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INTERNATIONAL  
PROSPECTUS

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# WELCOME





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## *There is a tangible sense of warmth and belonging at Iona...*

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It is a place where girls can be entirely comfortable; where they feel happy and safe in a warm, family-oriented environment.

We welcome girls from all over the world into our family. Embracing students with a variety of cultural backgrounds sits at the heart of teaching young people about compassion, acceptance, tolerance and cultural diversity.

By bringing people together who have different religious, cultural, and historical backgrounds, the learning environment is enhanced for all. Working alongside New Zealand students in the classroom, our International students forge strong connections and relationships; an ideal way to earn a secondary school qualification where English is the primary language. Class sizes are small to ensure students are engaged in their learning, and specialised tuition in English is provided if needed.







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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

# *Fostering intellect, building character*

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As you walk through the gates for the first time, you feel a sense of belonging, and the start of a precious journey begins. The beautiful surroundings and a warm, inviting atmosphere capture the essence of Iona College. Rich in history and steeped with traditions that are enriched with Christian values, the College maintains its heritage whilst our holistic learning environment and future focus inspires girls to look to their dreams and work towards becoming the best they can be. Iona College aims to help students to be academically successful, and to develop them spiritually, culturally, socially and physically.

The unique aspects of our Special Character, guided by our Christian faith, Presbyterian ethos and focus on moral and spiritual development, are woven into all aspects of fostering a caring and loving school community. Our motto "Love, Joy, Peace" permeates through the College and our core values of compassion, respect, integrity, curiosity, resilience and understanding are qualities our College embraces.

Iona's vision of "Empowering Girls for Life" develops a culture of personal excellence where girls have a passion for learning, are inspired and challenged to discover their talents and achieve their potential within an inclusive, supportive learning community. With encouragement, girls are confident to embrace the myriad of opportunities for personal growth and holistic development, so that they can follow any path they choose and have the skills to make a difference.

At Iona, there is a commitment to this vision through high quality and innovative teaching and learning in small classes, with individual support and enrichment, underpinned by trusting relationships and a strong focus on wellbeing and engagement. Girls are committed to exploring their creative talents through music, dance, drama and performing in The Blyth; our award-winning Performing Arts Centre, as well as challenging themselves to try a new sport or excel in their chosen sport. Iona students have an active role in the community with a focus on service and connectedness.

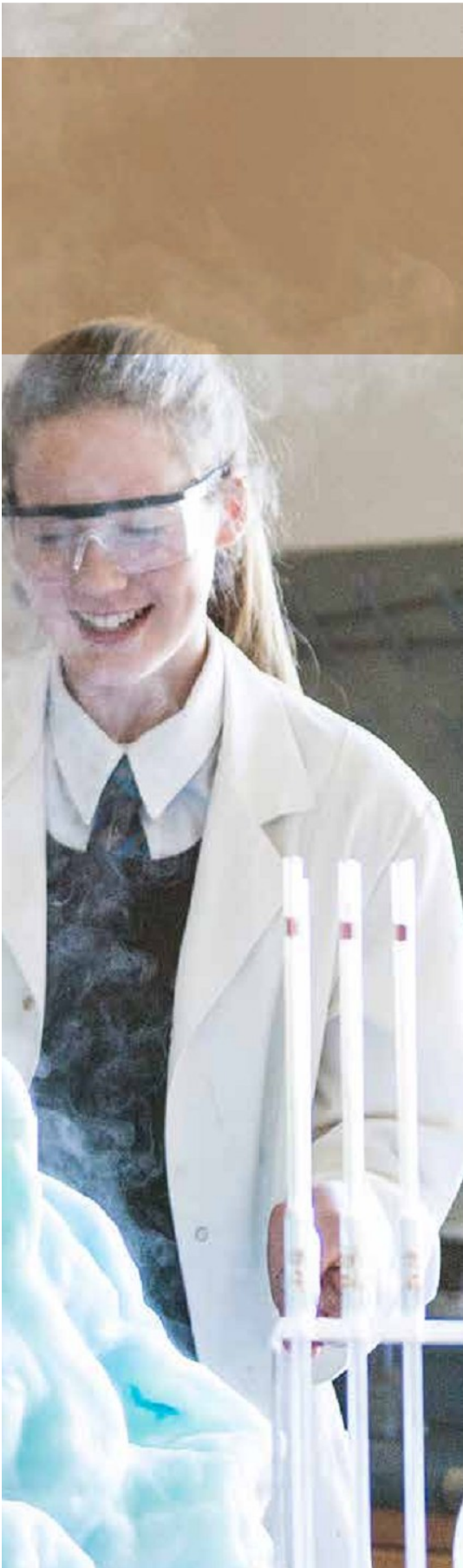
I feel honoured and privileged to be able to lead Iona College into the future, and I am excited to work in partnership with staff, parents and the community to support all of our students with their academic achievement and development as an individual.

