

# NORTHCROSS 2017

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## PROSPECTUS



# Welcome

'The best type of school to meet the needs of the emerging adolescents is one which responds to the identified needs of its students'.



The early adolescent years are a critical time in a young person's life. They are maturing physically and developing emotionally, hence the need for a clearly distinctive teaching and learning pedagogy for students in their middle years.

Through a responsive and challenging curriculum, Northcross offers a unique approach that encourages greater student involvement and therefore total engagement in their learning process.

By inviting students to bring their prior experiences and knowledge to situations, they can be actively involved in the intellectual, cultural and sporting programmes offered at Northcross. This gives them the opportunity to become critical and creative thinkers, who are positive in their identity, who are resilient and motivated and who can understand and appreciate the richness and complexities of life.

We offer you the opportunity at Northcross to become connected with our exciting learning community, where we can work together for the benefit of your child.



**Jonathon Tredray  
Principal**

*Ko te tumanako ka puāwai tōu tamaiti i roto i nga hua o te kura, kia whāia e ia i te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu ia me he maunga teitei.*

*We hope you will enjoy being part of our school community during your time with us and your children will become involved and know success in all they undertake.*

**“** At Northcross Intermediate we emphasise intellectual, social, cultural and sporting learning experiences. Opportunities are created to nurture and develop the strengths and talents of those students who attend our school.



# Lighting the Path for Success

Northcross Intermediate takes great pride in offering a two year programme that provides a range of opportunities to enable our students to develop the skills so vitally important in becoming lifelong learners.

- Our primary focus is on students aged between 11 – 13. This enables us to direct all school resources to our students.
- A programme which offers a sense of inquiry and independence in thought and action.
- An integrated programme within the classroom.
- A fully integrated specialist programme which encompasses Technological Areas of Bio-Tech, Food, Design, Media, Science Technology, Hard Materials. The Arts cover Music, Visual Art and Dance and Drama.
- An environment where the students can be involved in the running of the school. The responsibilities offered are realistic and carried out in conjunction with their peers.
- A wide variety of teaching styles. Parents have a role in choosing a learning environment which best suits their child's learning and emotional needs.
- Our environment assists the students in their preparation to be actively involved in the secondary school years and the world of tomorrow.
- Alternative programmes which provide that expert assistance in the class programmes for students needing alternative pathways to learning.

## KEY COMPETENCIES

These competencies underpin the Northcross commitment to learning

- Managing self
- Relating to Others
- Participating and contributing
- Thinking
- Using language, symbols and texts

