TE KURA O TITITEA
MOUNT ASPIRING COLLEGE

Prospectus 2026

The land is strong
The people are fulfilled

Toitū te whenua
Toitū te tangata

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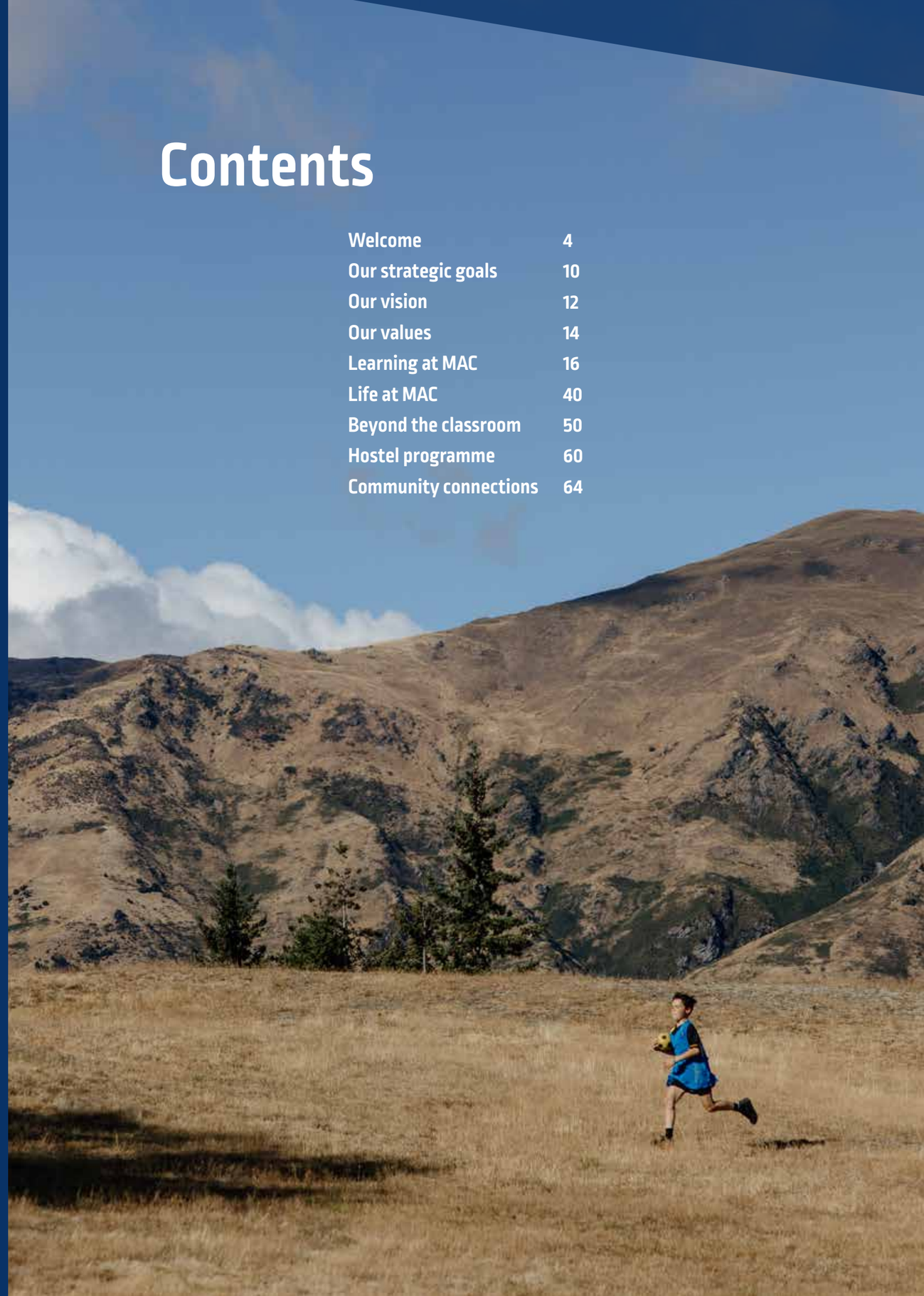


Welcome

Nau mai, haere mai

Te Kura o Tititea Mount Aspiring College (MAC) is a co-educational Years 7 to 13 state secondary school located in Wānaka, New Zealand. We are proud to be the community school for the Upper Clutha, and also the chosen school for students from around New Zealand.

From our Principal

Kia ora, and welcome to Te Kura o Tititea Mount Aspiring College.

Our vision for Mount Aspiring College is to be an inclusive and sustainable learning environment, inspiring our students to be creative, curious, courageous, and compassionate.

It does not matter who you are or where you come from, there is a place for you at our school. Our school values of whanaungatanga and tikanga underpin our commitment to fostering a sense of belonging for all our students.

Through a range of exciting and engaging learning experiences, our goal is always to support our students to achieve their personal best, whatever that looks like for them.

Our many academic pathways and wide range of subjects equip our senior students to excel at NCEA, and our learning enrichment and support — underpinned by our focus on student wellbeing — create optimal conditions for learning.

I am very proud of our students for their effort and resilience in pursuing their studies, and grateful to our staff whose skill and passion provides our students with such exceptional support.

We encourage our students to not only make the most of the curriculum opportunities available, but to get involved in all aspects of school life: the arts, culture, service, sports and leadership. Our college prides itself on being a place for all students to grow and be proud of who they are.

Nicola Jacobsen
Principal

From our Head Students

Te Kura o Tititea Mount Aspiring College is about more than success in the classroom; it's a place where you can find yourself, grow, and try new things.

Our school is rooted in our land and in our community. From students achieving success through the arts and sport alike, to our land that provides an environment for students to explore and enjoy. Our school is a national leader in a wide array of fields, from our esteemed outdoor pursuits programme, to our thriving music department and in-class pursuit of academic excellence. With the abundance of opportunities open to us comes gratitude for the support our students receive from teachers, coaches, staff and the broader school community.

At MAC, we hold our school values in high regard. Whanaungatanga (connection) is forged within the diversity that makes up our student body. We have student-led committees, clubs and activities, ranging from kapa haka to Team Green that promote an inclusive environment and give students a voice. Within these opportunities, the school values are expressed through manaakitanga (respect) for people and the land, ihi (resilience) for perseverance and strength. It's the application of these values that helps engage students in an enjoyable learning atmosphere.

Inclusivity is not just limited to the students at the college but is also extended to students' families and whānau. There are many opportunities for parents and whānau to be involved in school life and college decisions.

As Head Students for the college in 2026, we are striving to further unite the age gap between the junior and senior students. We recognise the importance of promoting opportunities in an effective way for students to gain knowledge of the wide range of avenues they can pursue. During our time at MAC we have put ourselves forward, stepped out of our comfort zones, and grown as individuals thanks to the many opportunities that have led us to where we are now. This is why we place huge importance on making our school's opportunities more accessible to students.

