

International College Prospectus



Taupo-nui-a-Tia
COLLEGE

Welcome | Nau mai haere mai

Taupo Nui a Tia College International Prospectus 2026



KIA ORA AND WELCOME TO TAUPO-NUI-A-TIA COLLEGE

Taupo-nui-a-Tia College is a public, co-educational state school located in one of the most beautiful areas of New Zealand's central North Island.

Situated on the shores of the largest freshwater lake in the Southern Hemisphere, Taupō offers a safe and lively town centre and beach, with many sports facilities, shops, and cafés within walking distance of our college.

Our school has approximately 1,250 students and 125 staff members, supporting students from Year 9 to Year 13 as they prepare for their future pathways.

We offer a wide range of subjects, including traditional academic courses as well as cultural, sporting, and creative options.

Our International Programme focuses on strong academic support for students working towards NCEA qualifications, alongside an authentic New Zealand experience.

This is enhanced through term-based trips throughout the year and our four-week Summer Programme in November, designed especially for gap year students.

We provide our international students with first-class pastoral care and individual attention to ensure they feel supported and can truly thrive in their new environment.

Have a read and decide for yourself — Taupō and Taupo-nui-a-Tia College offer a safe, fun, and well-supported education programme for your future.





- ▶ A well-established International Program with eye for the Individual student needs and dreams.
- ▶ Central location in the heart of the North Island.
- ▶ Strong academic support network helping our students to achieve their goals.
- ▶ Term trips outside the classroom (2x per term).
- ▶ Four-week summer program offering adventure, surf, sun and learning new skills.
- ▶ Centrally located campus making it safe and easy to find their way around.
- ▶ A genuine "Kiwi" experience.
- ▶ Outstanding pastoral care, well recognised and highly regarded.
- ▶ Small number of International students allowing close support and easy interaction with local students.
- ▶ Experienced well-trained homestay families (including horse families, ski families and farm-stays).
- ▶ Excellent Ero report for the international department.
- ▶ Wide variety of after school activities including sports-cultural-arts programs.

WHY TAUPO-NUI-A-TIA COLLEGE?

At Taupo-nui-a-Tia College, international students are not just numbers. They are part of our school whānau. We focus on helping students grow academically, socially, and personally, while making their time in New Zealand meaningful and unforgettable.

We offer the New Zealand Curriculum and NCEA qualifications, which are internationally recognised and open pathways to universities and further study in New Zealand and beyond. International students receive personalised academic guidance and support to help them succeed.

Student wellbeing is at the centre of everything we do. Our international team provides close support, regular check-ins, and

clear communication with parents and agents. Students are known personally, supported carefully, and helped to settle quickly. We welcome students from across Europe, Asia, and South America. This diversity creates a rich cultural environment where students learn from one another while feeling valued and included.

Taupo-nui-a-Tia College offers a strong outdoor education and experiential learning programme. Activities such as hiking, surfing, cultural experiences, and local excursions help students build confidence, friendships, and lifelong memories.



WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Kia ora!

Thank you for your interest in choosing Taupo-nui-a-Tia College's International Student Program. We have a proud history and we also are excited about what we are doing currently.

Our school offers students from all cultures the opportunity to be successful through our wide range of programs in sport, outdoor education, music, arts, drama, and cultural activities. There is something here for everyone!

We are also a high achieving school and our academic results exceed national statistics. Students who attend our school can achieve just as well here as any other school in the country. Beyond the classroom, you will experience the true "Kiwi" way of life by exploring the region on our trips for international students and by living with a welcoming New Zealand family.

We would love for you to be a part of our amazing school and community!

Ngā mihi

Ben Claxton, BPE, MProfStuds
Principal | Taupo-nui-a-Tia College

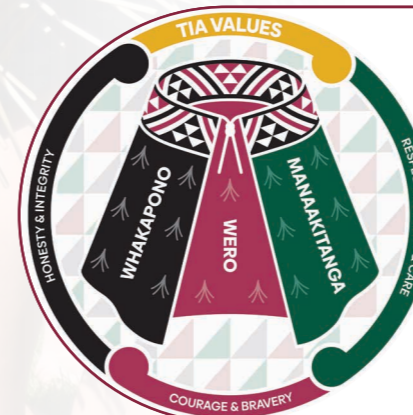


Ben Claxton, BPE, MProfStuds
Principal

OUR VALUES

Our values connect to the tupuna (ancestor) our school is named after, Tia. One of the meanings for Taupō is cloak.

