



Top 50 New Zealand Schools 2023

For Gaining Entry to Top Universities





Foreword

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As New Zealand reflects on the degradation of Mathematics and English achievement in our school system, there has never been a more important time for a sobering, independent assessment of our high schools. This ranking is designed to help ambitious local parents and students and international families considering the move to New Zealand navigate the different offerings available in Aotearoa. Education is the most powerful long term driver of New Zealand's productivity, GDP growth and global competitiveness and we need to make sure the best schools get recognized for their powerful contributions.

To compensate for some weaknesses in NCEA, many students are now pursuing global curriculum options like the International Baccalaureate (IB) or A levels. Two schools have notably dropped NCEA Level 1 this year after reaching the conclusion that it wasn't sufficiently rigorous. International curriculums like A Levels allow students to pursue subjects with a standard that is globally recognized by top universities. The best and brightest Kiwi students are also sharpening their extracurricular skills by participating in popular activities like global online debating or business case competitions. They are also actively involved in developing their own apps, undertaking leadership projects, and participating in virtual internships.

A world-class education today involves more than just academic success in the classroom and in fact admission to elite universities like Harvard necessitates this breadth of student experience.

These rankings, now in their fifth year, provide a clear measure of the Top 50 schools in New Zealand based on their ability to prepare students to gain admission to top-ranked global universities. Given the broad entry standards of domestic universities, a pure consideration of university entrance rates alone does not do enough to capture the granularity of academic performance necessary for the best higher education institutions.

Globally competitive students pursue a "T" approach to learning – showing breadth of interest across academics, leadership and extracurricular work while applying depth to master a specific area of competency, often with personalised mentoring from teachers. Consider a student passionate in robotics: this student may seek to secure a medal within the International Young Physics Olympiad, compete in VEX Robotics, achieve top grades in physics and, in their spare time, intern with a high-growth technology company.

The breadth of requirements demanded by top universities begs the question, what holistic factors should be taken into account by parents, when reviewing high schools for their children? As an authority on student pathways to top-ranked universities, Crimson once again brings its deep knowledge of student success from all backgrounds to this release. We also bring extensive knowledge in NCEA, CIE and IB as well as our perspective as the most successful global university admissions organisation supporting students on their pathway into top global universities like the University of Oxford, Stanford, Yale and competitive domestic programs like Medicine.

While no one ranking system captures everything, we have continued to apply our carefully designed methodology in consideration of the characteristics that world leading universities like Yale and Cambridge continue to seek out among their accepted students. By sticking to the same methodology for a five year period, we also capture valuable data on shifts in relative school performance over time.

Above all, we aim to provide parents and students with transparency and clear guidance when making high stakes decisions about which high school is right for their long-term plans and aspirations. Through these rankings, school administrators also have access to an independent barometer that measures how their student cohort is performing across the factors that are most important when preparing students to apply to the world's top universities.

Looking to the top of the list, ACG Parnell claims first place after a Top 5 placing last year. They have displayed very strong NCEA and CIE programs with a 45% NCEA excellence rate and 6 CIE awards. University entrance was secured by 97% of students. The school continues the trend of co-education schools emerging as the majority to make up the Top 10 this year.

Private schools continue to dominate the top 10 and of the single-sex schools, we see three of these are girls' schools and the remaining seven are co-educational. Of the Top 10 schools, 8 of these provide international curricula options: the IB or CIE. Schools that provide international curriculum fared well, making up the Top 7 of the list and collectively, the IB curriculum schools within the Top 10 secured a total of 82 IB scores of 40+ between them – almost double last year's total.

Some other schools that deserve praise include Baradene College of the Sacred Heart, Lindisfarne College, Woodfarne and Rangitoto College. All of these schools have seen impressive improvements in their ranking. Baradene College of the Sacred Heart moved from 16th to 8th place, achieving 50 scholarship awards and a 53% NCEA Excellence rate - tied for highest in the country. Rangitoto College continues to improve as they have jumped from 23rd to 10th to 6th place over the past 3 years, with 5 IB scores of 40+ as well as 244 NCEA scholarships and 34 outstanding scholarships – all improvements from last year.

Our list combines more than 200 years of education experience across Crimson's consulting team, academic team, data science capabilities and is based on a rigorous data-collection practice. We hope it helps ignite discussion around how we are preparing our incredibly talented young people to achieve their best.

To transformative education and global ambition!



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About the Rankings

This year brings the fifth consecutive release of the Top 50 New Zealand Schools For Gaining Entry to Top Universities by Crimson Education — a world-leading university admissions and mentoring company.

To create this list, physical schools across New Zealand were evaluated on the basis of academic performance, extracurricular opportunities and equal access for students — three factors which contribute to students' chances of gaining admission to and thriving at top universities around the world.

The list draws on experience working with a global pool of top-performing students through Crimson Education's university admissions service which helps students secure admission to the world's most competitive universities year after year, including: Yale, Stanford, UChicago, Duke, Oxford, and Cambridge.



NZ School Rankings Methodology

In order to review school performance with consistency, 2021 data alone was used, given there was an insufficient amount of 2022 data released at the time of the lists' creation. This follows the methodology used for Crimson's Top 50 New Zealand Schools Rankings in 2022, which used solely 2020 data.

Data was sourced from a survey and from publicly available information on school websites. NZQA data was referenced for verification.

The 3 indicators that determine Crimson's Top 50 New Zealand Schools 2023 and their weightings are indicated below.

70%

Academics

CIE alongside IB, NCEA, NZQA results and University Entrance rates which are all weighted equally. Information accessed for the 2020 rankings included the number of awards made publicly available, i.e. via websites as well as government reports.