*Helen Armstrong – Principal*

# EMPOWER







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## *Empowering Girls for Life*

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Iona Girls develop skills, values and confidence that allow and encourage them to take charge of their lives, now and into the future.

The openly-stated goal of an Iona education – *Empowering Girls for Life* – represents an inspirational position, and an aspirational outlook. We want our girls to unleash their potential not only during their years at school, but well beyond. Iona Girls don't just have equal opportunities – they have every opportunity. Girls hold every leadership position – in the classroom, on the stage and on the sports field. Iona College aims to provide educational opportunities without compromise. We nurture independence and imagination by providing an environment where students are free from gender stereotyping, allowing girls to participate in individual self-expression more freely and, as a result, build a sense of their own identity. Single-sex schools are also known to foster stronger relationships between staff and students, allowing our girls to openly engage with teachers to find ways of persevering to reach goals.

In a learning environment dedicated to girls and without social pressures from boys, girls engage in more healthy competition and risk-taking – skills that are advantageous for leadership and life success.

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*...Iona Girls are not defined by their academic outcomes alone. Strong in intellect – and strong in character is our approach... not just one or the other but both!*

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## *A Culture of Wellbeing*

Connect, succeed, thrive.

We employ a dedicated Director of International Students whose primary concern is your daughter's wellbeing. Iona College is a signatory to the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students and has agreed to observe and be bound by its practices.

We know our girls learn best when their wellbeing is optimised, and they develop a strong sense of wellbeing when they experience success in their learning, are confident in their identity and are optimistic about their future.

We are committed to:

- Unlocking individual strengths and virtues.
- Fostering wellbeing.
- Celebrating the uniqueness of each individual.
- Building life-long mindfulness, resilience and commitment to service.
- Engendering a growth mindset whereby our girls thrive on challenge and see failure not as a defeat but as a springboard for growth and for stretching their existing abilities.

Iona acknowledges the essential role of wellbeing as a pre-condition of engagement in quality learning; as vital as the commitment to high-quality resources and technology. Add to that the motivation provided by its uniquely serene setting with world-class facilities and inspiring vistas – and this is Iona.

*The government authority Education Review Office reports that Iona College's "regular monitoring and review processes provide good information about how well students' pastoral care and education needs are met. The progress and achievement of these students in English language learning and the curriculum are known to the board and teachers. Data shows students make good progress and transition well-prepared for future pathways. All international students live in the boarding hostel. They are integrated into the school community. Feedback from students and their parents indicates high levels of satisfaction."*



## *Academic Excellence*

Iona maintains high expectations and standards. We expect a commitment to hard work and study—and to all domains of College life.

We are proud that the attainment of excellent NCEA results and our position as one of the top-performing schools in New Zealand for University Entrance are everyday achievements in our College life.

Iona Girls have an edge—an outward-looking, vibrant and energetic approach to life. There is something powerful unleashed when our girls understand that they don't just belong to a community driven to succeed; they are contributors.



- We encourage our girls to develop a passion for learning and to be intellectually brave and adventurous, and to feel courageous about making mistakes.
- We embrace innovation without allowing that to displace good teaching and the relationship between teacher and learner.
- The use of technology is appropriately balanced and presented as a valued tool; not a substitute for learning.
- We provide real-world opportunities for learning.
- Our class sizes are small allowing our teachers to offer differentiated learning experiences.
- Our inspiring teachers are experts in their specialist fields.
- We encourage our girls to find mentors and to help each other succeed.
- The school has modern and purpose-built state-of-the-art learning spaces.
- Our curriculum is agile and responsive.

