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Westlake Girls High School

Contents

- Principal’s Welcome 3
- A Proud History, an Exciting Future 4
- Our Academic Structure 7
- Welcome to Our House 8
- Born to Lead, Set for Life 9
- STEAM 10
- Sport 12
- Music 14
- Dance 15
- Drama 15
- Visual Arts 17
- Wearing our Uniform with Pride 19
- A Global Community 20
- Support and Clubs 21
- FAQs 22





Principal's Welcome

Welcome to Westlake Girls High School.
We are delighted you are considering our school for your daughter's education.

Through my own daughter's experience of Westlake Girls, I have seen first-hand how a dynamic learning environment, strong academic emphasis, and holistic approach to wellbeing can give students the foundation they need to reach their potential. Finding what is important, enjoying what they do, and discovering new strengths is all part of igniting life-long passions.

We believe by inspiring our students to love learning today, they will leave school confident and optimistic about their potential tomorrow.

WGHS has a proud tradition of excellence, and being a single-sex school provides some unique advantages. Research tells us our students achieve highly and are more confident in an all-girls learning environment. We have a strong focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths) and we are also renowned for our success in sports and music. Academically, our consistently impressive performance in NCEA and University Entrance reflects our ethos of discipline, dedication and working smarter.

We have a strong connection to Westlake Boys High School and our students combine together for a range of activities including our annual school production, and our internationally-recognised Choralation Choir and orchestras.

Westlake Girls has an impressive history, but we also have an exciting future. The commitment of our teachers and the passion of our students will define that future. It is a privilege to be a part of it, and we hope you and your daughter will be too.

Take a look through this prospectus and visit our website: www.westlakegirls.school.nz. If you would like more information, come along to our Open Evening held each July, or make an appointment to meet us.

Jane Stanley
Principal

A proud history, an exciting future

Westlake Girls High School was established in 1962 and is now a leading secular state girls' school in New Zealand with more than 2,200 students.

We are a Decile 9* school which is recognised nationally and internationally for its high-quality education, wide ranging extra-curricular opportunities and for providing a nurturing environment where students can excel in all aspects of their lives.

A place to excel

Our academic results consistently track above national outcomes, both nationally and against comparative schools. We pride ourselves on providing a dynamic and stimulating learning environment that engages our students and inspires them to personal growth, both academically and through our extensive co-curricular programme. Students are encouraged to become creative and independent learners which helps prepare them for tertiary study and future careers.

*Decile 10 schools have the highest proportion of students from high socio-economic families; Decile 1 schools have the highest proportion of students from low socio-economic families.

A place to call home

We celebrate our ethnic and cultural diversity and value the different perspectives introduced by students from a wide range of nationalities and backgrounds. Around 48% of our students are NZ European, 35% are Asian, 8% are Māori, 5% are from the Pacific Islands and 5% are from other nationalities. Every year we also host more than 270 international students from several different countries.

A place to be adventurous

Some students naturally know what they love. For others, it takes a bit of exploring to find that area of interest that really ignites a spark.

At WGHS we encourage our students to try new things. We have more than 30 clubs available and we provide a safe learning environment for our students to give things a go – like robotics, debating, wood-work or sustainability projects. No matter what her interest, we have teachers and support staff who can guide your daughter to help develop her passion.



A place of guidance

WGHS is overseen by a Senior Leadership Team consisting of Principal Jane Stanley, an Associate Principal and Deputy and Assistant Principals. Our students are placed in one of five Houses, and each House has two Deans who oversee discipline, pastoral care and curriculum issues.

Our Board of Trustees currently comprises a Board Chair, Deputy Chair, Principal, Parent Trustee, Staff Trustee, Student Trustee and two other general Trustees.

For more information, please visit www.westlakegirls.school.nz and click on "About us".

A place to belong

Becoming a responsible global citizen starts in our own back yard, and we encourage our students to take an active part in the community around us. There are beach clean-ups at Milford, veggie garden maintenance at North Shore Hospital, and you'll see our students water testing Wairau Creek to monitor pollution levels.

Five charities are chosen each year to benefit from fundraising activities by our students, and on 25 April you will find us participating in the local ANZAC Day parade and ceremony. We also feature regularly in North Shore magazines and newspapers. This is our community and we want our students to be proud to be part of it.





