



BETHLEHEM
COLLEGE

EXCELLENCE
through CHRIST



PROSPECTUS

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NAU MAI, HAERE MAI
welcome to

BETHLEHEM COLLEGE

MARK 12:31

**‘..YOU SHALL LOVE
YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS
YOURSELF. THERE IS NO
OTHER COMMANDMENT
GREATER THAN THESE’.**

Dear Prospective Parents

I am delighted to know that you are considering enrolling your child at Bethlehem College. This is a very special place, where we work hard to ensure that school is a place of satisfying learning challenges and personal growth, in the context of a community of people committed to personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Bethlehem College has a wonderful history of providing personal care for each student, and encouraging them to attain the best they can, in every area of school life. We are one College with three schools, offering one curriculum with a holistic intent. Academics, sporting and cultural activities, service and leadership opportunities are all part of what we do at Bethlehem College, helping develop our students in godly ways to become the people the Lord always planned them to be.

In this prospectus we have tried to give you a glimpse of what the school is like and what your child will be exposed to by attending Bethlehem College. I trust that as you read it you will be excited at the prospect of seeing your child developing into a mature and committed Christian, well equipped to go out and make a difference in the world.

My challenge to students is quite simple: I call for them to be committed people. Firstly, committed to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and the one who can transform their lives. Secondly, committed to involvement in school life (academics, sport, culture and service) so that they may be leaders in whatever field or endeavour they may find themselves. Thirdly, committed to excellence; that is, seeking to do everything as ‘unto the Lord’ and therefore, using the gifts and abilities they have as an act of worship to please God. And finally, committed to serving others. In a world that is increasingly self absorbed, we want our students to set a new trend, which will influence others for good.

If you identify with these things, then I look forward to receiving your application and working with you to help your children become everything God intended them to be.

Larne Edmeades
Principal



VISION

To be a Christian learning community of excellence where lives are transformed.

MISSION

To provide a biblically based, Christ-centred education equipping students for effective service and leadership.

As parents, you will be looking for a school that understands the hopes and dreams that you have for your child. You will want a school whose philosophy matches your family's beliefs and values. Bethlehem College was established to provide an alternative choice for parents like yourselves, looking for a caring school environment embracing Christian values and beliefs.

In 1987, Graham Preston, the College's founding Principal, called a meeting of like-minded individuals with the vision to open a Christian school in the Tauranga area. Subsequently, the Christian Education Trust was formed, and land in rural Bethlehem was purchased. A three day quick-build in March 1988, when 400 volunteers worked together during Cyclone Bola, resulted in A Block, the first classroom building for the new Christian school. Classes commenced in July 1988, with a roll of 110 students and 5 teaching staff.

Initially, Bethlehem College was a private independent school, but in 1999 it was integrated into the state system, with its own Special Christian Character formally agreed to between Government and College. Growth has been rapid, with a present roll cap of 1750 students from New Entrants to Year 13, including International students.



A CHRISTIAN COLLEGE & BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

Bethlehem College is an evangelical, non-denominational, co-educational Christian school, delivering education with a biblical, Christ-centred worldview, and upholding traditional Christian values and teaching.

Bethlehem College is a special place. Visitors to the College frequently comment on the distinctive atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. Of course, some of this results from the natural beauty of the grounds, with their well established oaks and kauris, green fields and glimpses of the Wairoa River in the valley below. We hope, as you walk through Bethlehem College, that you will sense something of the environment that is distinct from the natural surroundings, and ultimately, more importantly, a place set apart for God.

Education is delivered in a spiritual context, where God is honoured as Creator of the universe, Lord of our lives and the redeeming Saviour of fallen mankind. The Bible is honoured as the truth, and the basis for our outlook and practice. Learning is a process of guided discovery, where we are constantly seeking to apply biblical truth to all our thinking, and the actions and activities that result.

As a state-integrated school, we have a legal contract between the school and the Ministry of Education, entitling us to our Special Christian Character. Families seeking to enrol at Bethlehem College must be supportive of the school's Special Christian Character, preferably demonstrated by membership of, or regular attendance at, an evangelical church.

All students will be given the opportunity to consider the implications of the Christian gospel for themselves, and to discover the life that God has planned for them. Our approach is one of teaching, modelling and example, allowing students freedom of choice and remaining committed to their best welfare.

