



*Learn, serve and grow in God*  
*Te Kura o Ihu Karaiti Te Kamaka*



PROSPECTUS





Nau mai, haere mai  
ki te kura o Ihu Karaiti  
te Kamaka!

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to Cornerstone Christian School – a place that I love dearly. Situated in the fast-growing northern suburbs of Palmerston North, Cornerstone Christian School is a year 1-13 special (Christian) character state-integrated Area School of just over 600 pupils. At Cornerstone Christian School, we deliberately focus on the holistic development of our rangatahi / young people – or to put it more simply, their ‘discipleship’. We believe that discipleship is simply learning to live the way that God wants us to live, and I love being part of this journey in our students’ lives. Ultimately our desire is for every Cornerstone student to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and to develop their own relationship with God. Our school has a strong character development focus with an emphasis on our values of respect, diligence, kindness and integrity and humility before God. Cornerstone students tend to achieve highly academically, and our school achieves excellent NCEA results compared to national norms.

It is an honour and a privilege to be a teacher and educational leader here at Cornerstone Christian School. We ask that you prayerfully consider enrolling your son or daughter with us for their education. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to ask any questions around this process.

Ma Ihowa koe a manaaki – God bless,

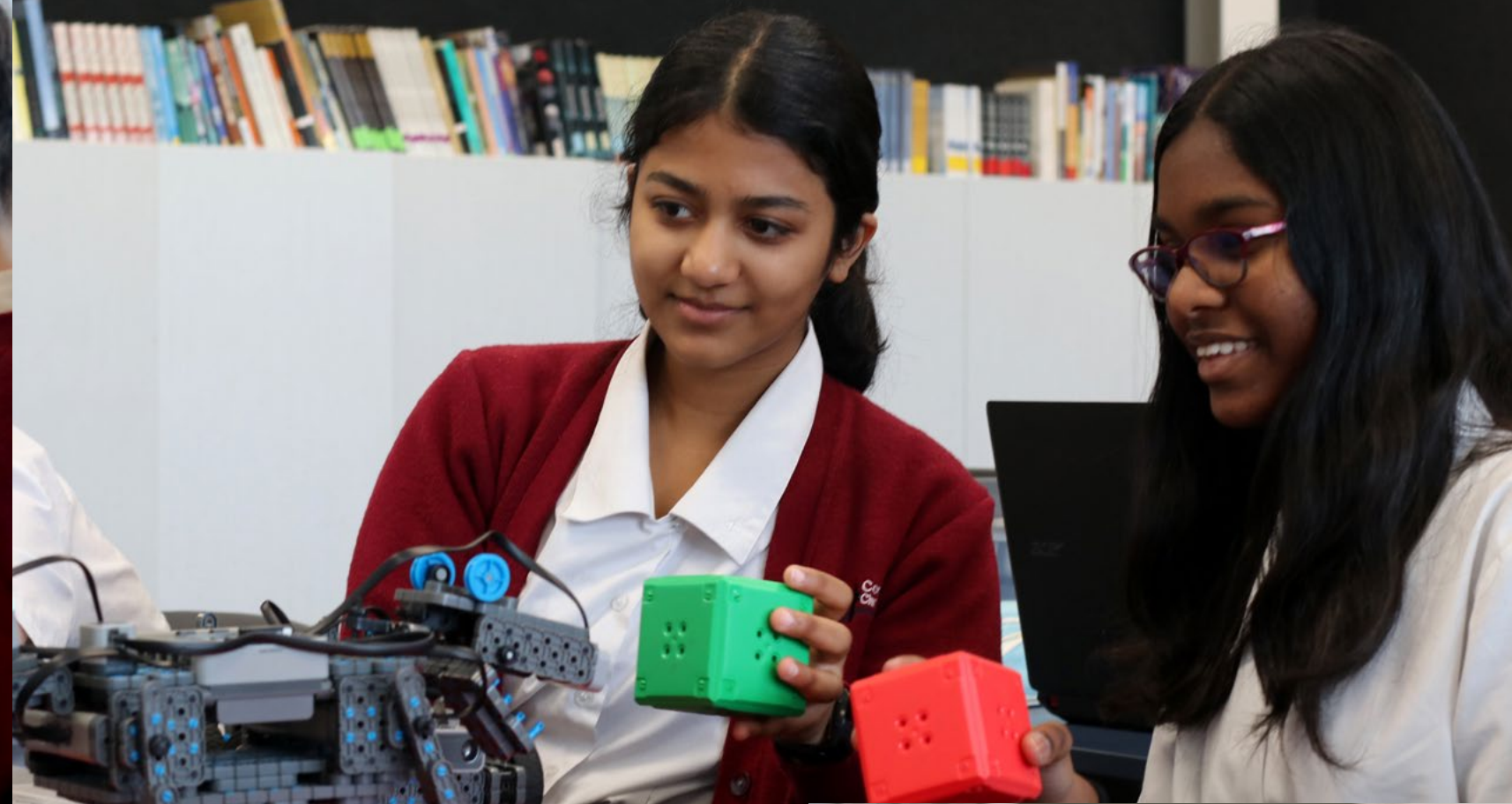
*Chris Mitchell*  
Principal



“ Thank you for the heart-felt, sacrificial love and care that is invested in our young people; their education, their character and most importantly - their faith. ”