MAC is a school of opportunity, of community and of empowerment. Our school aims to inspire each and every individual student to grow as themselves and make connections with others.

It is not the mountain we conquer, but the challenges we face.

Te Kura o Tititea Mount Aspiring College, Head students 2026
Noah Moody, Sophia Menlove, Jack Sides, Mikayla Botting (L–R)

A place where everyone belongs
He waka eke noa

Our strategic goals
Ā mātou whāinga rautaki

How we teach

Giving effect to te Tiriti o Waitangi through culturally sustaining practices:
Teaching and Leading to the North-East (Prof. Russell Bishop)

- Professional Growth Cycle for teachers: that we use this process to reflect on our practice and set goals around actions which will improve outcomes for students.
- To embed a common unit plan and lesson observation plan across all learning areas.
- Monitoring our progress: identifying, sharing and sustaining best practice as kaiako, in order to sustain engagement and achievement.
- Literacy and numeracy skills are taught across the curriculum areas.
- To continue to implement the five essential pedagogies from Te Mātaiaho (NZC).

What we teach

- To implement Te Mātaiaho (NZC): the purpose statements and the 'knowledge and practices' for each subject area.
- That our curriculum planning, assessment and reporting will adapt so that we transition from curriculum levels to the progressions, as per the changes to Te Mātaiaho (NZC).
- To embed our school values into our learning programmes.
- To ensure that each learning area has a focus on our local curriculum and utilise the expertise in the community.
- Trial and pilot the new assessment tools as they are ready to be used in schools.
- Digital citizenship skills (ethical use of AI) are a focus of our policies and classroom practices.

How we engage

- To ensure that our vision and values are made explicit in all contexts at the college.
- Home-school partnerships continue to be developed through a variety of contexts: hui, communication, reporting etc.
- To effectively use data to track, monitor and provide effective interventions for students to engage in their learning through the UDL model via PAROT and KAMAR.
- To continue to develop a strong house culture through peer support, leadership opportunities and whānau time, to ensure that we are growing effective relationships to support students.
- To ensure that our school systems and restorative practices support the wellbeing of staff and students, and embed our plan for 'Being Well at MAC.'
- Whānau: school wide plan is developed and embedded to support students during their time at the College in terms of academic and pastoral tracking, including a review of the Tiaki plan.
- Systems and procedures are effective in enhancing student attendance in order to meet our target in accordance with our attendance plan.

Our vision

Tō mātou matawhānui

We strive to be an inclusive and sustainable learning environment, inspiring our learning community to be creative, curious, courageous and compassionate.

Our values
Ō mātou uara

Our values represent what we stand for as a school community and inform how we treat ourselves, each other and our environment.

Whanaungatanga	We create strong relationships that foster a unique sense of belonging and support for each other.
Manaakitanga	We respect each other and our environment. We act with integrity and are proud of ourselves and our school.
Tikanga	We understand and accept each other, and our behaviour reflects this. Our diversity is our strength.
Aroha	We act with empathy, compassion and kindness.
Ihi	We grow resilience through our determination and commitment to do our very best.
Kaitiakitanga	We strive to live sustainably by protecting our unique environment.

Learning at MAC

Te Mahi Ako ki Te Kura o Tititea

At MAC, we recognise that every student has unique needs and learning styles. Our learning approach focuses on differentiated teaching and learning so every student can fulfil their potential and achieve success, whatever that looks like for them. Our approach centres on the wellbeing of our students as a foundation for their engagement in their learning. Our teachers promote trusting relationships with their students and support and guide them on their education journey.

Learning habits

We create conditions for learning that equip our students with the learning habits they need to thrive in an unpredictable and ever-changing world.

Citizenship **Kirirarau**	Human and environmental sustainability in a global context. Tackling real-world problems.
Creativity **Auahatanga**	Asking the right inquiry questions to generate new ideas. Taking action to improve lives and make change.
Critical thinking **Te whakaaro arohaehae**	Evaluating information and arguments, and applying and assessing it in the real world.
Communication **Pūkōrero**	Knowing when and how to communicate with a range of audiences for a purpose.
Character **Tuakiri**	Proactively change outcomes for themselves and others, being an independent life-long learner.
Collaboration **Mahi Ngātahi**	Using interpersonal skills to effectively learn from and work with others. Understanding each other's strengths and perspectives.

WELC
to our where pu

Leaver profile

We want every MAC graduate to leave our school equipped with the skills and self-knowledge they need to contribute to the common good and flourish in a complex world.

Mastery **Pūkenga**	being able to master the skills and capabilities needed to be able to strive for one's personal best. Using knowledge and skills to problem-solve, create, and innovate.
Attitude **Waiaro**	having respect and confidence in myself and others, and having a sense of purpose. Knowing myself, acting with integrity, and making the most of opportunities.
Citizenship **Kirirarau**	celebrating diversity, being inclusive, and having the courage to do the right thing at the right time. Being connected to your community.

Positive relationships and respect are at the heart of our learning culture.

Ko te ngākaupai, ko te whakaute te manawa pātukituki o tō mātou ahurea ako.

Junior years

In Years 7 and 8, we focus on supporting students to learn about our school, master foundational literacy and numeracy skills, and find their interests and passions through trying the many different subjects we have on offer.

To support the smooth transition of students into secondary school, our Years 7 and 8 students are taught mainly in a 'homeroom' situation where one teacher delivers the learning areas of mathematics, English, science, and social sciences.

Junior students also try a range of other subjects including visual art, drama, music, computing and electronics, materials technology, spatial and product design, Spanish, te reo Māori, food and nutrition, and physical education and health.

In Years 9 and 10, we focus on preparing students for NCEA literacy and numeracy common assessment tasks, and offer them more specialisation and choice in subject selection.

Senior years

In their senior years, students focus on NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3 as they prepare for their future study and/or career paths. We offer a wide range of subjects for our students to choose from, and support them in choosing the academic and learning pathways that best suit their interests and passions. We encourage students to pursue excellence, including NCEA endorsements, in whatever pathway they choose.

In Years 12 and 13, students have the opportunity to work towards the New Zealand Scholarship examinations in most subjects, with scholarship candidates supported within the college by their teachers and deans. Senior students can also enrol in tertiary courses, including first-year engineering maths, art history, economics, languages and linguistics, philosophy, politics, social work, and speech science.

Our vocational education and training courses give our students access to a range of pathways offering practical skills and training to prepare them for employment or tertiary study.

Our school's results are consistently well above the national pass rates and reflect our commitment to academic excellence.