Teaching staff at Bethlehem College are committed Christians, seeking to help your child achieve a sound, balanced education, permeated by biblical thinking. They aim to apply Christian principles in their classroom culture and teaching practice, and they endeavour to model a Christian lifestyle in their daily lives.

There are aspects of our programme that are explicitly Christian. These include class devotions, scripture memorisation, prayers at assembly and in classes, Christian Living courses and Biblical Foundations. The College's desire is that we work together to nurture young men and women of God. Therefore, we invite parents to encourage their children to grow an understanding of God, his love and his purpose for their lives.

The development of strong character and a determination to shape the moral, is very important to us. Aspects of our Christian philosophy that will particularly benefit character growth in students are:

- The balance between the individual and the community
- The place of hospitality and service
- The significance of biblical leadership
- Our understanding of excellence

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

As the Bethlehem College Mission Statement affirms, we aim to prepare students for effective service and leadership. Some students have natural leadership abilities, while others prefer to be followers and part of the group.

However, biblical leadership is based on the concept of good influence, and is an attribute that all students can develop, as they understand that they have the potential to significantly influence their world for good. In order to help students develop the power to influence, our programmes include:

- The gaining of knowledge and understanding of the Bible
- The skills to think through issues
- The development of good communication and speaking skills
- Opportunities for leadership within the many sports teams, cultural groups, academic pursuits and service activities
- Other opportunities for leadership in student councils, and as senior leaders and house leaders
- Peer Support leadership for Years 12 and 13 students working in the Junior Secondary School
- Christian Studies in Years 12 and 13

It is our goal to prepare students to become men and women of God—who take an active positive role in their world, whether in study, business, home, church, sports, or government—where they will actively influence their sphere for good.

MATTHEW 5:16

**‘LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
BEFORE OTHERS,
SO THAT THEY MAY
SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS
AND GIVE GLORY TO
YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN’.**



EXCELLING AT BETHLEHEM COLLEGE

2 PETER 1:5

**‘AND IN YOUR
MORAL EXCELLENCE,
KNOWLEDGE’.**

Like most schools, we aspire to excellence for both our students and our staff. ‘Being a Christian learning community of excellence where lives are transformed’ is our Vision Statement.

What makes Bethlehem College different is our understanding of the concept of excellence. It is not seen purely in terms of excelling beyond others, but rather in doing that which pleases God. This excellence is defined more by a student’s desires and motives than by standards established by comparison with others.

Students are encouraged to work hard to achieve their best across curriculum and activities (and those who succeed with top results will be honoured and rewarded), but excellence will never be seen as something that comes at the expense of others. It is our expectation that excellence will be a natural by-product of our search to do that which is required by God, honouring Him and making the most of our God-given abilities.



1 CORINTHIANS 12:12

**‘JUST AS A BODY, THOUGH
ONE, HAS MANY PARTS,
BUT ALL ITS MANY PARTS
FORM ONE BODY, SO IT
IS WITH CHRIST’.**



THE INDIVIDUAL IN COMMUNITY

GENESIS 1:27

**‘SO GOD CREATED
MANKIND IN HIS
OWN IMAGE, IN THE
IMAGE OF GOD HE
CREATED THEM;
MALE AND FEMALE
HE CREATED THEM’.**

Your child is very important to you as an individual, and we want to work with you to help your son or daughter grow to become a mature young person. We believe each child is unique, created in the image of God, to be valued and nurtured. We offer a wide range of educational activities with the aim of encouraging all students to work towards, and to achieve, their own personal best. We want to enable students to reach their full potential, especially in those areas where they have particular giftings.

At the same time, students need to grow in their understanding of their role in community – their family, the school community, the society in which they live, and the international world beyond New Zealand. Students need to develop discernment and the ability to challenge the values of their world, with its materialistic and individualistic environment. We aim to help them to appreciate that they are created to live in relationship with others, and that their own purpose in life is achieved through community. The development of their character, moral formation and the discovery of the importance of service are dependent on their ability to live in community, and to seek values beyond mere material ones.

At Bethlehem College we strive to develop the ‘complete person’ – instilling a culture that encourages a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, a strong work ethic and special character, involvement in a wide range of school and community activities, and a life of service and leadership.