CCS Parent





OUR MISSION:

To provide, with parents, a balanced Christian Education to help children develop to their full potential in God

Our Learn, Serve and Grow in God motto underpins all that we do here at Cornerstone Christian School

**Learn**  
**Ako whakaaro**

We are committed to growing a rigorous culture of learning, based on an understanding of truth as revealed in the whole counsel of Scripture and encounter with the Living God.

**Serve**  
**Āwhina**

We seek to provide an excellent Christian education where the whole person is equipped for leadership, work and service.

**Grow**  
**Tupu ki te Atua**

Cornerstone Christian School is committed to Growth: The ongoing process of conforming our ways, words, and character to those of Jesus Christ.







## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### LEARNING IN YEARS 0 - 6

Our Primary School, encompassing years 0-6, initially focuses on building a student's ability to succeed at school. Growing an understanding around what being at school looks like, building connections with peers and teachers, and gaining confidence with school routines and disciplines is foundational in Year 0 - 2.

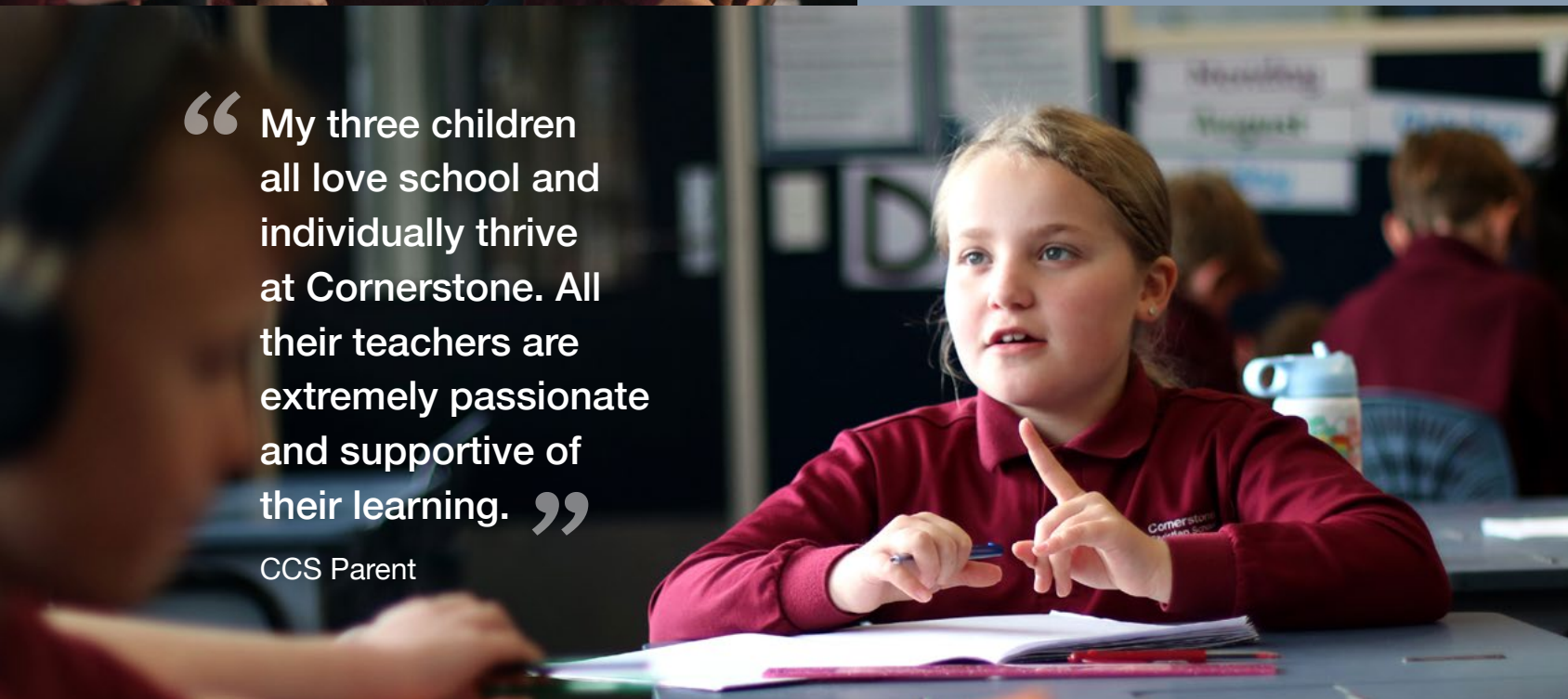
As students progress through to the middle primary, focus increasingly goes on building a child's essential skills, knowledge, and understanding. We follow the New Zealand curriculum, thoughtfully integrating Biblical teachings whenever possible. In our approach, we explicitly instruct students in Mathematics and Literacy concepts, while our thematic topics take on an inquiry-based methodology. Our curriculum is thoughtfully designed to build upon prior learning experiences, allowing students to progressively deepen and broaden their knowledge from year to year.

