



Welcome To DARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



Darfield High School is a co-educational, Year 7 to Year 13 school, located in rural Canterbury, New Zealand. We are a community school providing an environment in which each student is supported to gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for successful and confident living.



Welcome to Darfield High School. This publication is an introduction to our school, the things we value and the opportunities available.

At Darfield High School we are large enough to be able to offer a wide range of academic, cultural, and sporting opportunities but small enough to know our students well. We are proud of the achievements of our students and the role we are able to play in supporting their success.

We believe students learn best in an environment where expectations and roles are clear. We provide clear boundaries but also opportunities to develop independence and leadership skills.

Darfield High School offers a broad range of learning pathways to suit the needs of all of our students. The academic achievements of our students are amongst the best in comparable New Zealand schools. Specialist programmes, such as the agriculture, outdoor education and ski programmes, support vocational and recreational opportunities in the region.

I look forward to meeting you and I encourage you to contact the school if you would like to know more about us.

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Expectations

We expect the following from all members of our school community:

Respect for each other

- Build positive relationships
- Accept diversity
- Behave in a safe and considerate manner
- Take care of the property of others
- Allow others to learn without disruption

Respect for our environment

- Reduce, reuse, recycle resources
- Take care of the buildings and grounds

Respect for ourselves

- Work to the best of your ability
- Ask for help when you need it
- Make good use of the academic, cultural, and sporting opportunities provided
- Come to class on time and prepared

We have high expectations for the behaviour of all members of the school community and promote traditional values of respect and citizenship.

Values

We value:

- Home and school **working together** to prepare and educate young people for life.
- Students developing a sense of **respect for themselves and others**, and recognising that with rights go responsibilities.
- Development of positive interpersonal skills, including **respect for people's differences**.
- Enthusiasm and work ethic, and students taking increasing **responsibility for their own learning behaviour**.
- The **social values** of good manners, co-operation, honesty, self-worth, and self-responsibility.
- **Striving for success** and the value and enjoyment of education.
- **Service to the community**.
- The school as the community's Turangawae-wae - their place to **stand with pride**.



Student Support

Guidance Network

This provides support for and advice to students to assist them to make the most of the opportunities offered by our school. All staff work to assist students to do this.

Subject Teachers

Subject and classroom management issues

Form Teachers

Oversight of their students' academic, social, and personal development, and general administration

Deans:

Course guidance, class placement, behavioural problems, general advice and counselling

Careers Advisor:

Assistance to students who need help or advice with their future career/s

Counsellors:

Personal, social, and behavioural problems

Leadership Team:

Overall school policy and behaviour management

Learning Support Department

Selected students receive individual or small group assistance in one or more of Reading, Language, Mathematics, and technical skills.

Assistance is provided by Teacher Aides, senior students, and voluntary adult tutors.

Transition to employment

The school is actively involved in providing all students with the relevant information, advice and experience they need to complete a smooth transition from school to the world of work or tertiary education. The school has developed close ties with local employers and tertiary institutions.

Short Tertiary Courses

These are available to selected students in Years 11 to 13. They are usually four to five days long, and are usually in Christchurch. Students work towards obtaining credits for NZQA unit standards. The main providers Darfield High School deals with are the Christchurch Academy and the Sir George Seymour College. There is no tuition cost to the student (except for late withdrawals).

Gateway Programme

Begun in 2007, this programme assists eligible Year 11 to 13 students as they consider moving, prepare to move, and finally move into the workforce in skilled jobs. It provides students with opportunities to learn some of the sophisticated job-specific skills which are needed in the workforce. Students spend at least the equivalent of one day per week in job training. All training involves assessment for NZQA unit standards.



Working Together

A positive partnership between families and the school is vital as we seek to obtain the very best results for students.

Reports are issued as follows:

Term One: Progress Reports are issued towards the end of Term One, followed by a Progress Report Evening.

Term Two: Achievement and attitude reports are issued towards the end of Term Two followed by Report Evenings.

