



# OTAGO BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL HOUSE

[www.obhs.school.nz](http://www.obhs.school.nz)

[03 477 5109](tel:034775109)

**‘RECTI CULTUS PECTORA ROBORANT’ —  
“THE 'RIGHT' LEARNING BUILDS A HEART  
OF OAK!”**

Founded on August 3rd, 1863, Otago Boys' High School is one of New Zealand's oldest boys' Secondary schools.

The school boasts excellent facilities both on campus and off, as beautiful heritage buildings are complemented by state-of-the-art modern facilities in the main teaching areas.





# INTRODUCTION

Otago Boys' School House has provided a home away from home to boys since 1871. Our boarders come predominantly from regional Otago, Southland and South Canterbury. With approximately 140 boys enrolled, we have a very rich diversity of life at School House.

Being part of our boarding community will provide your son with support to achieve academically and to gain great social skills. He will learn how to function effectively, form positive relationships respect, courtesy, and cooperation.

The hostel aims to create an environment where your son will feel at home and can embrace his interests. Respect and positive reinforcement provide the backbone to hostel life.

Social events and extracurricular activities keep boys entertained and challenged. While supervised Prep helps boys to stay focused on their studies.

**SCHOOL HOUSE  
EXPECTS  
RESIDENTS TO  
ABIDE BY THE  
VISION AND  
VALUES OF OTAGO  
BOYS' HIGH  
SCHOOL.**

**VISION**  
Crafting Men of Oak

**VALUES**  
Perseverance - Manawanui  
Excellence - Hiranga  
Courage - Toa  
Honour - Hōnour  
Respect - Whakaute

**MISSION  
STATEMENT**  
Providing a safe environment  
where School House boys  
happily grow into genuine,  
honest, proud young men,  
adaptable and resilient.



# MEET THE TEAM

**Director of Boarding**  
John



**Matron**  
Susan



**Caretaker**  
Howie



**Assistant Managers**  
Atu & Leah



**Head Chef**  
Donna



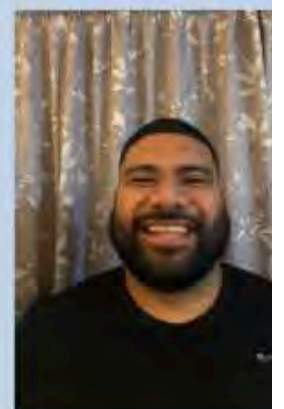
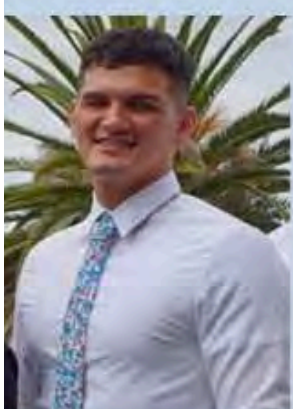
**Housekeeping**  
Carolyn, Kerry, Karen & Mandy



**Kitchen Chefs**  
Nicola & Glenn



**Housemasters and Van Drivers**  
Stanton, Seb LS, Seb W, Karen, JT, Ruben, Caitlin, Tui





# POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LIVING

School House is an integral part of Otago Boys' High School. It is imperative that all boarders experience a safe environment in which to develop.

School House positive behavior management policies and procedures are designed to ensure that all boarders experience an environment where they feel safe, respected and where their dignity is protected.

Our behaviour code 'Above the Hoops' (part of our school wide PB4L programme) is the standard of maturity and self-policing always expected of all boarders, by all staff, and is clearly articulated in both the school and hostel environment. Rules are explained, and boarders are informed about the consequences for breaking rules.



At all times staff will advise and support students in meeting the expectations of the 'Above the Hoops' code. Positive reinforcement will always be used to ensure that boarders are acknowledged for good behavior.

When a student falls below the code, this is referred to as 'Below the Hoops.' When appropriate, a restorative approach, repairing the harm is used. Boys will be required to acknowledge their actions, engage in a consequence and then in a resolution process to repair any harm caused. This may be in the form of 'sort out' meetings, or could be a fully restorative approach involving families.