We are, Taupo-nui-a-Tia, the great cloak of Tia. Tia was a humble, peaceful person who had his people at his heart. He had mana and was respected by his people. He understood duty, and his place and role within the community. He also respected authority.



WHAKAPONO

- ▶ Reflect honesty and integrity in all that you do

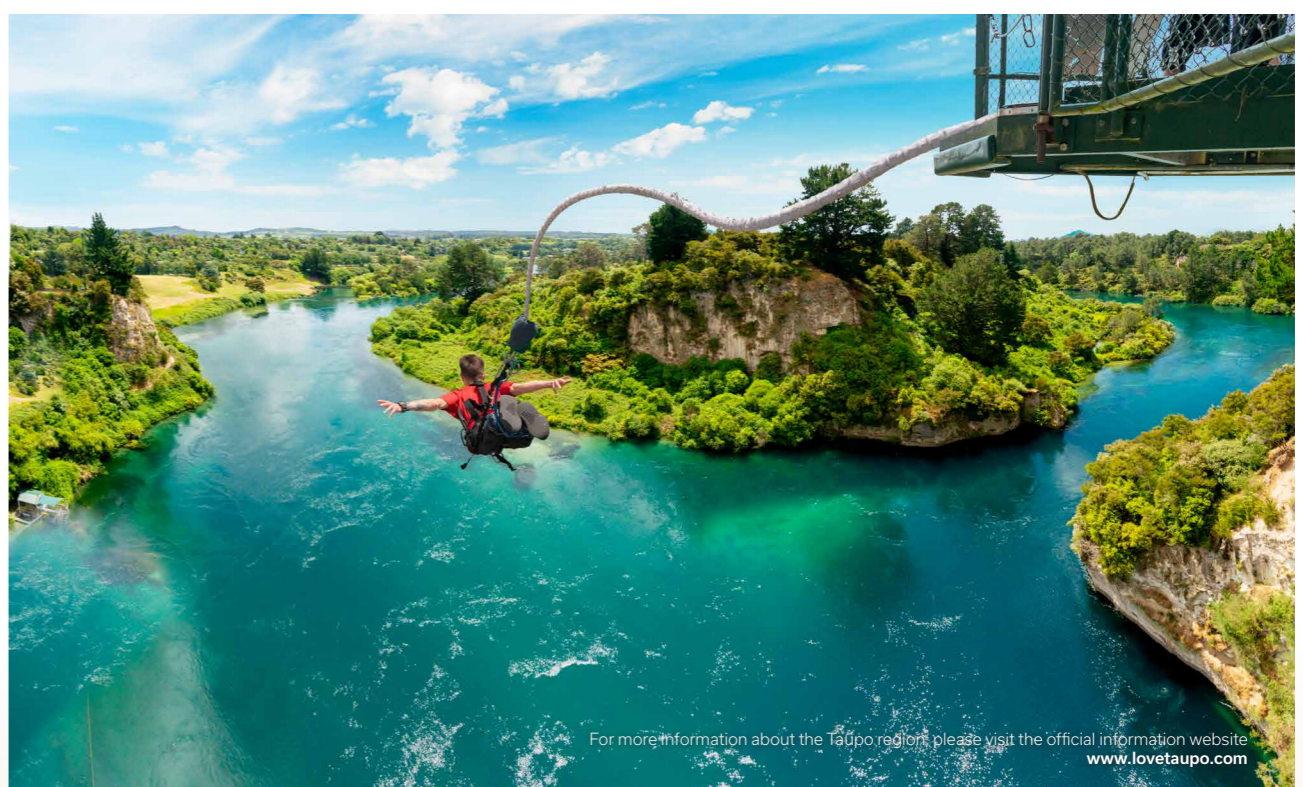
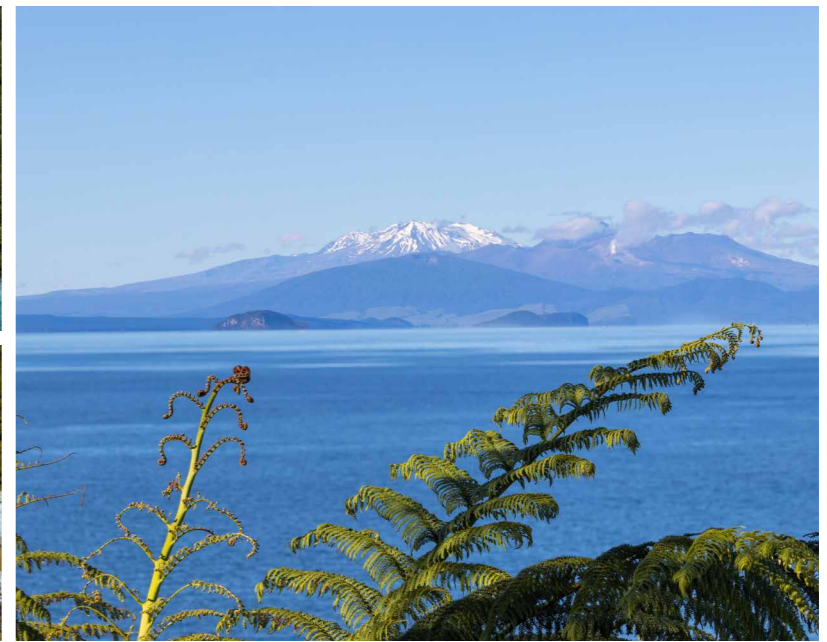
WERO