## LEARNING DISPOSITIONS

- Perserverence
- Explorer of ideas
- Engaged
- Reflective
- Self-Motivated

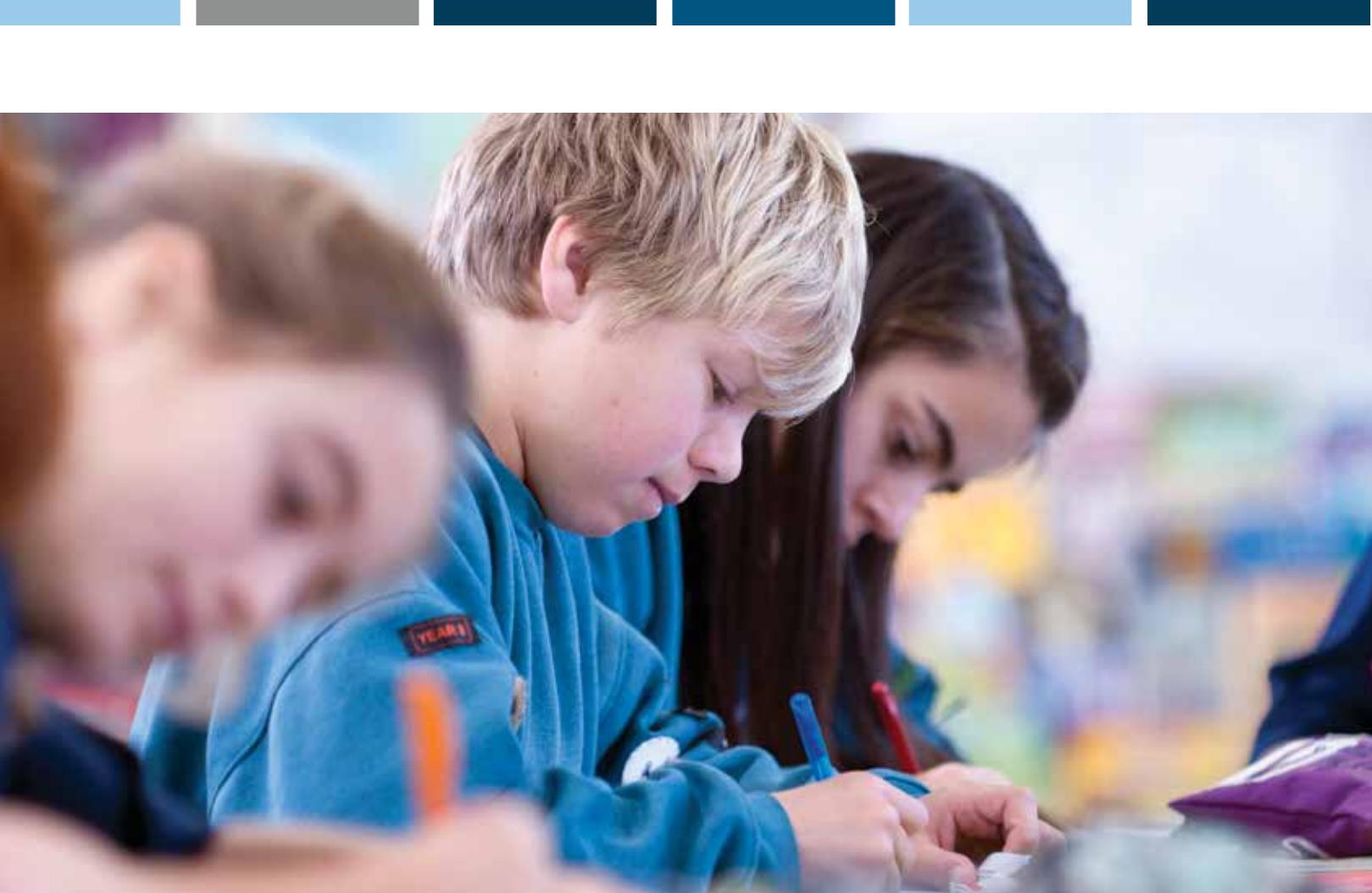
**“** So far it has been amazing at Northcross. The opportunities and experiences that I have gained from being here have been the best in my life. My sporting and academic achievements have improved with success in all areas. By having this time to prepare myself for College, I have learned important life skills which will assist me in the future. I don't think my parents could have picked a better school for me.

– Student Quote **”**

*Kia tirama te ara hei eke ki nga taumate tiketike*

*Lighting the Path to Success*





# Curriculum

Northcross encourages students to set and attain goals to achieve their personal bests.

## INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

Northcross Intermediate School encourages deep learning through a concept based curriculum. Each concept encompasses the essential learning areas of Science, Social Sciences and Health with literacy underpinning all activities. Numeracy and literacy skills are also taught independently and are the foundation of most of the teaching and learning at Northcross. Key competencies are targeted within each concept and reinforced continually throughout the year.

## ENGLISH

Achievement in English gives students access to the knowledge and skills they need in order to participate fully in the social, cultural, political and economic life of New Zealand, and the wider world. To do this they need to be effective oral, written, and visual communicators who are able to think deeply and critically.

Northcross Intermediate School achieves this through promoting the skills of Listening, Reading, Viewing, Speaking, Writing, and Presenting.

We provide opportunities in literacy events and activities:

- ICAS
- Auckland Rotary Speech Competitions
- Northcross Poetry Slam
- Visiting poets and authors
- New Zealand Reading Quiz
- Barfoot and Thompson Young Writers Challenge

## MATHEMATICS

At Northcross, our students, through mathematics, will learn to develop the ability to think creatively, critically, strategically and logically. At Northcross our students will structure and organise information mathematically, carry out procedures flexibly and accurately, process and communicate information and enjoy intellectual challenge.

We provide challenging mathematical events and activities:

- Mathex
- Otago Problem Challenge
- Mathletics
- ICAS

The programme reinforces their learning in a fun, positive and challenging way.

## SCIENCE

At Northcross we want our students to gain 'knowledge', to ask questions, to start thinking like a scientist and to have an inquisitive mind. Science is a very live, hands-on and vibrant subject with unlimited potential.

We want our students to identify problems or matters of interest, gather information, to find solutions, test claims, predict and to realise that often there is not just one solution. We want them to 'experience' Science and not just 'learn' about Science.