Term Three: Years 11-13 students are issued with a summary of their progress towards NCEA.

Term Four: In early November achievement and attitude reports are issued to Years 11-13 students. In early December achievements and attitude reports are issued to Years 7-10 students.

Parent report evenings follow the first three reports to enable discussion with the teacher regarding progress and next steps for the student.

Teachers can also be contacted by telephone or email if specific issues arise.

Various publications are produced to keep our community informed. The Calendar, Annual Report, and Magazine provide a broad overview of the school activities, and the newsletters are produced every two weeks for more up-to-date feedback.

Junior Curriculum

Students are grouped into mixed ability form classes. All junior students study English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education and Health.

Students will also study subjects from the following learning areas:

Arts - Art, Music, Drama.

Languages - Te Reo, French, Japanese.

Technology - Food, Hard, Soft, ICT.

Depending on the year level some of these subjects will be optional.

Years 7 and 8

To provide stability and security in their early years at secondary school, students work in a homeroom environment for much of their time. Subjects with particular equipment requirements, such as Science and Technology, are taught in specialist rooms. Students are banded into ability groups for their Mathematics programme and for the reading strand of their English programme.

Years 9 and 10

At each level in Years 9 and 10 there is one form class of more able students selected on the basis of the strength of their literacy and numeracy ability. Other classes at each level are mixed

FLAMES

The Fostering Learning And Motivation in Education through Sport programme (FLAMES) programme operates slightly differently from all other classes in the school and has an emphasis on active learning, with extra periods of sport and exercise.



Senior Curriculum

The courses provided are designed to provide a variety of pathways through to employment or further education. Students are able to study at a variety of levels to suit their needs. To ensure that students are studying at the level that enables them to be successful, entry to some courses is by meeting prerequisites. Refer to the Senior Course Handbook for further detail.

Subject combinations are arranged to suit the majority of students. Courses will run provided there are sufficient students to form a class, staffing is available, and the requested combination of classes can be timetabled. If the class size is uneconomic, it may be possible for the student to be enrolled with either the Correspondence School or the Cantatech Virtual Learning Network.

LEARNING AREA	YEAR 11 NCEA Level One	YEAR 12 NCEA Level Two	YEAR 13 NCEA Level Three
English	# English	# English	· English
Languages	ESOL · French · Japanese · Te Reo Māori	ESOL · French · Japanese · Te Reo Māori	ESOL · French · Japanese · Te Reo Māori
Mathematics and Statistics	Accounting # Mathematics	Accounting · Mathematics	· Accounting · Maths with Calculus · Statistics and Modelling
Sciences	# Science Rural College - Agriculture	Biology Chemistry Physics Rural College - Agriculture	Biology · Chemistry · Physics · Rural College - Agriculture
Social Sciences	Economics Geography History	Economics Geography History	Economics Geography History Classical Studies
Arts	Drama · Music Visual Art	Drama · Music · Visual Art	· Drama · Music · Visual Art
Technology	· Engineering · Furniture Making · Graphics · Information Management	Business Administration · Furniture Making · Graphics Information Technology	Business Administration · Furniture Making · Graphics Information Technology
Health and PE	Home Economics Physical Education	Home Economics Physical Education	Home Economics · Physical Education
Key:	# Compulsory	· Prior Learning Essential	



Other Programmes

International

Darfield High School has a well established International Student Programme, with a full-time Director plus support staff. We enrol students from a number of countries. Our international students are home-stayed for the year. This provides them and their hosts with the opportunity to have a genuine exchange of cultures. International students make a positive contribution to our school, both by their presence as a group and through their individual talents in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities.

Each year a group of Darfield High School students travels to Japan. As well, we host visiting groups from around the Pacific Basin who spend several weeks living in home-stays and exploring our region.

ESOL classes are offered at each year level to students for whom English is not their first language.

Leadership

There are formal and informal opportunities for students to develop leadership skills: prefects, school council, class captains and peer mediation; drama, sports teams, Stage Challenge. Students are also given the freedom to lead where they have identified a need, for example in organising charity and fundraising

events.