# COMMON DAILY STRUCTURE

## WEEKDAYS

**7:00am** Wake up  
**7:20am** Room inspections  
**7:30am** Breakfast begins  
**8:35am** Leave for school  
**11:05am** Lunch at school  
**3:05pm** School ends  
**3:30 - 5:30pm** After school activities or free time  
**5:30pm** Dinner and evening announcements  
**6:15 - 8pm** Prep staggered in year groups  
**9:15 - 9:45** Lights out respectively age appropriate

## WEEKENDS

**8-10am** Breakfast  
**10am** Saturday Sports  
**11-12:30pm** Lunch at hostel Free time activities  
**5:00pm** Dinner  
**6pm** Free time/housemasters' activities  
**9:45 - 10:30pm** Years 9, 10 & 11 lights out  
**11 pm** Years 12 & 13 lights out





# WHY CHOOSE OBHS?

**BECAUSE WE KNOW BOYS**



OBHS School House believe the best academic results happen through the right learning and organized Prep. Boys in the hostel gain great personal independence, adaptability and resilience with their peers. They are exposed to a diversity of cultures and a chance to experience life in the city..

## **OPPORTUNITIES AND ACTIVITIES**

One of the advantages of a boarding school in the city is the many sporting, academic and cultural ventures that are available to pupils.

OBHS provide extracurricular activities on tap. Some of these activities being; Kapa Haka, Musical productions, Guitar, Piano, Rugby, Cricket, Rowing, Hockey (summer and winter), Touch Rugby, Tennis, Athletics, Cross Country, Basketball, Football, Golf, Badminton, Mountain biking, Volleyball, Futsal, Trap shooting, Curling, Ice Hockey, Swimming, Water Polo, Karate, Cross Fit, Fencing, Darts, Pool, Table Tennis and Debating.

We have found that the happiest boys and those who get most out of boarding are the boys who get involved in a variety of activities. We support the boys in their endeavours.



# WEEKEND ACTIVITIES AND OFF-SITE EXCURSIONS

Alongside sport and free time, the hostel runs a variety of organised activities and excursions, providing boys with a chance to explore new interests and socialise outside the hostel environment.

On select Sundays, when there is a free weekend, the assistant managers will organise an event such as paintball, zorbing, ten-pin bowling, and trips to local beaches. Many of these activities are included in the hostel fees, although for some special excursions, an additional cost may apply. Parents will always be notified in advance if there is an extra charge. Participation in these activities is compulsory for Year 9 and 10 students and optional for older year levels.

All activities and excursions are carefully planned and supervised. They follow Otago Boys' High School's "Education Outside the Classroom" (EOTC) guidelines, with attention given to ensuring safe staff-to-student ratios.

These activities offer valuable opportunities for boys to stay active, build friendships, and enjoy new experiences during their weekends.







Weekend and overnight leave is managed through an online system that requires proper approval from both parents and boarding staff. There are guidelines around who boarders can stay with, expectations around behaviour, and timing for leave requests and returns. Supervision while on leave is the responsibility of parents and hosts, not the school. Technology use and communication are also managed to support student wellbeing and accountability.

- Boys are not to return to the school house during their leave period.
- Return is expected by 9pm Sunday (8pm for juniors), unless arranged otherwise.
- School is not responsible for boys during their leave.
- Issues with REACH or urgent matters: Contact John Hedges – 022 495 6303.
- Leave must be applied for and approved via REACH.
- Leave needs to be put in by 7pm Thursday to help manage food orders.
- Parents must vet and approve any non-parent hosts.
- Leave with those under 25 (e.g., siblings in student flats) is discouraged.
- Years 9–11 must hand in mobile phones nightly by 8.30pm.



# ‘WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING AT HOSTEL?’

**Jackson Stevens**

“Getting to make a whole lot of connections and making friends for life”

**Tom Wilson**

“Create life long friendships and the brotherhood”

**Al Nicolson**

“Basically, it’s like one big sleepover!”

**Will Nichol**

“Hostel helps me focus on studies more than if I were at home”

**Connor Harris**

“Hostel boys are nice boys”

**Izaah Iosefo**

“Love being at hostel because you get to hang out with all the boys”

**Caleb Ede**

“Great opportunities inside and outside of hostel”

**Jesse Steel**

“I love the interaction between the hostel boys and all of the staff”

**Jackson Templeton**

“Hostel is awesome because there is always something to do and there is always someone to hang out with”



# REACH

REACH enables us to more easily keep track of each boarder's in-house or on-leave status. Individual details about each boarder's life in the dorms can be loaded into the app, helping us build an easily accessible and clear picture of each boarder's wellbeing. This information is available to the housemasters on duty and can be reported back to caregivers.



- Parents will be sent an invitation to join REACH prior to their son beginning the school year.
- More than one sibling can be linked to your account.
- Housemasters will use REACH to sign boys out for sports practices, appointments, tutoring, and trips to town.
- Some other types of leave will require parental approval via REACH each time the leave is requested.