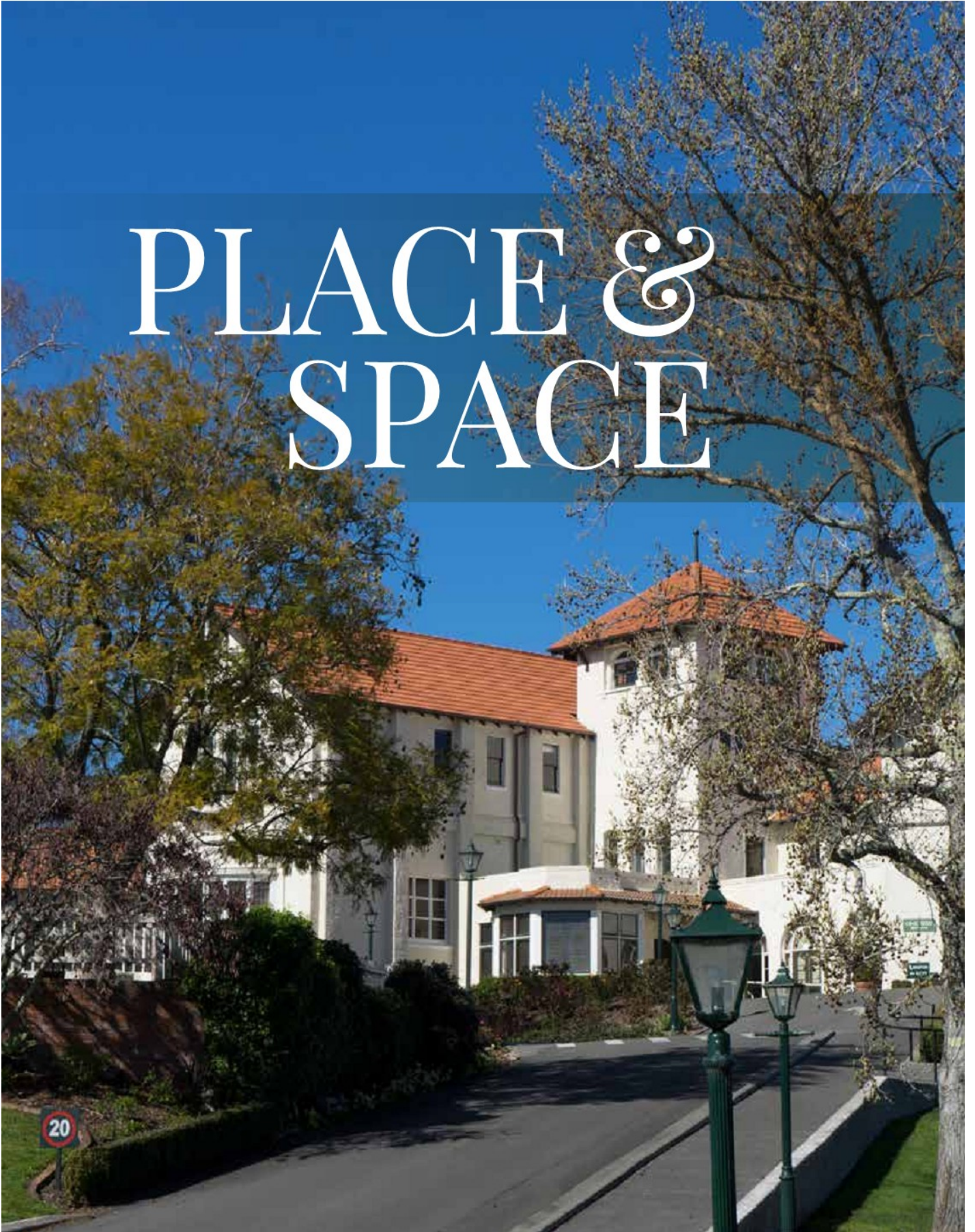
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*Good seeds grow in strong cultures. We help develop girls of great character whose academic achievements will be just a part of their wonderful life stories.*