Our Academic Structure

All our students study for New Zealand's National Certificate in Educational Achievement (NCEA), the main national qualification for secondary students in New Zealand.

NCEA is recognised by universities and employers both nationally and internationally as an academic pathway designed to challenge and extend students of all abilities and in all learning areas.

There are three levels of NCEA which are usually attained by students in specific year levels, starting with Level 1 in Year 11, Level 2 in Year 12 and finishing with Level 3 in Year 13. University Entrance is also attained in Year 13 via an NCEA pathway. Students are assessed by a combination of assignments which are internally marked to strict guidelines by the school's teachers, and by portfolios and examinations which are externally marked.

Each level can simply be Achieved, or endorsed with either Merit or Excellence which denotes a higher quality of work throughout the year.

In addition to the overall level endorsement, individual courses can also be endorsed with Merit or Excellence, acknowledging students who have performed exceptionally well in that subject. High-achieving students can elect to sit Scholarship exams, which provide recognition and monetary rewards for top-performing students in the country.

Students wishing to continue their studies at university in New Zealand must meet the minimum requirements for University Entrance (UE):

- NCEA Level 3
- Approved subjects: 14 credits in each of three approved subjects at Level 3
- Literacy requirement: 10 credits at Level 2 or above, made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing
- Numeracy requirement: 10 credits at Level 1 or above, made up of achievement standards in a range of subjects; or all three numeracy unit standards 26623, 26626 and 26627

For more information on University Entrance, please see NZQA's website www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea

While we do not provide our students with an overall class ranking, our more able students who perform at Merit or Excellence level have the opportunity to be placed in extension classes in order to develop them to their full potential.

Welcome to Our House

Each Westlake Girls High School student belongs to one of five Houses, named after local areas on the North Shore: Akoranga, Hauraki, Onewa, Pupuke, Wairau.

Houses encompass students from Years 9-13 and provide leadership pathways and opportunities for students progressing through the school. Each Form Class is assigned a House at the beginning of Year 9 and students remain in that House until the end of Year 13.

There are House points up for grabs during the year – for things such as participation during Sports Day, fundraising activities, and the level of participation by students at various school events. With prizes and pride at stake, the House system is a great way to show support, feel united and work together as a team. If you listen carefully you might just hear House chants echoing around the school.



Akoranga
Literal Meaning is 'Learning'

The House symbol uses the koru to reflect the baskets of knowledge and two circles symbolise the stones.



Hauraki
The Northern Winds

The House symbol uses the koru and the spikes to represent the northern winds and the Pōhutukawa flower.



Onewa
The Red Soils

The House symbol depicts a chin moko (tattoo) for Hine-ahu-one.



Pupuke
The Overflowing Lake

The House symbol reflects Mahuika through the fire finger-flames on the left-hand side which is surrounded by a koru representing the Pupuke eruption. The middle section depicts Rangitoto Island and the Tupua couple.



Wairau
Many Waters

The House symbol represents the battle with the first koru being Kawerau a Maki, the middle koru Ngā Puhi and the smallest koru at the top symbolising the crater formed by the blood spilt from the warriors. The name for the crater is "Ururoto" and forms part of the Māori name for both Westlake Girls and Westlake Boys. The lines amongst the koru reflect the blood lines that flowed within all the tribes involved.



Born to Lead, Set for Life

A range of leadership opportunities allows Westlake students to experience and develop integrity, initiative, compassion, respect, confidence and independence. We encourage our students to be bold and take the initiative – and to follow things through to completion.

Our Prefects

The Head and Deputy Head Prefect are highly visible role models for their fellow students at assemblies, key school events, and by demonstrating personal excellence and enthusiasm for all aspects of school life. The Head Prefect and Deputy Head Prefect also fulfil responsibilities in the wider community.

While only two students each year earn the title of Head and Deputy Head Prefect, there are many other prefect roles, and leadership opportunities available. Each of our five Houses has a Captain, Academic Prefect, Arts Prefect, Service Prefect, Sports and Wellbeing Prefect, International Prefect, Environment Prefect, Cultural Prefect and six to eight prefects overseeing the Junior School (Years 9-10). House Prefects promote the culture of personal excellence and encourage House and school spirit.

