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**PROSPECTUS**

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A high-angle, top-down photograph of a group of young women, likely a school choir or band, looking up towards the camera. They are wearing dark blue or black pinstriped blazers over white collared shirts. Each woman is wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat with a dark blue band featuring two thin horizontal stripes. The women are arranged in a circular pattern, with their heads and shoulders visible. The background is a bright blue surface, possibly a stage or a backdrop. The word "WELCOME" is superimposed in a large, white, serif font across the center of the image.

WELCOME



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

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

Our purpose is to encourage our girls to embrace their education wholeheartedly; to see them emerge with vision and optimism, and to prepare them to take their places as confident and compassionate young women, driven to make a difference, wherever they choose to live and work.

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

# *Fostering intellect, building character*

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It is my pleasure to welcome you to Iona College.

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.

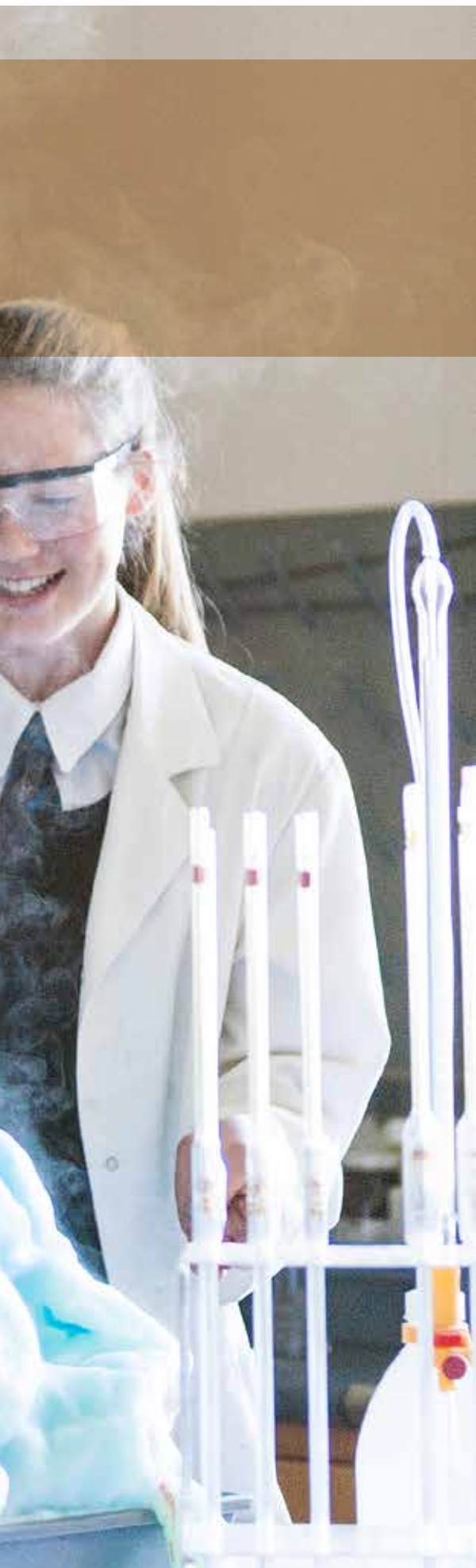
I feel honoured and privileged to be able to lead Iona College into the future, and I am excited to work in partnership with staff, parents and the community to support all of our students with their academic achievement and development as an individual.

*Helen Armstrong – Principal*

# EMPOWER

A young woman with red hair in braids, wearing a school uniform and safety goggles, is smiling while looking through a microscope. A teacher in a white lab coat and safety goggles stands behind her. The background is a chemistry lab with shelves filled with various bottles and equipment. The word "EMPOWER" is overlaid in large white letters.





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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 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.

Our girls understand that individual wellbeing is a skill that can be developed. Our wellbeing curriculum teaches lifelong personal competencies to develop our girls' resilience, an understanding of their own strengths and the importance of recognising strengths in others.

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.
- Developing emotional maturity and spiritual richness within the Presbyterian tradition.
- 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.

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*The addition of the beautiful sculpture by Paul Dibble has added a new dimension to the entrance of Iona College.*

*“Entitled, Moving Forward, Looking Back. It symbolises the students of the school making their own passage from child to adulthood, with new possession of knowledge and skills, moving confidently from the sanctuary of the school into the world.”*

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*Iona Girls have an edge—  
an outward — looking,  
vibrant and energetic  
approach to life.*

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## 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.

Iona is academically non-selective, yet our students consistently achieve outstanding academic results.



- 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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*“I will be forever grateful for the hard work ethic Iona ingrains in every girl.”*  
*Bronte Spierings, Dux 2016*

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## Enrichment Programmes

Girls with potential need opportunities to shine.

We recognise that all students have unique academic, social, emotional and cultural needs and offerings. To enrich that potential, they require a responsive and tailored curriculum. Our enrichment programmes, offered by specialist teachers, provide opportunities to enhance personal development, as well as academic, sporting, cultural and leadership excellence.

