



# TOP 50 NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS 2024

FOR GAINING ADMISSION TO THE  
WORLD'S TOP UNIVERSITIES



## A MESSAGE FROM CRIMSON'S CO-FOUNDER



Education is the single most powerful long-term driver of New Zealand's productivity and GDP growth. These rankings, now in their sixth year, provide a clear measure of high schools across New Zealand in terms of their ability to prepare Kiwi students to go global, get into the best universities and compete on the world stage.

Crimson has over 10 years of experience in sending Kiwi students to the world's best universities, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, Duke, Oxford and Cambridge. By releasing these rankings, we aim to provide Kiwi families — and families new to Aotearoa — with clear guidance as to which high schools will best help them achieve their academic aspirations.

With these 2024 rankings, our team of data scientists have once again applied a carefully designed methodology in consideration of the characteristics that world-leading universities seek out when admitting students.

These universities' selection processes are so rigorous that acceptance rates hover around the 4% mark. While there is no "secret formula" of guaranteeing a spot on campus, there are patterns in the admissions data — students who academically outperform their peers and become leaders in their school and community get admitted at higher rates.

Looking at the top of this year's high school rankings, schools like St. Cuthbert's, Kristin, ACG Parnell, Pinehurst and Rangi Ruru actively encourage students to push themselves far beyond what they believe to be possible, seize the opportunities available to them and chase their most ambitious goals.

How you spend your high school years are critical in determining your future success. My advice to you is to never settle. Keep striving for more and put yourself in an environment where your ambition can thrive.

Let this list be the starting point in your incredibly exciting journey ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Jamie Beaton.

**Jamie Beaton**  
Co-Founder and CEO,  
Crimson Education





## ABOUT THE 2024 RANKINGS

This year brings the sixth consecutive release of the Top 50 New Zealand High Schools for Gaining Admission to the World's Top Universities by Crimson Education, the world's leading university admissions firm and one of New Zealand's most-successful startups. The list draws on Crimson's 10 years of experience supporting Kiwi students to gain admission to universities like Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Oxford and Cambridge.

For Kiwi families, the choice of high school is critical to a student's long-term success. In creating the 2024 rankings, bricks-and-mortar high schools from across New Zealand were evaluated in the context of global education and university admissions trends.

Schools were assessed on the basis of Academic Performance, Extracurricular and Leadership Opportunities, and Access and Diversity — three factors which significantly impact Kiwi students' chances of gaining admission to and thriving at the world's top universities.

**Congratulations to St. Cuthbert's College** for claiming the top position in this year's rankings. St. Cuthbert's has a notable track record for placing their students at top universities, including four students who accepted offers to Oxford and Cambridge in the 2022/2023 application round.

Single-sex girls' schools dominated this year's Top 10, with St. Cuthbert's College, Diocesan School for Girls, Rangi Ruru Girls' High School and Woodford House taking out 1st, 5th, 8th and 9th place, respectively. Of the Top 10, 8 schools offered an international education qualification — either the Cambridge International A-Levels or the International Baccalaureate (IB).

**Auckland Grammar School** entered the Top 10 for the first time this year, recognising their students' considerable achievements in the Cambridge International Examinations, including 7 Top in the World results. **Rangi Ruru Girls' High School** also entered this year's Top 10 after two students received admission to Stanford and Princeton — an incredible accomplishment.

Read on to review the full Top 50 list and learn more about how schools were assessed.



## TOP 50 HIGH SCHOOLS 2024

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

Numbers in parentheses () represent the movement in rankings from the previous year.



## HOW THE RANKINGS ARE CALCULATED

In creating the 2024 rankings, Crimson's team of data scientists evaluated New Zealand high schools on the basis of the following criteria:

### ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE (70%)

Academic Performance was assessed based on publicly available data, and weighted the NCEA, NZQA, IB and CIE curricula equally. Data was drawn from the 2022 academic year, as results from 2023 were not readily available at time of publication (this is consistent with previous years). This criterion also considered the number of national academic awards received by students (e.g. NZQA Scholarships).

