



Wakatipu
HIGH SCHOOL

Gifted Education at WHS

Karakia Tīmatanga (to start)

Tutawa mai i runga
Tutawa mai i raro
Tutawa mai i roto
Tutawa mai i waho
Kia tau ai te mauri tū,
te mauri ora
ki te katoa
Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e



"Nau mai e te hunga māhirahira, whaowhia tō kete mātauranga,"
"Welcome to those that are curious; fill your basket with knowledge"



Mission statement



Wakatipu High School's Gifted Education programme is committed to supporting students to achieve to their full potential.

The programming is aimed at supporting students **through the provision of opportunities** for development in their area of giftedness.

Our teaching and learning community challenges and encourages the pursuit of excellence, and the development of passion for lifelong learning.

THE WAKATIPU WAY



PRIDE Whakahi

VALUING THE SCHOOL AND ITS PEOPLE

- We celebrate our successes
- We represent the school positively
- We wear our school uniform correctly

Panekiretanga • Excellence

EXCELLENCE

Panekiretanga

STRIVING TO ACHIEVE
OUR PERSONAL BEST, IN
EVERYTHING WE DO

- We do our best
- We set and work towards personal goals
- We challenge ourselves

Te whakaute • Respect

RESPECT

Te whakaute

FOR SELF, OTHERS,
WHS, AND THE
ENVIRONMENT

- We follow instructions
- We use appropriate language
- We take care of our school
- We show our thanks

Takohanga • Responsibility

RESPONSIBILITY

Takohanga

CHOOSING OUR RESPONSES,
AND BEING ACCOUNTABLE
FOR OUR DECISIONS, ACTIONS
AND CONSEQUENCES

- We own our actions
- We are organised and use our time well
- We look out for others

Te manawanui me te ū • Resilience

RESILIENCE

Te manawanui me te ū

BEING ABLE TO COPE WITH
AND GROW FROM
CHALLENGE

- We believe in ourselves and others
- We keep trying even when things are hard
- We seek help when we need it
- We actively manage our wellbeing

Kotahitanga • Inclusion

INCLUSION

Kotahitanga

ACTIVELY WELCOMING
AND INCLUDING ALL AND
CREATING A SAFE
ENVIRONMENT

- We are kind and considerate
- We listen to and value others
- We support others to belong

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WHS Definition of Gifted Education



Wakatipu High School Gifted students are defined as **those who have the ability or potential to perform at a level significantly beyond their chronologically aged peers**. They demonstrate potential or ability in one or more from a range of areas which may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

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- Academic / Intellectual / Mātauranga
- Artistic
- Creative / Innovative
- Cultural / Tikanga
- Kaitiakitanga / Guardianship
- Leadership / Rangatiratanga / Social
- Manaakitanga / Hospitality
- Physical / Sporting / Tinana
- Tohungatanga / Expertise
- Whanaungatanga / Values
- Wairuatanga / Spirituality

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Wakatipu High School is part of a diverse and multicultural community and we recognise that students from any background may have outstanding abilities or potential related to their specific beliefs, values, or practices.

The WHS Gifted Education Programme philosophy



- Designed to challenge, empower, encourage risk taking, develop creative and critical thinking, foster independent learning and leadership, build individual accountability and the pursuit of excellence;
- Supports the social, emotional and cultural needs of students;
- Dynamic in our approach to identifying and creating specialised programs to meet the individual needs of Gifted Education students, including those who are multi-exceptional (working alongside Student Learning Support) or under-achieving;
- Supports teachers to provide appropriate and challenging teaching practices aligned with current research on best practice for Gifted Education students;
- Recognises that high levels of gifted potential, prevalent in primary school, may not have yet transformed into talents and responds with flexible Gifted Education program provision;
- Facilitates parent / whānau partnerships and student advocacy.

Communication

Hard work beats talent, when talent doesn't work hard.

- We define 'gifted' holistically.
- Keen to avoid a tick box of “gifted” versus “non-gifted”, seeing children as having individual talent, gifts and strengths which can be nurtured and grow.
- Data helps, but is not the whole story. Us knowing your child matters more.
- Partnership between us, your child and you is integral to all school success.