NCEA Level 1	84% achieved
NCEA Level 2	89% achieved
NCEA Level 3	85% achieved
Uni Entry	70% achieved

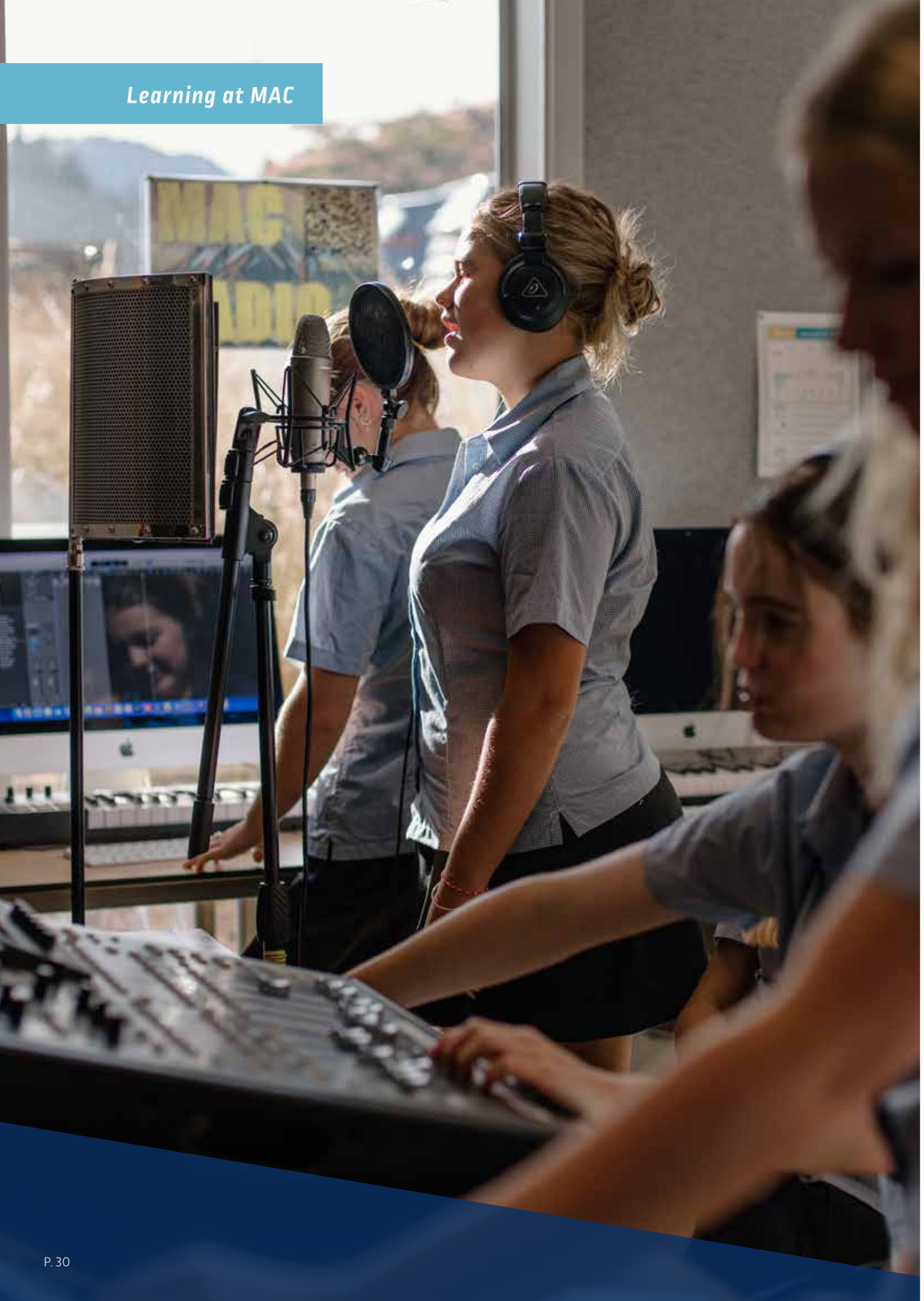
- **Our results are well above national averages.**
- **Our university pass rate continues to improve.**
- **Our results exceed those of similar schools.**

Our subjects

Junior school subject choice

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
English	English	English	English
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Science	Science	Science
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
Health	Health	Health	Health
Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
Music	Music	Music	Music
Drama	Drama	Drama	Drama
Visual Art	Visual Art	Visual Art	Visual Art
Computing	Computing	Computing	Computing
Materials Technology	Materials Technology	Materials Technology	Materials Technology
Food & Nutrition	Food & Nutrition	Food & Nutrition	Food & Nutrition
Māori Performing Arts	Māori Performing Arts	Māori Performing Arts	Māori Performing Arts
Waiora Health	Waiora Health	Spatial & Product Design	Spatial & Product Design
		Electronics	Electronics
		Financial Capability	Economics & Business

Compulsory subjects
Compulsory subjects (Years 7, 8 or 9)
Subject selection for Year 9 (seven to be selected, two delivered per term)
Subject selection for Year 10 (up to four to be selected)



Senior school subject choice

Compulsory learning areas/subjects (Year 11)

Learning area	Year 11 (NCEA Level 1)	Year 12 (NCEA Level 2)	Year 13 (NCEA Level 3)	Scholarship
English	English	English	English	English
	English Literacy	English Literacy	Academic English	
			English Literacy	
Mathematics & Statistics	Mathematics & Statistics	Calculus	Calculus	
	Mathematics Modelling	Statistics	Statistics	
	Numeracy	Mathematics & Statistics	Mathematics and Statistics	Statistics
	Mathematics and Algebra	Mathematical Modelling		
Science	Science	Biology	Biology	Biology
	Agriculture	Chemistry	Chemistry	Chemistry
		Physics	Physics	Physics
		Agriculture		
Social Sciences	Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
	History	History	History	History
	Economics & Business	Economics	Economics	Economics
		Business	Business & Enterprise	
		Agribusiness	Agribusiness	
		Tourism	Tourism	
		Psychology	Psychology	
		Financial Capability	Financial Capability	
Physical Education & Health	Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
	Health	Physical Education Leadership	Physical Education Leadership	
	Outdoor Pursuits	Outdoor Pursuits	Outdoor Pursuits	
	Food & Nutrition	Food & Nutrition	Food & Nutrition	
		Health	Health	
Technology	Computing	Computing	Computing	Technology
	Mechanical Engineering	Mechanical Engineering	Materials Technology	Design & Visual Communication
	Woodwork	Woodwork	Woodwork	
	Spatial & Product Design	Spatial & Product Design	Spatial & Product Design	
		Digital Business Communication		
Languages	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
	Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori	
Te Ao Māori	Te Ao Haka	Te Ao Haka	Te Ao Haka	
	Tikanga	Manaakitanga		
Arts	Music	Music	Music	Music Studies
	Music Technology	Music Technology	Music Technology	Drama
	Drama & Performing Arts	Drama & Performing Arts	Drama & Performing Arts	Visual Art
	Performing Arts Event & Entertainment Technologies	Performing Arts Event & Entertainment Technologies	Performing Arts Event & Entertainment Technologies	
	Art Design	Art Design	Art Design	
	Art Painting & Photography	Art Painting	Art Painting	
		Art Photography	Art Photography	
Vocational	Lifeskills	Gateway	Gateway	
	Tititea Employment Pathway (TEP)	Pathways	Pathways	
		Aviation	Aviation	
		Trade Academy	Trade Academy	
Distance Learning	Net NZ	Net NZ	Net NZ	
	STAR-funded courses	STAR-funded courses	STAR-funded courses	
	Te Kura	Te Kura		

Personalised learning programmes

Our students can choose from a range of personalised learning programmes either as one of their six subjects, as an additional learning opportunity on top of their six subjects, or as an individualised pathway of choice using a separate school timetable.

