formal learning environment and the real world.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

In Years 9 and 10, students study in all Learning Areas of the New Zealand Curriculum. We place a very strong emphasis on Mathematics, English and Science as they are the keys to many pathways in the senior school and beyond. Students also study Social Science and Physical Education & Health and make choices from the Arts, Technology and Languages. These Learning Areas are the vehicles through which students develop the Key Competencies identified in the New Zealand Curriculum.

Students in Years 9 & 10 are grouped into classes that address particular learning needs. We have **Advanced Classes** for students already working at a higher than expected curriculum level for their age in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science. The learning outcomes identified for these programmes are at an advanced curriculum level.

There is also a **Learning Enhancement Class** for students who require additional assistance to accelerate their progress, especially with literacy and numeracy.

Students are invited to be part of the advanced and learning enhancement classes. Entrance tests are used to assist in this process; along with information from previous teachers and families.

The learning programmes for all classes are designed to develop, assess and report on each student's knowledge and skills at the curriculum level at which he/she is working. 'One size fits all' is not the Selwyn Way. Rather, **Personalised Learning** underpins our practice.

Learning at Selwyn is also enhanced by all students having their own devices.

SENIOR SCHOOL

In Years 11 to 13, students are able to choose from a wide variety of courses that meet their own particular learning needs and pathway/career aspirations. Students who wish to pursue highly specialist courses can often access these through our virtual learning network.

All our subjects offer credits on the National Qualifications Framework and enable students to work towards achieving NCEA at Levels 1–3, as well as Scholarship.

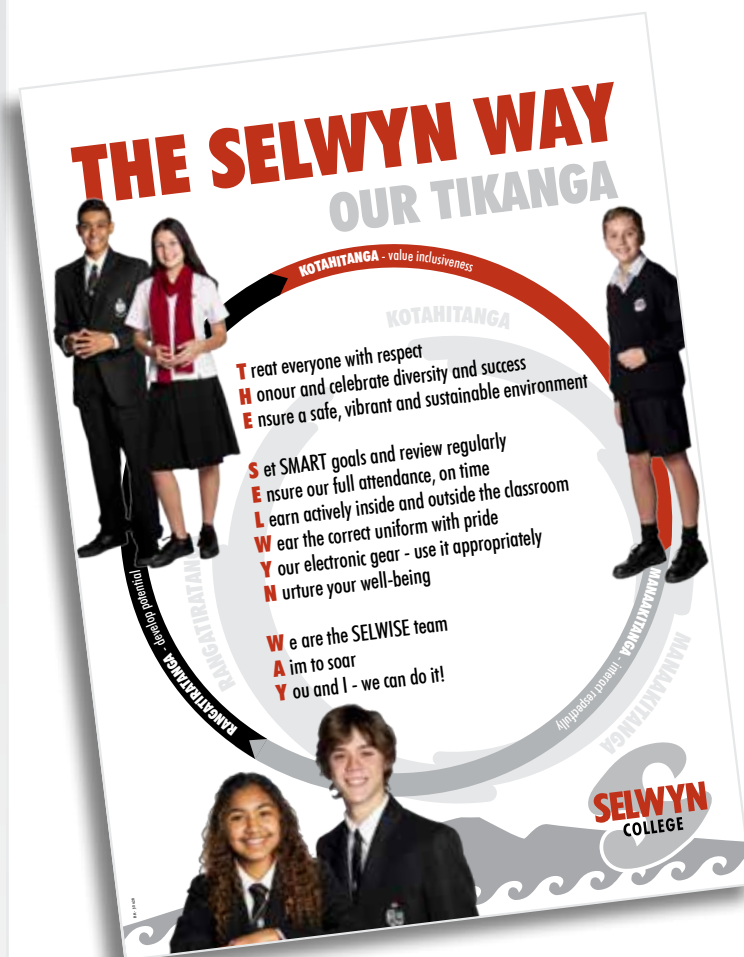
Students can study at multi-levels and talented Year 13 students can incorporate a Stage 1 University paper, such as Mathematics, into their programme. Many students participate eagerly in

our exciting extension opportunities. These range from learning in specialist clinics and from visiting experts to engaging in external academic challenges – all designed for our students to soar.

In addition, students have the opportunity to gain NCEA credits and experience in the workplace through our Gateway and Star programmes and partnerships with business, industry and tertiary providers.



