Welcome to Pukekohe High School. Thank you for choosing our school.

We are really looking forward to meeting you.

Before you leave home, you may like to know what to bring with you and what to expect when you arrive here in Pukekohe, New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand (or Aotearoa, the Maori name for New Zealand) is situated in the South Pacific Ocean, 2,000 kilometres south-east of Australia. It has a total land area of 269,680 square kilometres. The capital is Wellington and the largest city is Auckland. The population of New Zealand is about 4.4 million. New Zealand is an increasingly multicultural society.

AUCKLAND

Auckland has a population of about 1.5 million people and is a great study destination. The city is surrounded by two harbours and is called ‘The City of Sails’. There are museums, festivals, markets, lots of cafes, restaurants and shops. Central Auckland is easily accessible by train from Pukekohe.
ABOUT PUKEKOHE

Our school is located in the township of Pukekohe. Pukekohe has a population of 30,000 and we are only 50km south of Auckland City and approximately 30 minutes’ drive from Auckland’s International Airport.

The High School is only 10 mins walk from the train station and only 5 mins walk from Pukekohe Town Centre. Pukekohe offers a safe, friendly environment for you to learn and experience New Zealand culture.

CLIMATE

The warmest months in Auckland are December, January and February, and the coldest June, July and August. The weather can be changeable, therefore it is important to be prepared for whatever weather may come.

*Summer Average Temperature: Low: 12 C High: 24 C*

In summer a light jacket or sweater is useful if the weather turns cooler. It is also advisable to use sunblock and wear a hat during the summer months.

*Winter Average Temperature: Low 9C High: 15 C*

In winter you will need warmer clothing. A small compact umbrella can easily be kept in a backpack so that you are prepared for our wetter months.

ARRIVING IN AUCKLAND

Pukekohe High School will arrange for someone to meet you at the airport. It could be your Homestay family, your agent or a Pukekohe High School staff member. They will be waiting in the public arrival area. Please look for the card with your name on it. If you get lost please wait in the MacDonald’s Restaurant area and we can find you.

**Do not leave the airport. If you get lost or cannot see your name on a sign ring the International Students 24 hour phone number 021668716**

New Zealand has strict laws regarding what you can bring into the country to screen out unwanted pests and diseases. You must not bring any animals, insects, fresh foods (including meats and fruit) and some packaged goods. If you are not sure about what you have, declare it and Customs can look at it. You can check on [www.customs.govt.nz](http://www.customs.govt.nz)
It is wise to plan your arrival a few days before school starts. This gives you time to adjust to the new time zone. All students will be given a Vodafone Sim Card on arrival which can be used immediately to call home to tell your parents you have arrived safely.

**ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS**

Valid passport with student visa, letter of offer, receipt of payment of fees, personal information such as ID card, medical prescriptions, copy of medical and travel insurance, scientific calculator, extra passport size photos, contact telephone numbers, some local currency.

**New Zealand Voltage is 240V.** You can buy adaptors in New Zealand.

**BANKING**

New Zealand has a very modern banking system and almost everybody has a bank account. It's the safest, most convenient way to manage money.

**Accessing your money.** When you have opened your account you will be given an account number. With this account number you are able to make deposits (including international payments) and withdrawals immediately. You will also be sent in the mail an ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) card. ATMs, also known as cashpoint machines, money machines or ‘holes in the wall’, allow you to withdraw money 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are widely available throughout New Zealand.

**SHOPPING / RECREATION**

Pukekohe’s main street has a range of shops, restaurants, postal services, bakeries and pharmacies. Sylvia Park and Westfield Shopping Centre are 2 convenient shopping centre’s easily accessible by train.

Also located in the heart of Pukekohe you will find a Cinema, 8 Ball Centre, 10 pin bowling and entertainment centre, Indoor Swimming Pool / Recreation Centre and much more.
TRANSPORT

Students usually come to school by bus, by car or by walking. Pukekohe High School is only a 10 minute walk to the Train Station, Bus Station and Town Centre. The best way for you to travel independently around Auckland City is by Train or bus. You will be given a Student ID card which will allow train and bus travel at student prices and will also get cheaper entry into some places. International students are not allowed to drive motor vehicles while studying at Pukekohe High School.

Online: AT.govt.nz

PHONE CALLS AND INTERNET

New Zealand’s international code is 0064. Auckland is 09. Local phone calls are seven digits. Area codes consist of two digits. The first is zero. Phone calls are free to call within the Auckland area. Calling cards are an economical way to call home and are readily available from local shops. Calls to numbers starting with 0800 or 0508 are free.

Please ask your homestay family before using the internet.

THE NEW ZEALAND TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Learning in New Zealand may be different to what you are used to in your home country. Students participate in their learning – i.e. teachers and lecturers may expect you to ask questions of them and provide ideas for discussion. Don’t be afraid to ask questions. You won’t appear stupid by asking questions. Please come to the international office if there is anything that you don’t understand or which is worrying you about school. The national qualification in the senior school is NCEA. For more information on the NCEA and about university entrance please go to http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about/index.html. (For more information on New Zealand education, please go to www.minedu.govt.nz)

BYOD. Bring Your Own Device

At Pukekohe High School we are strongly recommending students bring personal devices to help with learning. While having a device is not compulsory, students report that it does make access to information, organisation and collaboration on tasks more manageable. More information is available on the school website.

http://www.pukekohehigh.school.nz
## SCHOOL DAY

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## UNIFORM

The uniform is worn by students in Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. The uniform requirements are strictly enforced. Uniform is purchased from our onsite uniform shop.
SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Taking part in sport and other school activities is a great way to make new friends and take advantage of all that the school has to offer. These can range from musical groups to helping with school events to playing sport. Please remember that sport is seasonal. You can talk to the international office for ideas of things to do.

PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL POLICY

International students may wish to take advantage of opportunities to travel while they are in New Zealand. The school takes its responsibility for students seriously so we have tight travel guidelines. Students should not be applying for leave for personal travel during school time, unless there is a compelling reason to do so. This could include the visit of parents, an event organized through agents or where they are doing so as part of the activities of a host family, or accompanying an approved school trip. Under the provisions of the “Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International students” the school has an obligation to ensure that leave is only granted where it can be assured that the student will be supervised by approved adults and will be living in accommodation that meets the appropriate standard. All leave must be applied for at least two weeks in advance and must include signed permission from parents/caregivers and a completed request to travel form. Leave will not be granted where the agent of a student who is acting as a guardian denies permission. All travel must be through an approved organization or with a homestay family. If leave is taken without approval or when approval has been denied by the school, this will be regarded as a serious breach of discipline and could involve disciplinary procedures.

HOMESTAY INFORMATION

We hope that you enjoy living and learning in New Zealand. Pukekohe High School has its own homestay coordinator, Natasha Higgs. The school takes care to match the student and homestay family. The local families need to apply to the school to become a homestay. If the application is satisfactory, the school will visit the home and interview the family. If the school is happy with them then everyone in the home over 18 years is Police Vetted. You will have your own room and the homestay includes 3 meals per day for 7 days per week. In New Zealand we usually take a packed lunch to school and have the cooked meal at night. It’s a good idea to help with such family tasks as setting the table or cooking your favourite dish from home. The school does have a canteen where you can buy more things to eat and drink if you wish to. When you arrive you can talk to your host mother about the household routines. Life in New Zealand may be different to what you are used to. Give yourself time to get used to living here. Talk to Natasha if you have any concerns.

Natasha Higgs. Homestay Coordinator.
Email: homestay@pukekohehigh.school.nz
School Ph.: 09 2370117 Ext. 260. Mobile: 021624645
MOTOR VEHICLES

International Students are not allowed to own or drive a car while they are enrolled at Pukekohe High School. You must only travel in another car with an approved driver who has a full licence gained in New Zealand by the full process.

SMOKING / DRINKING

New Zealand, like most other countries is smoke free. It is illegal in New Zealand for cigarettes to be sold to anyone under the age of 18 years. Smoking is NOT permitted at school or while wearing your school uniform to and from school. Alcohol is not permitted whilst on our school Visa and cannot be sold to anyone under 18 years of age by New Zealand Law.

STUDENT SAFETY

Some points to remember.

1. **New Zealand’s emergency number is 111.** When this number is connected the operator will ask if the caller wants Police, Fire or Ambulance.
2. Check street signs when you go out. If there is an emergency, then you know where you are and help can come more quickly.
3. Pick your friends wisely and if you have any worries or concerns tell someone.
4. Look after your passport carefully.
5. Do not walk around late at night.

[www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

Crossing the Road

Take care crossing the road. Check carefully that is safe to cross and use the pedestrian crossings. This especially applies to students who come from countries where cars drive on a different side of the road. **Cyclists** are required by law to wear a properly fitted, standards approved bicycle helmet. **Buses** Get on and off buses carefully and wait until the bus has driven away before crossing the road.

Water Safety

The Auckland region is surrounded by some magnificent waterways. The physical nature of our country; the length of the coastline; the accessibility to rivers and lakes; the relative affordability of visiting a community pool and the popularity of private pools – all increase the need to be ‘WaterSafe’. Swim only at lifeguard patrolled beaches and always swim between the red and yellow flags. Lifeguards are trained to assess the safest areas for swimming and they mark those areas with red and yellow flags. Follow the advice of safety signs. For more information on surf beaches visit [www.lifesaving.org.nz](http://www.lifesaving.org.nz)
CULTURE SHOCK

Being in a new country is an exciting experience. There are many new learning opportunities with changes in food, language and physical surroundings. There are many new people to meet. Sometimes the feelings of excitement can change to anxiety and stress because there are so many decisions to make. Everyone experiences some degree of cultural fatigue when they arrive in a new country. The good news is that over time you will get used to the new environment and things will become easier. Bringing photographs and other small things from home to decorate your room may help ease the transition into a new culture.

ORIENTATION

When you arrive at school you will be given an orientation. This programme will explain about school life, living in a homestay and you will be able to discuss your study programme.

CODE OF PRACTICE

Pukekohe High School is bound by the Code of Practice for the Pastoral care of International Students. Copies of the Code are available from NZQA website at www.nzqa.govt.nz

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Appropriate medical and travel insurance is compulsory. Most international students are not entitled to publicly funded health services while in New Zealand. If you receive medical treatment during your visit you may be liable for the full costs of that treatment. www.moh.govt.nz The Accident Compensation Corporation provides accident insurance for all New Zealand citizens, residents and temporary visitors to New Zealand but you may still be liable for all other medical and related costs. www.acc.co.nz

PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL
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AUCKLAND
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international@pukekohehigh.school.nz