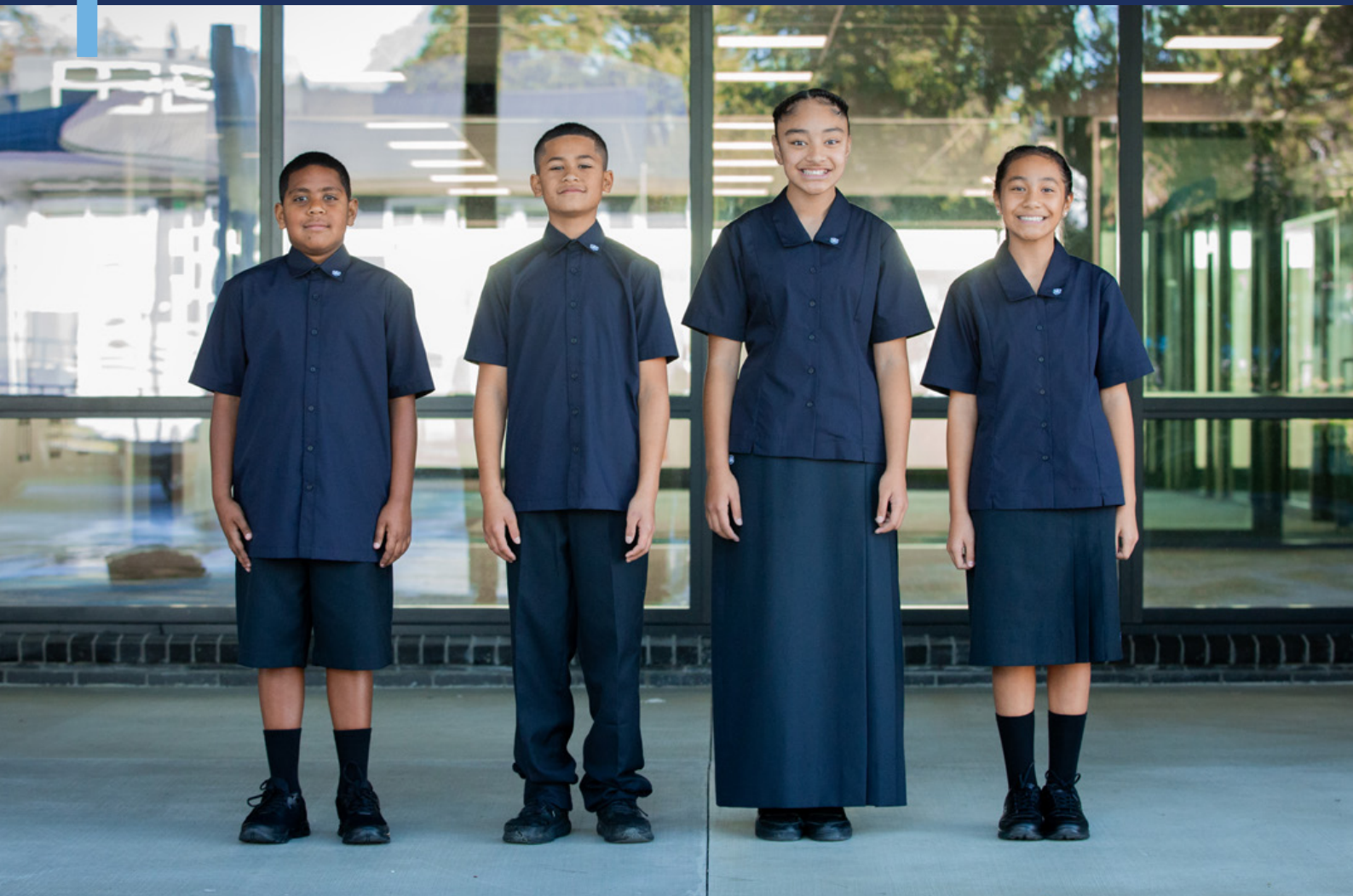




CHAPEL DOWNS
JUNIOR COLLEGE

PROSPECTUS 2027

Years 7–10 | A School Purpose-Built for Early Adolescence



ACHIEVING TOGETHER | WHAKAAKO TAHI

170 Dawson Road
Flatbush, Auckland 2023
office@chapeldowns.school.nz

Welcome to Chapel Downs Junior College

Tailored for early adolescents. Built for the future.