15%

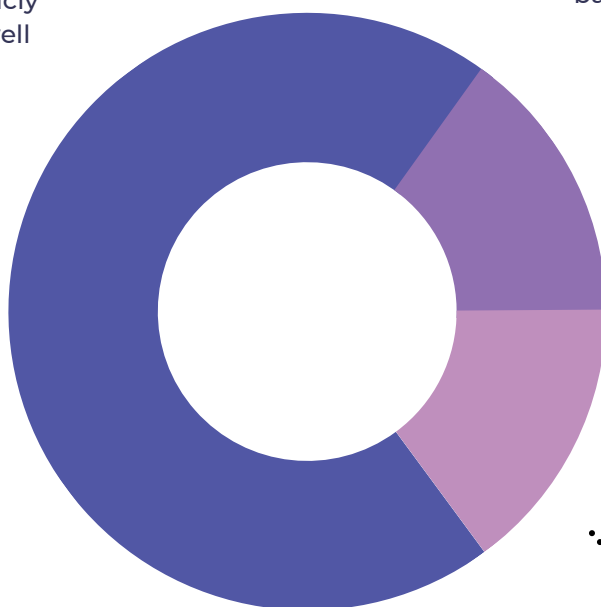
Diversity, Equity & Process

This examined the process of enrolling into school and processes within the school to drive good outcomes. Diversity in ethnicity was also considered, based on our belief that students should learn within a diverse setting, which equips them to thrive on global campuses.

15%

Extracurricular & Leadership

This indicates whether students are being prepared for university achievement post-graduation. Options like sports, performing arts and co-curricular activities as well as college admissions results were weighted equally. Ivy League and other top US university admissions results were considered because US universities take extracurricular activities into account when admitting students.



School Rankings 2023

01	ACG Parnell College (4)	26	Christ's College (12)
02	St Cuthbert's College (2)	27	Scots College (24)
03	Kristin School (1)	28	Westlake Girls' High School (23)
04	Pinehurst School (3)	29	Waikato Diocesan School For Girls (27)
05	Diocesan School For Girls (5)	30	St Peter's School Cambridge (44)
06	Rangitoto College (10)	31	Glendowie College (20)
07	St Kentigern College (6)	32	Selwyn College (47)
08	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart (16)	33	Long Bay College (45)
09	Woodford House (11)	34	Wellington Girls' College (33)
10	Macleans College (7)	35	St Paul's Collegiate School (34)
11	Lindisfarne College (28)	36	Wellington College (31)
12	Queen Margaret College (9)	37	Marist College (41)
13	Rangi Ruru Girls' School (15)	38	Takapuna Grammar School (43)
14	Auckland Grammar School (18)	39	Iona College (46)
15	Westlake Boys' High School (8)	40	Mount Albert Grammar School (36)
16	St Peter's College Auckland (13)	41	Hutt International Boys' School (26)
17	St Margaret's College (25)	42	Western Springs College (40)
18	St Andrew's College (21)	43	Botany Downs Secondary College
19	Epsom Girls' Grammar School (30)	44	Napier Girls' High School (39)
20	Samuel Marsden Collegiate School (14)	45	Hamilton Boys' High School (49)
21	Carmel College (17)	46	Rosmini College (38)
22	King's College (19)	47	Dilworth School (35)
23	St Mary's College Auckland (22)	48	ACG Sunderland
24	Sancta Maria College (48)	49	Columba College (32)
25	Sacred Heart College Auckland (29)	50	King's High School

**Numbers in the parentheses () represent the 2022 ranking of each school.
Schools without numbers in parentheses did not feature in the list last year.*



Trends – School Rankings 2023

In the 2023 ranking of the Top 10, there are six private schools, two state and two state Integrated Schools. This is the first year ever that there were this many state schools in the ranking (4).

The average in the Top 10 for UE% has increased compared to 2022. In 2023 it is 96.7% and in 2022 it is 93.3%

All the Top 25 ranked schools are between Deciles 8-10.

3 of 2023's Top 10 schools are single-sex girls' schools with the others being co-educational.

Selwyn College and Dilworth School are Decile 4 schools and feature in this year's Top 50 list.

Out of the top 10, Macleans College ranked 1st for Extracurriculars and Leadership.

Out of the Top 10, Rangitoto College ranked 1st for Diversity, Equity and Process.

Woodford House is the only top 10 school not located in Auckland.

Additions To The List

We saw 3 additions to this year's list, including Botany Downs Secondary College #43, ACG Sunderland #48 and King's High School #50



Schools That Improved In The Rankings

- + ACG Parnell College moved from 4th to 1st. They achieved an impressive 45% NCEA excellence rate as well as 6 Top in World and 7 Top in New Zealand CIE awards.
- + Rangitoto College went from 23rd (2021) to 10th (2022) to 6th place (2023). They also earned 47% NCEA Excellence compared to 34% last year. They also had 3 more IB 40+ students than 2022 with 5 total.
- + Baradene College of the Sacred Heart went up from 20th to 8th. Despite Excellence dropping they went from 29 scholarships to 50 with 6 of those being outstanding scholarships.
- + Lindisfarne College went from 28th to 11th. They have 36 scholarships with 4 being outstanding scholarships.
- + Woodford House being a state-integrated school, performed really well, and they went from 11th to 9th place. Back in the Top 10. UE went up from 97% to 100%. The scholarship went up from 20 with zero outstanding to 22 with 3 outstanding.
- + Selwyn College saw a strong jump in the rankings from 47th to 32nd. This makes them the highest-ranking decile 4 school and the only school under decile 7 in the Top 40.
- + Epsom Girls Grammar went from 30th to 19th. They had 71 scholarships with 9 being outstanding scholarships.
- + Sancta Maria College went from 48th to 24th. They earned a 46% NCEA excellence rate.





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