Gifted and Talented Students

Students who are identified with particular talents are supported through a range of strategies that include: special courses, individual education plans, acceleration, competitions, summer schools, and tertiary courses.

Rural College

Rural College is the name given to the agriculture programme. The courses include opportunities for students to learn practical and theoretical skills for employment or tertiary study. Generous scholarships are available for Darfield High School students who go on to study agriculture at Lincoln University.

Outdoor Education

The school has a comprehensive programme for all Years 7 to 10 students which provides students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in an outdoor learning environment through a range of outdoor pursuit and learning activities. In the process, students should develop a greater appreciation of the natural environment.

The Year 13 Outdoor Education course teaches high level skills for students interested in a career in the outdoors and provides opportunities for personal development.



Sport

The annual programme of school sports events is designed to encourage participation by all students but also a high standard of competition for the more able. Events such as Athletics, Swimming Sports, Triathlon and Cross Country are a key part of our sporting calendar.

There is an annual winter tournament with two other local rural secondary schools.

All Years 7 to 10 students are expected to take an active part in the regular Sport and Recreation Programme. The programme runs most Wednesday afternoons during Terms One to Four. In addition, some sports form part of a regular competition on other days.

A wide range of activities is available to students and includes, where staffing is available: hockey, rugby, football, netball, basketball, cricket, softball, tennis, equestrian, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, squash, indoor bowls, chess, cycling, walking, athletics, swimming, harriers, golf, triathlon, aerobics, skiing, shooting, touch rugby, and moto-cross.

Students have the opportunity, if they reach the required standard, to compete in inter-secondary competitions at Canterbury, South Island, and New Zealand levels.

Culture

Music

The Music Department encourages talented students to participate and perform in groups and as soloists. The school takes part in a number of competitions, including the Smokefree Rockquest Competition, Chamber Music Competitions, and Big Sing. The Jazz Band, Concert Band and Chorale regularly undertake concerts and tours.

Drama

Drama features prominently in the school programme with an annual major production as well as various drama and performance competitions such as Stage Challenge and the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival.

Public Speaking

All students are encouraged to participate in the annual speech competition with initial rounds being completed in class.

Tikanga Maori

There is a range of opportunities for students to enrich their knowledge of Maori culture. These include the school's own Kapahaka group and the Tāwera Culture Group. Te Roopu O Te Aka Tāwera has been established to meet the needs of Maori families in the Malvern area.



Facilities

Technology and Art Centre

Currently undergoing a two million dollar refurbishment, this will provide facilities worthy of the high quality of teaching in these curriculum areas.

Student Services Building

Due for completion for the start of 2010 the building will be a centre for student support with rooms for Deans, Guidance Counsellors, Careers Advisor, Learning Support Department, and the video-conferencing facilities.

ICT

There are two computer rooms and computer pods in the Library and various classrooms. Students are able to use the school network to access learning resources, internet and email. The school is linked into a virtual learning network via video-conferencing facilities.

Performing Arts Suite

Recently completed, the purpose-built Music and Drama suite is a valuable community facility.

Assembly Hall

With seating for 500 people, audio visual and lighting facilities, stage, and attached kitchen, the assembly hall is a valuable meeting and performance space.

Gymnasiums

Two gymnasiums, a climbing wall, a weights room, a practice turf, and an attached classroom support the Physical Education, Health and Sports programmes.

Kākapōtahi

Supports the learning of Te Reo Maori and is a resource centre for the local community.

Mackenzie Agricultural Centre

This building was purchased and moved to the school to provide a classroom and office space for the school's successful National Certificate in Agriculture course (Rural College) which is available to students in the senior school.

Te Whare Koru / Learning Centre

This provides us with an excellent place to work with students who have learning needs that are best met through individual and/or small group tutoring.

Grounds

The 10 hectare site provides a generous amount of recreational space including the adventure playground, a new and well-used facility which enables students to build physical strength through play.