Opening in 2027, Chapel Downs Junior College (CDJC) is designed specifically for students in Years 7–10. This is a pivotal time of rapid personal growth, identity formation, and expanding capabilities. Early adolescence is when young people begin to discover who they are, what matters to them, and what they can achieve. They seek greater independence and sophisticated thinking, while still needing stable relationships, mentorship, and educators who know them deeply.

Years 7-10

A Junior College designed for the needs and characteristics of early adolescents.

Strong Ako & Whānau system

Students are known, supported and guided by teachers who understand them.

Specialist learning

Opportunities across Science, Technology, the Arts, Health & PE and more.

Beyond the classroom

Camps, class trips, in-school experiences, sport, leadership and more.

Sense of belonging

Something for everyone. A place where every student feels known, valued and connected.

“

Our vision is simple:

Achieving Together.

We believe true achievement goes beyond academic results. It is about cultivating knowledge, character, resilience, and a deep sense of belonging so every learner thrives in school and beyond.

Principal's Welcome

Kia ora and welcome to Chapel Downs Junior College.

It is a privilege to be the foundation Principal of our new Junior College and to have the opportunity to build something special for the young people and whānau of our community.

At Chapel Downs, we believe our students deserve an education that cares, challenges and inspires. Our role is to create a safe and supportive environment where every learner feels they belong, develops confidence in who they are, and believes in what they can achieve.

Our Junior College has been designed specifically for Year 7 to 10 learners. We combine strong foundations in literacy and numeracy with engaging specialist learning and sport, cultural and leadership opportunities that allow students to discover their strengths and interests.

Our teachers know that relationships matter. We want our students to be known, valued and supported while also being encouraged to challenge themselves, take positive risks and become increasingly independent learners.

As a new school, we have the exciting opportunity to create our culture together. We want our students and families to feel proud to belong to Chapel Downs and to help shape a College that reflects the aspirations, diversity and strengths of our community.

Our journey begins in 2027 with our foundation Year 7 and Year 8 students, and I am incredibly excited about what lies ahead.

I warmly invite you to explore our College, meet our team and discover the opportunities waiting for your child at Chapel Downs Junior College.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Chapel Downs whānau.

Ngā mihi nui,

Vaughan van Rensburg
Principal
Chapel Downs Junior College



An education that
cares, challenges and
inspires.



Designed specifically
for Year 7-10 learners.



CDJC begins in **2027**
with foundation
Year 7 and Year 8
students.

Why choose Chapel Downs Junior College?

12 reasons families are choosing CDJC

1

Hauora at the heart

Students learn best when they feel safe, valued, and connected. Wellbeing is woven into daily school life, physical activity, and relationships.

2

A community where you belong

Reflecting the rich diversity of Aotearoa New Zealand, we celebrate culture, language, and identity so every student can be themselves.

3

One teacher who really knows you

Every student belongs to an Ako class with a dedicated teacher who supports wellbeing and teaches core English, Mathematics & Statistics and Social Sciences.

4

Small enough to know you

A connected, personal learning environment where students are visible, supported, and challenged without getting lost in a huge high school.

5

Designed for the teenage years

Learning, relationships, pastoral care, and leadership opportunities are intentionally crafted around what early adolescents need to thrive.

6

Whānau are part of the team

Great outcomes happen when home and school work together. Families are essential partners in their child's learning and growth.

7

A familiar start to something new

A natural, reassuring next step for Chapel Downs Primary students within a trusted community, while opening doors to exciting new secondary opportunities.

8

Find your thing

Opportunities in sports, arts, culture, leadership, and innovation let students try new activities, discover strengths, and pursue their passions.

9

Specialist teachers from Year 7

Learn from passionate teachers with deep subject knowledge, bringing expertise, enthusiasm, and challenge to every lesson.