# SCHOOL HOUSE POLICIES

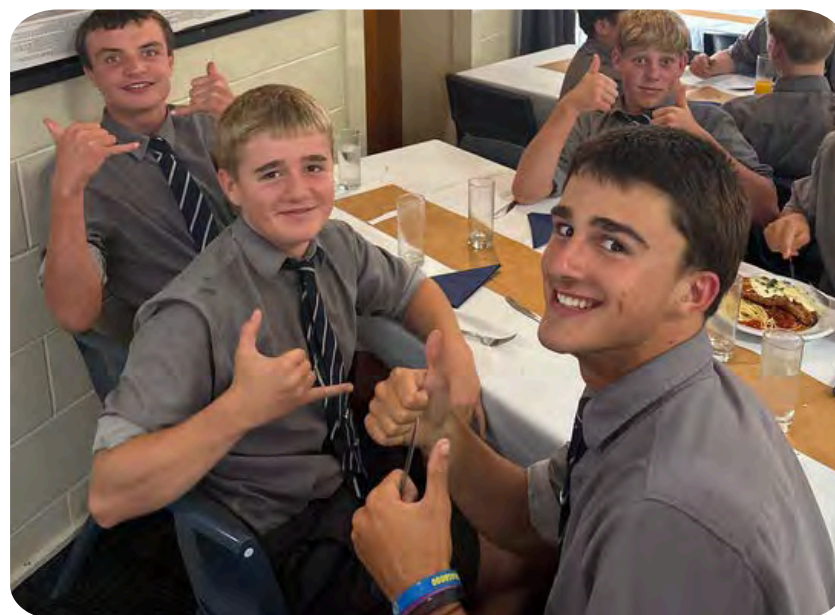
## Gating

Gating is one means of disciplining those who do not comply with the rules. While gated, boarders will not be allowed to leave the house, with the exception of attending school, participating in sports practices or games, after which they must return immediately. Home or other weekend leave cannot be taken for granted during gating periods.



## Catering

Our Catering staff aim to help boarders develop good eating habits, by providing a healthy and well balanced selection of food for growing and active young men. If you would like to discuss your son's special dietary needs and nutritional requirements, such as allergies, please do not hesitate to contact our Kitchen Manager.



## Bikes, Skateboards and scooter

Boarders are permitted to have bikes, skateboards and scooters at the boarding house as long as they are stored appropriately. They are expected to obey all rules and instructions relating to them and use them only where and when permitted.

## Firearms and Dangerous Equipment

All firearms (used for trapshooting, mainly) brought into the boarding house must be clearly named and held by the Boarding Manager and put into his care immediately upon arrival. This includes other dangerous sporting equipment such as hunting knives and spearguns that boys may be holding or transporting between the house and home. No boy is to bring ammunition to the boarding house.

## Van Use

The School House will provide transport daily for those who have sporting commitments and also for those who require transport to and from the bus depot and airport. A whiteboard can be found in the hallway in the office area where all relevant information is to be recorded. Your son must include his name, date, destination, leave and pick up times, and finally the number of passengers. This information should be written up for the housemasters to see each day. It is important to be flexible with the timing of pick-ups and drop off's as the housemaster will most likely be juggling a number of trips at once. Your son should also be prepared to order a taxi if a ride is not possible.



## Lost Property

Boys should not borrow money or other items from other boys. Nor should they leave money lying around dorms or bedrooms.





# MITCHELL CUP

The Mitchell Cup is the hostel inter-house competition. Boys are divided into four houses (Nicholson, Thomson, Campbell and Hawthorne) and compete in events throughout the year to gain points toward the Mitchell Cup. Each house is led by the year 13s, and events are organised by the hostel staff.

- Some events include:
- Touch rugby competition
  - Basketball
  - Indoor Rowing
  - Darts
  - Pool
  - Table Tennis •
  - Hostel Haka Competition
  - Quiz Night
  - Make a banner Competition
  - Swimming



# PASTORAL CARE AND WELLBEING



At our boarding house, all staff are actively involved in supporting the pastoral care of our students. Boys are encouraged to approach any of our in-house team—including Housemasters, Lead Housemasters, Assistant Managers, the Matron, or the Director of Boarding—if they have concerns about any aspect of boarding life.

Stymie is an encrypted, anonymous online platform that lets students quietly report issues like bullying, self-harm, or harassment, delivering real-time alerts to school staff for swift response. Otago Boys' High School, School House uses Stymie to give students a safe and confidential way to speak up on their own behalf or for peers.

