



A Proud Tradition of Boarding

Thank you for enquiring about boarding at Dunstan High School. Our boarding programme was established in 1975 to give Central Otago families the opportunity for their children to receive a quality education without having to travel out of the region. Over the last three decades generations of families have found that Dunstan High School has not only prepared students well for learning and life, but has also provided a unique kind of care and support in the boarding hostel.

A New Tradition in Boarding

Today boarding at Dunstan High School exists for much the same reason it did thirty years ago - although the reasons that people may choose a hostel like ours now vary greatly. We also recognise that the needs of students have changed significantly over the years. Students still need access to a broad curriculum, delivered effectively in a learning environment that produces results. They need to be encouraged to pursue their sporting and cultural interests - outside the classroom. They should be able to try new things, have role models to look up to and be supported to perform.



The facilities we provide for after school care, however, have had to modernise to meet current expectations. Dunstan High School Hostel is at the end of its building modernisation programme. The creation of more individual living space and increasing our ability to accommodate senior students' desire for more independence have driven this major investment in our hostel buildings. As a result we now also attract students from a wide range of geographic locations.



Size Matters

There are some things we do in our approach to boarding that reflect the small size of our boarding hostel. At the moment we have one adult living on-site for every five students. Our hostel runs more like a large family than a boarding institution. We are firm and fair in our expectations of students - but we can balance this with a more personal and more flexible approach to meeting each student's needs. Our students interact well across the age and gender boundaries.



Juniors are well supported by senior students - and there is a genuine lack of the hierarchical structures which help order life in other boarding models. Our smaller size does not equate to lack of opportunity. Quite the opposite in fact. Students at Dunstan enjoy access to a very wide range of sporting and cultural activities. Dunstan focuses on providing this wide co-curriculum access to all students - this investment in turn allows us to achieve outstanding results at the high performance end of the spectrum across an enviable range of activities - from the Performing Arts to Kayaking or Curling.

Family Matters

Mark Templeton manages the hostel and lives on site with his wife and their three young children. Both Mark and Jo have a teaching backgrounds and a long association with Dunstan High School. Beverly Fitzgerald is the Assistant Manager with her own grown up family and a 12 year history in boarding schools. They lead a team of other adults who play key roles in the lives of our students. The biggest investment we make in our boarding students is in making sure that we have the right people to role model, encourage, and support students to make the most of the opportunities that learning and life present here at Dunstan.





Dunstan High School Hostel

"A New Tradition In Boarding"

New Entrant Information



Student Facilities

Modern accommodation, spacious grounds, superb sporting and cultural facilities all stunningly located in the Heart of Central Otago. Take the time to compare our location, surroundings and facilities – and find out what makes our boarding tradition so refreshing and appealing.

Senior Students (Yr 12+13)

- 18 Private single rooms in modern newly built complex. Each room has personal study space including school network and secure internet access.
- Senior Common Room is a large open plan space with expansive views across the playing fields to the mountains in the distance. It provides areas for; TV/DVD viewing, shared study/dining, computer access via two new Intel iMacs, telephone calls, a relaxation/coffee area and a well equipped kitchen.
- Other facilities include – laundry, bathrooms and outside courtyard.

Junior Students (Yr 9-11)

- Junior students live in 15 standard units located around a central courtyard. Each unit normally accommodates two students but can take three students if required. Rooms have their own en-suite bathroom with shower, toilet and hand basins. The original rooms have been fully refurbished and modernised.
- Junior Common Room has a range of recreation facilities including a pool table, table soccer, and TV/DVD with Sky TV.
- Junior Prep Room/Library is used as a quiet space for reading, computer access etc when not being used for Supervised Prep. in the evening.

Meals

All students and staff eat together in our large main dining room. Meals during weekday operations are prepared daily by our kitchen staff in the commercial kitchen and served in the main dining room. Weekend meals for seven day students are prepared by the weekend supervisor and served in the Senior Block Dining Room.

Our meal plan takes account of students' nutritional needs and wide variety of tastes. It is consulted on with professional nutritionists as well as with parents and students.

Computer Facilities

Access to the school IT network is available at the hostel. Students may access their personal and work files from the school servers and access the Internet. Internet access is screened using Telecom's "Schoolzone" servers to filter and monitor content. Junior student use of computers is also monitored by supervising staff on duty.

Access to the network is either via one of seven brand new Intel iMac computers purchased in 2006 - or through senior students' own laptop computers that can have network access through ports in both individual rooms and in the common rooms.





Hostel Governance

A sub-committee of the DHS Board of Trustees governs DHS Hostel. This committee includes the DHS Principal, three BOT members, two parents representing hostel families, and two student representatives from the hostel along with the Hostel Managers. The committee meets monthly.

Hostel Management

The DHS Boarding Manager and an Assistant Hostel Manager form the hostel management team. They are responsible for the effective running of the hostel. Their duties include establishing effective procedures for the care and wellbeing of students at the hostel as well as administrative and disciplinary functions. The Manager reports directly to the DHS Principal and monthly to the Hostel Committee.



Supervisors

Hostel Supervisors are rostered weekly for the immediate supervision of students – usually in the evenings. Supervisors work closely with Hostel Management to ensure that students at the hostel are well cared for and safely supervised. Supervisors live on-site and play an important role in being an extra set of eyes and ears at all times. They also offer students a variety of role models and listening ears. In addition to the Management team there is on-site capacity for five additional supervisors.



Academic Support Programme

Students are actively supported to achieve to the best of their ability in studies. All students attend supervised prep Monday-Thursday. Students develop a study plan, set achievement goals and regularly monitor progress with hostel staff. Hostel staff and management regularly liaise with teachers for both formal and informal reporting on student achievement.



Junior Prep.

Students from Yr 9-11 spend at least 1 hour in the prep. room each night. Supervisors actively work with students to complete homework, revision and goal setting/review tasks. Students may access their school files and the internet using the five new iMac computers linked to the school network.



Senior Prep.

Senior students (Yr 12-13) have the opportunity to study in their own room and are expected to complete between 1.5 and 2 hours study each night. Students use of time and academic progress are monitored and adjustments are made to their study routine as required.



Pastoral Care and Support

In addition to the ongoing support and guidance offered by management and staff, students have access to school counsellors, youth workers, public health nurse, youth health clinics and the hostel nurse and doctor in Alexandra. Hostel staff meet once each week with school house deans. A peer mentor scheme helps younger hostel students to adjust to hostel life and provides on-going support through out the year.

Hostel Activities Programme

As well as the wide range of organised sporting, cultural and leisure activities available to students individually- hostel senior student organise a range of activities throughout the year for hostel students as a whole. These activities include the Hostel Olympics, Hostel Idol, Hostel Snowcamp and other sporting and recreational activities.