We recognise the diverse learning needs of all our students. Thus, we tailor our instruction to meet each student at their level, providing both extension activities for those seeking enrichment and additional support for those who require it. This includes small literacy groups and specialised English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs when needed.

In addition to our core focus on Literacy and Mathematics, our curriculum encompasses subjects such as Science, Social Sciences, Technology, The Arts, Health, and Physical Education. To enrich the classroom experience further, we offer Education Outside the Classroom experiences, ensuring a well-rounded and engaging education for all our students.

“ My three children all love school and individually thrive at Cornerstone. All their teachers are extremely passionate and supportive of their learning. ”

CCS Parent





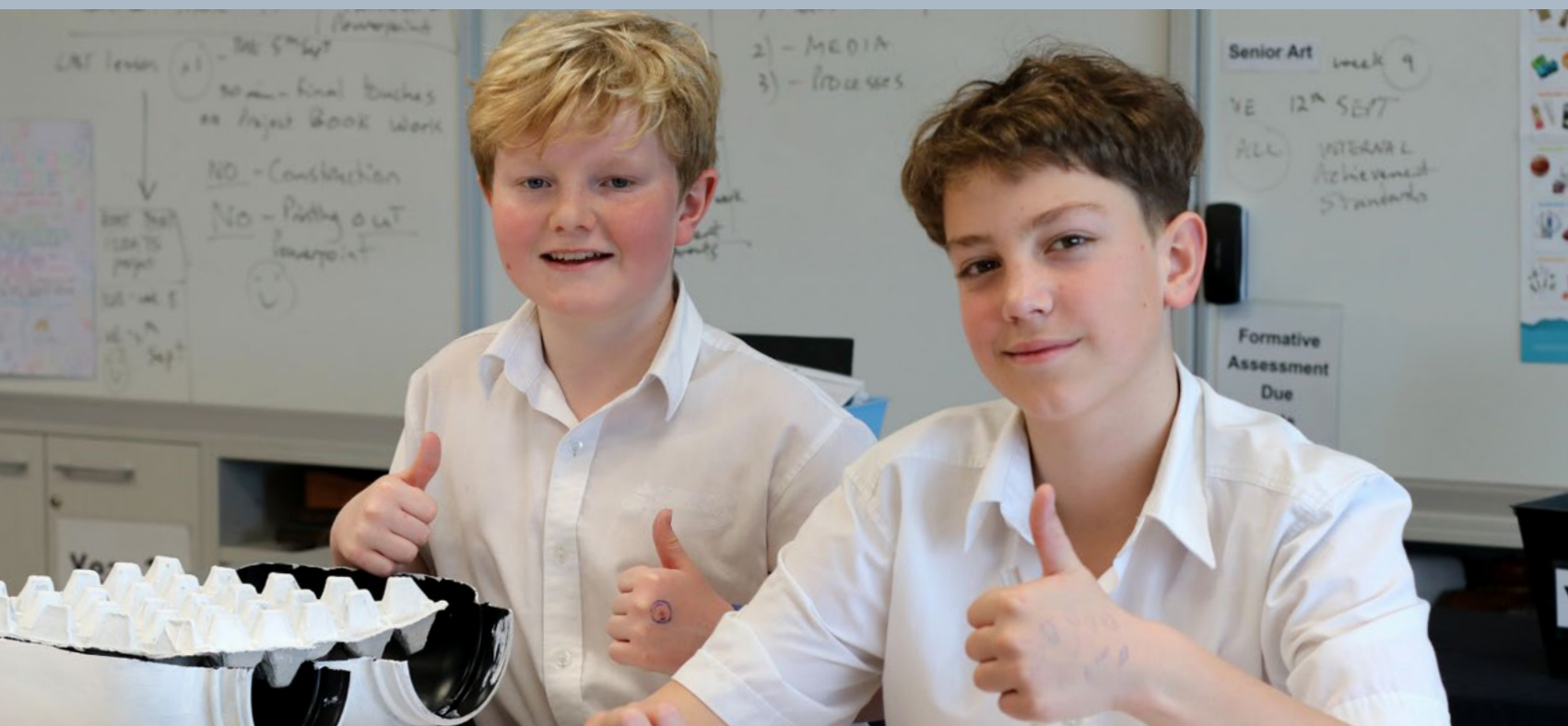


## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### LEARNING IN YEARS 7 - 8

The Intermediate years focus on understanding and supporting students and their families through the onset of puberty and the accompanying social changes in a young person's life. These transitional years can be a tumultuous time for both students and parents as they navigate the complex terrain of adolescence.

In Year 7 and 8 our Christian Education foci are weaved throughout our homeroom programme. The homeroom programme covers Mathematics, Literacy, Theme and Devotions, which are all taught by the homeroom teacher in one classroom. These teachers understand the significant developmental changes that occur at this age and stage for students and seek to create a nurturing environment in their homeroom. Students move to different teachers for Science, Health, PE and Modules. Modules change from term to term and offer students tasters in subjects like Drama, Music, Food Tech, Wood Tech, Financial Literacy, Robotics, Art, Invictus and Digital Technology.



### LEARNING IN YEARS 9 - 10

Homeroom programmes carry on into Year 9 and 10. The Biblical focus starts to shift towards preparation for life in the Senior School and begins to focus on building each student's learning profile and capacity to succeed academically at NCEA.