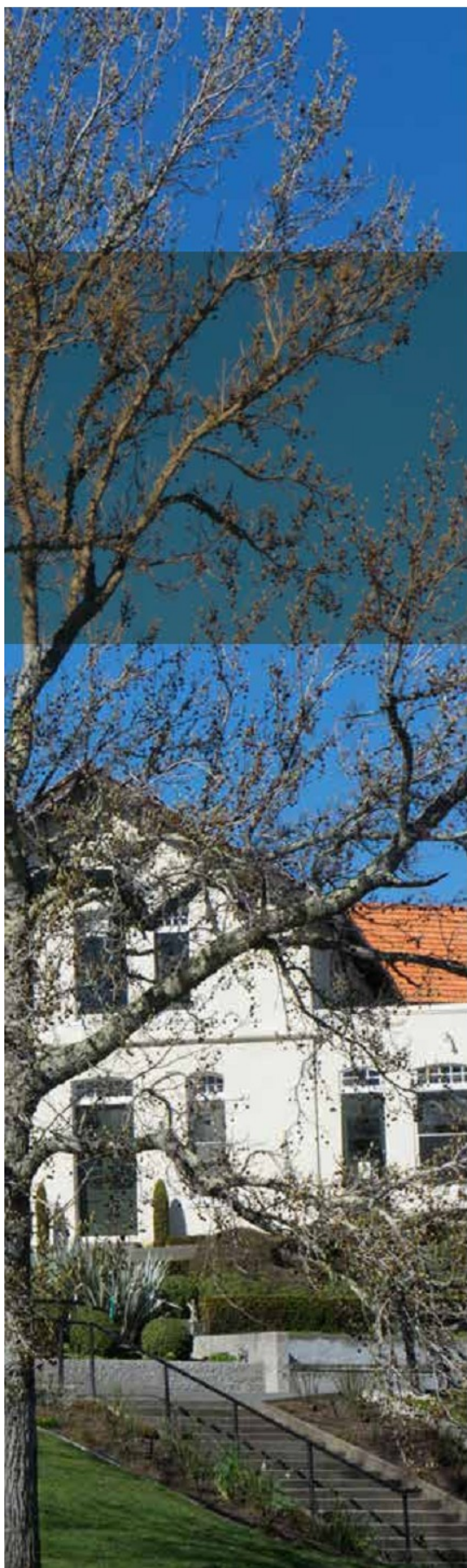
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# PLACE & SPACE







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## *A world-class environment in which to live and learn.*

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Schools are so much more than the buildings that house them, but learners thrive within inspiring spaces.

There are many reasons why Iona Girls feel good about being at school; one of the contributors is the remarkable sense of place and space which the College actively nurtures.

Nestled in the hills of Havelock North, on 27 acres of beautiful park-like grounds, the College reflects the past and the present, with buildings and facilities combining to form an inspiring and stimulating environment for enquiring minds. From the manicured gardens and grounds to our architecturally designed heritage buildings; from our distinctive award-winning, contemporary structures to the sweeping views over the Heretaunga Plains and across to the Ruahine Ranges, Iona College offers a setting like no other.

Learning spaces within the College are purpose-built – without compromise – to support learning.





## *The Blyth Performing Arts Centre*

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*"Iona will be enriched, challenged and changed forever by The Blyth Performing Arts Centre, awarded the Best Arts and Education building at the Property Council Awards. And most significantly it won the New Zealand Architecture Medal for 2015 at the NZIA national awards. This is the supreme award for the best building in New Zealand for that year."*

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*Pauline Campbell – Trustee*

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From an extraordinary gift from Iona Old Girl, Margaret Blyth, an outstanding educational facility has emerged – The Blyth Performing Arts Centre – a state-of-the-art space for the performing arts; recognised for its exceptional acoustic qualities as one of the finest concert chambers in New Zealand.







