

RUAPEHU COLLEGE PROSPECTUS

2027





MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

At Ruapehu College, we are proud to be a school that values connection, opportunity, and belonging. Our students are encouraged to strive for personal excellence while developing the confidence, resilience, and character needed to succeed in an ever-changing world.

We believe education is about far more than academic achievement alone. It is about supporting young people to discover who they are, strengthen their identity, contribute positively to others, and take pride in their community. Through strong relationships, consistent expectations, and clear boundaries, we aim to create a learning environment where students feel safe, supported, challenged, and ready to succeed.

At Ruapehu College, we believe that high standards matter. We are committed to maintaining consistent rules and high expectations around behaviour, learning, attendance, and respect. By setting these expectations clearly and supporting students to meet them, we help build a positive school culture where everyone can thrive.

Our unique environment, rich cultural heritage, and strong community connections provide students with opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Whether in academics, culture, sport, leadership, or service, we encourage all students to become active participants in school life and to embrace the many opportunities available to them.

At Ruapehu College, we are committed to building a healthy, strong, and inclusive school culture where students are prepared not only for further education and employment but also for meaningful and successful lives beyond school.

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“Rapuhia te Mātauranga – Seek Further Knowledge” is more than just words on a wall. It reflects our commitment to creating a culture of learning that inspires our students to become lifelong learners, prepared for further education, employment, and the opportunities that lie beyond school.



THE STORY OF

RUAPEHU COLLEGE

1955

Founded in 1955 at the foot of Mount Ruapehu and surrounded by the dual-heritage landscape of Tongariro National Park, Ruapehu College is proud of its unique environment and the opportunities it provides for learning both inside and outside the classroom.

We make full use of our remarkable natural surroundings to enrich and support our curriculum, helping students connect their learning to the world around them.



Our college community is drawn from the communities of Ohakune, Raetihi, Waiouru, National Park, and the surrounding rural hinterland. With a roll of approximately 250 students, Ruapehu College offers a welcoming and inclusive environment where every student is known, valued, and supported. Learning pathways are tailored to students' individual strengths, passions, and interests, enabling them to achieve success in ways that are meaningful to them.



Ruapehu College is a place where young people are encouraged to grow, learn, and strive for excellence. Alongside strong academic programmes, students are supported to participate, achieve, and develop their talents through a wide range of sporting, cultural, leadership, and community activities.



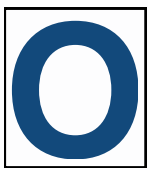
OUR VALUES

OUR VISION

Our ROCK values form the foundation of our college culture, shaping the way students and staff learn, interact, and make positive decisions every day.



RESPECT



HONESTY



CONFIDENCE



RAPUHIA
KOTE MĀTAURANGA

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“Rapuhia te Mātauranga – Ruapehu College pursues excellence: excellence in character, governance, teaching, learning, and achievement. We aim to develop learners who will make a positive difference in their community and in the world.”



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Leadership is at the heart of our kura. We provide many opportunities for students to lead, serve and make a difference.

WHĀNAU LEADERS



Our Whānau Leaders lead by example, helping to foster a positive, inclusive, and supportive culture across the college and within their whānau groups. Huia, Tui, Weka, and Kiwi each have dedicated student leaders who model our values, strive for excellence, and encourage participation, school spirit, and active involvement in all aspects of college life.



STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council provides students with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills while representing the student voice within the kura. Members work collaboratively to support student initiatives, enhance school life, and help foster a positive, inclusive, and supportive school culture.



PREFECT

Our Prefects are elected annually by both students and staff in recognition of their leadership, commitment, and positive contribution to the school community. Working alongside the Head Students, they provide leadership across the college, support school events, encourage student involvement, and foster a culture of pride, respect, and excellence throughout the kura.



HEAD STUDENTS

Our Head Students and Deputy Head Students are elected annually by staff and students and are recognised as outstanding role models within the kura. Through an application and interview process, students demonstrate leadership, commitment, and pride in the school community. They work closely with staff and student leaders to represent the student body, lead events and promote a positive school culture.



STUDENT SUPPORT

The wellbeing and success of every student is a priority. We provide a supportive and inclusive environment where students are encouraged to achieve their personal best both academically and socially.

Students have access to a wide range of support services, including deans, whānau teachers, learning support, guidance and careers advice. Strong relationships between staff, students, and whānau help ensure every learner feels supported, connected, and valued throughout their time at the college.



DEANS

Our Deans work closely with students, whānau, and staff to support student wellbeing, achievement, and engagement. Deans provide guidance and pastoral care, helping students navigate their school journey and encouraging them to reach their full potential.

By building positive relationships and maintaining regular communication with whānau, our Deans help ensure every student feels supported, connected, and successful throughout their time at the college.