Our prefects are identifiable through their distinct blazer – worn with pride – and are strongly encouraged to lead by example. Public speaking opportunities are provided at assemblies and other formal and informal occasions.

Leadership through service

Houses each select one charity for the year and students are strongly encouraged to contribute towards fundraising. Charitable giving and service projects provide our students with opportunities to develop greater self-confidence, compassion and an appreciation for making a difference in the lives of others.

Leadership courses

Opportunities to attend leadership courses are available to all students. Our staff encourages students demonstrating strong leadership ability to take on academic, cultural, sporting or service leadership roles at all levels.

Growing leaders

We want our students to leave Westlake as confident young women, equipped and ready for their next step in life. Through opportunities like debating, MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) and speech competitions, we help our students find their voice.

STEAM

Ensuring our students are set for life means preparing them not only for the world we currently live in, but the world they will eventually inhabit.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) are subjects we believe help students to widen their career options, and remove gender stereotyping when it comes to technical and non-traditional jobs. We want our students to feel passionate about STEAM subjects from an early age, so we introduced the STEAM Year 9 Enrichment Programme.

Year 9 students starting high school are able to join the programme, which includes a project-approach to coding, electronics, design technology and 3D modelling. Science, Mathematics, English and Social Studies are also enriched with projects.

"Our vision is to create a learning culture of curiosity in which students will engage in the world they are living in," says Susana Tomaz, Teacher in Charge of STEAM.

"At puberty 50% of girls are petrified by fear of failure, with 80% of girls feeling societal pressure to be perfect. This leads to girls avoiding trying new things because they're afraid to fail. We create an environment where our students are able to grow and build confidence, while developing their skills in STEAM subjects."

Visit our website for more information:
www.westlakegirls.school.nz/STEAM





Sport

Westlake Girls High School is one of the leading sports schools in New Zealand, with a strong commitment to sporting excellence.

All students are encouraged to participate in a school sport during their time with us. We offer a wide range of sporting opportunities for the committed athlete to develop to their potential, and for others to play at a social or beginner level.

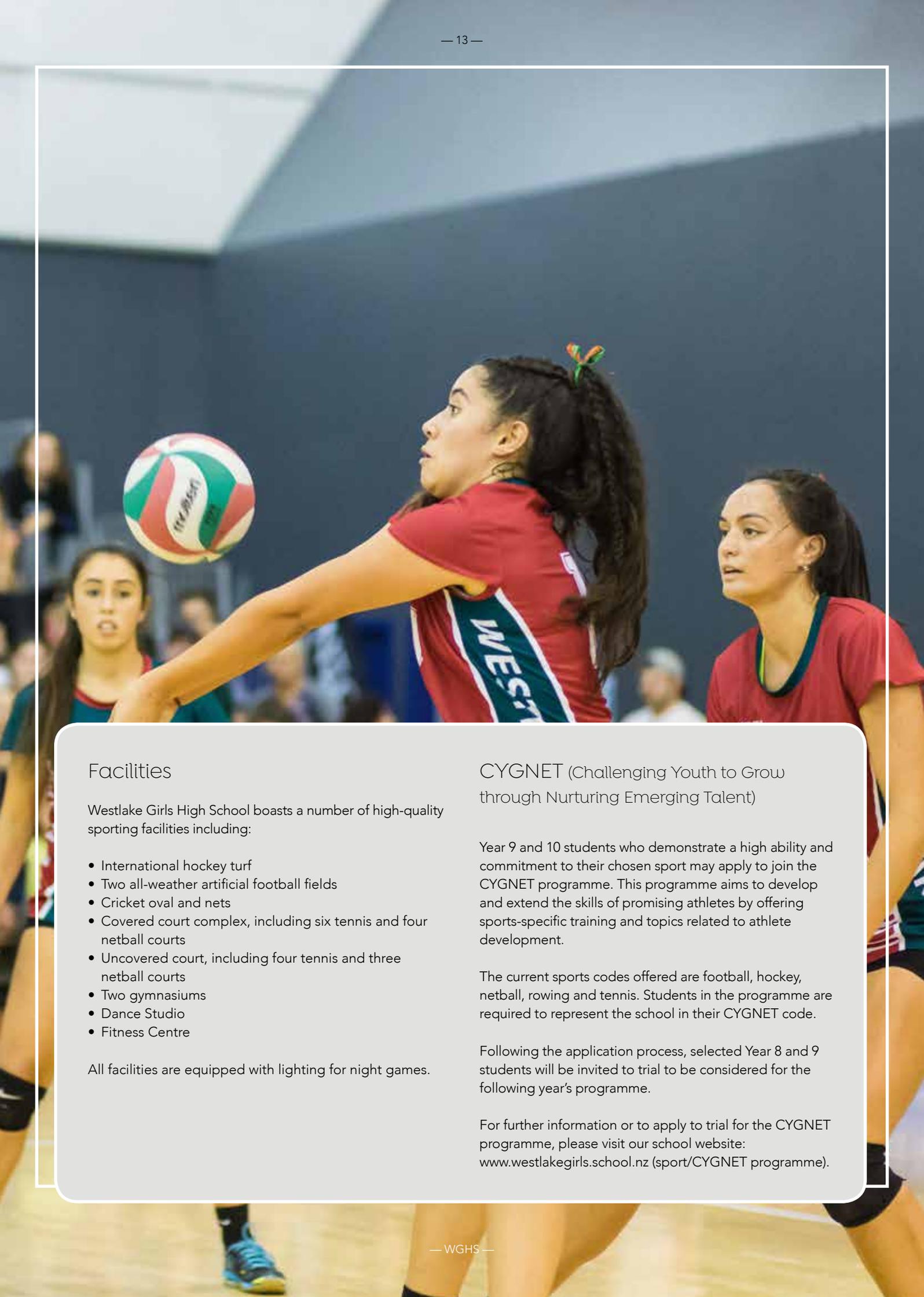
Engagement in sport enables students to experience the health benefits that sport offers, while building a strong team and school spirit. In addition to developing interpersonal and leadership skills, sport also fosters social interaction and a sense of fair play.

