

# Timaru Christian School



## Year 9/10 Prospectus





## Introduction

At the end of 2015, the Ministry of Education approved our request to provide a Christian Education to students up to the end of Year 10. This was in response to requests and support from our school community who knew the importance of providing an education which teaches children that God is an important part of all aspects of their lives.

Our first Year 9 class consisted of 7 pioneers and their three teachers who guided them in their subjects. In 2017 we extended to Year 10.

Enclosed is information about Timaru Christian School's Secondary Education. It outlines how the programme operates as well as the benefits of educating your child at our school until the end of Year 10.

I am very happy to meet with you and your child and answer any questions you may have about this very important time in your child's education.

God bless,  
Bethany Rentoul  
Principal – Timaru Christian School





## Changing Needs

As children move into Secondary schooling, they are faced with many changes – socially, emotionally, physically and mentally. This is the time in which they start to question who they are and what they believe. By remaining in a Christian school environment, students are encouraged to ask questions and share how they are feeling in a safe place which supports and values the same things as their parents. We are able to guide them, direct them to God's Word, discuss their thoughts from a Christian worldview and encourage them during this important time. Grace and understanding is shown to every student by the teachers.

Going through the many physical changes in Years 7-10 can also be a very scary thing for teens. By remaining in a familiar environment with people they know care about them, they can deal with one set of changes at a time.



Developmentally, there is a strong argument for the existence of Middle Schools.

Nationwide assessment shows that there is a plateau and decline in achievement results from Years 7-10. By having a middle school as a continuation of our education, we are able to monitor and maintain students' learning for a longer period of time, using a combination of teaching and learning techniques to best meet their needs, drawn from experts in teaching across both the primary and secondary sectors. Moving on to Year 11 then brings with it an expectation that they are moving on to a 'higher' education with a strong focus on NCEA.

Students who achieve at their expected level by the end of Year 8 are most likely to pass NCEA level 1. Those students who are not quite achieving at that level will remain in a place where the teachers already know them and their needs and strengths. Our teachers will be



able to meet them where they are at, cater for those needs and have that extra time and the resources to help enable them to be ready for working towards NCEA at Year 11. For students who are working beyond their expected level, we provide programmes of work beyond Year 10 to ensure they are extended.

While remaining at a school to Year 10 is unique in our district, doing so is increasingly common in Christian schools with 4 other Christian schools teaching Year 1-10 in the Canterbury region.

Our past students, who have moved onto Year 11 at another school, have told us one of the things they most appreciated about Year 9/10 at TCS was having that one-to-one attention in class. Feedback from teachers at local high schools, has confirmed that our senior graduates are well-prepared for learning at the NCEA level.



## Set Apart

In developing our Year 9/10 programme, we have responded to the wishes of our parents and worked hard to ensure our senior students, while being a part of our school, maintain their own identity.

The Year 9/10 students wear navy jackets throughout the year, and ties in winter. The rest of the uniform is the same as the one they have worn in Years 7/8. Our uniform maintains unity by incorporating our school colours and logo while suiting a more mature student.

One of the important messages our students need to understand is that while they are still part of the school they attended for primary schooling, they are now secondary students. Expectations of the work they produce is raised and they are expected to manage their own time and workload. We expect students in Years 9 and 10 to spend up to 1 hour per day revising work and completing assignments. By developing good study habits now, they will ensure they are able to produce high quality internal assessments which are not rushed as they move into Year 11.



## Weekly Programme

- 8:40am The day begins with Devotions
- 9:00am Session One (1.5 hour sessions allow for more time to develop and refine learning and reduces time on transitioning between topics. It also allows flexibility if the students require more time on a subject.)
- 10:45am Morning Tea
- 11:15am Session Two
- 12:45pm Lunch
- 1:30pm Session Three
- 3:00pm End of day

**Homework Club** – On Monday afternoons, students can remain at school to work on homework and assignments from 3pm-4pm. Mr Goulet supervises this time and is available to work with students one-on-one to assist with any areas they are struggling with.



We believe it is important that our children learn skills for life. For that reason, all students take part in **Food Technology** lessons every week throughout the two years. They build on skills from Year 7 and 8 Food Technology and carry out a mixture of theory and practical activities. A highlight for many students is developing barista skills on our commercial coffee machine. They also apply their cooking skills on camps in which students often prepare their own meals, in groups.

All students take part in **PE/Sport** and **The Arts (Music, Visual Arts, Drama)**. We believe it is important that our students get a well-rounded education so while these subjects are often options for students in other high schools, all of our students take part in all of these curriculum areas. If students wish to be part of a sports team and we do not have enough students to make up a team, our students join the teams of other high schools eg netball, basketball, volleyball, cricket.



Students can also choose to learn to play an instrument with **free music tuition** in guitar, bass guitar, drums, keyboard and flute.



Students study a subject of their choice through **Te Kura (The Correspondence School)**. Options include a range of **Languages, Design and Visual Communication (Graphics), Financial Literacy** etc.



Other Technology subjects are taught as block courses over a three-day period, usually at the end of each term. **Hard materials, Soft materials and Biotechnology** are part of this block. **Digital technology** is taught using external providers to ensure students get to experience technologies not usually accessible to small schools eg slo-motion film-making, robot wars etc.

By experiencing all of these technologies and arts subjects, students are better placed to choose which subjects they will specialise in at NCEA levels in Year 11-13.

### **Education Outside the Classroom**

We believe that it is important to provide experiences for our students which are outside of the classroom but related to their learning, stimulating and memorable. Being together in a group of their peers is also something that is important to children at this age. For that reason, TCS runs 1 camp per term for Year 9 and 10 students. The school covers the costs of the camps (excluding the Year 5-10 camp) to ensure it isn't a financial burden for parents and all students can take part. The camp programme is as follows:

#### **Odd Years:**

Term One - Year 9/10 PE/Sports Camp

Term Two - Year 9/10 Science Camp

Term Three - Year 9/10 Social Sciences / Technology Camp

Term Four - Year 5-10 Camp

#### **Even Years:**

Term One - Year 9/10 PE/Sport Camp

Term Two - Year 9/10 Science Camp

Term Three - Year 9/10 Young Leaders Camp

Term Four - Year 9/10 'Big' Camp eg Wellington, Waitangi



In Summer terms, students sleep in the school's 12-person tents. In Winter terms they sleep in cabins. Students will need to bring a warm sleeping bag with them so it pays to invest in one ahead of time.



### Feedback from past students

- They did not feel disadvantaged by moving through at Year 11 because it was a new beginning for many students in Year 11.
- The academic education is very high at TCS; students feel well-equipped for Year 11 expectations.
- Practice exams at TCS helped to prepare for NCEA – it wasn't as scary.
- It helped having different teachers at TCS because they have different ones at the next high school.

### Past Students missed:

- Students listening to the teacher when they were being taught
- Lunchtime games / sports with classmates (rather than sitting with phones)
- Small classes
- Everyone got along well (because the teachers expected it)
- One-on-one attention



### Feedback from Past Parents of Year 10 Graduates

- Amazed the school paid for camps. They did things we couldn't otherwise have done.
- Be good to have more kids for team sports
- Christian aspect important
- Children well-prepared and matured for senior high school. They don't go on to be the youngest with children 5 years older than them.
- Well-prepared for NCEA.
- Please go to Year 13.

If you have any questions about our Year 9 and 10 programme, please feel free to call Bethany Rentoul (Principal) on (03) 6881422 or email [principal@timaruchristian.school.nz](mailto:principal@timaruchristian.school.nz) .