ROPŪ TEACHERS

Each student is part of a rōpū class led by a dedicated rōpū teacher who plays an important role in supporting student wellbeing, learning, and engagement. Rōpū teachers build relationships with students, helping to create a sense of belonging and connection within the school. Rōpū time provides opportunities for mentoring, goal setting, academic tracking, and sharing important school information, ensuring students are well supported throughout their journey at Ruapehu College.



COUNSELLOR

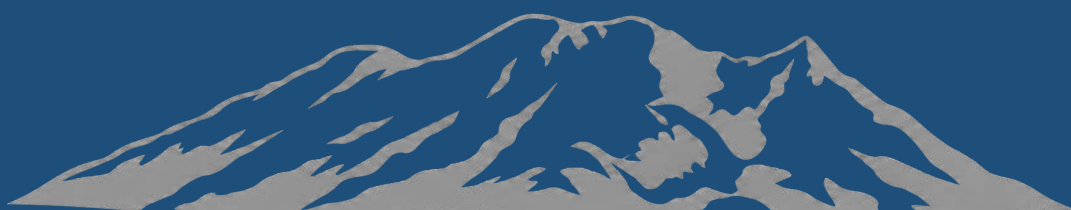
Students have access to a school counsellor who provides a safe, supportive, and confidential environment for students to talk about any challenges they may be facing. Our counselling service supports student wellbeing by helping students build resilience, confidence, and positive strategies for managing school and life experiences.



SCHOOL LUNCHES

All students receive a free healthy lunch each school day through the Government-funded Ka Ora, Ka Ako Healthy School Lunches programme.

Our lunch programme provides students with nutritious and balanced meals, helping ensure every student is ready to learn and participate fully in school life. We are also incredibly fortunate to have our wonderful kitchen ladies, Bubba Wall and Melissa Kennedy, whose care and dedication help make lunchtime a valued part of the day.



SPORTS

Ruapehu College has a long-standing success in all aspects with many of our students going on to compete on national and international stages. The dedication put in by staff, volunteers and most importantly students is seen on these sporting stages. From team sports to individual challenges, we make the very most of our backyard.

- Rugby
- Basketball
- Tramping
- Ripper Rugby
- Athletics
- Ki o Rahi
- Touch
- Netball
- Mountain Biking
- Football
- Equestrian
- Squash
- Snow Sports
- Motocross



Whānau sports are great team building events and a way for whole school inclusion which also includes our Year 13 students competing against our staff.

Other sports opportunities include events throughout the North Island and New Zealand and we look to grow and explore further sporting codes.







TEACHING & LEARNING

JUNIOR CURRICULUM(YEAR 9 AND 10)

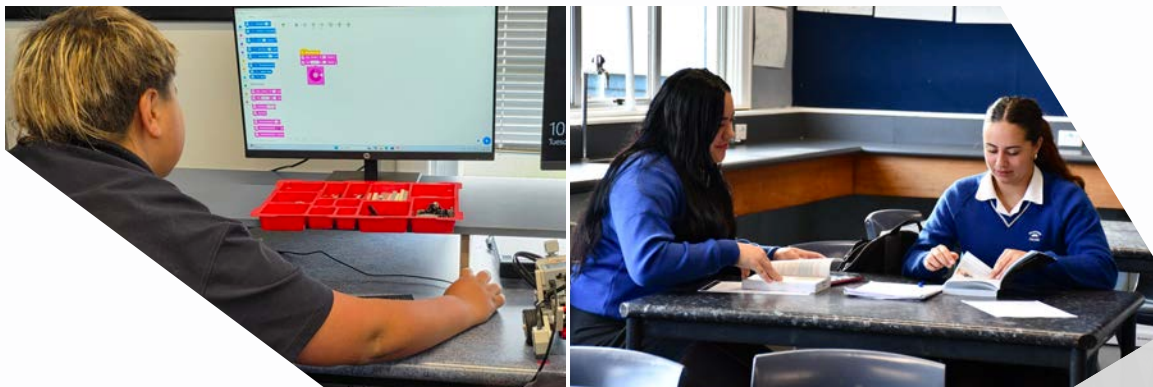
Our Junior Curriculum provides students with a strong foundation for future learning by nurturing the knowledge, skills, values, and learning behaviours needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. Through our Junior Diploma, students develop key competencies such as communication, collaboration, self-management, and critical thinking, while building confidence in literacy and numeracy. Our mixed-ability classrooms promote inclusive, differentiated teaching and learning, ensuring every student is supported and challenged to achieve personal success. A strong emphasis is placed on thinking and problem-solving, with opportunities for students to develop higher-order thinking skills that foster curiosity, creativity, and independence. Guided by a Growth Mindset and Habits of the Mind approach, students learn the importance of resilience, perseverance, and grit, empowering them to embrace challenges and become capable, lifelong learners. As we continue to evolve our learning environment, we embrace modern, evidence-based pedagogy and the purposeful integration of technology to create engaging, future-focused learning experiences that prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world.