LEARNING AND THE CURRICULUM

ROMANS 12:2

‘BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND’.

At Bethlehem College, we understand that a key priority is your child’s learning. We are committed to providing an environment and culture where effective learning and teaching take place.

The core of our academic curriculum is a broad general education, focused on literacy and numeracy, and the development of scholastic ability in all students. Sports and the arts form essential ingredients of the curriculum, supporting the school’s goal of producing graduates who are balanced and committed to success. In a world so focused on sport and the arts, we need to develop young people who can be an influence in these significant areas of life for the twenty-first century.

At Primary level, good solid foundations are laid for your child’s future learning and life. The basics in literacy, numeracy, the arts, sports, and the social sciences will be established in a stimulating and caring atmosphere. Foundations for service, leadership and understanding God’s place in their lives are also pivotal.

Growth is the focus at Junior Secondary, Years 7 to 9, with hands-on, high-energy activities to capture the minds of young adolescents. In these years, students are encouraged to manage their own learning with the support of a blended approach using iPads and paper.

At Senior Secondary level, Years 10 to 13, we seek to prepare students for young adulthood, by stretching them academically, physically, socially and spiritually. Students are encouraged to explore their future in depth and to understand how to live in, and engage with, the world. We want to prepare our students for the pressures and challenges of life beyond school, so that they are positive contributors to society, without sliding into conformity.

The College supports the concept of blended learning. Essentially, using devices such as iPads and laptops enhances learning and can, if used wisely, transform the learning process for some students. These learning tools sit alongside paper and writing skills; they do not replace them. The College believes that digital discipleship must accompany the use of technology, and we seek to engage with our families to collaboratively nurture responsible and God-honouring behaviour online, thereby imbedding our concept of excellence in the virtual, as well as the physical world.





DEVELOPING TALENT IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

PSALM 150:6

‘LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH PRAISE THE LORD’.



The Performing Arts form an integral part of the curriculum at Bethlehem College. As such, the basis of all performing arts activities is founded on the same principles and values as all other parts of the curriculum. It is also where the same key competencies are developed and encouraged with all students taking part. Student Leaders, at both Junior Secondary and Senior levels, are selected for their passion, commitment and leadership skills.

Drama is well established at Bethlehem College, and the facilities in the Performing Arts Centre are world class. Drama provides a variety of performance activities, as well as leadership mentoring programmes and opportunities.

The DanceNZmade Competition is a highlight every year. It creates an environment in which teamwork and commitment are encouraged for the benefit and success of others. The Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Competition is an established tradition at Bethlehem College, and we proudly acknowledge students who have represented the school at a national level, as well as going on to The Globe Theatre in London. The senior school production tends to alternate between a musical and drama, and is strongly supported by the students. Mentoring and student leadership initiatives are seen in Musical Theatre and Dance Ministries. Dedicated and creative students have the opportunity to initiate, direct and manage select performance groups, allowing these students to explore leadership and process drama. Kapa Haka groups perform at official functions, and are an amalgam of both Primary and Secondary. Other highlights throughout the year are talent quests, class-based productions, speech competitions and debating.

There are a number of music groups that students can join. These include several choirs, catering for students from Years 3 to 13. Animoso is our audition choir which epitomises excellence in singing and performance. They have achieved national and international awards.

The Orchestra, Concert and Jazz Bands have achieved Gold awards in regional competitions and perform to a very high standard. They travel throughout New Zealand to compete in National competitions. The Junior String Group and Junior Jazz Band feed into these groups. Chamber groups are available for clarinet, saxophone, percussion, piano and strings, with students regularly taking top places at regional contests. Generally, during the year, these groups together cover 30 public music concerts or performances. Private and subsidised itinerant lessons are available in a wide range of instruments from our committed and skilful teachers.



COURAGE & RESILIENCE THROUGH SPORT

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24

‘DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT IN A RACE ALL THE RUNNERS RUN, BUT ONLY ONE RECEIVES THE PRIZE? SO RUN THAT YOU MAY OBTAIN IT’.

Through sport, the College aims to provide opportunities for students to develop their character, and to realise their potential, in ways that will use their God-given talents.