Learning delivered online

Learning delivered online gives selected students an opportunity to pursue their studies in a way that better suits their learning needs or provides access to subjects not available at school. Students can enrol in a Correspondence School (Te Kura) course or courses delivered via NetNZ. Through these courses, students can achieve credit towards NCEA levels 1, 2 and 3.

Vocational pathways

Our vocational education and training courses give students access to a range of pathways offering practical skills and training to prepare them for specific areas of employment or tertiary study.

DISTANCE LEARNING –

Our students can access Secondary Tertiary Alignment Resource (STAR) funded courses such as Equine and Health through the Southern Institute of Technology or Telford. These courses can contribute credit towards NCEA Levels 2 and 3.

OTAGO SECONDARY TERTIARY COLLEGE (OSTC) –

Students can attend off-site at Otago Secondary Tertiary College (OSTC) in Cromwell to study courses in automotive, construction, beauty, hairdressing, hospitality, cookery, police pathways and turf management. These courses can contribute credit towards NCEA Levels 2 and 3.

WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMMES –

Tititea Employment Pathway (TEP)

For students over the age of 15 (Year 11) who would like to experience the world of work while continuing their studies at school, TEP allows them to spend time at school and at work sites in their areas of interest while achieving credits towards NCEA Level 1 or 2. These students can then choose to transition out of school into work or further vocational training (eg a pre-trade course) for a particular job.

Gateway Programme

The Gateway programme gives Years 12 and 13 students access to structured workplace learning combined with school-based learning. Students' learning is assessed in the workplace and they can achieve credits towards a nationally recognised qualification in their area of interest.

Pathways Programme

This practical, skills-based learning programme is customised to meet the needs of students in Years 12 and 13 to support their goal of transitioning out of school to further study or work.

Aviation

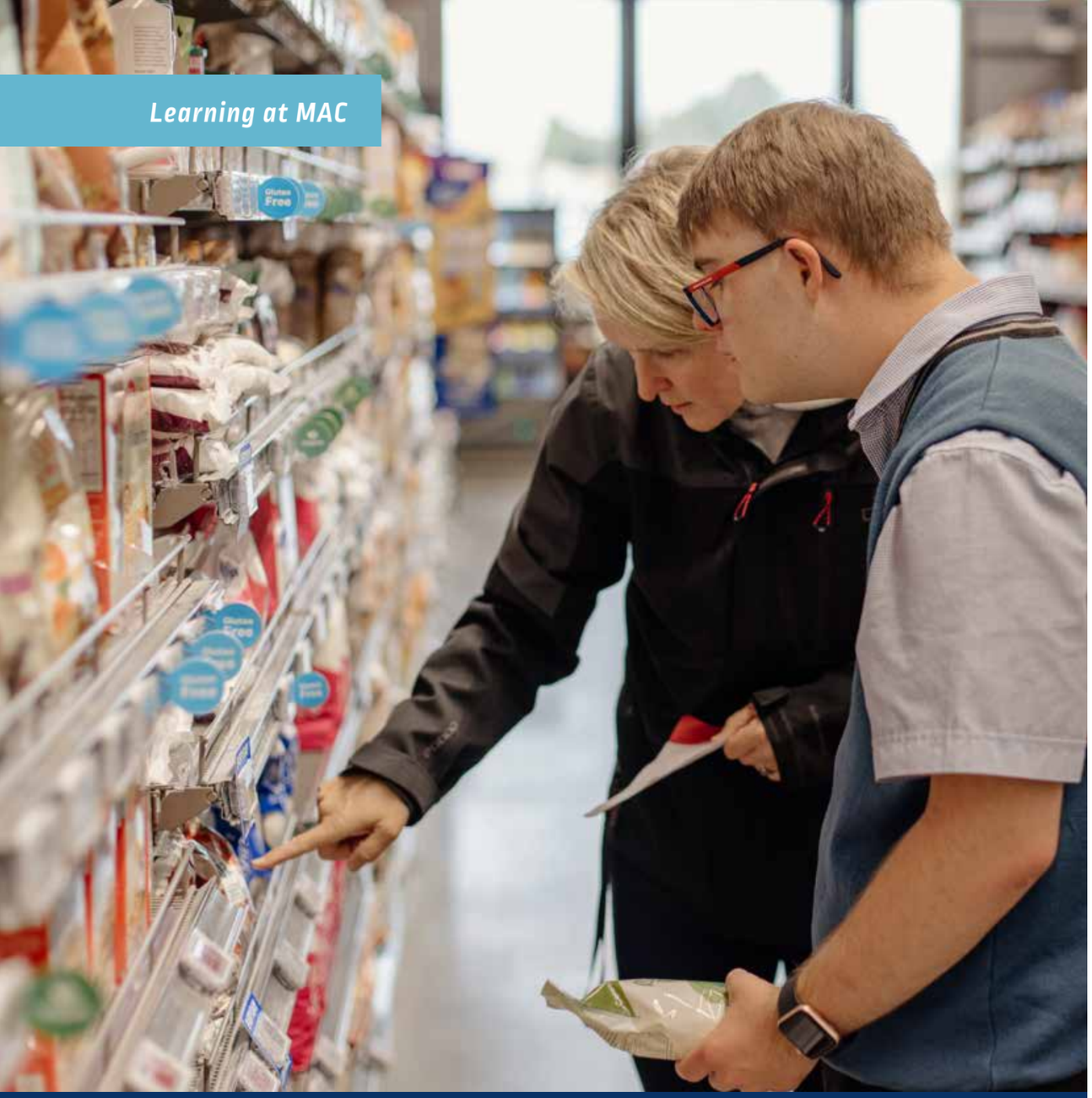
Our Years 12 and 13 students can gain a private pilot licence as part of their studies. Thanks to partnerships with Wānaka Helicopters and LearnToFlyNZ, students can obtain their licence in either fixed wing (aeroplane) or rotary wing (helicopter) while they study for their national academic qualifications.

Snow College

Thanks to our school's enviable location in the alpine region of New Zealand's South Island, our students are offered a snow career pathway programme in partnership with the Cardrona x Treble Cone Snow College. Students can undertake this programme as an area of interest on top of their existing subjects and can achieve credits towards NCEA Levels 2 and 3. While the training is delivered in a snow environment, the skills and knowledge acquired in this course are relevant to a range of careers on and off the snow including early childhood education, hospitality, service industries, and trades such as mechanics and electrical.

We work with our community to create opportunities for our students to grow.