## *Information Resource Centre*

The Information Resource Centre is a magnificent addition to our campus and the learning spaces provided allow for flexible delivery of the curriculum through the provision of informal learning areas that support collaborative activities, small seminar rooms and meeting places, sunny corners in which to study and classrooms equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies such as interactive whiteboards and a robust wireless network to support the use of mobile devices.



## *Intermediate School*

Our purpose-built modern classrooms offer a blended learning environment for three composite Year 7 and 8 classes. The flexibility of spaces enables these areas to be reconfigured to support different teaching and learning activities.



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# *Life's lessons are learnt in— and beyond— the classroom.*

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## *Beyond the Classroom*

Iona's extensive range of experiences in sports, culture and the arts, encourage leadership, teamwork and personal growth. Our girls are able to explore new opportunities and confidently express themselves as individuals.

We have a vibrant programme of outdoor learning opportunities that build our girls' appreciation for both the natural world and environment, and – importantly – for themselves.











## Sports

Iona College has an extensive range of sporting opportunities for girls of all fitness levels and abilities. Sport is compulsory to Year 12 to encourage good health, fun, fitness and self-confidence. Regular participation in sporting activities helps to develop social skills, leadership, teamwork and the drive for excellence. Sport is a significant part of our special character, and we strive to have highly competitive teams.

Our girls enjoy modern sporting equipment and superior facilities. Within the school grounds there is a full-sized indoor netball court, multi-lane swimming pool, tennis courts, a gym and large fields for outdoor sports.

We offer a wide-ranging sports programme, take great pride in our achievements at a regional and national level and support our elite sportswomen in their international endeavours.

We are agile and responsive in our varied sports programme which can include:

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Netball
- Personal Training
- Pilates
- Polo
- Rowing
- Skiing
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Yoga

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*“Our goal is to ensure all Iona students take ownership and pride in the sporting life of the school. We want our girls to feel empowered to live a healthy, balanced lifestyle through participation in physical activity and that they are given every opportunity to excel.”*

*Director of Sport*

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## *Performing Arts and Culture*

Iona is the ideal school for any girl with creativity, enthusiasm and talent.

As well as offering students the opportunity to explore a wide range of visual and performing arts, we have facilities that rival professional studios and venues. Iona attracts teachers recognised for their expertise, and girls enjoy regular opportunities to see professional performances, and to learn from world-renowned authors, musicians and artists. Rounding out the range of cultural activities on offer, Iona has a long tradition of success in debating, a small but proud Kapa Haka group, and we have access to a thriving private tuition programme for singing, contemporary and classical dance, learning musical instruments, speech and drama, and public speaking. There are also opportunities to join Iona's ensembles, choirs, theatre clubs, dance and drama classes. Theatrical productions and numerous performance opportunities provide students with a chance to try their hand at a range of support roles and activities. Our girls articulate their views with confidence and clarity, and develop into confident public speakers and performers.

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*Performing arts education develops many valuable skills in young people, from self-confidence through to fine motor skills. It also teaches the appreciation of performance and expression, and ignites the imagination.*

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*Images from the combined Iona College and Lindisfarne College musical Once on This Island.*









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*"The weekends in with my friends is one of my best memories at Iona. We all helped cook our favourite food including risotto, stir-fry, homemade pizza and lots more. It makes me feel like I'm home with all my family. We have movie night every Saturday night and I have a chocolate bar or ice cream and get cosy under the blanket or bean bag."*

*Pornthip Thanusutiyaporn  
(Mook) – Iona International  
Old Girl*

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## Boarding

The Iona Boarding House is a flourishing community where learning, personal growth and exploration are our top priorities.

At Iona, boarders and day girls are united. Their support for each other is generous, and authentic. Our girls work together, share meals together, and create and succeed as one. They make life-long friendships across territories that offer no barrier; whether from Auckland or Bangkok.

Our International students live in the boarding house during term time. They spend holiday breaks at a vetted and approved homestay, which provides a wonderful opportunity to broaden their cultural experiences. The harmonious integration of our international students into our boarding house and the local community is a defining characteristic of Iona.