Although sport is essentially a physical activity, the potential for it to achieve much more is significant. Team sports, in particular, teach discipline, courage, loyalty, collaboration and humility. The challenge to the sports teams at Bethlehem College is to honour God in the way they play and conduct themselves – gracious in success, dignified in defeat.

The school offers students a wide range of sporting activities, alternating between summer and winter sports.

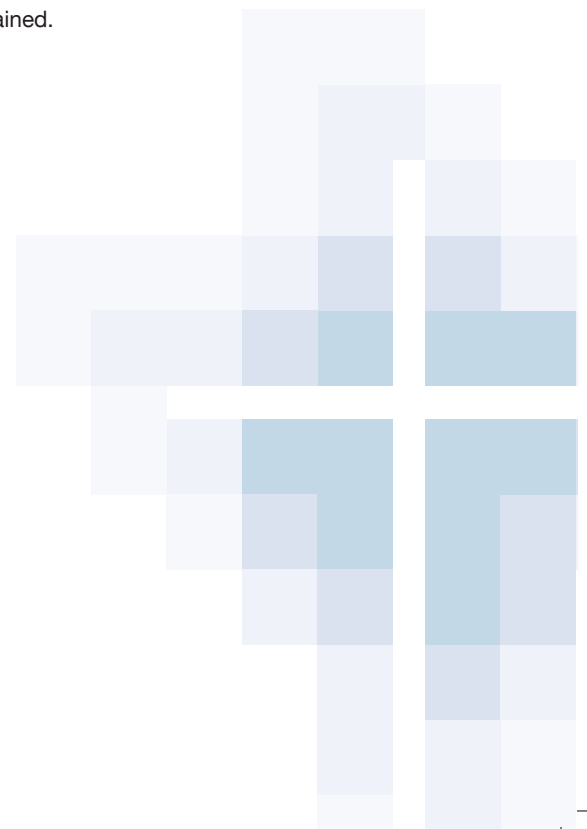
Some of the sports codes operate as clubs which rely on active parent participation. The College is very grateful to the many parents and volunteers who manage and coach teams from Primary to Senior students.

Bethlehem College employs a Director of Sport, who is supported by an administration team. These staff support the many volunteers and teachers who, week by week, deliver the winter and summer sports programmes.

The College competes in tournaments, both at the Secondary and Junior Secondary levels, and participates in sports exchanges with other schools.

Student Leaders celebrate sporting success at College assemblies, communicating upcoming events and games, and working with the Sports Council. The student council represents the various codes and organises sports activities at lunchtimes during the week.

The Christian Education Trust, representing our proprietors, has invested heavily in providing amenities and facilities to support a comprehensive sports programme at the College. This, together with training, and the use of development officers in the main sporting codes, ensures that the fitness and skills of athletes is nurtured and sustained.





HOSPITALITY AND SERVICE

MATTHEW 22:37–39

**‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE
LORD YOUR GOD WITH
ALL YOUR HEART AND
WITH ALL YOUR SOUL
AND WITH ALL YOUR
MIND... AND YOU SHALL
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR
AS YOURSELF’.**

The concept of hospitality is important at Bethlehem College. Laws for the protection of the stranger and the vulnerable go back centuries to the ancient codes of the Hebrews found in the Old Testament. Upon enrolment at Bethlehem College, the welcome to your children will be the same whatever their heritage or nationality, whether they are academically inclined or struggling, whether they are artistically or athletically gifted.

Our goal is to make hospitality a hallmark of our culture here. We want to teach our students, in their day-to-day living, to be inclusive of their peers who are different from themselves. We want them to be tolerant of and welcoming to the vulnerable and weak.

Alongside a willingness to welcome, is a heart for service. It is our hope that Bethlehem College will be a training ground for students to build into their lives an attitude of service, both within the College and beyond. Students will be encouraged to participate in the numerous opportunities for service at school, such as the Cancer Society Daffodil Day, Food Bank drives, the 40 Hour Challenge, support of a community outreach through the Merivale Community Centre, and the senior student ‘Service Through Missions’ trips to the Pacific Islands and other nations.

