



Prospectus
2024/2025

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Welcome

Albany Junior High School Is Unique

Established in 2005, Albany Junior High School (AJHS) was the first purpose-built Junior High School in New Zealand, with the school designed around a mix of middle school and high school philosophies. Sound, well-researched pedagogy coupled with a strong curriculum makes the school bespoke to the needs of students from Years 7 to 10.

The school is designed philosophically and structurally to identify and cater for the needs of the emerging adolescent learner.

An active member of the Albany community, AJHS welcomes and encourages parental / caregiver involvement and input. We work closely with this group to identify the potential that is within every student, providing them with the means to succeed as lifelong learners and citizens.



Our Focus

At AJHS we believe in the importance of nurturing our students to become positive, contributing citizens of society. This is done holistically through focusing on the highly researched 'Seven Needs of Emerging Adolescents'. These needs are the infrastructure of our enriched learning environment which provides optimal learning experiences for all our students.

Specifically, the needs are:

- Recognition of diversity
- Self-exploration and self-definition
- Meaningful participation in the school and community
- Positive social interaction with both peers and adults
- Physical activity
- Competence and achievement
- Structure and clear limits

Strategically, our focus is around three key goals; Community and Engagement (Whakawhanaungatanga), Identity and Culture (Rangatiratanga), and Clarity and Understanding (Maramatanga). These goals shape our strategy and align with the needs of our students.

The Albany Junior High School Pathway

Students from a number of zoned and out-of-zone feeder schools move on to AJHS from Year 6. Zoned feeder schools include:

- Albany Primary School
- Greenhithe School
- Upper Harbour Primary School
- Coatesville School
- Ridgeview School

In the latter half of the year, feeder school Year 6 students visit AJHS for the day, where students experience life at AJHS and are able to get involved in many of the curriculum opportunities our diverse learning spaces offer.

After completing 4 years at AJHS, the junior school model then supports students to move on to our sister school, Albany Senior High School (ASHS) or a senior school of choice.



“

We know our students are in great hands when they move to AJHS. We work closely with the leaders and teachers at AJHS to ensure the transition from primary school is smooth and that our children are full of enthusiasm for their new school.

”

STEPHEN GRADY,
PRINCIPAL,
GREENHITHE SCHOOL

“

At Albany Senior High School we work closely with AJHS to ensure a smooth transition pathway for students from Year 10. The middle school model ensures students from AJHS are well equipped for their final three years at Albany Senior High School.

”

CLAIRE AMOS,
PRINCIPAL,
ALBANY SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL



Schools Within A School - Our Whanau System

Central to our philosophy of meeting the needs of the emerging adolescents is the Whanau structure. Upon starting at AJHS, students are placed in one of four Whanau: Tui, Makomako, Kiwi or Ruru.

The students are vertically grouped in Whanau classes that meet for 20 minutes each morning for administration and pastoral care. Each class has a range of students from Years 7-10.

Community spirit is fostered by each whanau having their own identity, with students wholeheartedly embracing an allegiance to their whanau through student leadership, peer support, sports and cultural events, and assemblies.

“

It's the best feeling when we dress in our whanau colours and wear our badges... It makes me really proud to belong.

”

Academic Excellence And Developing Potential

AJHS students are often ranked in the top 5% nationwide, the result of AJHS recognising the individual potential within each student. We consider gifted education to be an integral part of our classroom programme and offer a wide range of activities that enrich the strengths of our students through a range of opportunities. We also have individualised programmes to support those who need extra assistance.

“

Being 'seen' as an individual helped me to articulate my learning needs, and the teachers then wrapped a support programme around me, ensuring I wasn't left behind.

”

At AJHS, students are able to take part in many prestigious national and international competitions of excellence throughout Years 7-10. ICAS, Mathex, Australian Maths Competition, Ethics Olympiad, Epro8, Science Fairs and a wide range of cultural and Performing Arts events are just a few of the annual opportunities our learners participate in.

We strongly believe in ensuring that each learner is placed in an environment that is best suited to their learning style. AJHS offers a range of special character classes to support our gifted and extension learners. Students can apply for special character homeroom classes with either a sports or arts focus or be embedded in a regular homeroom class. The following specialised homeroom classes are offered in Year 7 and 8; The DLC (Deep Learning Class), Academy of the Arts and Sports Academy. In Year 9 and 10, our extensive range of options allows for students to be extended in a wide range of subjects and co-curricular activities.



Integrated Curriculum YEAR 7 AND 8

Our Year 7 and 8 students are taught in homerooms for English, Social Studies, Physical Education, Health, and Performing Arts, learning through authentic rich tasks that offer students the opportunity to develop both academic and practical skills in a variety of areas.