The Year 9 and 10 curriculum continues a focus on being developmentally responsive, recognising that students in Year 9 and 10 are still undergoing rapid physical development, becoming increasingly socially aware and encountering increasingly complex curriculum contexts.

A student's learning progress in Years 9 and 10 is closely linked to the ongoing development of literacy and numeracy skills, and the preparation towards these national assessments in Year 10. Students who struggle in the areas of literacy and numeracy receive additional support in class and from the Secondary Learning Support teacher.

The Year 9 and 10 academic programme is structured as follows: Core subjects include English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Health and Physical Education.

The Module programme continues from Year 7 and 8: Students do two module subjects per term covering Invictus [intra and interpersonal skills], Drama and Music, Equip: life skills, Food and Nutrition, Robotics, Art, Digital Technology, Wood Technology.







## SENIOR SCHOOL

### LEARNING IN YEARS 11 - 13

Learning in the Senior School is built upon the NCEA qualification Framework with a biblical worldview increasingly threaded throughout. CCS offers full NCEA certificate courses at Levels 1 to 3. Students are encouraged to take a range of subjects that are challenging academically, but also allow each to explore areas of interest that can spark further study in areas not previously considered.

A significant aspect to learning in the Senior school is the preparation for life beyond school. Students are given opportunities to evaluate their prospective 'pathways' to either university, UCOL, apprenticeships or other endeavors. In year 11, students are placed in a small group (Life Lab) and remain with their Life Lab teacher throughout the last three years of school. Doing so encourages students to build connections that support their discipleship and the significant decision making that occurs in these last three years of school.