10

Spaces made for learning

Modern environments designed specifically for how young teenagers learn, encouraging teamwork, practical discovery, and independent thinking.

11

Strong foundations for future success

Building solid confidence across the fundamentals: English, Mathematics & Statistics, Science, Social Sciences, Health & PE, Technology, the Arts, and Languages.

12

Learning for the world ahead

Developing real-world skills for an ever-changing future, including critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and digital fluency.

The CDJC Edge

Created specifically for early adolescents

We believe young people learn best when they feel known, safe, valued and connected.

At CDJC, we have deliberately designed our school around what early adolescents need to thrive.

A thoughtful blend of challenge, guidance, friendship and opportunity helps students flourish through early adolescence and into the future.

Dedicated Years 7-10 only: Catering exclusively to Years 7-10 creates a focused environment tailored to young teens.

Targeted learning & support: Curriculum, teaching methods, and pastoral care are specifically designed for the needs of this age group.

A genuine sense of belonging: A supportive, tight-knit community ensures every student is known, valued, and encouraged.

Room to explore & excel: Abundant opportunities allow students to try new things, build confidence, and achieve their personal best.

The CDJC Edge: Relationships that help students THRIVE

Every student at CDJC joins an **Ako** class. This dedicated setup means your child has a trusted teacher overseeing both their academic progress and wellbeing, helping them navigate the challenges and exciting opportunities of the teenage years.



Connection every day

Ako teachers provide a single, consistent point of contact for both students and families. Because they teach your child English, Mathematics & Statistics, and Social Sciences, they get to know them exceptionally well.

Beyond the classroom, they oversee your child's wellbeing, foster their confidence, and collaborate closely with subject specialist teachers to monitor progress across the whole curriculum.



Specialist subjects

Beyond their core classes, students extend their knowledge with subject-expert teachers.

Dedicated specialist lessons cover Science, Food tech, Multi-materials tech, Music, Visual Arts, Dance & Drama and Health & Physical Education, allowing students to learn in purpose-equipped spaces.



Four whānau

Every student joins one of four whānau—Kauri, Tōtara, Rimu, or Kōwhai.

This structure creates a vibrant mini-community within the wider college, fostering school spirit, lasting friendships, and valuable leadership roles as students represent their whānau with pride.



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When students feel known, valued and connected, they are better positioned to learn, grow and achieve.

Our Learner Dispositions

Understanding the mind, nurturing the mindset

Our **THRIVE** dispositions describe the essential capabilities we develop in every student. They build on the Chapel Downs Primary foundations and evolve as students take ownership of their learning, relationships, and contribution to the world.



T

I work with others, value different perspectives and together we achieve.



H

I show care and respect through empathy, responsibility and positive actions.



R

I face challenges with perseverance, use strategies and continue to grow.



I

I am curious, ask deep questions and seek solutions.



V

I express ideas clearly, evaluate information, listen carefully and communicate responsibly.



E

I take ownership of my learning, make considered choices and strive to be my best.



The Ako & Learning Experience

Anchored Learning: Specialist knowledge, dedicated mentorship

The transition into secondary subjects requires both academic challenge and emotional stability.

Crafted specifically for Years 7–10, our curriculum balances core academic foundations with room for discovery. Through hands-on investigation, collaborative problem-solving, and deep critical thinking, students build genuine confidence in their abilities.

We encourage young teens to explore new interests, connect ideas across subjects, and take real ownership of their learning—setting them up to thrive both now and in the future.

English

Build strong literacy skills. Students develop into thoughtful readers, skilled writers, and confident speakers who can express their unique voices with clarity and purpose.

Mathematics & Statistics

Build real-world problem-solving skills. Students grow confident in numbers, logic, and data analysis, learning how to spot patterns and solve practical challenges.

Science

Spark curiosity through hands-on discovery. Students investigate how the world works, run practical experiments, and learn to make informed, evidence-based choices.

Social Sciences

Explore history, cultures, and how communities work. Students learn to consider different viewpoints, evaluate real-world issues, and find their place as active citizens.