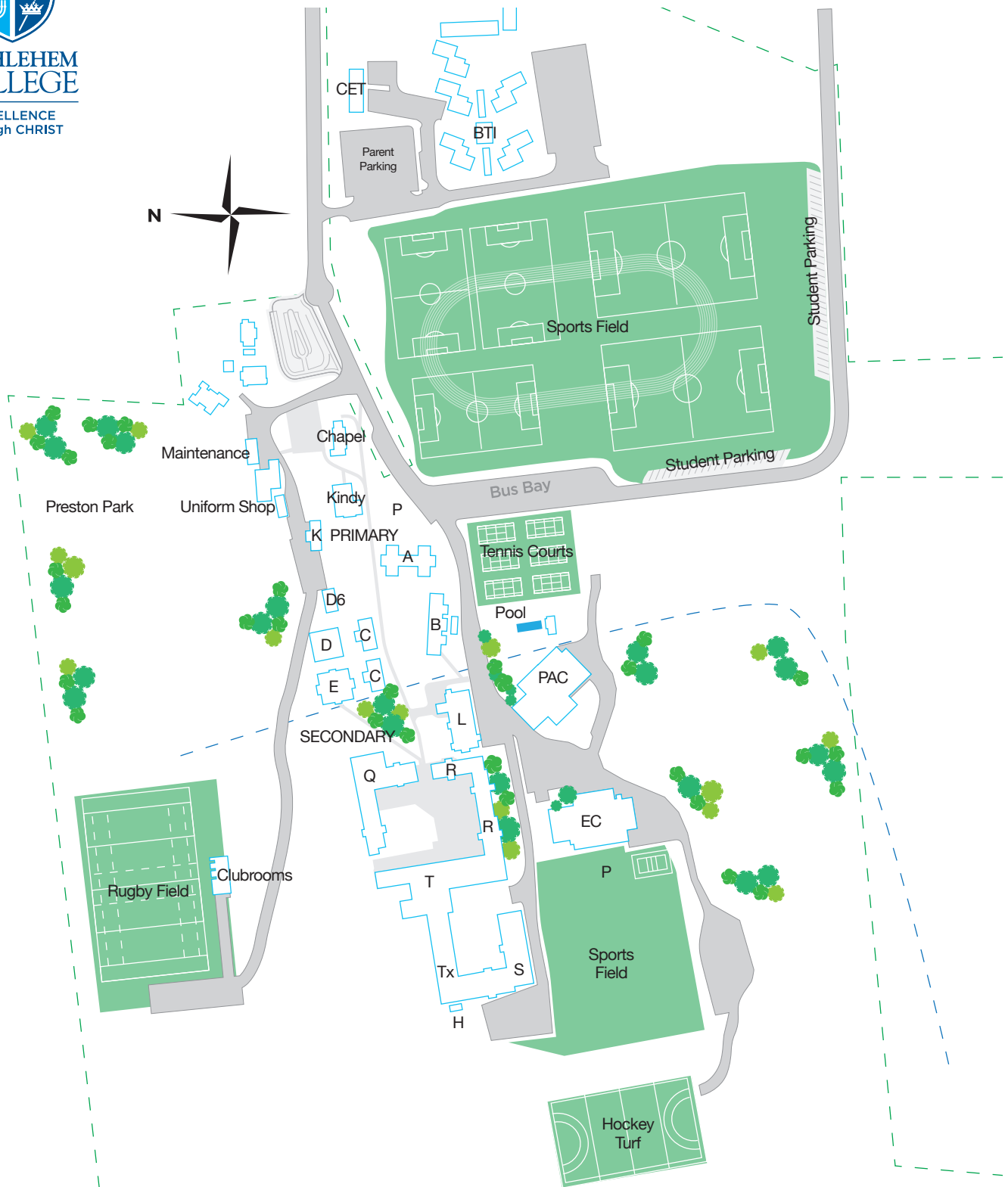




BETHLEHEM COLLEGE

EXCELLENCE through CHRIST

CAMPUS MAP



KEY

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|------|---|
| A- | Year 1 | Q- | English, Maths, Career Pathways, Deans, Learning Support |
| B- | Year 2 | R- | Year 7-8 |
| C- | Year 3-4 | S- | Science, Canteen |
| D- | Year 4-6 | T- | Social Sciences, Counseling |
| D6- | Art, Speech & Drama | Tx- | Art, Hard Materials, Nutrition & Health, Technology, Textiles |
| E- | Year 5-6 | BTI- | Bethlehem Tertiary Institute |
| K- | Year 0 | CET- | Christian Education Trust |
| H- | Horticulture | PAC- | Performing Arts Centre (Auditorium, Drama, Music) |
| L- | Administration, Library | EC- | Events Centre (Gymnasium, Sports & PE Departments) |
| P- | Playground | | |

ORGANISATION AND FACILITIES

BETHLEHEM COLLEGE IS COMMITTED TO EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING.