Both the College and the Boarding House promote intellectual, social, emotional and moral growth. We offer a warm, safe, happy, nurturing environment. An exceptional standard of round-the-clock care is provided from a team of highly professional and experienced staff who actively work with boarders to develop their empathy, compassion and resilience. Boarding gives students an invaluable experience of communal living. Our girls learn to live and work together in a setting that encourages a practical concern for others, and promotes the development of skills in organisation, cooperation and independence. It also encourages a strong work ethic and a commitment to the pursuit of excellence in academic work.

Iona boarders have a clearly defined routine that also accommodates personal pursuits. Boarders complete homework (Prep) at set times in the evenings, working in their own rooms or in our modern Information Resource Centre under the supervision of dedicated prep staff.

Junior and senior girls are mostly accommodated in private rooms, while our youngest boarders live in shared bedrooms. Rooms and room-mates are changed each term to build new social connections, resilience and tolerance, as well as to promote diversity. Boarders have access to our extensive grounds and facilities after school and on weekends. The Boarding House is an active environment with girls regularly enjoying outings to the markets, the beach, the cinema and the theatre as well as visits to the surrounding towns and local attractions. Regular activities also occur with other boarding schools. Delicious meals are freshly prepared by our own Iona chef and are specifically planned with the nutritional needs of adolescent girls in mind. Iona's dining experience is the envy of many other establishments and our dining room is characterised by a family atmosphere.

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*"At Iona I lived with my classmates and friends. It's such a cool thing to do. I remember the fun times we've had sitting on the bed, chatting about songs, movies and stars". Marina Arai (University of Tsukuba, Japan) – Iona International Old Girl*

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## *Special Character*

Iona has been transformed across its history, but our Special Character and the essence of what it is to be an Iona Girl remain unchanged.

We all love to belong to something bigger than ourselves. Iona is a school like no other; our Special Character defines those qualities which will guide our girls through life. These unique qualities are intertwined through the life of our College.

We believe a well-rounded education embraces academic, sporting, cultural, wellbeing, leadership and spiritual elements; these are Iona's cornerstones.

Iona was founded by the Presbyterian Church, but is an inter-denominational College and we welcome students from all backgrounds.





## Service

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*"Iona Girls learn the importance of making a positive difference in the community and how small actions can greatly enrich the lives of others."*

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Our service programme at Iona has a "head, hands and heart" approach.

The aim is to connect the head and the heart through the experience of walking with people who, simply through life's chance, have not been granted the privileges that some of us share.

Iona Girls are willing and active participants in meaningful service activities in the wider community.

Service learning enriches the giver and the receiver. By giving to – and supporting – community groups, our girls learn the character-enhancing qualities of care, charity and compassion.





# TESTIMONI





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## *Our International Students*

### *Priyanit Jindapadungrat (Chacha)*

#### *- A parent's perspective*

"Iona was the right choice of school and Chacha excelled in all areas; academic, sporting cultural and social.

Initially, Chacha felt unfamiliar with the New Zealand culture, the English accent and the school's rules and regulations, but soon realised she could adapt quickly.

She had good classmates and made many friends, including one who is now studying medicine also. She had a happy life at Iona College and particularly enjoyed the holidays when she stayed with her friends. Staying on a farm was a very memorable experience and one she would never have had the opportunity to enjoy if she had remained at home and studied in Thailand.

Teachers created a rich learning environment in the classroom and were very helpful and friendly, particularly Mr Marshall her Chemistry teacher and Mr Rayner her Physics teacher, who always helped her whenever she needed extra support.

She developed confident public speaking skills which enabled her to make a positive impression when she was interviewed by Nottingham University before they accepted her as a student.

Mrs Edwards was a good advisor and helped her to find places for her to stay during holidays and a place for her to take IELTS exam, a compulsory exam when applying for the joint medical programme between Nottingham University and Srinakharinwirot University.

Thank you again to Iona College, the teachers and her friends".

Pomprasit and Vipavadee Jindapadungrat

*Chacha is pictured celebrating her successes with her mother Vipavadee.*





## Xin Yi Chen

### – A student's perspective

In her final year at Iona College, Xin Yi was awarded a US Scholarship to study at the prestigious Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) - a private American university for creative careers.