BECOMING SELWISE



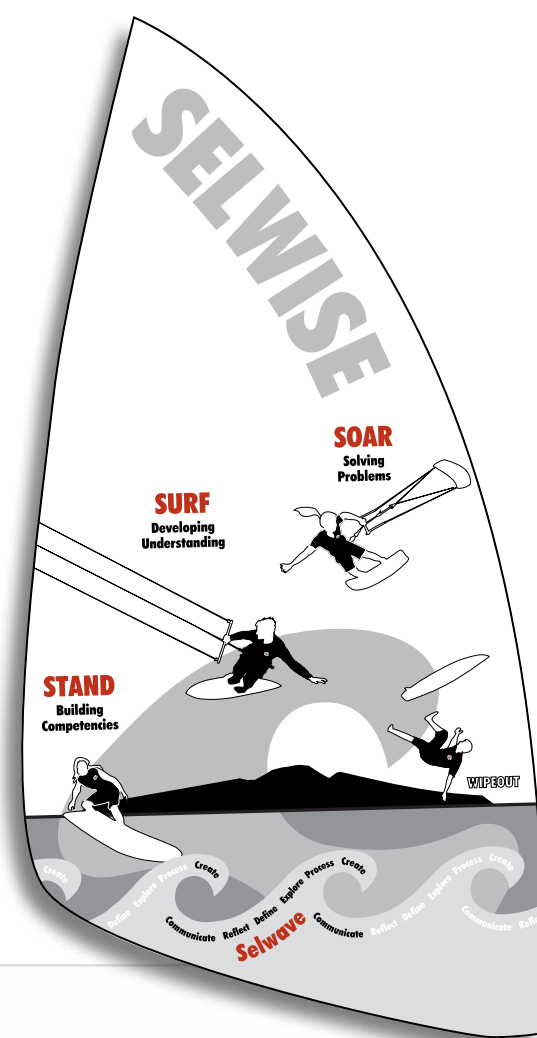
LEARNING TOOLKIT

We have a Learning Toolkit that is used throughout the school. It features a common language for learning and is empowering our students to be successful agents of their own learning. It is unique and it is having a powerful influence on accelerating our students' achievement. Many national and international visitors are coming to Selwyn to learn about this.

LEARNING RELATIONSHIPS

At Selwyn, we have an agreed set of expectations about the way everyone in our Learning Community will behave called The Selwyn Way. Each expectation is underpinned by clear procedures for staff and students to follow and teachers are trained in a range of behaviour management strategies, including restorative practice.

These expectations recognise that high quality relationships are crucial to successful learning and to maintaining a safe and positive environment for learning. They also reflect the personal attributes students need to live, learn, work and contribute as members of our wider communities.



THE BEST SUPPORT FOR LEARNING



LEARNING SUPPORT

At Selwyn, we wrap our arms around each individual student by means of a deeply embedded and highly regarded support system, which fosters students' strong sense of connectedness and agency.

HOUSE SYSTEM

Our student support system is based around five Houses, each led by a Head of House. The five HOHs have responsibility for overseeing the well-being and progress of each individual student in their House.

Each House has a network of student leaders and committees who plan an annual programme of activities. Each House has a charity and all members of the House participate in fun-filled activities that generate funds to donate. There are various inter-House competitions where students earn points towards the House Trophy. These include such events as a Talent Quest, a House Athletics Day, an indoor Sports Tournament and Academic Quizzes.

All Year 9 students are integrated into their House and 'The Selwyn Way' during a camp held shortly after they start the year. A large team of trained senior Peer Support students help Year 9s get to know each other and quickly feel part of our school community.

MENTOR SYSTEM

Within each House, we have Mentor Groups comprised of around 16-17 students from Year 9 to 13. Each student is assigned to a Mentor Group upon arrival and they remain with the same Mentor Teacher throughout their years at Selwyn. The Mentor teacher acts as a guide for the student whom they get to know extremely well. This involves academic goal-setting and closely monitoring the student's progress. It also involves guiding the student on their service, involvement and leadership activities outside the classroom, as well as their choices for the future. The mentor acts as an avenue for problem-solving and ensures timely intervention if necessary. Parents/caregivers also get to know the Mentor Teacher well as they are a crucial party in our 3-way partnership between the student, the parent and the school.

STUDENT PATHWAYS

Student Pathways staff are responsible for ensuring that all students are informed about further education and career opportunities and that they make appropriate choices for their futures. At Selwyn, every student leaves school **SWEET**. This means the Selwyn Way which is either to Employment, further Education or pre-work Training.

GUIDANCE

Our well-qualified and experienced counsellors provide confidential help to all students on matters that may be interfering with their readiness to learn. This may involve liaison with parents/caregivers.

SCHOOL NURSE

Our registered nurse in our Health Centre works to ensure that health issues which could interfere with a student's learning are addressed. Students can access a doctor, physiotherapist and dental care through school.