We have a dedicated staff of sports professionals and volunteers who are committed to ensuring our students receive the best guidance and training.

Sports we offer include:

Athletics	Gymsport	Snow Sports
Badminton	Hockey	Squash
Basketball	Lacrosse	Swimming
Cheerleading	Marching	Table Tennis
Cricket	Multi Sport	Tennis
Cycling	Netball	Touch
Distance Running	Orienteering	Volleyball
Equestrian	Rowing	Water Polo
Football	Rugby	Windsurfing
Golf	Sailing	





Facilities

Westlake Girls High School boasts a number of high-quality sporting facilities including:

- International hockey turf
- Two all-weather artificial football fields
- Cricket oval and nets
- Covered court complex, including six tennis and four netball courts
- Uncovered court, including four tennis and three netball courts
- Two gymnasiums
- Dance Studio
- Fitness Centre

All facilities are equipped with lighting for night games.

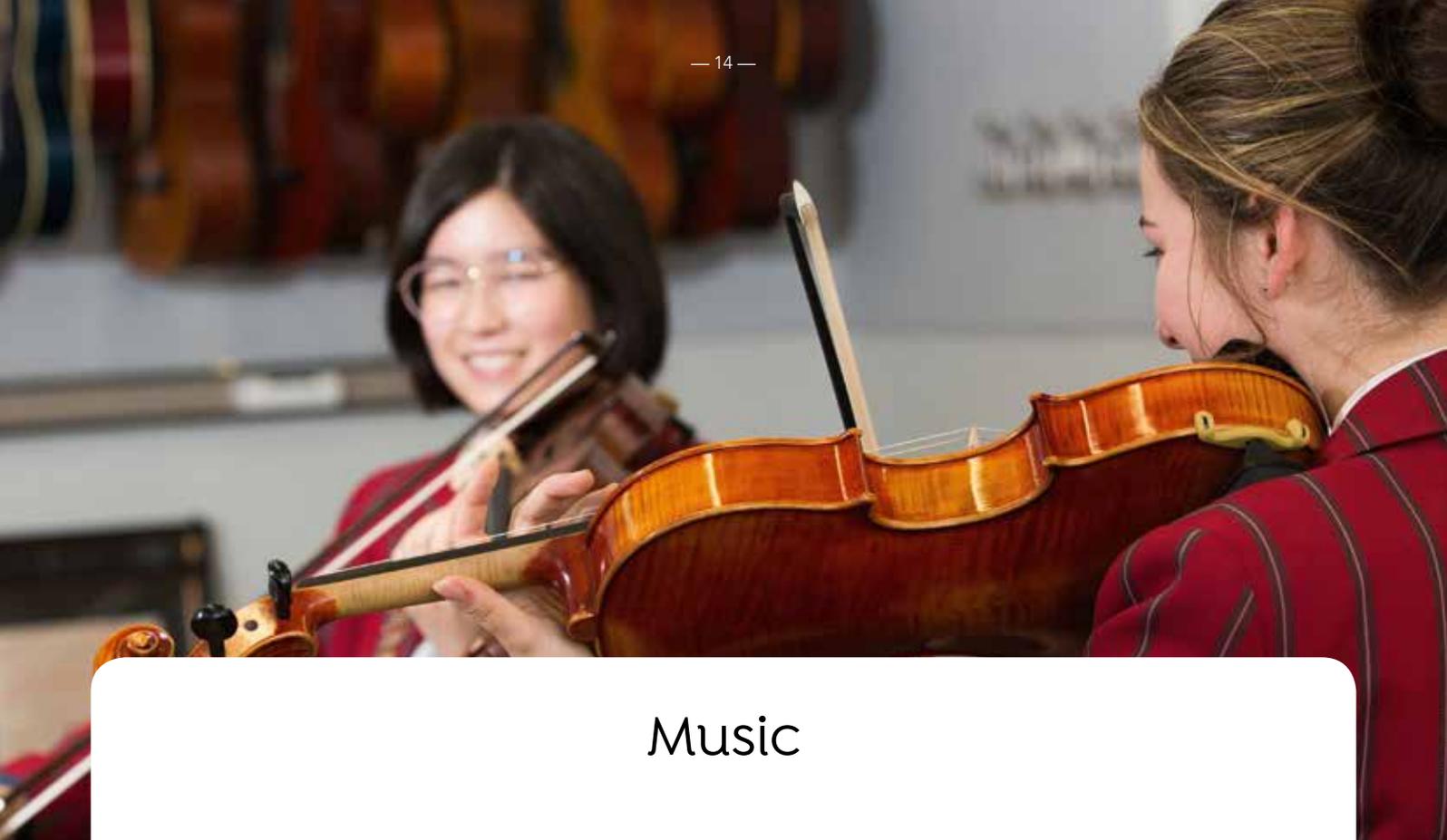
CYGNET (Challenging Youth to Grow through Nurturing Emerging Talent)

Year 9 and 10 students who demonstrate a high ability and commitment to their chosen sport may apply to join the CYGNET programme. This programme aims to develop and extend the skills of promising athletes by offering sports-specific training and topics related to athlete development.

The current sports codes offered are football, hockey, netball, rowing and tennis. Students in the programme are required to represent the school in their CYGNET code.

Following the application process, selected Year 8 and 9 students will be invited to trial to be considered for the following year's programme.

For further information or to apply to trial for the CYGNET programme, please visit our school website: www.westlakegirls.school.nz (sport/CYGNET programme).



Music

Expression through the creative arts is strongly encouraged at Westlake Girls, and we have a myriad of opportunities for students who enjoy music, dance and drama.

Our award-winning music ensembles have a long-standing international reputation for excellence. Finely tuned over many years, Westlake ensembles regularly achieve national honours, tour internationally and compete in overseas competitions.

Each Premier ensemble group has a development pathway leading in, ensuring that every young musician is developed, whatever their starting level.

Our association with Westlake Boys High School allows us to cooperate in numerous mixed ensembles, providing socialisation through music making. For many years the Westlake schools have dominated regional and national music competitions as well as achieving great success in many international competitions.

If music is your passion you'll be spoilt for choice!