Science is taught in the homeroom and by specialist science teachers throughout the four years. Students also have specialist teachers for Mathematics, Music, Visual Arts, Technology and Languages.

Homeroom teachers build positive and nurturing relationships with students to facilitate their transition to more specialisation in Years 9 and 10.

Individualised Learning YEAR 9 AND 10

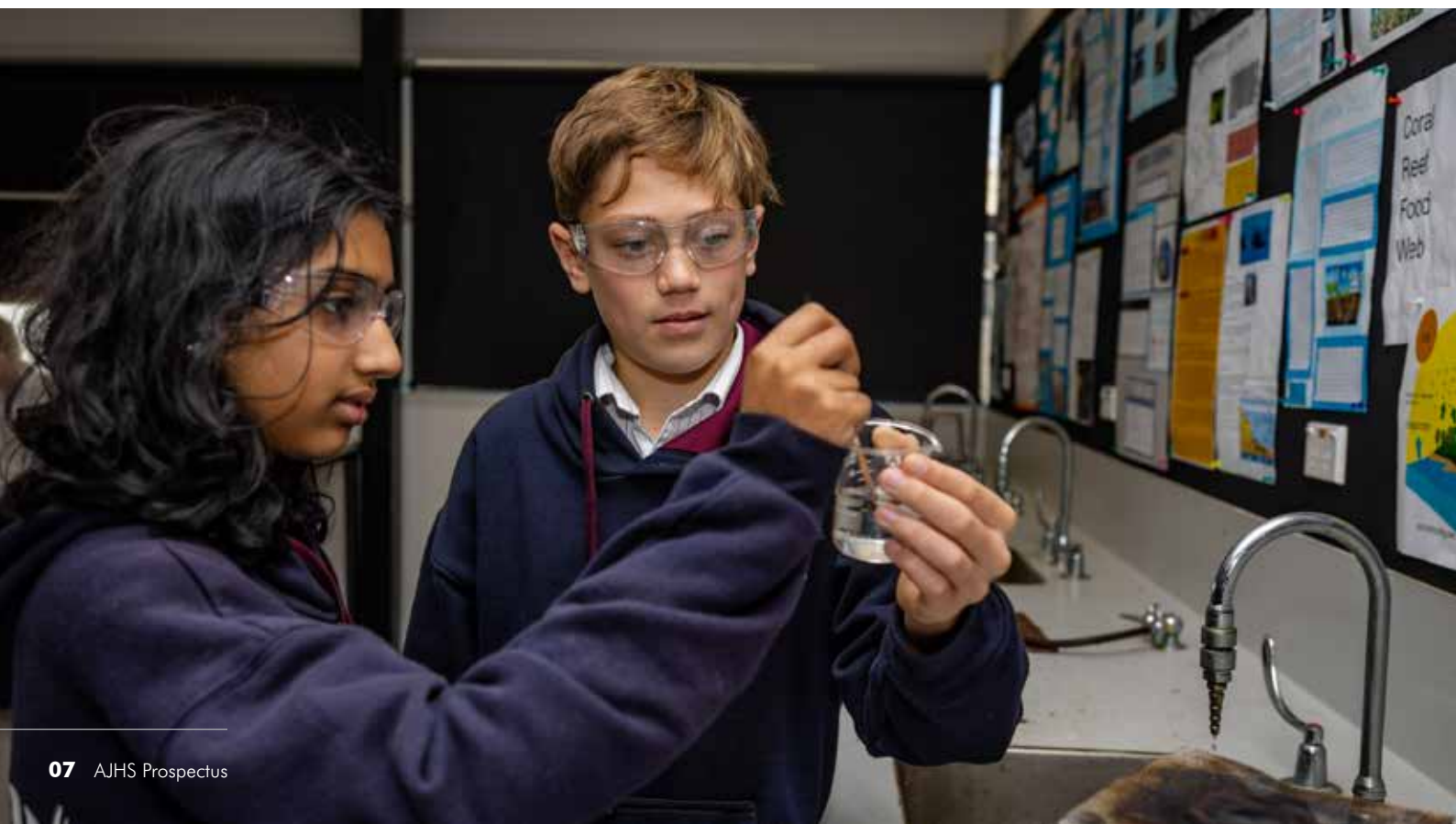
AJHS students are able to select 6 options per year that they are passionate about or interested in, from a wide range of subjects to complement their core subjects (English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Health and Physical Education). These options provide a taste of subjects to be found at senior school levels.

An extensive selection of around 40 options are available - three options in Semester 1 and three options in Semester 2.

“

Having had our 3 children experience the AJHS pathway, we have enjoyed watching them flourish and discover the joys of learning whilst creating lifelong friendships. They often reflect on their time at AJHS with appreciation at the opportunities they were able to experience.”