Why our curriculum works

Core learning

Every student builds a strong academic base.

Wide choice

A broad range of subjects supports growth and engagement.

New passions

Students discover interests beyond the basics.

Health & Physical Education

Focus on movement, wellbeing, and teamwork. Grounded in Hauora, students build healthy personal habits, active physical skills, and strong, positive relationships.

Technology

Bring creative ideas to life. Through digital tools, materials and food tech, students learn to solve practical problems and invent clever, real-world solutions.

The Arts

Unleash creativity across visual art, music, drama, and dance. Students explore new ways to express themselves, tell stories, and celebrate cultural identity.

Learning Languages

Connect across cultures and languages. Students build conversational confidence, celebrate heritage, and develop skills to navigate an interconnected world.



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Developing young people who are curious enough to explore, confident enough to try, resilient enough to persevere and connected enough to contribute.

Discovery & Experiential Learning

Beyond the desk: Passion, purpose, and adventure

Discovery pathways

Discovery is a dedicated weekly learning experience where students choose term-based pathways designed around their interests and passions. Each pathway delivers specific skill development, active inquiry, and a tangible outcome (such as a performance, product, or community service project).

Pathways may include options in creative arts, robotics, Kapa Haka, Pasifika performance, sustainability, film-making, and community action.

Sporting opportunities

At Chapel Downs Junior College, sport is an important part of school life. We want every student to be active, involved and connected. Through quality PE, lunchtime activities, competitive teams, sports exchanges, cluster tournaments and Sports Camp, our students build confidence, resilience, teamwork and skills for life. Whether competing for the College or simply getting involved and having a go, there is a place for everyone.

Team experiences	Lunchtime opportunities	Represent Chapel Downs	Sports Camp	Sports offered
Led by specialist PE teachers, our programme gives students opportunities to develop their fitness, movement skills, confidence and understanding of teamwork. We encourage every student to challenge themselves, try new activities and discover ways to enjoy being active.	Lunchtimes are another opportunity to get involved. Organised sports, games and activities allow students to practise their skills, try something new, connect with friends, develop leadership and enjoy being an active part of college life.	Students have the opportunity to represent Chapel Downs Junior College in competitions, exchanges and tournaments with Auckland intermediate and middle schools. Representing Chapel Downs is about more than winning. It is about pride, commitment, teamwork, resilience and fair play.	Year 7 and 8 students have the opportunity to take part in a week-long multi-sport competition. Sports Camp brings together preparation, competition, teamwork and new experiences, challenging students to give their best, support one another and create lasting memories.	Basketball Football Netball Rugby League Volleyball with further sports offered as our College grows.

Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC)

Real-world challenges build lasting resilience and confidence. Our EOTC opportunities provide progressive outdoor and practical experiences across all four years.

Class trips & in-school experiences	Activity week	Year 8 camp	Sports camp
Throughout the year, all classes will enjoy trips that support classroom learning. We will also bring learning to life by inviting special experiences into our school.	Every student will have the opportunity to take part in an Activity Week, with experiences designed to challenge, connect and inspire.	Provides an opportunity for our Year 8's to step away from the familiar, strengthen friendships and take on new challenges together.	A group of students may have the opportunity to take part in a Sports Camp. This gives them the opportunity to develop skills, teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship while challenging themselves alongside others.



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Real challenges.
Real growth.
Real memories.

The Four-Year Student Journey

Inspiration, influence, impact: Student leadership

At CDJC, leadership isn't reserved for senior students, it begins on day one. We actively cultivate character, reliability, and service in all our students, giving them authentic opportunities to make a difference across sports, arts, culture, and service.

Whānau Leaders: Amplifying Student Voice

Whānau Leaders sit at the heart of our school culture. Elected to represent their peers, this dedicated team organises assemblies and whole-school events while bringing important student-led ideas to life. They learn the art of public speaking, event management, and diplomacy, ensuring every student's voice actively shapes our college community.

Sports Leaders: Energising Our Community

Driven by a passion for being active, Sports Leaders play a vital role in building team spirit and healthy habits. They organise lunchtime competitions, issue equipment, and celebrate student achievements. Through this hands-on role, they develop event-planning skills, sportsmanship, and the ability to motivate and energise their peers.