Enrichment programmes focus on the following characteristics:

- Critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, metacognition, and intuitive thinking.
- Emotional intelligence (EQ).
- Intrapersonal skills such as the ability to self-critique, self-reflect and self-regulate.
- Interpersonal skills such as leadership, teamwork, and organisational ability.
- Physical and sporting ability.
- An appreciation of cultural traditions, values and ethics.
- Nurturing talent in visual and performing arts.
- Technological aptitude.
- Academic and intellectual abilities.



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*“In a world that is increasingly characterised by complexity and change, the need for young people to be enterprising to both cope and thrive has never been greater. Developing an enterprising mindset that actively encourages the convergence of innovation, creativity, empathy, intercultural understanding, resilience and drive and determination to make things happen is critical for preparing our girls for the future. Our aim should be to make our students better learners – to start the lifelong journey with a love for learning.”*

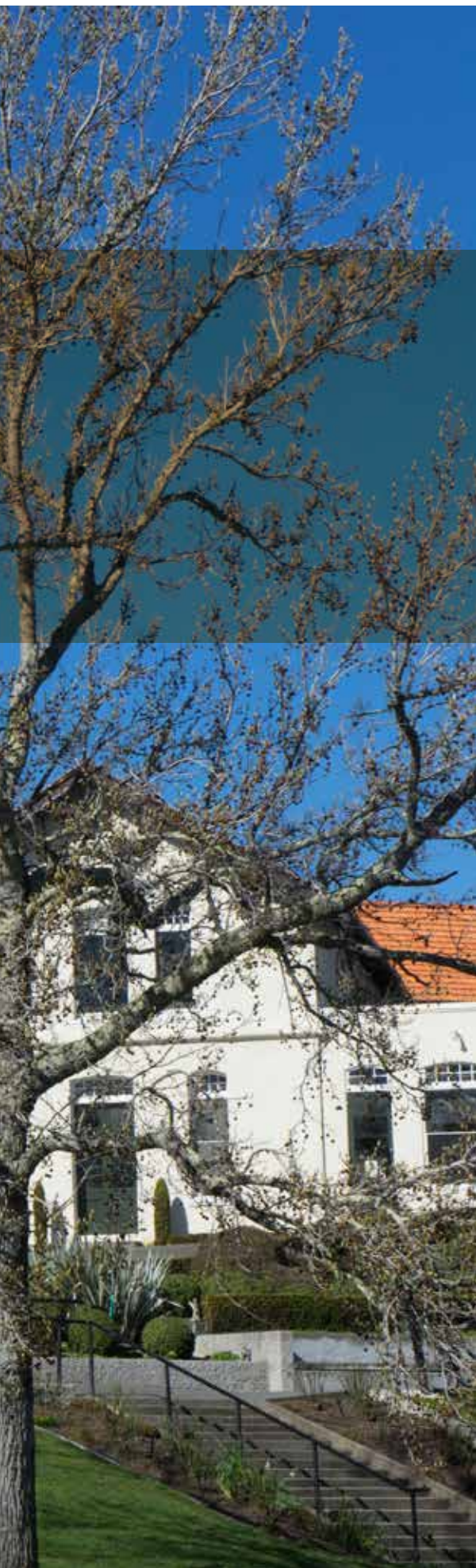
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# PLACE & SPACE







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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.”*

*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*

Physical settings, including the height of ceilings, the colour of walls, levels of natural light, views from windows and temperature can all have a dramatic impact on everything from student motivation to energy levels which in turn has an impact of student learning outcomes. And all of those items have been addressed in the 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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## *Junior Emerging Talent Squad*

The JETS (Junior Emerging Talent Squad) focuses on Year 7 to 11 students who are serious about competing at an elite level. JETS sessions cover topics such as nutrition, psychological and emotional wellbeing, and personal organisation. We invite sports professionals to speak with the JETS girls to provide an insight into various sporting activities at the highest level.

JETS works alongside the girls' professional development coaches and team coaches to maximise their potential.



## *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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## 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 Gisborne or Bangkok. The harmonious integration of day and boarding school life is a defining characteristic of Iona.



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*“Boarding at Iona has been such an important part in shaping the people we have become... it is the most practical gift our parents could have given us.” Iona Old Girls*

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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 academic 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.

## *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.

Excellent schools are committed to learning and to justice, individual achievement and wholeness; qualities embedded firmly in Iona's Presbyterian heritage. Our College offers outstanding educational opportunities for girls within the context of the Protestant interpretation of the Christian faith. Iona was founded by the Presbyterian Church, but is an inter-denominational College and we welcome students from all backgrounds.

The Founders of Iona had a vision for a school with a sound, liberal educational philosophy; one that placed young women at the centre of learning. As society evolves, so too will our concept of a sound and liberal education, but it will continue to be based on a foundation that rewards curiosity, nurtures a love of learning, and inspires our students to achieve excellence. Iona has always remained agile and responsive to change, and this continues to be reflected in our curriculum and methods.





