



BIRKENHEAD COLLEGE



CREATING CONFIDENCE AND OPPORTUNITY



a school that gets results



DEAR PARENTS

Welcome to Birkenhead College. We look forward to working with you and your child over the very important years ahead.

Birkenhead College is a co-educational school with a roll of approximately 900 students. It is an attractive environment with well laid out buildings and amenities set in very pleasant grounds on Auckland's North Shore. The College offers excellent facilities, many of which are also used by the community around us.

Two key statements drive all educational policies at Birkenhead College. The first is our mission statement, "To provide education of the highest quality for all students". The second is, "Where everybody is somebody." These two statements provide the visionary background that leads to a culture of excellent teaching, learning, and achievement, within a caring and supportive framework of relationships. The Board of Trustees and the well-qualified teaching staff have high aspirations for all students and a commitment to developing their full potential. The College has a consistently strong academic record and is proud of its significant successes in sport, cultural and community activities.

The College has a reputation as a caring school. An extensive guidance network exists to monitor and assist with the progress and welfare of all students.

Effective learning cannot take place unless there is an ordered, disciplined environment. We are committed to fair but firm discipline based on commonsense rules which are consistently enforced.

It is clear that students whose parents take an active interest in their school work gain more from their secondary school years. At Birkenhead College we encourage parents to be involved and we are very proud of our interactive role in the local community.

Jim Mathewson
PRINCIPAL

Jim Mathewson, B. Sc., Dip. Sci. came to Birkenhead College as Principal in 1987 with a depth of teaching and leadership experience from Westlake Boys' High School, Hayes Grammar School in London where he was Head of Biology, and Rangitoto College in Auckland where he was Head of Science and Deputy Principal.

His own high standards, passion for learning, enthusiasm for sport and music, early career advancement, including time as a secondary schools inspector, have played an important part in attracting high calibre teachers to Birkenhead College.

Jim is a recipient of a Woolf Fisher Travel Scholarship. He is married, with two children.



College Senior Management Team:
Mrs Plummer (Assistant Principal), Mr Mathewson (Principal),
Mrs Stanley (Assistant Principal), Mr Page (Deputy Principal).



strong academic record

“There is a strong focus on learning. Students are punctual to class and make good use of their time during lessons. They are responsive to their teachers.” EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)

The consistently high grades achieved by many Birkenhead College students in national examinations speak for themselves. Recent scholarship and NZQA results have been amongst the best in the country. These results lift the performance of all students and have set the benchmarks that the College continues to strive for. Such high performance is a strong reflection of the calibre of our teaching staff. Beyond the core curriculum, the school offers a wide range of subject options.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Students in Years 9 and 10 are placed, largely on their academic ability, into one of three broad bands of classes. An accelerate/extension class provides motivation and challenge for top students.

All students must take a set of core subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, Technology, Physical Education, Health and a Language. In addition, further options are chosen.

SENIOR SCHOOL

Students in Years 11 and 12 must take six subjects in each year of study. In Year 11 they must take English, Mathematics and Science with three other chosen subjects. English is compulsory at Year 12, and Year 13 students may choose five or six subjects.

QUALIFICATIONS

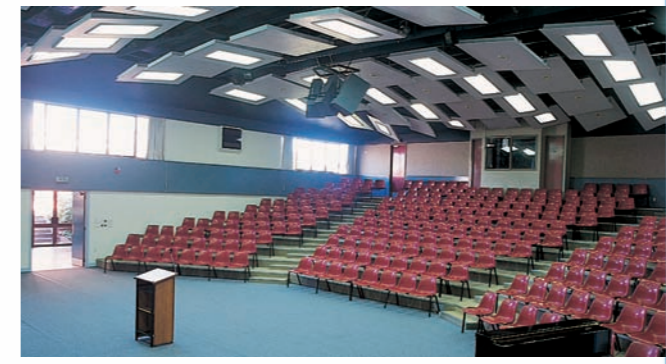
The College has an excellent record in preparing students for all major New Zealand examinations and certificates, including:

- National Certificate of Educational Achievement, Levels 1, 2, 3
- NZQA Scholarship
- NZ Mathematics Certificate
- Goethe Institute
- Alliance Francaise
- Australian Maths, English, Science competitions
- NZEST Scholarship

NURTURING FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS

Gifted and talented students may be placed on an advanced programme to extend them in their areas of strength.

Our Special Needs co-ordinator ensures provision is made for students with learning difficulties.



For a detailed flowchart of subject options at all levels, please refer to enclosures.



SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESSES

- Sir George Elliot Scholarship
- Russell McVeagh Law Scholarship
- Auckland University Chancellor's Award - for Top Maori and Pacific Island Scholars
- Massey University Scholarship
- AUT Vice Chancellor's Scholarship
- AUT Significant Student Scholarship
- First Foundation Scholarship

RECENT STUDENT SUCCESSES

- Joseph Lane
Otago University
\$100,000 grant for doctoral studies
- Anna Winkley
Canterbury University
Emerging Leaders Scholarship
NZ Energy Education Trust Scholarship

- Simon Miller
Massey University
Bayer Scholarship
Post Doctoral Fellowship

- Ljiljana Simic
Auckland University
Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarship
Prize for Top Engineering Student

- Alice Coveny
Auckland University
PhD studies at the Liggins Insitute

- Manuel Seidel
Auckland University
Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarship
Prize for Top Engineering Student

- Simon Ngawhika
Auckland University
President University Maori Students Association

- Germaine Tang
SPARC Scholarship – Gymnastics

- Felicity Rogers
North Harbour Aimes Award





friendship and mutual respect

“There is an enhanced atmosphere of mutual respect and co-operation between the students and their teachers. The students are tolerant of each other’s differences and support each other in their learning.” EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)

High quality human relationships are a feature of the school and great value is placed on these. Birkenhead College is a community secondary school where many students build long lasting friendships.



Because it is a medium sized school your child cannot get lost in the crowd. There is a friendly atmosphere where students and staff get to know each other as individuals. Emphasis on co-operation and respect is high and filters through the entire school. At Birkenhead College ‘everybody is somebody’.

Student interaction is centred around the spacious cafeteria and adjoining courtyard, providing a focal point and social heart for the school community.

A strong pastoral care network is in place to provide educational, vocational and personal guidance for students. Deans, Form Teachers and an experienced Guidance Counsellor are always available to support and assist. A peer support programme ensures students feel they belong. Year 13 students work with Year 9 students to help them settle well into their new environment.

Our overseas students bring an international dimension to the school which enriches the culture.



technology and e-Learning

"The board of trustees ensures that learning programmes are well resourced. An example is the high quality computer resources."

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)

As students grow to maturity in a rapidly changing world, it is vital that they are equipped for the technological future. Computer labs and pods are located throughout the school for ease of access in all subject areas. Our Digital Technologies courses allow students to learn programming languages, Microsoft Office, and Print Design. Music students work with Sibelius to create and record music. We ensure subjects such as Graphics, Photography, Food/Fabric Technology and Media Studies are well resourced to give students a competitive edge.

Creative thinking and problem solving are key attributes for our students. Our Director of e-Learning has overall school responsibility for this, and leads creative thinking programmes for all Year 9 students to ensure they gain digital and research skills.

KnowledgeNET, the school's interactive website, allows parents to monitor academic progress and attendance. It also provides a vital link between teachers and students, so that learning is not limited by location or time.



For further technology information,
please refer to enclosures.



a rich array of the arts

“The school has developed a reputation for the quality of its co-curricular programmes and many parents look for high levels of performance in these areas.” EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)

MUSIC

The College is well-known for its music programmes and participation is impressive. We offer a wide variety of activities including composition, orchestras, concert band, chamber orchestra, choirs, jazz, rock and percussion groups. Music is encouraged at all levels and tuition for most instruments is provided by itinerant tutors. Student achievement in this programme has become a focus for community interaction and involvement through high profile music performances at all levels. In external exams our students have performed consistently above the national average.

ART

The art department maintains an excellent reputation for providing opportunities for students to score highly in national exams, and to succeed in tertiary art courses and art related careers. The large number of students taking art at senior levels is an indicator of an effective art department.

DRAMA

The College has excellent drama facilities with specialist teachers and a 300 seat theatre. The school offers drama courses to students in Year 9 to 13. Our courses are well delivered and students attain high standards. We have a number of very successful school productions every year.

DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Students participate in public speaking at every level and Birkenhead College debating teams compete successfully in interschool competitions.

CULTURE GROUPS

The College encourages students to be proud of their culture and to participate in cultural activities and represent the College in the wider community. Our International Day and Maori Culture group are well known.

CONCERT BAND

60 students playing woodwind, brass or percussion instruments. They participate in major Secondary School Festivals, regularly reaching the finals, as well as many school functions and community events.

INTERMEZZO BAND

A preparation group for the Concert Band, for musicians who have been playing for 1-2 years.

BIG BAND

For advanced members of the Concert Band containing saxophones, trumpets, trombones and rhythm section.

JAZZ COMBOS

The groups are selected after auditions. Several groups have made recordings at Radio New Zealand studios.

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

Small groups for more advanced players preparing for the Secondary Schools Chamber Music Competition.

VOX VOCAL GROUP

Boys and girls are selected for this choir after auditions. Performs at school functions and participates in the NZ School Choral Festival.

BARBERSHOP QUARTETS

Talented boys and girls who provide entertainment at various community events. Senior groups have won a number of Auckland competitions.

STRING ENSEMBLES

The string ensemble, including harp, rehearse classic and modern repertoire weekly. Often complemented with advanced brass and woodwind players, regular performance opportunities are community concerts, local schools, chamber competitions and prizegivings.

ROCK BAND

Standard pop/rock groups write original songs and rehearse weekly for the nationwide RockQuest competition. Each year at least one of these popular bands represents the school at regional finals.

flying high in sport

"The dedication and expertise of the coaches and strong parental support have been major factors contributing to the high levels of student achievement."