Core Subjects

- English
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Numeracy
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education & Health
- Digital Technology

Options:

- Design and Innovation - Food Technology
- Design and Innovation - Resistant Materials Technology
- Design and Innovation - Textiles Technology
- Te Reo Māori
- Māori Performing Arts
- Agriculture/Horticulture
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts



SENIOR CURRICULUM (YEAR 11, 12 AND 13)

The senior curriculum at Ruapehu College is based on the New Zealand Curriculum and provides flexible, personalised pathways leading towards the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA). Our senior programme supports students to achieve success while preparing for future study, training, employment, and career opportunities. Students are encouraged to select courses that reflect their interests, strengths, and aspirations, creating meaningful individual learning pathways.

In Year 11, students study three compulsory core subjects – English, Mathematics, and Science – alongside three option subjects chosen from areas including The Arts, Technologies, Social Sciences, Languages, and Physical Education/Health. At Year 12, students typically select six subjects, with English and Mathematics strongly encouraged alongside courses aligned with future goals and career interests. By Year 13, students can tailor highly individualised programmes supporting tertiary study, vocational training, and employment pathways.

Ruapehu College also provides rich learning opportunities beyond the classroom. The Gateway programme gives Year 12 and 13 students hands-on workplace experience while gaining credits towards industry and trade qualifications, while STAR courses for Years 11–13 help students develop practical skills and explore career pathways. Through involvement in the OLC (Online Learning Community), students can access a wider range of subjects through online learning and video conferencing, supported by a dedicated modern learning suite and on-site teacher guidance.



GATEWAY/STAR/CAREERS

Gateway, Careers and STAR programmes help students explore future pathways and prepare for life beyond school through practical learning experiences, industry connections and personalised career guidance. Working with employers, tertiary providers and the wider community, students gain workplace skills, recognised qualifications and support to make informed decisions about tertiary study, apprenticeships and employment.

Gateway gives Year 12 and 13 students the opportunity to combine classroom learning with hands-on workplace experience while earning NCEA credits in areas such as building, agriculture, mechanics, horticulture and retail. STAR programmes offer short practical courses throughout the year, including first aid, defensive driving, coffee essentials and leadership. The Careers department also supports students with career planning, CVs, applications and interview preparation, while organising careers expos, tertiary visits and leadership opportunities to help students transition confidently into further education or the workforce.



EXPLORE

Discover career pathways
and industry opportunities



EXPERIENCE

Gain practical workplace
skills and real-world
experience



EARN

Achieve NCEA credits
and industry
qualifications



SUCCEED

Build confidence and
step into your future.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

At Ruapehu College, Outdoor Education uses our unique local environment as the classroom. Situated on the doorstep of Tongariro National Park, the programme helps students develop resilience, confidence, teamwork, problem-solving skills, and environmental awareness.

Available to both Year 11 and Year 12 students, Outdoor Education combines practical learning with opportunities to gain NCEA Unit Standards. Throughout the year, students take part in activities that challenge them, build independence, and foster an appreciation for the outdoors.

Students explore local landscapes through tramps to destinations such as Waitonga Falls, Taranaki Falls, and Tama Lakes, while learning essential outdoor safety and preparation skills. Mountain biking on local trails, including Te Ara Mangawhero and Old Coach Road, helps students develop navigation, risk management, and trip-planning skills.

The programme also includes snow sports, mapping, and team-building activities that strengthen communication and leadership. Outdoor Education is about developing capable, resilient young people who are connected to their environment and ready for future opportunities.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Cultural development is an important part of who we are as a school. We provide opportunities for students to explore, celebrate, and strengthen their own cultural identity while developing respect and understanding for the diverse cultures within our community.

This includes a strong focus on te ao Māori, local iwi connections, language, and cultural practices.

At Ruapehu College, cultural development is not only about embracing cultural learning, but also about supporting and contributing to a healthy, strong, productive, and inclusive school community that reflects and upholds our vision and values.

Students are encouraged to build positive relationships, show respect for others, and actively contribute to a culture of belonging and shared success.

Students are encouraged to take part in cultural activities, performances, events, and leadership opportunities that build confidence, connection, and pride in who they are.

Through these experiences, students develop a deeper sense of belonging and connection to their school and wider community.

Cultural development at Ruapehu College helps shape confident, respectful young people who are proud of their identity, contribute positively to their community, and are prepared to engage successfully in an increasingly diverse world.



ENROLMENT

We are committed to making the enrolment process welcoming, supportive, and straightforward for all students and whānau.

Enrolment packs can be collected from the school office or completed online, with our administration staff available to assist families throughout the process.

Once enrolment is received, students and families may meet with key staff members to discuss subject choices, learning pathways, and any additional support that may help students settle into school life successfully.

We place a strong focus on ensuring a smooth transition for all students entering Ruapehu College. Through orientation opportunities, whānau connections, and ongoing support from rōpū teachers, deans, and student leaders, students are encouraged to feel confident, connected, and prepared as they begin their journey at the college.



Scan me to enrol