## 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.



# SIDE BY SIDE







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## *Iona Intermediate our jewel— a school within a school*

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The Intermediate School forms a very important phase between Primary and Secondary School as we help girls to bridge the gap between childhood and adulthood. This is a time when students question their sense of identity and how they fit into the world.

In this vital stage of development, the Intermediate School empowers girls to foster positive relationships with all members of the community. They build a strong sense of their self-worth and character. As the girls progress through the Intermediate School so does their ability to self-regulate, and to be their own advocates. In essence we are teaching them the foundation skills for a lifetime of learning. Their personal journey will be as individual and unique as they are.

Our approach in the Intermediate School is driven by students' curiosity about the world around them. Our model recognises that the meaning of 'knowing' has shifted from being able to remember and repeat information to being able to find and use it. Our classes have an inquiry-based learning focus which encourages a student's natural desire to discover, understand, form patterns, collaborate, pose and solve problems together and make connections with the world around them – all within a supportive and understanding environment.

Each student enjoys individual attention from highly experienced and specialist teachers who are experts in teaching girls at this level. Our digital classrooms are modern learning environments deliberately designed for intermediate-age students. Technology and online learning are not just included; they are purposefully integrated into the act of learning and curricula in a manner that improves the educational experience for all students. The thoughtful use of technology, paired with effective teacher-led instruction and student interaction, is what makes a difference.

We believe it is essential that all the students have a strong sense of connectedness. The girls' sense of community and relationships is further supported by their involvement in all aspects of College life. All are made to feel welcome and included, given opportunities to participate widely and encouraged to become their best.

## *International Students*

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 and tolerance.

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.

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. 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.

International students study towards the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA). The NCEA is New Zealand's main secondary school qualification under the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Students can also gain IELTS and OCESOL qualifications.

Hawke's Bay's position on the East Coast of the North Island of New Zealand means it is within easy flying distance from major centres, yet offers a very safe regional lifestyle. The incredible natural setting offers an abundance of activities and experiences and a warm climate for our International students.

**Please contact our office for more information or to request an International Handbook.**





## *Community Connectedness*

Since Iona College was founded 102 years ago, successive generations have brought and still bring their own contributions to the vision of this magnificent school.

Iona College has enjoyed a long tradition of sound and stable governance. Many parents of students – and Iona Old Girls who have become recognised leaders in their field – have generously shared their time, expertise and influence contributing to Iona's growing future.

### *The Iona College Council*

The College Council is the school's proprietor. The College Council owns the school land and buildings, and is responsible for supervising the maintenance and preservation of education within Iona's special character provisions.

### *IOGA, The Olds Girls' Association*

Being an Iona Girl doesn't stop at graduation. We take enormous pride in the achievements of Iona's Old Girls as they make their mark in every walk of life – across the length and breadth of New Zealand, and well beyond.

Iona Girls remain steadfastly connected to their school, and their many Iona sisters. The Iona Old Girls' Association is an important part of life after Iona, providing a link for past pupils to maintain contact with each other – no matter where they are in the world – and to cherish and enhance the traditions of Iona.

### *Parents' & Friends' Association*

All parents are encouraged to be members of our very active PFA – it brings parents, teachers, and sponsors together to raise important funds. This funding base is used to enrich our girls' learning by providing valuable equipment, books and materials, and to undertake projects to enhance our College buildings and facilities.

The PFA is also an important link to all current families and operates vigorously as a 'friend-raising' arm for Iona's vibrant and growing community network.

### *The Iona College Foundation*

The Iona College Foundation (The Foundation) administers a trust fund which is used to benefit the education of current and future generations of Iona Girls. The Foundation is a registered charitable trust and all donations are tax deductible. The Foundation also administers bequests.

### *The Board of Trustees*

The BoT is responsible for all educational governance matters. It sets the strategic direction in consultation with parents, staff and students and ensures the College provides a safe environment and a quality education.









## *Become an Iona Girl*

Begin the learning journey with us...

### *Enrolment*

1. Contact us to request an information pack.  
Email [enrolments@iona.school.nz](mailto:enrolments@iona.school.nz) or collect one from our school office. This contains an Enrolment Application Form and has more information about the College.
2. Complete and return the Enrolment Application Form or enrol online [www.iona.school.nz](http://www.iona.school.nz). You are under no obligation if your circumstances change.
3. Upon receipt, we will acknowledge your application and place your daughter's name on our waiting list. We accept applications throughout the year and will contact you for an interview as a vacancy arises. Due to the high demand for places, we recommend you pre-enrol as early as possible.

### *Open Day*

You are welcome to attend our annual Open Day, which is held on a Saturday towards the end of Term One. You will be guided through the school facilities and grounds by our girls. They will offer you a unique insight to learning and life at Iona College and answer all your questions.

Visit our website or contact our office to confirm the date of the next scheduled Open Day.

Alternatively, contact us to request a personal guided tour.

### *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)

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