- ▶ Show courage and bravery in all school-related activities.
- ▶ Challenge yourself and others around you to be your best.

MANAAKITANGA

- ▶ Respect and support everyone around you.
- ▶ Work well with others.
- ▶ Show care and sense of duty for others and the environment.

Ka whaka Tia koe I a koe!



LOVE TAUPŌ

Taupō is a friendly and welcoming town located in the heart of New Zealand's North Island, set on the shores of the country's largest freshwater lake. Known for its natural beauty, clean environment, and relaxed lifestyle, Taupō offers an ideal setting for international students to live, learn, and grow.

Taupō is valued for its safety, strong community spirit, and manageable size. The town centre, lakefront, sports facilities, cafés, and shops are all close by, making it easy for students to find their way around and feel independent, while still being well supported.

Taupō offers an authentic New Zealand experience. The lake, forests, mountains, and rivers create endless opportunities for outdoor activities such as swimming, kayaking, hiking, skiing, and cycling.

At the same time, Taupō has a lively youth culture with sports clubs, arts, events, and cafés, making it easy to meet people and feel part of the community.

Taupō is also a place where international students are noticed and valued.

The town's strong connection between schools, families, and local organisations helps students feel included and supported. Living in Taupō allows students to experience real Kiwi life, build confidence, and develop independence in a safe and caring environment.

For many families, Taupō offers the perfect balance: a safe place to study, a supportive community, and an unforgettable New Zealand experience.

We are sure you will soon love Taupō too!

For more information about the Taupō region, please visit the official information website www.lovetauupo.com





YOUR SUPPORT TEAM

At Taupo-nui-a-Tia College, you are never on your own. Our International Support Team is here to help you feel welcome, safe, and confident from your very first day.