E mahi ngātahi ana mātou ki te hapori kia ākina ai ā māou ākonga ki te piki i te maunga o angitu.



We believe that every young person should be an active, visible member of our learning community and our school values of whanaungatanga and tikanga underpin our commitment to fostering a sense of belonging for all our students.

Support for students with additional learning needs

Literacy and numeracy

We recognise that literacy and numeracy skills are essential for educational success which is why we provide support to identified students to boost their literacy and numeracy skills and confidence. While supporting students' literacy development forms part of all teaching and learning, we also have two dedicated literacy programmes to help students with higher literacy needs. Our numeracy support programme catches students when they come into our school and may be struggling with certain mathematical concepts. We create small focus groups and use different hands-on material and games to increase their confidence and understanding.

Special education needs

We recognise that diversity is our strength and that every student has the potential to make a valuable contribution to our learning community. Our special education needs hub, Te Ōhanga HQ, is located at the heart of our school, giving students with high and complex needs a fit-for-purpose learning environment supported by a dedicated team of highly skilled staff. At HQ, we offer an enriching learning programme comprising both learning at school and outside of school including experiences in our beautiful natural environment, visits to the gym, swimming lessons, and excursions to other schools to build connections. We support each of our students to work towards their own goals and pathways while participating in the life of our learning community alongside their peers.

In-class support

Across all year levels, teachers differentiate their teaching programmes to meet the needs of our students. Our team of teacher aides works closely with classroom teachers to support students with additional learning needs. Our teacher aides can support students with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia and dyscalculia, neurodiverse learners, students with physical and intellectual impairments, and students with mental health conditions. The degree of support given to different students will depend on each student's individual needs and the resources available.

Special assessment conditions

Students can also apply for special assessment conditions if they can meet certain NZQA criteria. Students who may qualify for NZQA-approved assistance are identified at school and should have documentation submitted to support their case by the end of Year 10. Such assistance can take the form of a person to read or write assessments, access to separate accommodation, allocation of extra time, and the use of a computer and different-sized fonts for exam papers. Students entering MAC for the first time at Years 11, 12 or 13 must provide us with documentation from their previous school to support such an application.

Learning enrichment

Our school value of whanaungatanga means we work hard to foster a sense of belonging and support for every student so we can meet their varying needs and learning styles.

Kitenga programme

At Mount Aspiring College, gifted students are defined as those who have the ability or potential to perform at a level significantly beyond their chronologically aged peers. We recognise that intellectually gifted students may have unique needs, perspectives and learning styles. Our programme is designed to meet the social, emotional, ethical and intellectual needs of students through higher-level thinking and supports students in Years 7, 8 and 9 who participate in fit-for-purpose sessions with a specialist teacher.

Extension opportunities

We offer learning acceleration for students in maths, English and science. Year 11 students who excel in maths and have completed Level 1 maths in Year 10 have the option of doing Level 2 physics in Year 11. We also offer two academic English classes designed as a pathway towards scholarship. Our senior students can enrol in tertiary courses, including first-year engineering maths, art history, economics, languages and linguistics, philosophy, politics, social work, and speech science.

Tertiary-level courses

There are a number of tertiary courses available for senior students through tertiary providers, such as Unistart at Waikato University and the University of Canterbury. These courses (delivered online) include first-year engineering maths, art history, economics, languages and linguistics, philosophy, politics, social work, and speech science.

Scholarships

To assist students with future study at tertiary institutions, we offer a number of scholarships which are awarded at prize givings at the end of the year. In addition, our senior students can apply for a number of scholarships provided by external organisations. The most prominent of these come from universities across New Zealand, the Otago Polytechnic, the Central Lakes Trust, Rotary, and the Masonic Lodge.

We have high expectations for all our students.

Ko te tihi o te maunga te whai mā ā mātou ākonga katoa.

Life at MAC

Te Ao o Te Kura o Tititea

Life at MAC is rich in opportunity, and we encourage all our students to develop themselves in a supportive culture of personal growth.

A unique natural environment

Campus location

Our school is located in the town of Wānaka, a setting of outstanding beauty on the pristine waters of Lake Wānaka and surrounded by the spectacular alps of New Zealand's South Island. This unique natural environment inspires our students to learn and grow, opening our students' minds and inspiring their creativity as they enjoy a rich learning experience encompassing academic, artistic, cultural, sporting and outdoor pursuits.

Investing in our students' future

As our school grows, we continue to invest in new and refurbished facilities to create an engaging learning environment for our students.

In 2023, two new buildings were opened, comprising teaching spaces, performance studios for music, drama and dance, music practice rooms, a new library, a wellbeing hub, a staff room and meeting rooms. The building design incorporates outdoor learning spaces and a whare which is used as a learning and meeting space. In line with our school value of kaitiakitanga, the buildings have been designed to incorporate sustainable principles such as natural ventilation, the use of thermal mass exposed in buildings to moderate internal temperatures, low-energy lighting, and solar hot water collectors.

The college has also improved the accessibility of its campus, including replacing heavy doors with sensor-activated doors, installing ramps to provide access to the playing field, and re-surfacing gravel paths to make wheelchair access easier.

We recognise the value of our unique natural environment and we use it to enrich our students' learning experience.

Ko te tihi o te maunga te whai mā ā mātou ākonga katoa.

A supportive culture

We understand that a young person's wellbeing affects their engagement with learning and their social and emotional behaviour. When young people feel valued and supported, they are able to feel confident in who they are, engage with their learning, and feel optimistic about the future. This is why we put our students' wellbeing at the centre of our educational approach.

Guidance and counselling

Our school value of whanaungatanga underpins our commitment to creating strong relationships that foster a unique sense of belonging and support for all our students. Part of our commitment to whanaungatanga is the support given by our school guidance counsellors who are trained professionals providing mental health and wellbeing services to our students, their parents and families, and our staff. We also have a dedicated career guidance team to support our students in making decisions about their future study and employment pathways including coordinating work experience placements for students.

Deans

Our deans encourage our students to live by our school's values and support students in developing the personal and life skills they will need to be successful contributors to our community when they leave school. There is a junior and senior dean for each of the four houses, with the junior deans being responsible for students in Years 7 to 10 and the senior deans responsible for students in Years 11 to 13. The deans form strong relationships with students in their houses and act as advocates for students, responsible for supporting students' wellbeing and achievement.

Whānau classes

In line with our school value of aroha, we encourage our students to care about themselves and others so together, everyone at our school can succeed. Our vertical whānau classes are one way we nurture connections among our students with every student at MAC joining a whānau class that meets four times a week and comprises students of all ages, supported by a staff member who serves as a mentor, advocate and guide.

House system

Our four houses pay homage to our school's location with each house named after a nearby mountain. Every MAC student is a member of one of our four houses — Barker, Iron, Pisa and Roy — giving them a sense of belonging as they represent their house in a range of sporting, cultural, artistic and academic activities.