### EXTRACURRICULARS AND LEADERSHIP (15%)

Extracurricular and Leadership Opportunities were evaluated on the breadth and depth of activities available to students, such as the clubs and competitions they can participate in, athletic and performing arts programs, and study-abroad experiences. 2022/23 admission results to Ivy League and other top universities were also considered in evaluating this criterion, as these universities place strong emphasis on extracurricular involvement and leadership when admitting Kiwi students.

### ACCESS AND DIVERSITY (15%)

Access and Diversity was assessed based on the makeup of the school's student population, including the processes and practices implemented to drive positive access outcomes (e.g. merit and needs-based scholarships offered). This criterion was included in our evaluation of New Zealand high schools, as learning in a diverse environment is critical in equipping students with the interpersonal skills necessary to thrive on global university campuses.

## FROM TOP HIGH SCHOOLS TO TOP OVERSEAS UNIVERSITIES

Every year, Crimson works with dozens of ambitious Kiwi students from almost all of New Zealand's top high schools to gain admission into the world's best universities. Get inspired by some of our Kiwi students' recent success stories!

### ACG Parnell (#3)

CIE Art and Design Top in the World student, Jasmine, accepted into Columbia for Computer Science and Visual Art. Top Scholar, Brian, accepted into Cambridge, Columbia, Duke and UCLA for Computer Science.

### St. Kentigern College (#6)

School Dux and 4x NIWA Science Fair Winner, Sean, accepted into Harvard, Duke, UPenn and Cambridge for Environmental Sciences.

### Kristin School (#2)

A.I. Researcher, Michael, accepted into Cambridge for Computer Science.

### Pinehurst School (#4)

CIE Mathematics Top in the World student, Tim, accepted into UC Berkeley for Machine Learning.

### Rangitoto College (#7)

Student Journalist, Helen, accepted into Northwestern for Economics.

### King's College (#23)

Enzyme Researcher and Published Author, Helen, accepted into UPenn.

### Christ's College (#20)

Informatics Olympiad Champion, Bruce, accepted into Cambridge for Computer Science.

### Baradene College (#11)

Stem Cell Researcher, Hien, accepted into Yale for Molecular Biology.

### St. Cuthbert's College (#1)

Top Scholar, Maria, accepted into Cambridge for Medicine.

### Macleans College (#12)

Chemical Researcher, Regina, accepted into UPenn and UC Berkeley for Chemical Engineering.

### Wellington College (#29)

Rowing Champion, Tai, accepted into Columbia for Political Science and Economics.

### Rangi Ruru Girls' High School (#8)

National-record holder for Javelin, Abbey, accepted into Stanford for Biology. Top Scholar and PhD Research Assistant, Daisy, accepted into Princeton for Neuroscience.

**Are you ready to start your journey to the world's best universities? Reach out to Crimson Education for an academic assessment.**



## CRIMSON'S KIWI STUDENTS ACHIEVE RECORD-BREAKING SUCCESS

In 2024, Crimson celebrates another year of record-breaking success — with our Kiwi students securing admission to almost all Ivy League universities, including an incredible 3 offers to Harvard!

This amazing achievement wouldn't have been possible without the support from our students' parents, teachers and school communities. Congratulations to our Class of 2024!

# 3

**Offers to  
Harvard  
University**

# 13

**Offers to  
the Ivy League**  
including Princeton, Harvard,  
University of Pennsylvania,  
Brown, Columbia, Cornell and  
Dartmouth.

# 53

**Offers to  
the US Top 50**

including NYU,  
Carnegie Mellon, UC  
Davis, UC San Diego,  
GeorgiaTech and  
University of  
Washington.

# 26

Offers to the US Top 20,  
including Stanford, Duke,  
Northwestern, UC Berkeley,  
UCLA and Vanderbilt.

# 29

Offers to the UK Top 10,  
including University of  
Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial,  
UCL, LSE, King's College and  
University of Edinburgh.



**Peyton**

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, CLASS OF '26  
♀ FROM PAKURANGA, AUCKLAND



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