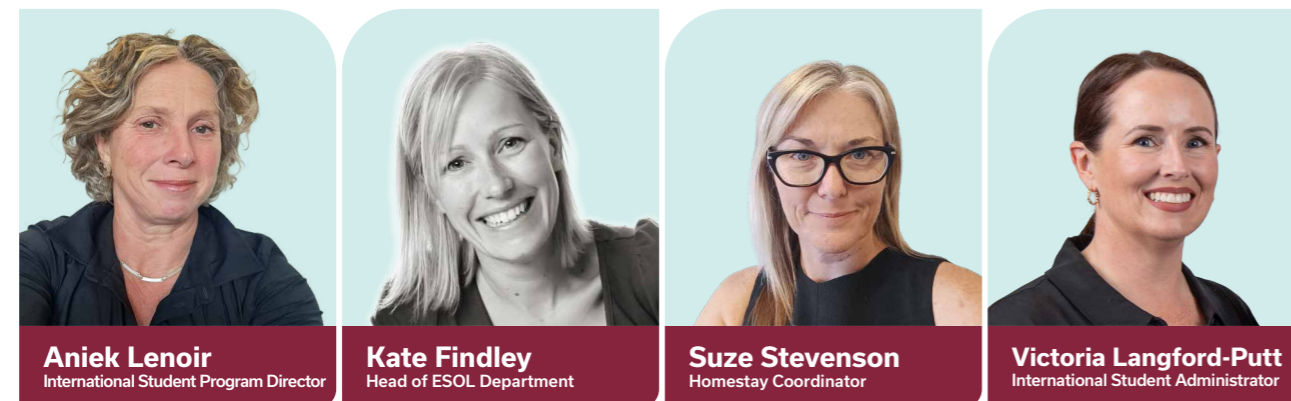
When you arrive, we help you settle in — from finding your way around school to understanding your timetable, subjects, and NCEA. We check in with you regularly to see how you are doing, both with your learning and your wellbeing, and there is always someone you can talk to if you need help or advice.

Our team also supports you outside the classroom. We stay in close contact with your homestay family and make sure your living situation is comfortable and positive. If you ever have a question, a problem, or just need a chat, the International Team is there to listen and help find a solution.

We understand that living in a new country can be exciting but sometimes challenging. That's why we focus on helping you build confidence, make friends, and feel part of the school and local community.

With small international student numbers, you'll have plenty of opportunities to connect with Kiwi students and experience real New Zealand life.

At Taupo-nui-a-Tia College, you are known, supported, and encouraged to follow your goals and dreams — and to enjoy every part of your journey in Taupō.



Aniek Lenoir
International Student Program Director

Kate Findley
Head of ESOL Department

Suze Stevenson
Homestay Coordinator

Victoria Langford-Putt
International Student Administrator

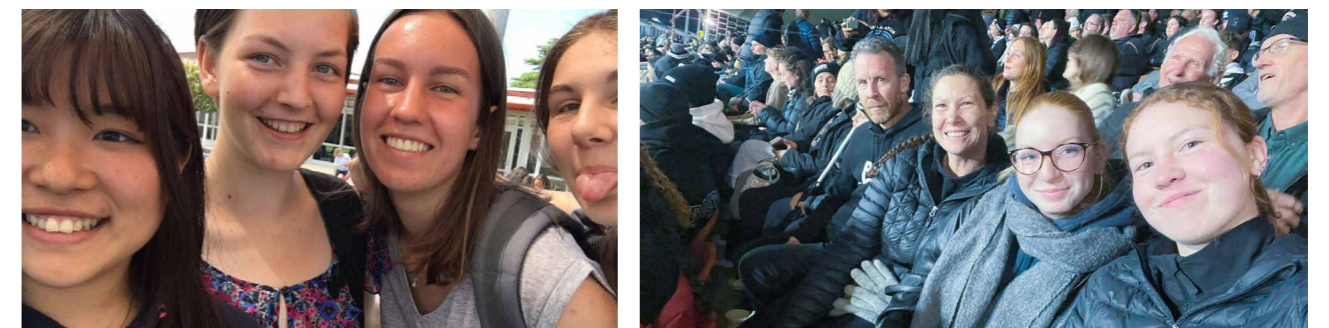
YOUR SECOND FAMILY IN TAUPŌ

Moving to a new country can be exciting — and a little daunting. Living with a new family might feel scary at first, but at Taupo-nui-a-Tia College, our homestay families are carefully trained to welcome you, support you, and help you feel like part of their family from day one.

Here's what life in a homestay is really like:

- ▶ **A warm welcome:** Your family is there to help you settle in, get used to school routines, and show you the Kiwi way of life.
- ▶ **Home-cooked connections:** Share meals, practice English naturally, and be part of family conversations and traditions.
- ▶ **New experiences:** From weekend trips, farm experiences, horse riding, or skiing, to trying new hobbies — your homestay opens doors to real Kiwi experiences.
- ▶ **Always supported:** Your family works hand-in-hand with the school's International Team, so someone is always there if you need advice, help, or a friendly chat.
- ▶ **A place to belong:** Whether it's celebrating birthdays, joining family activities, or just relaxing after school, your homestay is a safe space to grow, explore, and feel at home.

