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# Waihi School to welcome girls in Term 1, 2021

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## An exciting opportunity for boys and girls to have a family prep school experience

We are very pleased to announce that Waihi School will welcome girls in Years 4-8, as both day pupils and boarders, from Term 1 next year.

As a result of our strategic review earlier this year, Waihi has been considering moving to co-education in order to mirror the more inclusive and diverse community in which we live. We have also listened to the comments of Waihi parents who have expressed their desire to be able to give the same opportunities to their daughters, which their sons enjoy, of the unique Waihi experience. We are now delighted to now offer this opportunity to families.

The resolution to move to co-education has been made by the Trust Board. All board members are excited at what lies ahead for the school with the expansion of our Waihi family.

Central to our move to welcome girls, was ensuring that we retain and enhance Waihi's values, ethos, traditions and its aims. These will remain unchanged. Waihi will continue to offer its pupils an education for life.

Academically, on the sports field and in the cultural arena, Waihi has always had extraordinary achievements. These are a result of the school's strong focus on teaching with pride, passion and positive expectations, together with pastoral care that has put boys at the centre of all we do at Waihi. We believe that by now welcoming girls to Waihi, we will continue to build on our achievements and ensure both girls and boys can learn, grow and thrive, and be well-prepared for continued success at their choice of senior schools.

We are fortunate that Waihi has extensive grounds and facilities; co-education gives us an opportunity to offer a more comprehensive range of clubs and activities for all our pupils. The continued progress and development of the Orchard project; providing mountain biking, an adventure course, new changing/shower facilities and eventually a full-sized all-weather turf and indoor space will further enhance the exceptional sporting facilities that Waihi already offers.

We have begun planning for our new boarding spaces for the girls, including new bathroom facilities, at the northern end of Pyne House. All classroom and teaching spaces will be reviewed and upgraded, if necessary. We also plan on adding more cosy nurturing spaces where small groups of children can work and interact together.

Pastoral support for girls, already a strength at Waihi for our boys, is a top priority. We are working with our staff to ensure they are well-equipped, and supported, for the beginning of Term 1.

To give you more detail on the nuts-and-bolts of the background to our decision and how we will welcome girls in the classroom, on the sports fields and in the boarding house, please email the office [here](#) for a Q&A document that we hope will answer any queries you may have.

Waihi is now accepting enrolments for girls, as well as boys, to enter in Term 1, 2021. For availability of places or more information about admissions, please email my PA, Mrs Wendy Groves, [here](#). She will be very happy to help.

If you would like to talk over any aspect of Waihi's move to welcome girls, please don't hesitate to contact either me or Trust Board Chair, John Rolleston; our details are below.

We are all hugely looking forward to having girls enjoy being part of our Waihi family. We hope you will see our move to welcome girls as a significant opportunity for all families to enjoy what Waihi has to offer, and to give both boys and girls an education for life.

Kind regards

Allan Short

John Rolleston

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Headmaster

Waihi Trust Board Chair

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