NADINE BINDON
PARENT





The Arts

AJHS has a strong commitment to The Arts, with Music, Visual Art, Drama and Dance all forming a part of the core curriculum in Years 7 and 8, along with the opportunity to be selected for our Academy of The Arts classes. In Year 9, students continue with at least one subject from The Arts as a semester option. At Year 10, Photography is added as a further option in The Arts. Students learn to communicate in the universal language of The Arts, growing in confidence and building strong connections with others through a diverse array of learning opportunities.

Every two years, all strands of The Arts faculty combine to stage a school production. Students take lead roles in all aspects of the show, both on stage and behind the scenes. Past shows include *Hairspray*, *Fame Jr.*, *Grease*, *High School Musical Jr.* and *Mamma Mia!*

State of the art facilities at AJHS create an enriched learning environment for Arts students. Facilities include:

- Performing Arts Centre
- Green Room / Photography Studio
- Dance Studio
- Recording Studio
- Music Studios
- Specialist Art rooms
- Computer suites with access to professional design software

Arts students also participate in a variety of national competitions and performance opportunities, where previous successes include winning the Peace Song category of Play It Strange national secondary school songwriting competition, winning the North Shore regional Rockquest and Bandquest competitions, placing in the International piano competition Aegio, and selection for the NZSO Young Soloists Showcase.



Sports

AJHS provides a rich and stimulating physical education and health programme, offering 30+ sports codes for students to immerse themselves in. Some features of the programme include swimming, gym sports, cross country, tennis, badminton, Aussie rules football, surf survival, athletics, invasion games, dance, street hockey, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, and much more.

Year 9 and 10 students have the chance to take part in options such as Sports Science and the invitation-only high performing Sports Academy.

AJHS has nurtured and supported many national and international sportspeople, and is equally committed to grass roots sport and ensuring sport and physical activity is accessible to everyone.

International Students - A Global Community

New Zealand is well known for its bi-cultural heritage and multicultural society, and this is reflected in our school community. AJHS hosts students who have originated from many different countries. Staff and students embrace this diversity and thrive, getting to learn and celebrate the many different cultures within our school community.

Our International Department plays an important role in growing and supporting our global community. For many years we have warmly welcomed international students from all over the world. Students from China, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Korea, Thailand and many other countries specifically chose AJHS for the many opportunities we offer.

AJHS has a large and varied learning programme which offers many different academic opportunities. Students are offered language support if needed, to help them access the many subjects on offer. The school also has exceptional pastoral care systems in place, helping support our students whilst away from their families. The well-being and happiness of our international students is paramount to us.

During their stay at AJHS, we encourage our International students to join and enjoy the many clubs the school has to offer. Joining a sports team, a musical group or being active in our environmental club, the opportunities are endless.



“
At AJHS I've been able to try sports that I would not have been able to experience at any other school.
”

“
AJHS has given me the confidence to stand strong and tall, and has laid the foundation for my life.
”





Education Outside The Classroom

Taking students beyond the classroom walls to learn has always been a part of the AJHS philosophy. All years have the opportunity to take part in annual Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) experiences, whether it's camping at Shakespear Regional Park, kayaking and hiking on Kawau Island, learning life skills at Totara Springs in Matamata or experiencing all the action that Lake Karapiro has to offer.

As a result of these outdoor opportunities, students create lifelong friendships, learn resilience and patience, discover abilities they might never have known they had, and create memories that will help shape their view of the world.

Students also regularly go on day trips around Auckland for subjects such as Geography, Humanities, Science and Sports Academy. Recent day trips have included the Marine Education and Recreation Centre at Long Bay, The Museum, Tiritiri Matangi, Surf Camp, Stardome Observatory and Planetarium, Auckland University Medical School and much more.

International school trips have seen AJHS students visit NASA in Houston Texas, explore the history of France and experience sports exchanges to Australia.



Student Leadership

Student leadership is an important aspect of school life. Our students are active citizens of the school community and have their ideas and opinions routinely sought, respected and acted upon.

“

Becoming a student leader has given me the confidence to express my ideas and opinions.

”

There are opportunities for student leadership at every year level in many areas of school life. The inclusive leadership model is offered in a supportive and structured environment by enthusiastic and dedicated staff.

At the start of the year approximately 10 student leaders are chosen per whanau to represent the whanau and be the voice of the student body. The skills these student leaders develop help them grow in confidence while earning respect from peers and staff.