"I am an international student from China, who studied in New Zealand at Iona College for five years from 2014-2018. My years at Iona shaped me in every way to grow into a stronger, more independent young woman".

Iona offers a large variety of courses for Year 7 to 13 students, which, after my graduation, I found many students from other schools had not had these options. For example, Iona offers variety for the creative minded students with Fashion Technology, Drama, and Design. In Year 9 most courses were compulsory so we had a chance to give all subjects a try before deciding which one is our passion. It is hugely important to try different courses before you choose your pathway and Iona offers this opportunity.

From Year 11, many courses were taught in small class sizes giving students a more personalised experience. I found this extremely helpful. Students and teachers developed a strong bond and my teachers were able to work with me in a way that managed my workload and reduced my stress. Teachers at Iona also encouraged learning opportunities to experience future pathways of each course. I was fortunate to go on trips with my Fashion Technology teacher and with my class to Wellington to watch the "World Of Wearable Art" performance. I also participated in Auckland Fashion Week which helped me hugely with my design work.

The international department also encouraged me to become the best version of myself. When opportunities for leadership roles came up, the Director of International Students encouraged me to put my name forward for International Student Leader and Hastings Youth Council Representative. I think both leadership roles helped me with my personal growth.

Iona also offers a wide range of co-curricular options and programmes to look after students' wellbeing and help students to explore their interest. Our Year 10 camp helped me develop my confidence and physical awareness, I learned to look after my feelings and my mind in mindfulness courses, I practiced my public speaking in speech lessons and participated in many sports and cultural activities including volleyball, netball and choir. These courses helped me to grow into the person I am now; Iona influenced me more than I imagined a school could.

"With just a small group of international students at Iona, each and every one also had the chance to experience the Kiwi way of life and make friends with local students".

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*I am grateful to have been an international student at Iona and feel I have been offered so many opportunities. I can relate to New Zealand and see myself as almost 'half-Kiwi' after spending my teenage years at such an inclusive school. If international students are looking for an in-depth experience overseas, I would highly recommend Iona College.*

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## *Learning In Hawke's Bay*

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*From school, girls can take a short, easy stroll to shops, cafes and movie theatres in the vibrant village of Havelock North – voted New Zealand's most beautiful suburb 2017.*

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### *A magnificent environment*

Hawke's Bay offers the opportunity for a world-class education, personal safety, exciting cultural and sport activities, a beautiful natural environment and a very comfortable climate. Hawke's Bay people are friendly and welcoming, and happy to share their wonderful lifestyle with all visitors, international students and migrants.

The region has stunning geography, a phenomenal climate with long hot summers and cool winters, talented people, a rich history, a vibrant economy, and a friendly and culturally diverse community.

Iona College is a leading all-girls school in Hawke's Bay. Our international students enjoy a healthy study/life balance – some say it's the best in the world. Here you can live in an urban environment within easy reach of stunning landscape and wide open spaces.

In New Zealand you will be looked after. We have a Code of Practice for Pastoral Care that helps ensure the safety and well-being of our international students.

From more information about Learning in Hawke's Bay visit [www.learninghawkesbay.nz](http://www.learninghawkesbay.nz)







## *Become an International Iona Girl*

Begin the learning journey with us.

### *Enrolment*

Applying for a place at Iona College is straightforward.

1. Enrol online [www.iona.school.nz/become-an-iona-international-student](http://www.iona.school.nz/become-an-iona-international-student) or download the International enrolment form, complete and return to the Director of International students.

Email [international@iona.school.nz](mailto:international@iona.school.nz)

You are under no obligation if your circumstances change.

2. Upon receipt, we will acknowledge your application.  
We accept applications throughout the year and will contact you for an interview.

### *Additional information*

Additional information – or information of a detailed or annually changing and regularly updated nature – can be found on the College website [www.iona.school.nz](http://www.iona.school.nz)

### *Contact*

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[www.learninghawkesbay.nz](http://www.learninghawkesbay.nz)

Education Review Office  
[www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz)

If you would like to know more about our International student programme contact our Director of International Students.

Email [international@iona.school.nz](mailto:international@iona.school.nz)