The College is made up of:

- Primary: Years 0 to 6, where the foundations are established.
- Secondary: Years 7 to 13, where students are encouraged to experience growth and change. In the latter years students are introduced to speciality subjects which will allow them to explore their potential.
- Bethlehem College Chapman: Years 0 to 8, situated in Rotorua is an integral part of Bethlehem College. Students who attend Bethlehem College Chapman have automatic entry to Bethlehem College in Year 9, as they are already Bethlehem College students. There are dedicated buses that travel between Rotorua and Tauranga daily.

Primary classes occupy A to E blocks, which centre on the B block quadrangle and the Kauri grove. Secondary has its own quadrangles surrounded by double storey blocks, R, T, S, and Q. The two areas of the College are linked by the Centrum, a circular, outdoor mini amphitheatre, suitable for students to gather together, both informally and for more formal occasions. The first building of the school on Elder Lane is the Chapel, standing as a significant visual statement of the College's Christian philosophy and worldview.

Junior Primary class sizes are no more than 25 (smaller at Year 0 and 1), and Middle and Upper Primary class sizes are no more than 28.

At Years 7 to 9, students are placed in classes with homeroom teachers for the core subjects, moving to specialist teachers for other subjects. From Years 10 to 13, there is increasing specialisation, with students choosing their subjects from a wide selection of options.

All Secondary students are placed in a 'House' for pastoral care and for various sporting, cultural and service activities. Each house is divided into K (Koinonia) Groups. Year 10 to 13 students are each allocated a K Group for devotions and school administration. They stay together, usually with the same K Group teacher, for the duration of their time at Bethlehem College.

The main enrolment intakes for new students into Bethlehem College are:

- New Entrants – children who attend any of the CET's early childhood centres are given excellent preparation for the College, although automatic right of entry to the College is not guaranteed.
- Year 7 – the number of homeroom classes increases from three in Year 6 to seven in Year 7.
- Year 9 – additional classes are added.
- Years 12 and 13 – the senior years, as vacancies become available, which tends to happen when students leave for tertiary study or employment.

As well as classrooms and the Chapel, Bethlehem College is well endowed with other excellent facilities which will greatly enhance your child's education. Specialist classrooms include computer suites, technology rooms, a well-stocked library, art rooms and a number of science laboratories.

The Bethlehem College Events Centre provides an excellent venue for indoor physical education and sports, as well as an auditorium for assemblies and major events.

The provision of a wonderful Performing Arts Centre in 2009 has allowed us to offer improved opportunities in the teaching of music, drama and dance within the school. The facility includes a 600 seat theatre, a hall, specialist drama and music rooms, and a foyer and full commercial kitchen for hospitality.

Outdoors, students are provided with adventure playgrounds, a primary swimming pool, tiger turf tennis/netball courts, cricket nets, football pitches, cricket ovals, an artificial hockey turf and a rugby field. The nearby Wairoa River is an ideal training ground for rowing and other water-based sports.

WHAT WE OFFER

JUNIOR SECONDARY YEAR 7–9

INTELLECTUAL

Christian Living
English
Maths
Social Studies
Science - in Labs
Reading

Yr 7–8 Rotations

Specialist Teachers:

Art
Drama
Food
International Languages
Māori
Materials Technology
Music
Textiles

Yr 9 Options:

Art
Computers
Design / Visual
Communication
Drama
French
Home Economics
Māori
Music
Spanish
Textiles

CULTURAL

Kapahaka
Marae Visit–Yr 9
Drama Society
Shakespeare Club
Dance Groups
Talent Quests
Concert Band
Jazz Band
Orchestra
String Chamber Groups
Percussion Ensemble
Choirs