Learning in the Senior School is full of exciting opportunities to discover career and academic pathways and explore ways to give back and serve others. Our consistently high NCEA pass rates are a testimony to the level of investment our staff make in each student as an individual, their courses, and pathway interests.

We offer a full range of traditional academic subjects and supported access to other less traditional spaces such as Design School. Please refer to our Senior Course Handbook for further information about specific courses and pathways offered by CCS.







Whatever you do,  
work at it with  
all your heart, as  
though you were  
working for the  
Lord and not for  
people.  
Colossians 3:23

## Serve

We value the development of a servant heart through purposeful and intentional servant leadership across the school. Examples of this include:

### SHARING OUR SKILLS

- Secondary Student Council
- Primary Student Council
- Tribe Leadership
- Y10's as Y6 camp leaders
- Y5-8's Schoolwide service opportunities
- Secondary Peer Mentoring
- Primary Buddy Classes

### SHARING OUR TALENTS

- Primary and Secondary Productions
- Primary and Secondary Choirs
- Student Coaching and Umpiring
- Tribe Sport and Cultural events

### SHARING OUR HEARTS

- World Vision
- Senior Vanuatu Trip
- Operation Christmas Child
- Backpack Outreach
- Hope in a Box
- Community Aged Care Visits
- Tribe Missions







“ The teachers at Cornerstone show an exceptional level of dedication to their roles. They are always approachable and easy to discuss ideas with. ”

CCS Parent

## Grow in God

### PRIMARY YEARS 0-6

Four big ideas (The Bible, The Nature and Character of God, Personal Faith (me) and Community (others)) form the basis of our Devotions programme. Students encounter each big idea at an ever-deepening level as they grow through their Primary years.

All Primary classrooms start each day with Devotions where the topic is taught through Bible reading and memorisation of scripture, character studies, object lessons and class discussions. Worship is a regular part of Devotions, and prayer is woven wherever possible throughout the day. Christian teaching is also incorporated naturally into the Integrated Theme programme, using the theme topic to highlight areas such as our responsibility as Christians, the nature and character of God, and recognising God's provision in our lives.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS 7-10

Adolescence brings with it a rich context to further build on the Primary bible foundations. Homeroom teachers continue to emphasise Bible Knowledge [with memory verses in Yr7/8], building a capacity to Serve, establishing the cause for Faith, and enabling encounter moments with God.

Teaching remains instructional with an inquiry approach, building knowledge and understanding through weaving a Christian World View into Homeroom programmes.

### SENIOR SCHOOL YEARS 11-13

Preparing for life beyond school becomes the focus for Christian learning in the Senior School. Life Lab teachers adopt a relational/inquiry approach where knowing and understanding ourselves and our relationship with God and this world become 'rich ground' for evangelism and ministry.

Students start wanting more agency in their walk with God and navigating their studies. Our Life Lab programme operates flexibly to keep pace with family needs whilst aiming to ensure that each student is as prepared as possible for life beyond school.





## SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Whole School Governance	Board of Governors / Board of Proprietors							
Whole School Leadership	Principal							
	Deputy Principal							
Whole School Direction	Director of Events and Culture							
	Director of Pastoral Care and Guidance Counsellor							
	Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO)							
	Head of English for Speakers of other languages (ESOL)							
	Primary School			Middle School		Senior School		
	Years 0 - 6			Years 7 - 10		Years 11 - 13		
School Management	Primary Assistant Principal			Middle School Assistant Principal		Senior School Assistant Principal		
Christian Character Support				Director of Life Labs				
School-Culture Support				Middle School Kaitiaki		Senior School Kaitiaki		
Curriculum & Pedagogy Support				HODs				
Pastoral Support				Deans				
Day to Day Student Care Groups	Aroha Team	Manahau Team	Tumunako Team	Whakapono Team	Tupuranga Team	Kotahi Team		
Year Level Groupings	Years 0 - 2	Years 3 - 4	Years 5 - 6	Years 7 - 8	Years 9 - 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13

p: +64 6 356 7326

e: office@cornerstone.ac.nz

w: www.cornerstone.ac.nz

119 Mihaere Drive  
Palmerston North 4414  
New Zealand