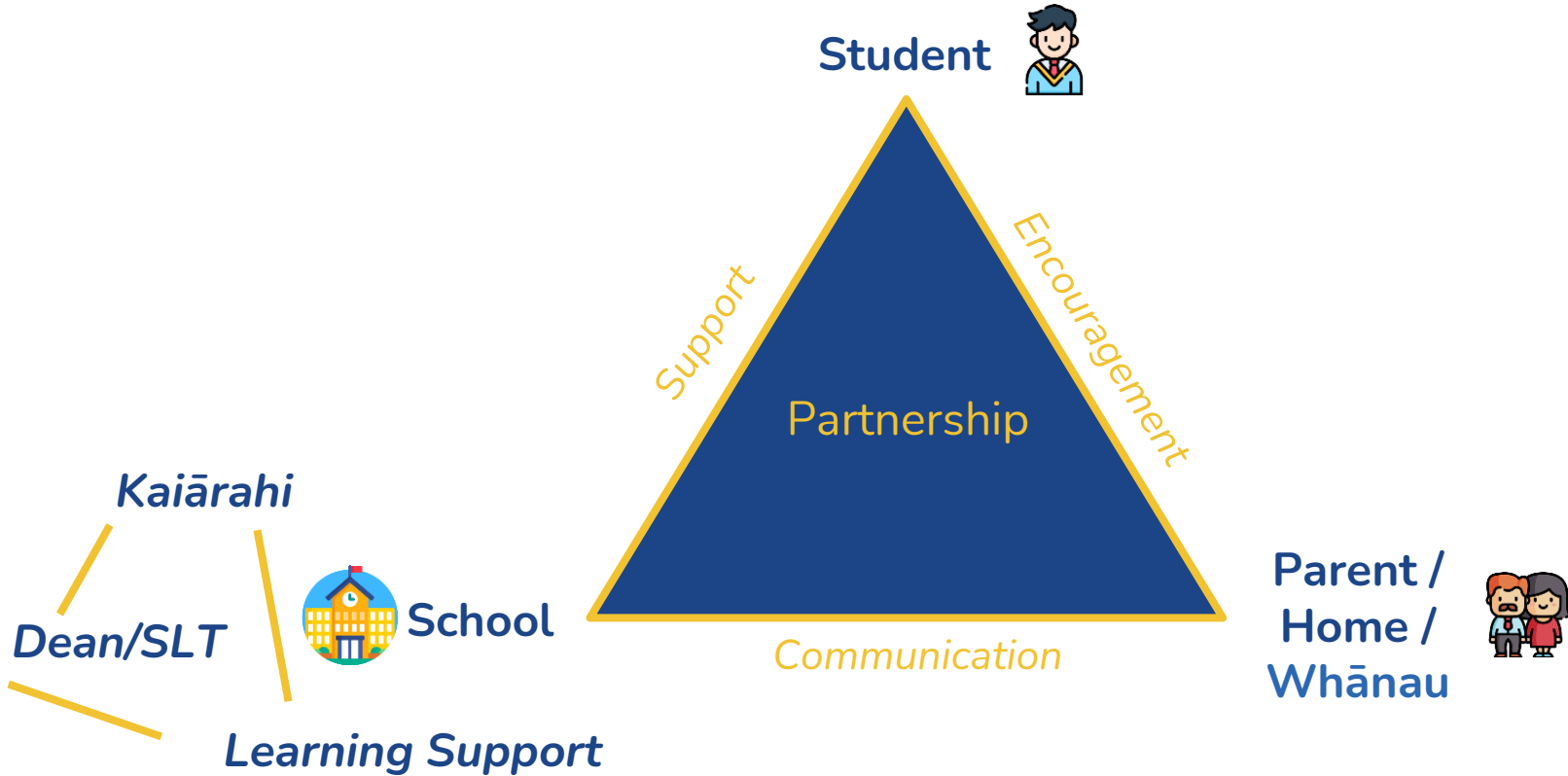
Extra-curricular
opportunities within
school

Opportunities
outside of school
("Curious Minds" /
Careers)

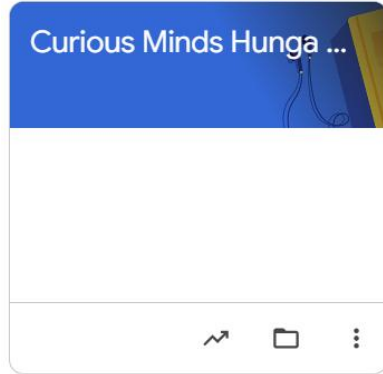
Bespoke
programmes (i.e.
acceleration)

What happens within
classrooms

He waka eke noa



'Hunga Māhirahira – Curious Minds'



Arthur Reeves

5 Feb



Brain Bee Competition 2026

The Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge is a competition for high school students in Year 11 to learn about the brain and its functions, learn about neuroscience research, find out about careers in neuroscience and to dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses.

Round 1 is a competition run in school. If successful, future rounds could see the team competing in Christchurch or Auckland.