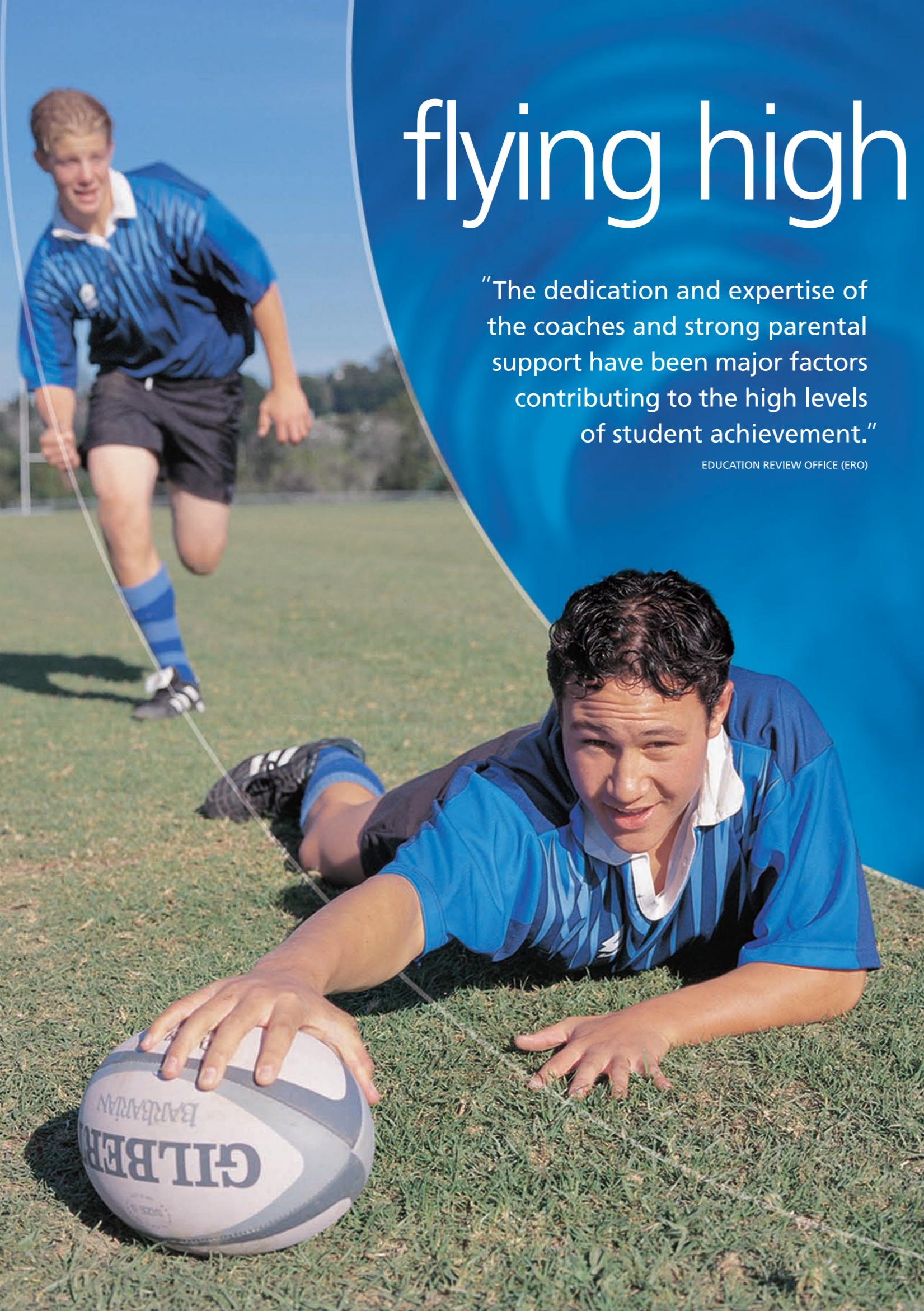
EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)

Birkenhead College has a strong sporting tradition and high level of participation. Students have excelled in a variety of sporting codes. Many of our students have gained national and regional representative honours in a wide range of sports including: rugby, netball, soccer, basketball, hockey, cricket, athletics, orienteering, table tennis, water polo, karate, judo, and curling.

Sports academy classes for talented sports students begin at Year 9.

A full-time Sports Co-ordinator ensures teams are well managed and coached, and that high standards of fair play are maintained. Participation rates continue at very high levels. Many teachers are talented sports people and pass on their enthusiasm and skills to students.

The school has excellent facilities and very well appointed playing fields for rugby, hockey, soccer, cricket, softball and athletics. There is a swimming pool, surrounded by the impressive new sports centre with two gymnasiums and a fully equipped fitness centre. In addition, there are eight netball and tennis courts.



For further information please refer to enclosures.

springboard to success

“The learning climate is characterised by high expectations, wide learning opportunities, good resourcing and high quality human relationships.” EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO)

The secondary school years are a very important grounding for the future. Students at Birkenhead College are presented with many opportunities and given great encouragement to develop the skills and commitment to realise their ambitions. Our senior students go on to higher education and to a wide range of successful careers.

All students are well guided in their study choices and given extensive information on the many career pathways open to them. Our careers team provide information and guidance on any matters which concern future careers and school courses.

In a dedicated and proven learning environment, our students are very well prepared for a successful future.



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