## SOCIAL SCIENCES

Social Sciences is about students exploring how societies work, and how they can participate and take action as informed and responsible citizens.

Our students will study the social sciences through the processes of 'inquiry', 'values exploration', and 'social decision making' via school wide integration of curriculum areas.

## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

- Personal Health and Physical Development
- Movement Concepts and Motor Skills
- Relationships with Other People
- Healthy Communities and Environments

Health and Physical Education at Northcross focuses on ensuring the students well being and providing them with the skills and qualities to enhance their spiritual, mental, emotional, social and physical development.

- Positive Relationships
- Building Self Esteem
- Respect
- Acceptance of others
- Personal responsibility
- Physical Development

## TECHNOLOGY

At Northcross the aim of Technology Education is for students to develop a broad Technological literacy to enable them to be confident and practical applicants of technology and solvers of technological problems.

- The Year 7 programme is designed to equip students with practical skills, knowledge and understandings focused on the school wide concepts.

- Year 8 students implement these skills by following a design process to devise solutions to purposeful problems, needs and opportunities that may arise.

## E-LEARNING

eLearning is a key component in all Northcross classrooms and our vision is that technologies are integrated to support authentic, higher order and collaborative learning.

All students have access while at school to a range of digital technologies such as; computers, iPads, digital cameras, printers, the internet and cloud based environments.

BYOD: Students are able to bring a mobile digital device or PLD (Personal Learning Device) to school which should adhere to NX minimum specs as outlined in the handbook. Students are encouraged to use a Personal Learning Device to support their learning in the classroom and at home. While at school the internet and the school's online environment can be accessed via the school's Wifi system.

eLearning at Northcross enables students to become collaborators, critical thinkers, digital citizens and successful life-long learners.

*Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he  
maunga teitei*

*Seek the treasure you value most dearly:  
if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain*



# Arts

At Northcross we encourage our students to participate in many of the cultural activities as possible. This is an integral part of the education programme conducted at Northcross.

Cultural Opportunities include:

- Choirs
- Concert and Jazz Bands
- Variety of Dance Groups
- J Rock Performances
- Kapa Haka
- Small and Large scale Drama Performances
- Tuition in a wide range of Instruments
- Selected Musical Ensemble performance groups
- Rock Bands

All our endeavours at Northcross are distinguished by creativity and it is through the fine arts, performing arts and music that the students develop their creative skills.

## THE ARTS (DANCE, DRAMA, MUSIC, VISUAL ARTS)

### MUSIC

Students will be exposed to informal learning practices, emulating as closely as possible to the real-life learning practices of young, beginner popular musicians. Students use the electric guitar, bass, drums, keyboard and vocals with a focus on instrumentation, chord sequence, form and structure, lyrics and dynamics to develop their own band's arrangement of a song.

### THE VISUAL ARTS

Students have the opportunities to develop ideas through imagination and observation and invention with materials.

### DRAMA AND DANCE

Students will work with the elements of role, space, time and space, action, tension and focus.

Their dance ideas are derived from imagination, feelings and experiences suggested by the teacher.

**“** At Northcross we are all unique and everybody respects that.  
– Student Quote **”**



# International Students

Northcross Intermediate School has been welcoming International Students from across the globe for many years:

- During this time we have seen International Students arrive from South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Russia, Switzerland, Tahiti, Taiwan, Thailand, Germany, Hungary & Indonesia. Not only do these students broaden their own horizons they also bring a wonderful cultural diversity to our school.
- We strive to offer all our International Students a wonderful learning environment with ESOL support (both during and after school) and many other specialist subjects.
- Our Year 8 International Students have excellent colleges to move on to in Year 9.
- We can arrange homestay accommodation for students 11 years and over studying without their parents.

At Northcross Intermediate School you will:

- Be in a school specialising in the 11-13 age group
- Improve your English
- Have a complete academic, sporting and cultural experience
- Establish valued friendships from around the world
- Be involved in a school dedicated to empowerment and learning

**“** *To be educated today means to be able to swim safely, happily and productively in culturally diverse waters.*

*–Jeffery S. Lehman Founding Vice Chancellor, NYU, Shanghai.*

**”**

Our International Team comprises:

**Sharon Hines:** Director of International Students

**Anna Inger:** Homestay Coordinator

**Annette Thomas and Jane Edington:** ESOL Department

Our aim is for Excellence in all aspects of student life with respect for others, our environment and Community.