TOTARA LEARNING CENTRE

This centre provides opportunities and support for students with special needs. Students in this centre are expected to be able to be mainstreamed for some of their learning. Support available includes:

- Disabled access around the school
- A therapy room
- A specially adapted toilet/bathroom area
- Computer resources
- A withdrawal area
- Specialist teachers
- Teacher aide support

SCHOOL HOUSE SYMBOLS





THE BEST LEARNING EXPERIENCES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Learning outside the classroom by every student is a significant priority for us. This is because it deepens a student's social, cultural, emotional, creative and physical competencies and develops their strong sense of community. Both our House activities and our co-curricular programmes are extensive and enable all students to work towards the Selwyn SILver Award for Service, Involvement and Leadership. Our goal is for every student to achieve this award. Hence, students and their mentor teachers closely monitor individual progress towards this outcome.

PERFORMING ARTS

Selwyn is renowned for its outstanding Performing Arts co-curricular programmes and the exceptional quality of the staff. Many students relish the rich experiences gained from participation in our award-winning drama, dance and musical productions. They all take place in The Selwyn Theatre; an authentic learning environment which is an additional benefit for students.

JUNIOR PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

This Academy for Years 9 & 10 is designed to foster students' talents and creative expression in Drama, Dance and Music. Students audition for this Academy and once accepted, are required to attend outside of school hours for up to four hours per week to allow for additional study with specialist teachers such as learning a musical instrument, dance tuition, voice training, performance development and production technologies.

CULTURAL GROUPS

We have two strong and talented cultural groups who meet and practice regularly – a Kapa Haka group and a Tongan Group. Many other groups participate in our annual Cultural concert.

SPORTS

Sport at Selwyn is soaring and many of our students are succeeding at the highest levels in Auckland and beyond. For example, our 1st XI Boys Football team has reached the Premier grade, our 1st XI Cricket are now competing in the 1A

competition and our U16 Waka Ama team became 250m and 500m champions at the Senior Regatta. We regard building a lifelong love of sport as very important and student participation is growing every year. For example, participation in Netball has doubled in the last four years.

We offer a wide variety of sports including Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Cycling, Football, Futsal, Hockey, Netball, Rugby, Sailing, Tennis, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball and Water polo. We also facilitate entries into competitions such as Aquathon/Duathlon/Triathlon, Climbing, Equestrian, Golf, Gymsports, Mountain Biking, Snow sports, Swimming, Touch and Waka Ama

We recognise the increasing number pathways in sport through high performance, officiating and administration and we encourage and facilitate these for our students.

Selwyn is fortunate to have wonderful sporting facilities including Grass and Artificial Cricket Wickets, a Rugby Field, two Football Fields, six Tennis Courts, four Netball Courts and a Lacrosse Field. The Barfoot and Thompson stadium

provides our students with two Futsal Courts, three Basketball Courts, four Volleyball Courts and eight Badminton Courts.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our student leadership model has been designed to provide a significant number of opportunities for students to engage in leadership, develop their skills and organise an exciting programme of activities for all student to get involved in.

Our Student Executive, chaired by the Head Students, is made up of the leaders of our Houses and Councils - Academic, Arts, Cultural, Environment, Social, Sport and Whanaungatanga.

Each Council and House also have Teams to encourage widespread participation. The Academic Council for example, has these Teams: Peer Tutoring, Digital Support, Teenage Refugee Achievement, Girls in STEM, Selwise Promotion, Pacifica Achievement and Academic Competitions.

There are leadership opportunities specifically for our juniors including Selwyn Ambassadors and Junior House Committee leaders.



THE BEST FACILITIES AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNISATION

As a result of extensive development and modernisation, Selwyn College has first class facilities inside and outside the classroom to support students' individual learning and growth.



THE BEST LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS

We believe that a strong partnership between school and home is vital to supporting our students to gain the most from their learning opportunities and to be the best they can be.

For this reason, we encourage regular communication between the Heads of Houses, the students and their parents/caregivers, supported by the Principal and Deputy Principals. We have a portal where parents can access information about their student and the school, including achievement and attendance data.

Each year we have several face-to-face Goal-setting and Review meetings between the mentor

teacher, student and parents/caregivers as well as interviews with subject teachers. We also provide regular Progress and Achievement Reports.

A Principal's Newsletter is published every week to celebrate student life and communicate important school information.

We have a vibrant PTA: Te Whanau Awhi o Selwyn which supports and enhances the experience of our students and we have established special home-school partnerships with our Maori and Pasifika families, including close links with Ngati Whatua o Orakei.



Kohimarama Rd, Kohimarama, Auckland
T 09 521 9610 F 09 521 9620 E info@selwyn.school.nz W www.selwyn.school.nz