Cultural Leaders: Celebrating Our Diversity

Our Cultural Leaders are champions of identity, inclusion, and heritage. They host vibrant lunchtime experiences, champion official language weeks, and ensure cultural practices are honoured and integrated into daily school life. By celebrating the diverse cultures that make up our community, these leaders cultivate deep empathy, global awareness, and pride.

Performing Arts Leaders: Inspiring Creativity

Passionate about music, dance, and drama, Performing Arts Leaders ignite creative expression across the school. From leading waiata and organising lunchtime showcases to assisting with rehearsals and running assemblies, they create welcoming spaces for students to build confidence. In doing so, they hone their own artistic drive, communication, and stage presence.

Library Leaders: Fostering a Love for Literacy

Library Leaders turn our library into a thriving, creative hub. Working closely with our Library Manager, they run break-time activities, design engaging displays, launch reading initiatives, and even train the next generation of student librarians. They gain project management, mentorship, and organisation skills while fostering a lifelong love of reading across the college.



More independence. Supported every step.

We deliberately scaffold responsibility across Years 7–10, guiding students from childhood dependence toward self-directed agency:

STAGE	FOCUS	KEY MILESTONES
Year 7	BELONG	Establish relationships, build Ako connections, find your feet, discover strengths.
Year 8	EXPLORE	Try new things, participate in EOTC camp, expand co-curricular interests, deepen academic learning, find your passions.
Year 9	LEAD	Take responsibility, develop your voice, refine personal passions, exercise agency, make a difference.
Year 10	LAUNCH	Know yourself, know your strengths and gaps, demonstrate leadership and service, graduate prepared for what comes next.

Graduate Profile - A CDJC Graduate is:

Confident in identity

Capable in core academics

Curious to learn

Connected to community

Courageous in challenge

Ready for senior education



Community & Belonging

You belong here. Strong roots, shared success.

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I am known.
I am valued.
I am safe.
I have a place here.

A school is more than classrooms and subjects. It is a community where people know each other, look out for one another, and feel proud to belong.

Whānau are part of the team

We know that the best outcomes for students happen when home and school work closely together as a team. We deeply value the knowledge, insights, aspirations, and cultural perspectives that whānau bring to their child's education. Your child's journey is a shared commitment, and we partner with you through:

Communication: Keeping whānau regularly connected with their child's learning, progress, and wellbeing.

Conversation: Creating ongoing, meaningful opportunities to discuss achievements, goals, and future aspirations together.

Celebration: Sharing and celebrating growth, effort, leadership, and success as a school community.

Connection: Welcoming whānau to be an active part of school events, cultural celebrations, and college life.

Pioneer the Future

THE FOUNDATION COHORT

Be here from the beginning

Joining Chapel Downs Junior College in 2027 offers students a unique experience as foundation leaders. Our first cohort will not just join a school, they will create its legacy by establishing traditions, shaping culture, building sports teams, leading cultural groups (Kapa Haka and Pasifika), and setting the standard for future generations.

Enrolment & Practical Information

Enrolment Form & Uniform

This information can be found on our website: www.chapeldownsjuniorcollege.school.nz.

Definitions

Adolescence: The stage of development between childhood and adulthood, marked by physical, emotional and cognitive changes.

Adolescent: A young person who is experiencing or going through adolescence.

Key dates for 2027

Term 1: Tuesday 2 February – Friday 9 April

Term 2: Tuesday 27 April – Friday 2 July

Term 3: Monday 19 July – Friday 24 September

Term 4: Monday 11 October – Tuesday 14 December

Next Steps

We invite you to join us in building something exceptional for our young people. To request an enrolment pack, schedule a campus visit, or view uniform guidelines, please visit our website or contact our team.

Contact the school office with any questions:

P: 09 274 8002

E: office@chapeldowns.school.nz

Hours: 8:30 - 3:30pm Monday to Friday (term time)

170 Dawson Road, Flatbush, Auckland 2023



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