Our ensembles include:

- Westlake Symphony Orchestra (Premier)
- Westlake Chamber Orchestra (Premier)
- Taharoto Orchestra (Development)
- Chamber Music Groups
- Westlake Concert Band (Premier)
- Westlake Big Band (Premier)
- Symphonic Band (Development)
- Choralation Choir (Mixed Premier)
- Cantare Choir (Girls Premier)
- Cigno Voce Choir (Girls Senior)
- Nota Bella (Girls Junior)
- Kotahi Voices (Un-auditioned)
- Volante Strings (Development)
- Flute Choir (Development)
- Junior & Senior Rock Bands

All of our premier ensembles and some training ensembles are co-educational, combining with the Westlake Boys High School music department.



Dance

No matter what style of dance you enjoy, you'll have the opportunity to develop to your potential at WGHS.

Dance in Year 9 is for two terms and Year 10 is for the whole year. Both include practical and theoretical lessons. In Years 11, 12 and 13 Dance is an optional subject.

Dance students regularly perform at House assemblies, there are lunchtime performances and an annual Dance Showcase where students get to develop their skills both on and offstage with organisational logistics, hair, make-up, dress rehearsals and stage management.

For those with exceptional talent and passion, we have Dance Troupes in specific genres. Our courses offer expert tutorage and a wide variety of genres from different cultures and countries. These include genres and styles like Linedance, Bollywood, Musical Theatre, West African Dance, Gumboot Dance (South Africa), Capoeira (Brazil), Lindy Hop, Ballroom, Medieval Dance, Cumbia (Colombia), Salsa (Cuba), Tinikling (Philippines), Disco, Jazz, Flamenco (Spain), Tap and Cabaret.

Drama

Drama helps us to make sense of the world and find our place in our community. It celebrates and explores our heritages and helps us to prepare for the future by challenging us to explore the attitudes and beliefs of characters from other worlds. Through drama, students develop a deep understanding of themselves and others.

Westlake offers Drama from Year 9 all the way through to Year 13. Students learn how theatre is created, its role in history and its transformative power.

Students create their own drama from a variety of stimuli, rehearse scripted work, and make rich contributions to group projects.

Co-curricular drama opportunities include: The annual joint production with Westlake Boys High School, theatresports, and the University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival. These all offer vertical integration, the opportunity for senior students to mentor and guide juniors, and the chance to perform for a public audience and work alongside students from other schools.



Visual Arts

Creativity comes in many shapes and forms.

Our innovative Visual Arts programme ensures students have the freedom to explore different styles and develop their skills. Students are encouraged to be responsible for their learning and to develop independence and individuality.

The Visual Arts department has spacious facilities with a number of general-purpose art rooms, in addition to specialist studio spaces for Printmaking, Photography, Design, Painting and Sculpture.

Some students take a multi-design course offered in the first year. In Year 10, students can select a design course or Fine Arts course.

In Year 11, students participate in an NCEA visual arts course and, in Year 12, they select from Art History, Design, Photography and Practical Art. All five practical art disciplines are offered at Year 13, where students select from Art History, Design, Painting, Photography, Printmaking and Sculpture.

Our talented group of teachers provide expert advice and support. Students wanting to pursue a career in any one of the tertiary art-related courses are offered assistance and guidance to complete their application.





Wearing our Uniform with Pride

Our school uniform symbolises two of our core values – respect and excellence. It unites our community and provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate personal pride through attention to detail.

Students are expected to wear their blazer on their House assembly day, and for formal school events.

Uniform items can be purchased online or in person through the Uniform Group, which has a store off Wairau Road. There is also a parent-run second-hand shop at the school. For more information please visit our website and click "About us/School uniform".

What will I need to purchase?

The regulation uniform is broken down into the Westlake uniform for Year 9, 10 and 11; and the Senior uniform for Years 12 and 13.

You will need:

- Skirt
- Blouse
- Blazer
- Tights
- Lace-up black shoes
- Summer sandals
- School and/or representative tie
- PE gear including shorts, t-shirts and socks

There are also optional items available such as scarves, bucket hats, beanies, caps and black jackets.

PE Uniform

PE uniform includes your specific House shirt, PE shorts and PE sport socks (Sports tracksuit is optional).

Shoes

Robust black lace-up shoes must be worn in Terms 2 and 3 and must be of a similar style to those sold through the Uniform Shop. Jandals and fabric shoes are not permitted. Sandals may be worn in Terms 1 and 4. These must have a back strap which must be worn done up. Safety at school is an important issue, particularly in Technology and Science classes. Only regulation closed-in shoes can be worn in these classes.

