

CONNECTING FAMILIES

SHARING CULTURES

IMPROVING LEARNING

WAIHĪ
COLLEGE

**INTERNATIONAL
DEPARTMENT
PRE-DEPARTURE
INFORMATION**



KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA
HERE WE STAND

Welcome

Welcome to Waihi College we are so excited to be welcoming you to our school.

We are really looking forward to meeting and our domestic students and staff, and of course our international department, can't wait to hear and learn more about your culture and yourself.

To assist you with your move to New Zealand and studies at Waihi College we have prepared some information and a few important points before you depart your home country.

Have a safe and enjoyable journey.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

See you when you get here!

Nga Mihi (kind regards)

Rochelle & Magdeleen

Waihi College International Team

Important Numbers



Rochelle Kean

International Director

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07 863 8349 Extension 710



Magdeleen Green

Homestay Co-ordinator

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Waihi College Emergency Number:

021 405 747



IMPORTANT: DO NOT LEAVE THE AIRPORT

When to Arrive in New Zealand

We recommend you arrive the week or weekend before school starts to bond with your host family and settle in. We do not allow you to arrive late, as the first days with our orientation are vital for you to fit into school life and arriving late disrupts teachers and classes.

Arrival in New Zealand/Transport

You will be met at the airport by either your host family, your agent, a pre-booked shuttle service or Rochelle our International Director. We will provide full details to you/your agent of who will pick you up closer to your arrival.

IMPORTANT: Please ensure you have your **New Zealand Student Visa Approval letter** with you as you may be asked to show this letter when you check in for your flight to New Zealand and/or when you arrive at the New Zealand border. If you cannot show this letter when asked, the airline may not let you board your flight or may be delayed when entering New Zealand.

Visa

It is compulsory for ALL students to have a valid student visa whilst studying at a secondary school in New Zealand. All Information regarding your visa can be found on the [NZ Immigration website](#).

Pre-departure Check and Information

All information pertaining to pre-departure/travel and COVID-19 requirements for New Zealand can be found here [COVID-19 International Travel](#).

- New Zealand has very strict laws regarding what you can bring into New Zealand. Many food items cannot be brought into the country. Do not bring any food into New Zealand unless you declare it, or you could be charged an instant fine on arrival. Fines start from \$400NZD! If you are unsure of any item in your luggage **DECLARE IT**. There is no penalty for declaring but you may face an instant fine if you do not declare it. For more information the NZ Customs website has full details [NZ Customs](#).
- **Important** – ensure you pack your own luggage and do not bring in bags or any items belonging to other people.
- Make sure you/your agent sends us your arrival and departure information from and to your home country to rochellek@waihicol.school.nz as soon as you have booked your flights.
- Make sure you have Rochelle's mobile number - **+64 21 405 747** prior to your arrival.
- Before your plane lands in New Zealand, you will be given a **New Zealand Arrival Card** to fill in which contains your Immigration and Customs declarations. The airline crew will be happy to help if you have any concerns. Your visa letter and passport will be checked at Auckland Customs. After you have cleared customs, you should collect your baggage and walk through either the green or red exit. Choose the green exit if you have nothing to declare or choose the red exit if you have goods to declare.

Insurance

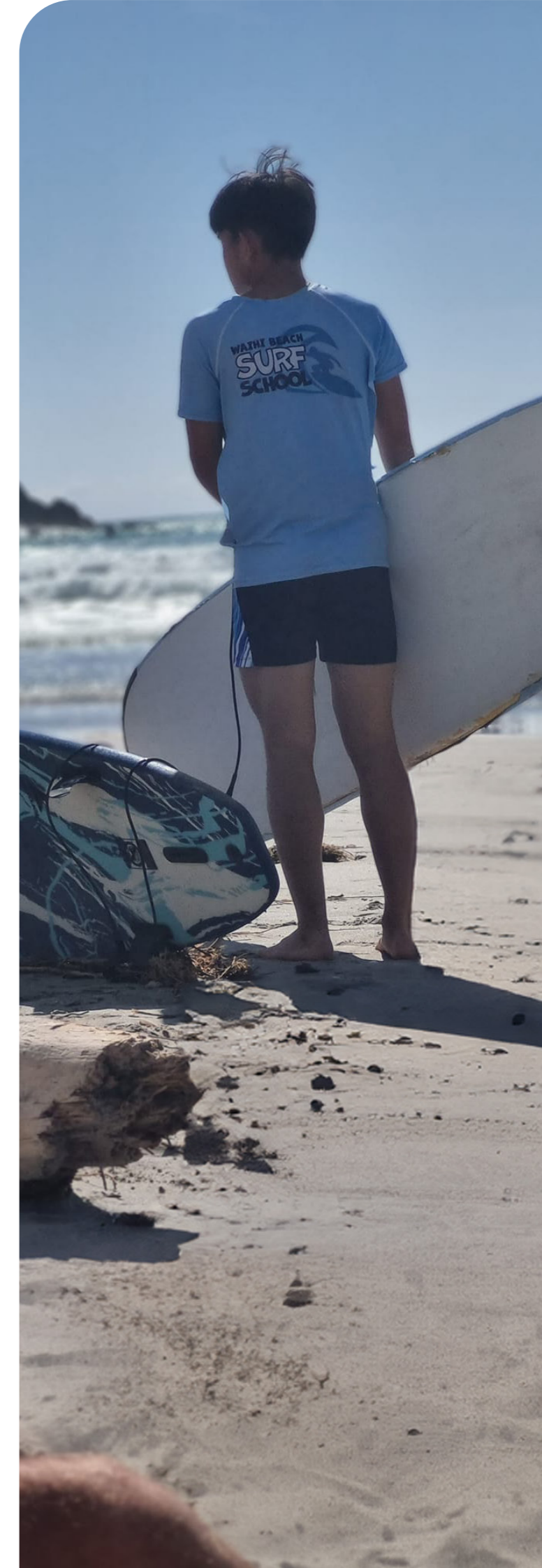
You are required to have comprehensive travel and medical insurance for your travel to and from your home country and your time in New Zealand. We can arrange this for you through our insurance provider [Unicare](#). If you are providing your own insurance, please send us an **English version** of your certificate/policy.