Interested? Speak to your science teacher or email daspin@wakatipu.school.nz by Friday February 20th

 [Add comment](#)



Arthur Reeves

5 Feb (Edited 5 Feb)



UCLA GMB Science & Medicine Competition

Calling all aspiring healthcare innovators! Step into the world of and tackle real-world challenges that test your problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork skills.



fi3cvsvm

Programme



Wakatipu High School uses a multifaceted approach to providing for gifted students.

This includes, for example:

- A timetable structure that supports students to choose classes and courses that best meet student individual needs;
- Personalised teaching and learning programmes;
- Scholarship subjects;
- Subject acceleration*;
- [Extra- and Co- Activities](#), 'Hunga Māhirahira – Curious Minds', Competitions, Trips

Timetable



All students have an individual timetable enabling them to incorporate their interests and passions. In every course students have the opportunity to extend their thinking.

WHS has some courses that are particularly aimed at extending thinking and enabling students to explore their passions:

- Critical thinking in the Humanities (Year 10)
- Passions and Pathways (Senior years)
- High Performance Sport (All years)
- iGCSE Maths, Science, and English (Year 10/11)
- English Literature Extension (Year 10/11)
- Extension Mathematics and Statistics (Year 10)
- Correspondence, University and Net NZ programmes (allows for subjects WHS does not teach)
- Acceleration Programme (All Years)

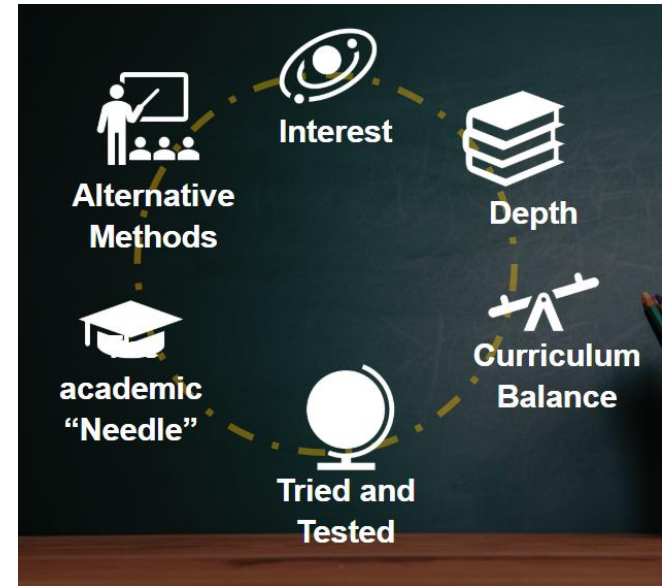
Cambridge IGCSE: pilot trial



This is a 2 year programme offered in English, Maths and Science for Year 10/11. Students can do one, two or all three subjects. Offers IGCSE international qualification, alongside some NCEA standards.

For students who:

- Are passionate about one (or more) of these subjects and intend to continue them throughout senior school aiming for high achievement.
- Show high levels of engagement in the subject (through their LEIs)
- Prefer examination based assessment.
- Are able to cope with a significant workload including homework.



Expressions of interest for current Yr 9 in August.

High Performance Sport Support



The purpose of this class is to provide additional support for our high performing student athletes so that they can stay engaged at WHS and achieve both their sporting and academic goals.

Incorporates practical, theory and independent study.

Option available as part of course selection (with further selection following this).



New Zealand Scholarship



NZ Scholarship is an academic programme offered in a series of academic subjects.

It is for students who want to push themselves further. It is about exploring the subjects you love at a deeper level and seeing what you are truly capable of.

Scholarship is different from NCEA Level 3. It focuses on how well you can use your knowledge in new situations.

It is assessed via portfolios or formal examinations.



Opportunities within subject areas



- Bio/Chem/Physics Olympiads
- Brain Bee Challenge (Science)
- Otago/Southland regional Ngā Manu Kōrero
- Robostormers
- Science Wānanga
- Australian Maths Trust Challenges
- University of Otago Junior Maths Competition
- Otago/ Southland Schools Debating
- Nano Camp
- Discovery Camp
- Hands On Otago
- Spelling Bee