Peer support

In Term 1, all Year 7 students and the Years 12 and 13 students who have completed the training, participate in structured activities covering topics such as: connections | whanaungatanga, school values | ō mātou uara, collaboration | mahi tahi, expressing feelings | taha hinengaro, peer pressure | pēhanga hoa, and friendship | whakahoanga.

Senior students gain skills in organisation and whakawhānaungatanga, as well as people and time management, and our Year 7 students gain a structured induction to school under the guidance of our senior students.

Leadership opportunities

We encourage our students to develop their leadership skills through engagement in all aspects of life at our school. We believe that leadership is not a title or a badge, but is the way students behave every day.

Head students and student executive

Each year, four students are selected to be our head students and together with the committee captains they form our student executive.

Student-led committees

Our seven student-led committees provide leadership in the following areas: academic, arts, cultural, service, sports, sustainability and wellbeing. These committees provide opportunities for students to develop their leadership capabilities and demonstrate what our values look like in practice. Each committee is mentored and supported by members of our teaching team.

House leaders

There are two leaders for each of our four houses. The deans select house leaders who show commitment to whānau and are good role models for other students.

Peer support programme

Our Peer Support programme aims to forge strong relationships between senior and junior students, where students in Years 12 and 13 act as role models to provide guidance and support to those who are just beginning their high school experience. Senior students volunteer for this role, and must be willing to organise activities for Year 7 students and be a mentor for them.

A culture of personal growth

We encourage our students to learn about themselves, their environment, and to form relationships which will help them to prepare for their future pathways. Students are encouraged not only to make the most of our rich curriculum opportunities, but to get involved in all aspects of school life – arts, culture, service, sports and leadership.

William Pike Challenge

As part of our commitment to giving our students opportunities to grow and develop essential skills for their future lives, our Year 8 students can join the William Pike Challenge. The challenge comprises three main elements: outdoor activities, community service and a passion project. Through this experience, students are taken outside their comfort zone to solve problems or deal with situations they never expected - all while having fun.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This international award programme creates opportunities for our young people to learn a new skill (or develop an existing one), get physically active, give service to their community, and take part in an adventure. The experience helps them build self-confidence and greater resilience, helping prepare them for challenges they will face in their future lives. The Award is open to students 14 years and older.

Through a range of academic, sporting, artistic, cultural and service-oriented activities, our students have an opportunity to discover more about themselves and their capacity to lead.

MAC prides itself on providing a place for all students to grow and be proud of who they are.

A commitment to sustainability

Through our school value of kaitiakitanga, we strive to live sustainably by protecting our school's unique environment. MAC is a recognised Enviroschool, an environmental action-based programme where young people are empowered to design and lead sustainability projects in their schools, neighbourhoods and country. Through our Service in the Community Programme, our students devote their time and skills as volunteers in activities, some of which are environmentally focused and help preserve our local natural environment. In their academic studies, our students learn the skills and knowledge that will empower them to care for the environment today and in the future.

Team Green

Team Green (MAC's environmental group) is a student-led extracurricular initiative facilitated by members of our staff.
The group meets each week to design and lead sustainability projects in our school and community, including organising events such Active Transport Day, developing composting and waste management solutions for our school, clean-up days, climate strikes, beeswax workshops, apple drives, and running competitions and challenges to raise awareness of sustainable practices. The group also volunteers at community events run by organisations such as WAI Wānaka, the WAO Summit, Wānaka Wastebusters and the community gardens and library.

We value what we have in common and recognise that our differences make us stronger.

Ko ō mātou ritenga ka mihia, ko ō mātou rerekētanga tātou e ora ai.

Beyond the classroom

We encourage our students to develop themselves, build their leadership and collaboration skills, express themselves creatively, and contribute to their community through a range of activities outside the classroom.

Sport

MAC offers an extensive range of sporting opportunities that help our students develop their fitness as well as social, leadership and collaboration skills. Our extensive green spaces, including an athletics track, cricket pitch, rugby field, two basketball courts, three netball courts, a futsal field, pump track and tennis courts, and our school's proximity to Lake Wānaka and the mountains mean we can offer our students a diverse range of sporting opportunities including, rugby, netball, football, hockey, cricket, volleyball, futsal, and rowing, mountain biking, triathlon, skiing and snowboarding, cross-country skiing and biathlon. Nearby Lismore Park also offers a frisbee golf course for us to use. In Term 3, we run an eight-week cross-country skiing programme for students at the SnowFarm, the only place in New Zealand where you can learn to cross-country ski and become a biathlete.

Sports days

We hold an annual athletics day, a school swimming competition, mountain bike championships in downhill, cross country and enduro, cross-country running championships, ski and snowboard and cross-country skiing championships. MAC also participates in inter-school tournaments and school sporting exchanges, and regional and national competitions in numerous sports codes.

Outdoor pursuits

As a leader in this field, MAC has long recognised the value of outdoor education in fostering students' personal and social development through experiences that involve cooperation, trust, problem solving, decision making, goal setting, communication, leadership, and reflection. At MAC, experiences in the outdoors form part of our student development programme as well as an academic pathway. In Years 7 to 10, students participate in an annual outdoor camp with the level of independence and personal challenge increasing each year. In Years 11 to 13, students can choose to take Outdoor Pursuits as one of their subjects, experiencing adventurous and challenging activities like kayaking and canoeing, rock climbing, mountain biking, navigation and orienteering, tramping, snow-caving, skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing and camping. These subjects promote our students' physical and personal development and can give students credits towards their NCEA Level 1, 2 or 3.

Internationally recognised safety certification

MAC has achieved AdventureMark certification, an internationally recognised safety certification that confirms our school meets the highest levels of safety in adventure activities. This certification recognises our school's long-standing commitment to safety in its delivery of our nationally renowned Outdoor Pursuits courses and applies to rock climbing and abseiling, white water kayaking, canoeing and rafting, mountain biking, canyoning, and alpine hiking activities.

We give our students opportunities to challenge themselves and develop essential life skills.

Ko te eke i ngā taero o Tū-Te-Koropaka tētahi mahi nui ki ā mātou ākonga, kia whakawhanake ai, kia whakapakari ai.

Arts and culture

We recognise that the arts and culture offer our students an invaluable window into the human experience and an avenue through which they can tell their own stories as they are exposed to different perceptions of the world and their place in it.

The arts

The college offers a rich and challenging arts curriculum classroom programme that supports students in reaching high levels of creative and technical achievement. This includes junior modules and full NCEA programmes in visual art, music and drama, including scholarship-level teaching.

In addition to classroom learning, we provide a wide range of co- and extra-curricular opportunities that link to the classroom and connect students with real-world arts experiences and our local community. These experiences enable students to grow their skills and pursue their personal artistic interests in meaningful ways while connecting with other like-minded students.

Extension opportunities include a comprehensive itinerant music programme, Rockquest and Showquest competitions, choir and jazz bands, the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival, live and online visual art exhibitions, local art competitions, and the Wānaka Festival of Colour held biennially in April. A school-wide musical production is usually offered biannually, and each year, students are encouraged to choose the opportunities that best align with their passions and goals, ensuring a unique experience for every learner.