Your homestay is more than a place to stay — it's your home away from home.





LEARNING IN NEW ZEALAND

Learning in New Zealand is about more than just studying — it's about discovering how you learn best, building confidence, and enjoying school life.

Classes are interactive and supportive, and students are encouraged to ask questions, share ideas, and learn through real-life experiences.

International students also have the opportunity to complete and pass NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement), New Zealand's national school qualification.

NCEA is internationally recognised and can allow you to apply for university study in your home country, as well as in New Zealand and other countries.

Its flexible structure lets you earn credits across different subjects, focus on your strengths, and choose pathways that match your future goals.

Our college is committed to supporting each student academically, guiding them with care and encouragement as they work towards their goals.



SUBJECTS WE OFFER

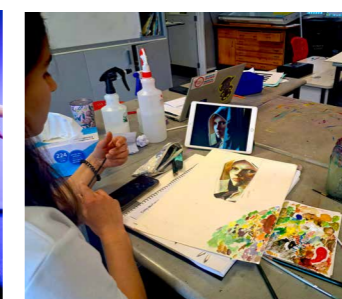
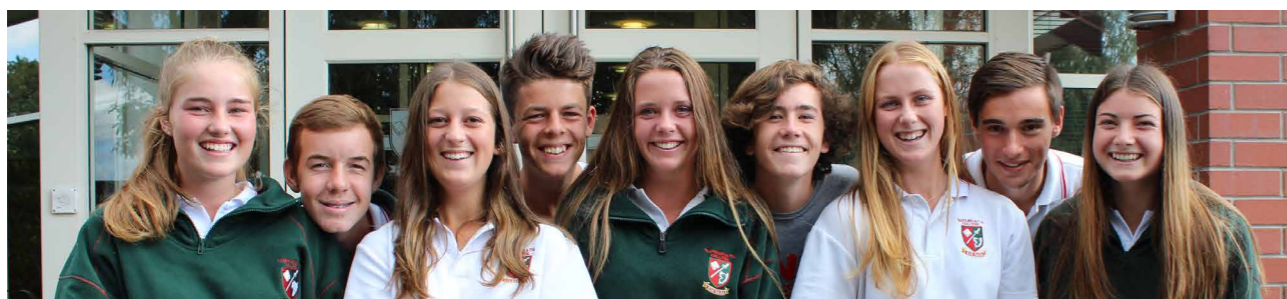
Each timetable includes six subjects. We ask students to choose eight subjects initially, in case there is a clash between two subjects.

Our school operates on a two-week timetable with 90-minute periods. This means students study only three subjects per day. Over the two-week cycle, the same subjects are scheduled on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in one week, and on Tuesday and Thursday in the following week.

This structure ensures that each subject receives the same amount of learning time.

YEAR 11, 12 & 13 SUBJECTS

LANGUAGES	SCIENCE
English French Spanish Te Reo Māori	Biology Chemistry Physics Farming Skills
THE ARTS	SOCIAL SCIENCES
Visual Arts - Design Painting Photography Drama Music Media and Technology Enhanced Performance Dance	Accounting Economics Enterprise Studies Geography Classical Studies History Tourism
HEALTH AND PE	TECHNOLOGY
Health Physical Education Sport and Outdoor Education Sports and Recreation	Design and Visual Communication Digital Technologies Engineering Fashion Design Food and Nutrition Hospitality Resistant Materials - Wood





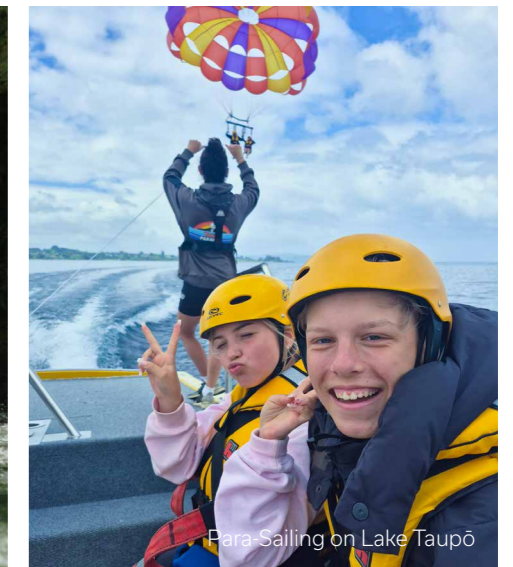
SPORTS WE OFFER

Besides the school sports, Taupō has many sport clubs who offer sports throughout the year like Martial Arts, Cycling, Racing, Running Groups, Mountain Biking, Squash, Golf, Dance, Triathlon, Tennis and many Gyms just walking distance from the college.