Individual tuition in
a variety of instruments,
vocal, speech & drama

Competitions:

Tauranga and Wellington
Jazz Festivals
National Concert Band
Festival
The Big Sing National
Choir Competition
Rotorua Rhapsody
Music Festival
National Chamber
Music Competition
Waikato Band and
Orchestra Festival

PHYSICAL

Athletics
Basketball
Badminton
Beach Volleyball
Cricket
Cross Country
Football
Gymsport
Hockey
Multi Sport
Netball
Orienteering
Rock Climbing
Rowing
Rugby
Squash

Table Tennis
Touch Rugby
Volleyball
Waterpolo

Other:

Yr 7-8 Weekly Sport
AIMS Tournament
BOP Zone
Sports–Yr 7-8
Sport Exchange Camps
Yr 7 Ngamuwahine Camp
Yr 8 Matakana Island Camp
Yr 9 BMAC Camp

SERVICE

Christian Living - Bible Study
Horizontal K groups (Homerooms)
Restorative Practice
Digital Discipleship
Student Leadership
Student Council
House Competitions
Fundraising for Charities
Strength Finders - Yr 7
7 Habits - Yr 8
Peer Support
Life Education
El Grego–Anti-bullying presentation
Prayer Day
Visiting Performing Arts Ministry Teams
First Aid Courses
Evangelism Assemblies

WHAT WE OFFER

SENIOR SECONDARY YEAR 10–13

INTELLECTUAL

Accounting
Agriculture, Horticulture
Art, Painting, Design
Biblical Foundations
Biology
Chemistry
Classics
Christian Living
Computer Studies
Drama
Early Childhood
Economics
English/ ESOL
Enterprise Studies
Gateway
Geography
Health
History
Languages - French, Spanish, Māori
Maths - Statistics, Calculus

Music, Sound production
Nutrition and Health
Outdoor Education
PE
Physics
Social Studies
Sports Science
Science, Earth and Space
Science
Technology - Materials, Textiles, Design & Visual Communication

Options:
Extension in Maths
Scholarship/ University level courses
6 subjects Yr 12 / 5 Yr 13
Bring Your Own Device
Careers Department
Deans by Year Group
Learning Support Centre

CULTURAL

Dramatic Society School Production
Shakespeare Club
Dance Groups
Talent Quests
Kāpāhaka Group
Band Concert
Jazz Band
Orchestra
String Chamber Groups
Percussion Ensemble
Choirs - Animoso, Cantare, BC Lads

Other:
Private tuition in a variety of instruments, including vocal, speech and drama

Competitions:
Tauranga and Wellington
Jazz Festivals
National Concert Band Festival
The Big Sing National Choir Competition
Rhapsody Rotorua Music Festival
National Chamber Music Competition
Waikato Band and Orchestra Festival
International trips to China, Hong Kong and Sydney

PHYSICAL

Athletics
Basketball
Badminton
Beach Volleyball
Cricket
Cross Country
Equestrian
Fencing
Football
Gymsport
Hockey
Multi Sport
Netball
Rock Climbing
Rowing
Rugby
Squash

Table Tennis
Tennis
Touch Rugby
Volleyball
Waterpolo

Other:
Summer/ Winter Tournaments
School Exchanges
High Performance Programme

SERVICE

Digital Discipleship
Restorative Practice used by Deans
Student Leadership for Yr 12-13 students
Leadership Training
Service Through Missions
Peer Support
Student Council
House Competitions
Fundraising for Charities



ENROLMENT PROCESS

1. Application
2. Confirmation
3. Submit Supporting Documentation
4. Invitation to Interview
5. Offer of Placement

SCHOOL CONTACTS

REGISTRAR (FOR ALL ENROLMENTS)

Phone: 07 579 1809

Email: registrar@beth.school.nz

SCHOOL OFFICE

Phone: 07 576 6769

Email: office@beth.school.nz

INTERNATIONAL

Phone: 07 579 1856

Email: international@beth.school.nz

FINANCE

Phone: 07 579 1825

Fax: 07 579 1898

Email: finance@beth.school.nz

UNIFORM SHOP

Phone: 07 579 1716

Email: uniform.shop@beth.school.nz

SOCIAL

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BETHLEHEM
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