Please note: if you are bringing anything valuable (i.e camera, phone, laptop, jewellery etc) you **MUST** have copies of the purchase price (i.e. proof of purchase or receipt, original copies is best) as you will not be able to claim for insurance if you don't have these. If your travel is delayed, beyond your control, remember to keep receipts for any accommodation/meal costs etc for insurance purposes. It is best to carry technology items as personal hand luggage. Wrap valuables up well to protect them from damage.

If you have a current medical condition, we **MUST** know about this for insurance purposes so we can put this on your policy, if you buy an insurance policy through Waihi College. Insurance will be arranged once **both your visa and travel dates** have been booked and sent to us.

Transfers to Domestic Terminal

Most students get picked up from Auckland International Airport via shuttle to Waihi but if you decide to fly from Auckland to Tauranga, you will need to transfer to the domestic terminal at Auckland International Airport. You will find a **“green line”** on the footpath outside the international airport and can follow this **“green line”** to the domestic terminal if you wish to walk (approx.10-minute walk). Alternatively, there is a free bus which runs between the international and domestic terminals every 15 minutes from 5.00am until 10.30pm. More information can be found on the [Auckland International Airport website](#).



Homestays

You will be staying with a homestay arranged by the school. We will send homestay details and photographs to you once they are arranged. All our homestays are in or in the surrounding area of our Waihi community.

Weather

Winter

June, July & August is wintertime in New Zealand. Temperatures range from around 1 degree's C to 18 degrees C during this time. It can be very wet with a good mix of rain, fine days, and frosty mornings. Ensure you bring a good quality **100% waterproof rain jacket, warm jacket and warm clothing** with you.

Spring

September through to November is spring and the days can be warm but still sometimes wet and cool.

Summer

December to February is our summer with temperatures of between 20 degrees c and 30 degrees C. It can get very hot. Remember to bring hats, sunglasses, swimsuit, and sunscreen. If you wish to surf you may like to **bring you own wetsuit with you**, alternatively you may like to buy one here.

Autumn

March to May is Autumn and is also warm with temperatures mostly in the early 20's during the day but it can rain a lot.

It doesn't ever snow in Waihi although you can get snow in the middle of the north island around the Central Plateau - Mt Ruapehu around 3 hours from Waihi. Temperatures and weather can change quite suddenly in New Zealand, because of this, you should be prepared for sudden changes especially if you're going hiking or doing other outdoor activities during your weekend or holidays.

Gear List

Depending on what time of the year you are coming will determine what gear you bring - below is some ideas and a guideline (wetsuit, sleeping bag are optional as can purchase in NZ or borrow):

- 100% waterproof rain jacket
- Warm puffer jacket - (believe it or not it does get very cold in Waihi in winter)
- Swimwear
- Wide brimmed hat
- Thermal leggings and thermal t-shirts (long and short sleeved)
- Woollen jerseys
- Gloves (preferable waterproof)
- Beanie
- Thermal socks
- Comfortable walking/tramping shoes or boots - (Clean)
- Hiking day pack
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Shorts
- Skirts
- T-shirts
- Scarf
- Jeans
- Flip flops - (we call these jandals)
- Crocs
- Sleeping bag - (optional - if you do not bring one you may have to borrow or buy one)
- Wetsuit for surfing

Uniform

Rochelle will help you order your school uniform on your arrival at orientation.

Please click here [Uniform Shoe Examples](#) to view examples of acceptable footwear. Please purchase your school shoes before coming to New Zealand. Plain white or black socks are acceptable for both boys and girls. No logo's please.

School Ball

A highlight of our school calendar is the school ball. This is an opportunity for senior students (year 11 to 13) to dress up and celebrate their school successes. International students are taken to the school ball as part of a group. Depending on when you arrive and depart, you may have the opportunity to attend our school ball. Formal dress is required, **it would be good for you to bring a ball dress/suit/ formal clothing/shoe** with you. The cost to attend the ball will be approximately \$75NZD.

Preparation For Your Move

The following link may help you to prepare for your move to New Zealand or provide further information:

- For advice and guidance on living and studying in New Zealand [visit naumainz](#).

Orientation

You will be involved in a three (3) day orientation programme at school on your arrival. Orientation will cover things such as:

- Subject selection
- Timetable Information
- Uniform fitting and purchase
- School Tour
- Ordering stationery and purchasing it
- Introduction to teachers and student leaders
- Bus orientation
- Exploring Waihi
- Meeting current international and domestic students

A copy of your orientation booklet is included in your Pre-Departure pack, which includes information on your studies at Waihi College, homestay and rules and regulations. You will receive a hard copy at orientation.



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Find out more at
www.waihicol.school.nz/international
or international@waihicol.school.nz