SCHOOL SPORTS OFFERED BY TAUPŌ-NUI-A-TIA COLLEGE

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
School athletics day	School swimming day		
Triathlon, swimming and athletics	Triathlon, swimming duathlon, cycling and cross country opportunities	Swimming, Cycling and mountain biking	Triathlon
Cricket (M/F)	Netball (F)	Netball (F)	Cricket (M/F)
Tennis	Basketball (M/F)	Basketball (M/F)	Tennis
	Rugby (M/F)	Rugby (M/F)	Touch rugby
Social Football (mixed)	Football (M/F)	Football (M/F)	Social Football (Mixed)
Social Hockey (mixed)	Hockey (M/F)	Hockey (M/F)	Social hockey (mixed)
Waka ama	Squash	Squash	Waka Ama
Rowing and sailing		Rowing	Rowing and sailing
Adventure racing/orienteering	Adventure Racing/orienteering	Adventure racing/orienteering	
Volleyball (seniors, M/F)		Volleyball starts	Volleyball (juniors, M/F)
Clay target shooting	Clay target shooting	Skiing and snowboarding	





OUR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

Alongside our strong academic focus that helps students thrive, we offer a range of term trips to ensure our students return home with a suitcase full of life changing experiences.

Our school year is divided into four terms. During Terms 1–3, international students can take part in at least two organised trips each term with the international group.

In Term 4, we offer a four-week Summer Programme for students who are not sitting exams, giving them the chance to explore even more of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Here is an example of what the year could look like:

TERM 1	TERM 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 2-day trip to Raglan – Surfing and Kayaking ▶ 1-day trip: Tongariro Alpine Crossing – an epic alpine hike 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Several Ski Trips during the Winter Season ▶ Visit to the Waitomo Glowworm Caves – including black water rafting
TERM 2	TERM 4 – Summer Programme (4 weeks)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 3-day trip to Wellington – visit Parliament, explore the waterfront, experience Te Papa, and enjoy a high-ropes adventure on the return journey ▶ 1-day trip to Rotorua – visit the Kiwi Hatchery and a Māori village, plus fun at the luge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ One-week surf camp ▶ Tongariro Crossing ▶ White-water rafting ▶ Sailing experience ▶ Two-day overnight camp ▶ Hobbiton Visit ▶ MasterChef competition ▶ ...and much more!



All trips and activities are fully supervised and highly subsidised, making them accessible and of great value for our international students.

These experiences play an important role in helping students build friendships, confidence, and unforgettable memories while studying in New Zealand.



OUR SCHOOL SPIRIT

The **"Nui Spirit"** is a well-known concept in Taupō. *Kia kaha* (be strong) is a saying often referred to at our college and reflects the resilience, pride, and determination of our school community.

Our students belong to one of four **house groups**, each named after the four volcanoes that surround our region. Throughout the year, these houses compete for the annual **House Shield**.

Points are earned through a wide range of activities, including **Spirit Week**, **Athletics Day**, our **haka competition**, as well as through positive contributions in class and by demonstrating one of our three school values.

Whole-school events such as our **School Ball** and our **School Production** (held every second year) also play an important role in strengthening our sense of belonging and the unique spirit of our college



How to Apply

To allow speedy processing, all our applications are submitted via our website:
www.taupocollege.ac.nz



You will need to provide a copy of your:

- **Passport**
 - **Most recent school reports**
-

To help us make the most appropriate homestay placement, please take time to provide a full description of yourself including your likes and dislikes.
This will allow our homestay team to allocate you to a family that is the best match for you.



Taupo-nui-a-Tia
COLLEGE

For inquiries contact:

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