*Individual growth through challenge and learning*

*Mā te wero me te ako ka tipu au*



# Sport

The physical involvement in sport contributes to good health, helps develop confidence through improvement and achievement, and teaches important group skills and team work.

The challenge and enjoyment of sport creates pride in our students which is reflected throughout the school.

There are many wonderful sporting opportunities available to our students while at Northcross. Teams take part in Zone competitions and if successful, Auckland Champion of Champion events.

Sporting Opportunities include:

- Netball
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Table Tennis
- Badminton
- Cross Country
- Hockey
- Gymnastics
- Golf
- Touch
- Equestrian
- Cricket
- Water Polo
- Rugby
- Athletics
- Softball
- Sailing
- Orienteering
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Swimming
- League

Lunchtime inter-class competitions are held during the week where enjoyment and class participation are the key elements.

- The whole school is involved in fitness and sporting programmes at class room level.

- North Shore and Auckland Intermediate Sports Competition: Athletics, Swimming, Netball, Hockey, Soccer, Squash, Basketball, Rugby, Touch, Golf, Equestrian, Orienteering, Cross Country, plus many more...
- We also participate in the national AIMS (Association of Intermediate and Middle Schools) Sporting Competition.

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Education Outside the Classroom is an important aspect of our Health and Physical Education programme as it provides experiences and opportunities to become active and safe in the outdoors, promoting skills such as team work, communication, trust, problem solving, leadership and responsibility. For a week in March, all Year 7 classes will participate in outdoor education programmes around and outside the school for which there will be a charge depending on the activities each particular class is undertaking. For 2 weeks at the end of March, all Year 8 classes will attend the Finlay Park Camp. The cost is likely to be around \$260.

**“** Northcross has presented me with so many opportunities through sports, academic and musical resulting in many personal achievements. I have thoroughly enjoyed my two years which have been by far the best years of my schooling and a time I will never forget.

- Student Quote

**”**



# Varied Teaching and Learning Approaches

Northcross is proud to be able to offer students a variety of learning environments.

## SINGLE CLASS

A single teacher environment.

## TWIN CLASS/INNOVATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

An environment where there are Year 7 and Year 8 classes. Most students will remain in this environment for their two years at Northcross. These students can apply for the Sports and Performing Arts classes in Year 8.

## INDEPENDENT LEARNING CLASS

We provide at least two composite classes for students who are divergent thinkers capable of self-discipline and initiative.

Students in the ILC are not eligible to apply for the Sports Class or Performing Arts Class in Year 8.

## PERFORMING ARTS CLASS

The Performing Arts Class is for Year 8 students and is similar in make up to a single cell class yet with the curriculum delivered using the many aspects of the performing arts as the learning context. Students take their performing expertise and academic achievements to higher levels and across a range of disciplines.

## SPORTS CLASS

Northcross offers a Sports Class to a group of Year 8 students who have shown a talent and commitment to physical education and sport during Year 7. At Northcross we pride ourselves on catering for a range of learning styles, so the Sports class delivers the curriculum using sport as the learning context.

## CWSN

At Northcross we recognise that our students have a wide range of abilities and emotional needs. There are a variety of programmes available to cater for personal needs. Outside agencies are involved with individual education plans.

We also have a school counsellor as part of the team at Northcross.

## ESOL

Northcross has experienced ESOL teachers to provide support in learning English and extra English for children who need development in this area.

## GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

Northcross aims to offer extension programmes for students who have a recognised talent. We continue to enter students in all appropriate local and International Academic competitions.

## FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING

FPS caters for highly creative thinkers. It fosters their creativity and vision to work as a team to achieve their goals. We attend FPS National Finals and if successful, World Finals.

# Pastoral Care

The Pastoral care of our students is an important element in school life at Northcross. The school assists in the overall personal development of our students but also recognises that we work in conjunction with parents and the Community to achieve our collective goals.

Pastoral Care involves:

- A clear discipline system that allows teachers to teach and students to learn
- Support for those with learning and behavioural difficulties
- Counselling service for all students
- Opportunities for student leadership and service in all areas
- Stimulating class environments for learning and development of positive relationships

The school expects and maintains a high standard of discipline. It is important that a new beginning at Northcross is not at the expense of our zero tolerance policy with regard to inappropriate behaviour. Behaviour whether good or inappropriate must be shared with parents, teacher and student.

This awareness, knowledge and working relationship can only strengthen the partnership between home and school.

“ Students have a Right to Learn.  
Teachers have a Right to Teach. ”





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