Other regulations

Students who have pierced ears may wear up to two sets of solid/plain gold or silver studs (two in each ear) lower lobe only. Diamante and dress earrings of any design are not acceptable. No other jewellery is permitted, except a watch.

Permission to wear necklaces of cultural significance may only be given with written permission from the Principal.

No make-up or nail polish is permitted, and hair must be well groomed and off the face. Ribbons or ties must be black. Only hair colours in the natural human hair range are acceptable.

A Global Community

Our rich cultural make-up brings a depth of global appreciation to our school that all students benefit from.

We have a comprehensive range of outbound and inbound international experiences available and every year we host visiting teachers from overseas who share unique skills and experiences with our students.

Our international students stay with us from anywhere between one term and five years. Cultural events are held throughout the year and students are given opportunities to share some of their culture with their Kiwi classmates.

Homestay

International students live with local homestay families, selected and monitored by the Westlake Girls Homestay Coordinator. Students can also stay with a caregiver designated by their family.





Support and Clubs

We understand the jump from intermediate to high school can be a big one, and we have a dedicated team to support you during your studies. First point of contact for any small issues will be your Form Teacher, and there are also two Deans who oversee your House.

Our Learning Enhancement Department exists to remove barriers to learning. We have a team of four trained counsellors you can talk to, and there is also a Learning Support team if you need a little more assistance to achieve your academic goals.

Our Health Centre is located in the main admin block and is staffed every day from 8.30am to 3.30pm by a registered nurse. If you have a chronic illness, condition or injury, we will discretely make sure the right people know so you are well taken care of.

When you are getting close to leaving high school, our Careers Department will be able to guide you to take your next steps.

A great way to get connected and make friends at high school is to join a club. We have more than 30 on offer including philosophy, robotics, writing, kapa haka, debating, astronomy and dance. We even have a club where you can just hang out and play board games! If you enjoy sports, you can join Stay and Play – an after-school opportunity to give new sports a try.

At the beginning of the year you'll get the chance to sign up for as many of these great clubs and activities as you wish – just remember not to over commit!

FAQs

Am I in-zone for Westlake Girls High School?

All students who live within the home zone are automatically entitled to enrol at the school.

For details on our in-zone area, please visit our website: www.westlakegirls.school.nz/zoning

What if we are out of zone?

Each year we are fortunate to be able to offer out-of-zone students the opportunity to attend an all-girls school. If you live out of zone, come along to our Open Evening (usually held in July – check our website for more details) and then attend one of our Enrolment Evenings which follow.

Categories for selection are: sisters of current students, sisters of former students, daughters of mothers who attended Westlake, daughters of staff, and then all other students.

How big is the school?

We have approximately 2,200 domestic and international students, along with 200 full-time and part-time staff. While we are a larger school, our classroom sizes are no bigger than other state schools. Our size allows us to offer a large number of course choices, and more flexibility in timetabling.

How will I know what's happening at the school?

We have a fortnightly newsletter emailed out to all parents and caregivers, and we also send out emails with important information such as how to register for parent/teacher evenings, school-wide events, and other key messages.

Our app has some fantastic features and is a great way for us to send you notifications about the school.

Our website is full of information about absences, uniform, curriculum, and governance. It is also where you will find the parent portal. A log-in will enable you to access information about your daughter, including her reports during the year.

What if I need to talk to my daughter's teacher outside of a parent-teacher evening?

Your daughter's Dean is available for academic or pastoral care issues, and her form teacher is also available to talk. You will need to make an appointment and the best way to do this is via email.

A list of contacts is on our website.

How many report cards will my daughter receive each year?

She will receive three report cards during the year: Interim, Mid-Year and End-of-Year. These will be available through your own private parent portal. Details on how to register for parent teacher evenings will also be shared through the portal.

How do I report an absence?

It's easy. For domestic students, email attendance@westlakegirls.school.nz and your daughter's Form Teacher. Or call the absence line on 489 4169 and press 1 to leave a message. Messages must be followed up by either an email or a note within three days of the student returning to school.

The school app also provides a direct link to the attendance office via phone or email.

For international students, please see our website: www.westlakegirls.school.nz/absences



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