Debating

The art of persuasion, debating, is also an important extra-curricular activity at MAC for students across all levels of the school. Our students participate in the Otago/Southland regional debating competition, are mentored by members of the Otago University Debating Society, and each year we hold an inter-house debating competition. Guided by our teaching staff, our debaters meet each week at lunchtime to hone their skills in a fun and supportive environment.

Kapa haka

Kapa haka is an important part of cultural life at our school giving students from all year levels the chance to build connections with each other and experience te reo Māori and tikanga while having fun. This powerful combination of waiata, haka, and pūrakau gives our students a chance to develop their personal skills within a group context and contribute to important school and community events through their performance of the kapa haka. Our kapa haka group, Te Makahi o Tititea, continues to develop its skill, competing at regional events such as Haka Tū, Haka Ora and Hautoka.

Service

Our school values are all linked to the idea of service: service to ourselves, each other, our environment, and our community. Service manifests itself in many ways at our school, from our student-led Service Committee, our Team Green initiative in which students design and lead sustainability projects in our school and community, and our Students in the Community Programme which sees all Year 13 students contribute in positive and meaningful ways through volunteering in our community. We encourage service to each other every day, as we promote and recognise behaviour that values each and every student as unique, special, and capable of achieving success in their own way.

Students in the Community Programme

Each year, our Year 13 students give thousands of hours of their time as volunteers in our community as part of our Students in the Community programme. In keeping with our school value of aroha, all Year 13 students give their time and skills to make a difference in the community. Students undertake weekly placements and short-term projects in a variety of areas across our community and also at community organisations such as the MINT Charitable Trust, Kahu Youth Trust, Volunteer South, WAI Wānaka, Food for Love, the NZ Mountain Film Festival, Community Networks, Wānaka Library, Te Kakano Aotearoa Trust, primary and pre-schools, and various sports and cultural clubs.

Service Committee

MAC has seven student-led committees which provide leadership in the following areas: academic, arts, cultural, service, sport, sustainability, and wellbeing. Our service committee exemplifies our school values of whanaungatanga and aroha through its efforts to create a sense of belonging and support within our school and wider community, through organising social events and fundraisers that benefit our school and local community.

Our students are proud to be part of a vibrant and engaged community and enjoy making a positive contribution.

Matatū ana te mata o ā mātou ākonga ki te whai wāhi ki tētahi hapori ngangahau, ki tētahi hapori turipū, ā, e ngākaupai hoki ana tā rātou ake tāpaetanga.

Hostel programme

Each year, our nationally recognised Hostel Programme brings students from all over New Zealand to our school to experience semi-independent living while undertaking a life skills and outdoor pursuits programme and completing a full academic course of study with students at our school.

Accommodation

The hostel is a well organised, supervised environment where students cooperate and learn to live together in self-contained villas of six in a simulated flatting situation. The hostel is co-educational, but each villa is segregated. Life skills are taught at the hostel and overseen by the hostel manager and assistant manager. Students share responsibility for budgeting, shopping, cleaning and cooking within each of the flats on a roster basis. The hostel staff assist the students with meal planning, budgeting and provide support when necessary.

Outdoor pursuits

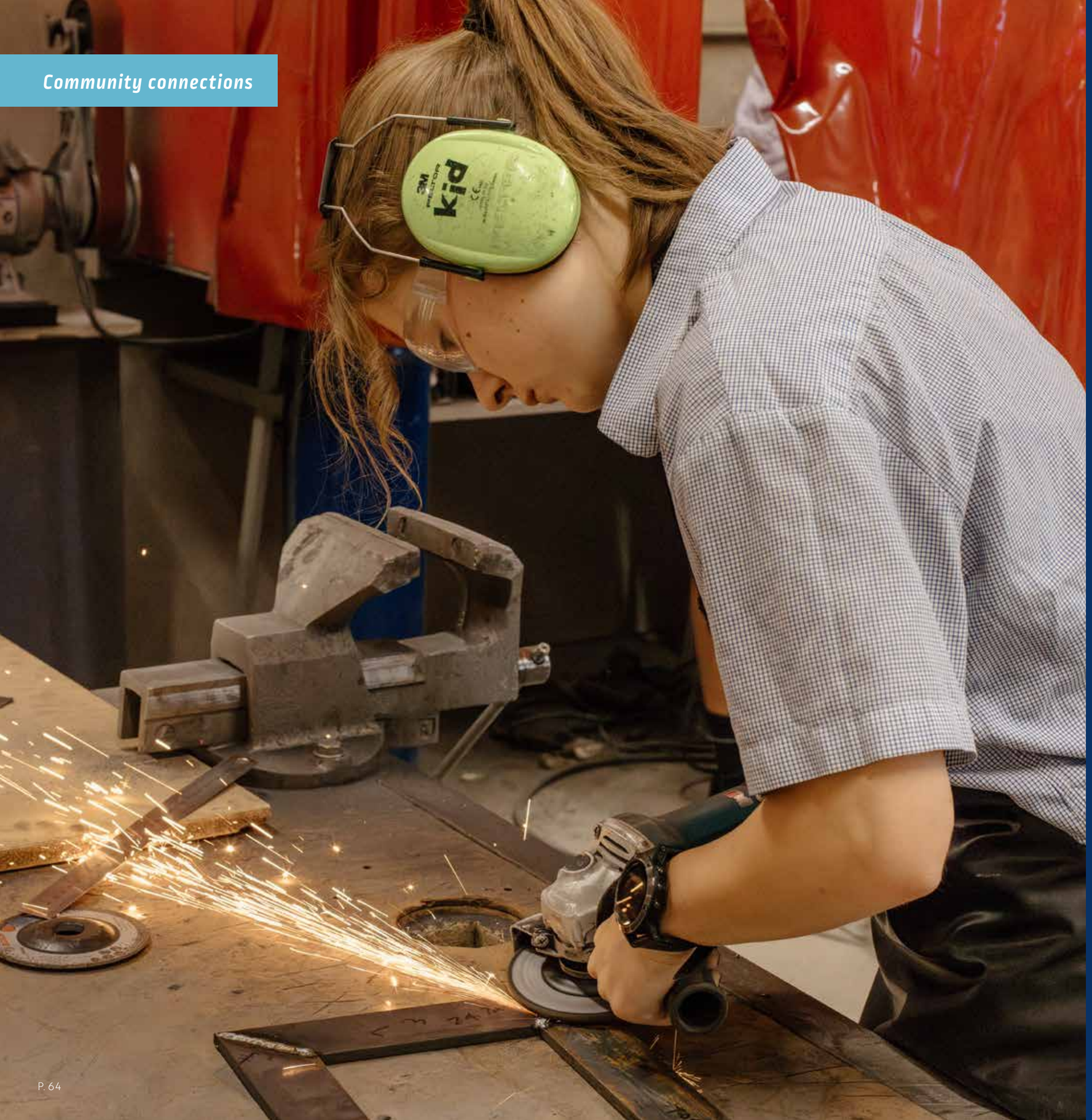
Outdoor pursuits is a major focus of the hostel programme and in addition to taking the college Outdoor Pursuits course hostel students are also involved in a full-day outdoor pursuits programme at the weekends which includes adventures to some of New Zealand's most remote and iconic locations. This programme is designed to be experiential and allow students to challenge themselves and develop new skills they can use in other areas of their lives both at school and in their future lives.