... to name a few

**EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES AT WHS**

Wakatipu
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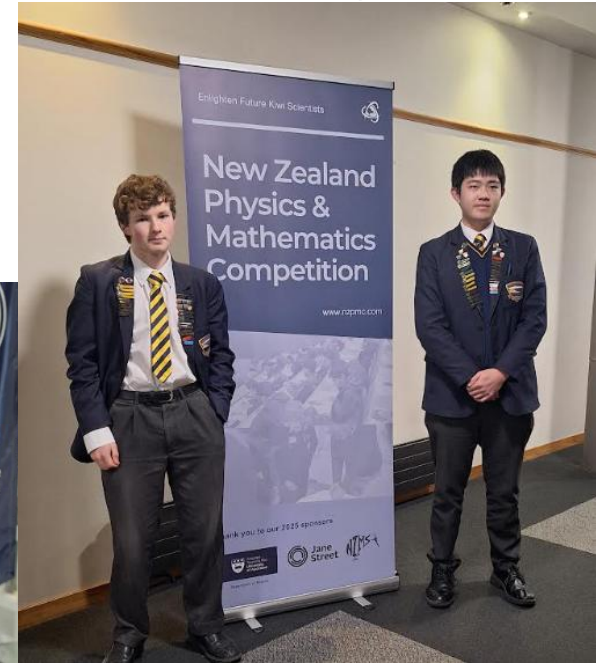
@wakatipuhighschoolqueenstown
@wakatipuhighschoolsports

@wakatipuhighschool
@WHSArtsDepartment

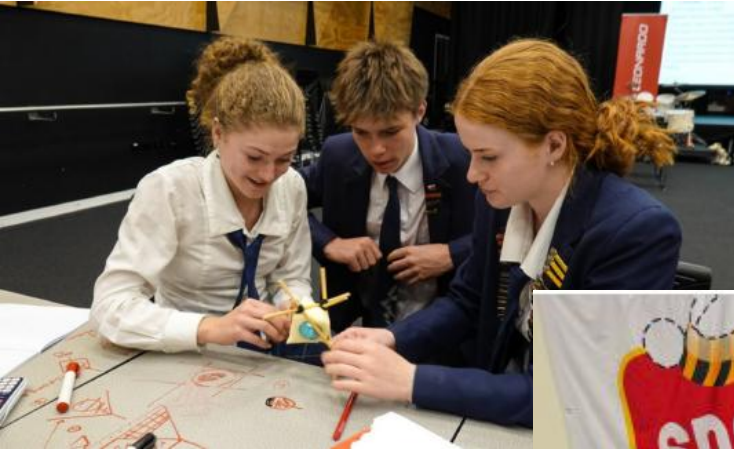
**JOIN
THE FUN**

Explore the activities available at our Extracurricular Expo, which is held in Term 1 and 3. For more details, visit the WHS website:
www.wakatipu.school.nz/extracurricular

Opportunities within subject areas



Opportunities within subject areas



Acceleration



Accelerate: A student who takes an NCEA subject that is above what is implied by their year level, for (usually) one, max two, subjects.

We take into consideration the holistic picture and both potential benefits and disadvantages with acceleration...

For example:

- Year 9: 5MAT
- Year 10: 5AMAX (Extension Maths)
- Year 11: 7MAC (Level 2 subject)
- Year 12: 8MAC (Level 3 subject)
- Year 13: 8UNI*/Scholarship or another course entirely

Expectations



- A student can be considered for acceleration if there is evidence to suggest that they will be able to achieve at the Excellence level in the subject they are accelerating into.
- The expectation is for an accelerated students to achieve at mostly Excellence credits while maintaining a love of the subject.
- Even if an accelerated student has ‘passed’ the subject, if they are not performing at Excellence level, they will be returned to cohort. This is with the aim of ensuring the student finishes WHS with the best possible qualification and pathway.

Acceleration Process:



- Ask for an exemption on for the course you are interested in when you complete course selection
- Parents fill out an "Acceleration review survey for parents" Google form (after options selection deadline)
- HoLA and subject teacher feedback about student's suitability
- Meeting with HoLA, parents and student
- Pastoral information considered
- SLT reviews final list

In January when exam results come in, all places are reviewed and confirmed.

- If you are on track to get mostly Excellence credits we will adjust your timetable to include the accelerated class.
- If you are not currently on track, you will be returned to your cohort (ie repeat).



Wakatipu
HIGH SCHOOL

ĀKONGA PROFILE



REACH FOR YOUR HEIGHTS
Kā mauka whakatipu

Key messages to parents and students...



- Be proactive and take advantage of opportunities
- Work hard in lessons and beyond
- Keep communicating with us: tell us what you're up to and interested in (Kaiārahi; teachers; Mr Reeves).





Hard work beats
talent, when talent
doesn't work hard.

Ko te mahi uaua ka hinga i
te taranata ka kore e kaha
te mahi

Q & A



Karakia Whakakapi (to end)

Hikitia hikitia te rongomaiwhiti o tēnei wānanga

Tukua kia ea, tukua kia ōi

Ko Ranginui ki runga

Ko Papatūānuku ki raro

Tūturu whakamaua kia tina (tina!)

Hui ē, Tāiki ē!