Facilities And The Environment

With 16 acres of beautiful grounds, AJHS enjoys state of the art facilities including;

- An all weather turf (Hockey, Basketball and Futsal markings)
- Grass all weather fields including a cricket oval, rugby field
- 6 tennis / netball courts
- Gymnasium (marked with basketball, badminton, netball, miniball and volleyball)
- Performing Arts Centre
- Greenroom / Photography Studio
- Dance Studio
- Recording Studio
- Specialist classrooms (science labs, wood workshop, computer rooms)
- Library
- Music Studios
- Tuck Shop
- Playground

This impressive school environment gives students many areas to appreciate, including leafy shade from our beautiful mature trees, various playgrounds, shade sails, and many seated areas around our gardens for students to socialise in and relax.

Classrooms are fully air conditioned with ventilation systems added in 2022. Specialist rooms such as technology and science rooms give students practical learning opportunities that are second to none. A number of facilities are also available for hire.

Pastoral Care

The pastoral care programme at AJHS is all encompassing, including a school Nurse, Dental Clinic, Guidance Counsellors, Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCO's), 24/7 Youth Support Workers, Teacher Aides, and English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) teachers.

Students are cared for and supported in a holistic environment using clear communication pathways with parents and caregivers.



“

I was amazed when I came to AJHS that we were able to use real machinery and learn practical skills. Every department has facilities I thought would only be at universities!

”





“

Our teacher gets to know us really well in our homeroom; it helps me to learn better when someone knows who I am.

”



Communication

AJHS is committed to frequent clear communications with our parents and caregivers. Independent feedback or feedback through consultation is always appreciated.

Fortnightly eNewsletters keep parents and caregivers in touch with what's going on around the school, and there will often be a few other messages from the school and individual teachers during a standard week.

A parent survey is conducted annually, which helps inform the direction of the school and provides perspectives on various pertinent topics.

Social media platforms (specifically Facebook and Instagram), are used to communicate achievements, events, raise awareness, and send reminders.

The website is also a rich source of information where you can find up-to-date details on school life.

Our School Community has also recently launched the AJHS Parent Teacher Association (PTA), who focuses on bringing our community together and helping create opportunities for our students.

Information Evenings

AJHS is committed to supporting parents and caregivers to raise responsible, kind, citizens of the world. Parent evenings called Whanau Forums are one of the ways we do this, and throughout the year we hold information evenings that include topics such as cyber security, bullying, managing change, student development through the years, supporting success, and many more.

Whanau Forums help develop our community's understanding of topics that affect our students and wider community. We believe that working together we can contribute towards a stronger, more resilient and capable community of young Kiwis.

Whare Wananga

We are very proud to have added a Whare Wananga (House of Learning) to our school campus. The Whare Wananga will be a place where students and the community can learn and grow in a holistic, enriching environment.

Pinehurst School very generously donated one of their buildings, and having relocated the building to our school grounds, we are now working through the process of renovating the space and making it fit-for-purpose.

Sponsorship and fundraising are very important activities to realise this vision, and students and the wider community will be involved in various support activities over the coming months.





ALEXIA HILBERTIDOU
CLASS OF 2012
CURRENTLY:
ENTREPRENEUR /
SPEAKER / ACTIVIST

At AJHS I was encouraged and given the freedom to explore my creativity. I also learned leadership skills that I still draw from today. ””

TYLER STENT
CLASS OF 2010
CURRENTLY: ARTIST /
MURALIST / AUTHOR /
ILLUSTRATOR

Being encouraged to follow your dreams while based in an environment that nurtured my creativity definitely gave me the confidence and space to grow and develop as an artist and creator. ””



LIAM STONE
CLASS OF 2011
CURRENTLY:
PROFESSIONAL
ATHLETE

Having represented New Zealand at the Commonwealth Games, the World Champs and the Junior Worlds, the support and guidance from AJHS was imperative to be able to balance my athlete commitments and my schooling. The school has such a strong sports programme now, it certainly helped set the stage for my sporting success. ””

Alumni

AJHS is very proud of our Alumni community and we love watching our past students achieve. Keeping in touch with AJHS gives past students an immediate network and community with which to build from.

AJHS is piloting an annual alumni event for past students to catch up and learn about their school and what it's up to. Alumni will also receive two eNewsletters per year, helping them feel connected and proud of their school.



SHARNDRE KUSHOR
CLASS OF 2009
CURRENTLY: FOUNDER
OF THE ONE BILLION,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
& CO-FOUNDER OF
YOURCYCLE, STRATEGY
AND GROWTH ADVISOR
AT MAISON DE SABRE.
(Forbes 30 Under 30,
Woman of the Year in
Business and Innovation.)

Having been immersed in a supportive, encouraging school helped me develop the confidence and life skills needed to navigate the world today. ””



AIMEE FERGUSSON
CLASS OF 2014
CURRENTLY:
TEACHER AT AJHS

From having been a student at AJHS and now a teacher here too, I think going full-circle demonstrates how highly I regard the school and what a great place I believe it to be. ””





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