Essential life skills

The hostel programme offers students many opportunities to learn about themselves and others through carefully guided and meaningful experiences. The safe and controlled challenges of the outdoor pursuits programme provide an excellent physical balance to the demands of completing their academic programme at school. The hostel programme helps young people to make the transition from home to taking care of themselves by allowing them to develop the essential life skills they will need for independent living.

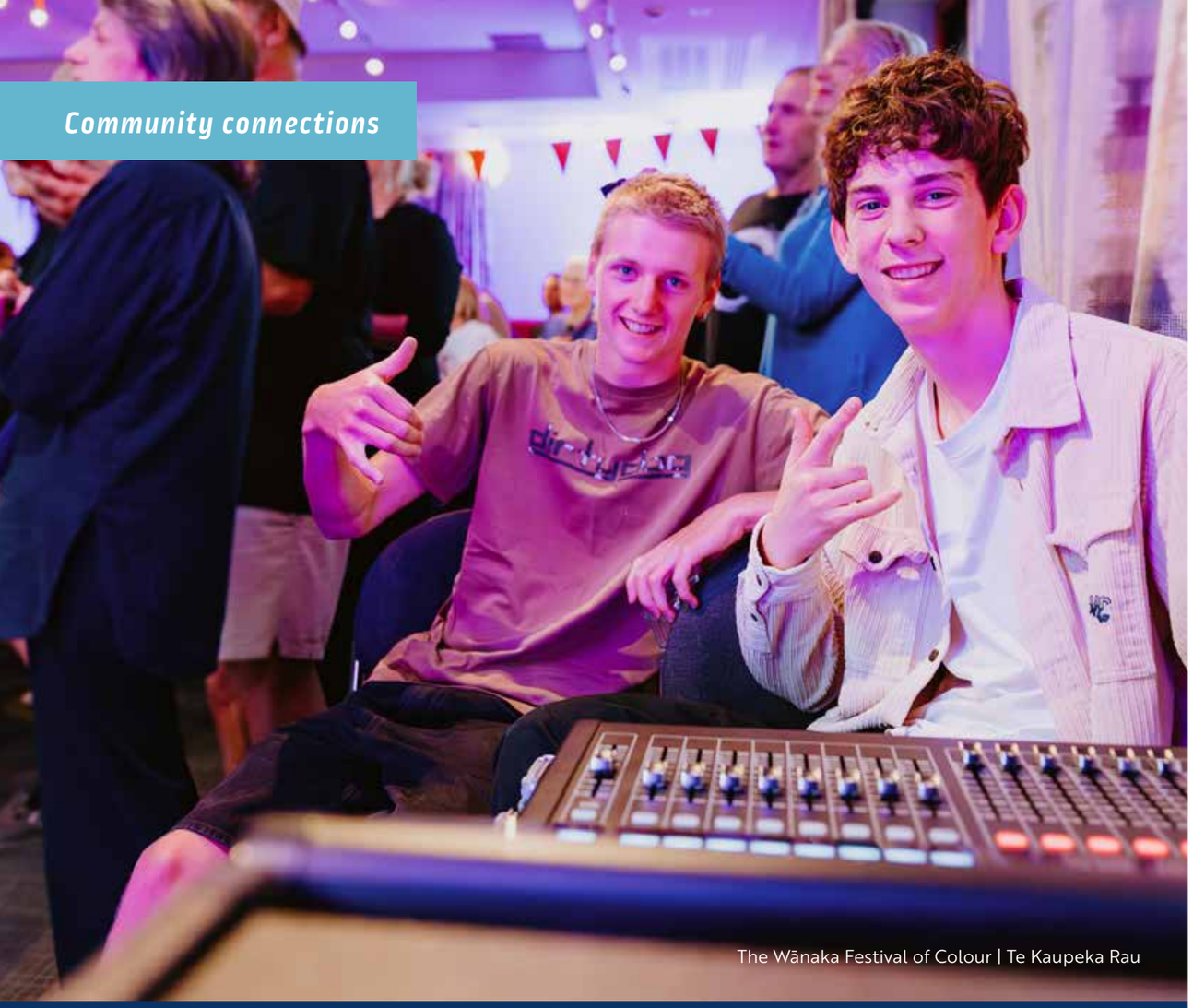
Making connections

The programme is an opportunity for the hostel students who come from all over New Zealand to make lifelong connections and friendships with other students on the programme while also connecting them with local students and making enduring friendships with people they might otherwise not have met.



Community connections

We understand that parents, caregivers, whānau and our local community are integral to the success of our students. We value these relationships and partnerships and work hard to sustain existing connections and build new ones.



The Wānaka Festival of Colour | Te Kaupeka Rau

We value our community and the important role it plays in helping our students succeed.

E mihi nui ana ki tā mātou hapori me tā rātou āwhina kia angitu ai ā mātou ākonga.

School Board

Our School Board plays an essential role in the success of our students by providing oversight of key functions of our school including its strategic leadership and governance. We value the contribution of community members, parents and whānau who give their time and expertise to help us deliver the best possible educational outcomes for all our students.

MAC Foundation

The MAC Foundation was established as a charitable trust to support the college in delivering a high-quality education for young people from across the Wānaka district. The Foundation oversees the management of generous gifts and donations to the school and works with a range of community members and organisations to build relationships and ensure ongoing support for our school.

Friends of MAC

Our parents, caregivers, and friends of the school play a vital role in building our school community through organising events that bring people together, raising funds for projects and activities, and promoting open and constructive communication between the school and the community it serves. We value the contributions of our parents and friends and recognise the essential role they play in helping our students succeed.

Alumni

The story of our school, founded in 1986, is rich in history, opportunity and achievement. Maintaining connections with our past students is important to us as we recognise the valuable role they can play in helping our students succeed.

Community partnerships

Our connections to our community are fundamental to the success of our school, providing our students with opportunities across a full spectrum of activities both in the classroom and beyond. We have deep community links across many sectors of our community and with many individuals and organisations.

Partnering with parents, caregivers and whānau

At MAC, we work with parents, caregivers and whānau, as partners, to see every student at our school fulfil their potential. Part of our approach includes promoting an open, two-way communication with our school community. Our school website, social media channels and weekly newsletter allow us to stay in touch with our students and their families and to showcase our students' achievements. We also encourage ongoing communication among parents and caregivers, students and teachers so together we can support every student at our school to achieve their goals.

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