Additional support is available through James Howey, our resident counsellor who visits twice a week, as well as the school health nurse, counsellors, deans, form teachers, and other staff. All matters are handled with care, respect, and confidentiality. Each week, a pastoral care meeting is held to discuss student wellbeing and ensure any concerns are addressed.

Supporting positive wellbeing is a key focus for us, and each term we run a variety of wellbeing initiatives, from special dinners and school functions, to sports and student-led activities. If you have any suggestions for something the boys might enjoy, please don't hesitate to get in touch.





# A NOTE FROM THE MATRON

We are looking forward to your son joining our School House family where we try our best to create a home away from home environment, as much as possible. When you come along for the orientation sleepover we will give you medical enrolment forms for the Maori Hill Clinic. Ph 03 4640044 where it is advisable for your son to be on their database and cheaper to enrol your son for ongoing visits. If you prefer to keep your own GP then you have the option to enrol as a casual patient only. It is preferable that you have a Dunedin dentist arranged for your son before he starts here. A lot of boys are enrolled at Lumino Dentists on Pitt Street. Ph 03 4770039. They are located in close proximity to the hostel. In cases where emergency medical treatment is required we either use Dunedin Urgent Doctors or the Dunedin Public Hospital Emergency Department.





# GEAR LIST

## **Please keep in mind that storage is limited, and pack accordingly.**

Note: All clothing must be named. You will require at least 200 name tags. We recommend 'Name it Labels NZ' - sewn-on on woven ones are the best. Laundry Net Bags will be in your son's cubby hole in the laundry upon arrival and your hostel account will be charged \$26.

### **Uniform - Junior**

- Navy Blue OBHS jersey
- Grey shirt x 2 • Grey shorts x 2
- OBHS School socks x 3 or 4
- Black leather lace up shoes • School tie x 2 (junior)
- OBHS Physical Education Uniform (available from Otago Sports depot)
- Wet weather anorak jacket available from the U shop 84 Filleul street Dunedin.

### **Uniform - Senior**

- Navy Blue OBHS vest (optional)
- White shirt x 2-3
- Grey trousers x 2
- Black dress socks x 3
- Black leather lace up shoes
- School tie (senior)
- OBHS Physical Education Uniform
- Wet weather anorak jacket (optional)
- Otago Boys' High School Senior Blazer

### **Other clothing**

- 1 pair casual shoes
- 1 pair of School shoes
- 1 pair training shoes
- 2 pairs of shorts
- 1 pair of jeans
- 3 T- shirts
- 1 sweatshirt
- 3 pairs of sport socks
- 2 pairs of Pyjamas
- 5 – 6 pairs of underwear
- Polyprops for winter Rugby practice gear

### **Bedding:**

- 1 Mattress protector
- 2 fitted sheets (single or King single)
- 2 flat sheets

### **Bedding cont.**

- 1 duvet inner
  - 1 Duvet cover
  - 1 pillow
  - 2 pillowcases
  - 1 polar fleece blanket
- A laundry bag will be provided and charged to your account. (\$26.00)
- It can be useful to have a small laundry basket or a plastic tub for transporting washing to and from the laundry. Something collapsible is best because storage space is limited.

### **Personal Items**

- Toothbrush
- Hairbrush/comb
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Deodorant – ROLL ON ONLY – NO 'SPRAY ON' or AEROSOL CANS ALLOWED
- Soap/Shower Gel
- Shoe Nugget
- Padlock with two keys
- Net laundry bag – (compulsory, provided at a cost of \$25 charged to account)
- Alarm clock for Year 9 and 10 students
- Two chargers for each of their electronic devices

### **Prohibitions and Restrictions - The following are not permitted to students at School House:**

- Pornography
- Electric blankets
- Aerosol deodorants
- Knives and weapons of any kind
- Tobacco and smoking paraphernalia
- Matches, lighters, candles and fireworks
- Alcohol, drugs and prohibited substances
- Being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or prohibited substances
- Spitting, littering and willfully causing damage (including graffiti)
- Personal televisions, heaters, refrigerators, cookers, etc.
- Gum (chewing gum, bubble gum and similar products)
- Scooters
- Ball games and other vigorous physical activities are to be engaged in outdoors and away from gardens and areas where there are windows



A group of students in swimwear are gathered on a rocky shore and swimming in a river. The scene is bright and sunny, with a clear blue sky and lush green trees in the background. The students are of various ages, mostly teenagers, and are engaged in water activities. The text 'SCHOOL HOUSE COMMITTEE' is overlaid on the right side of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# SCHOOL HOUSE COMMITTEE

School House works actively alongside the OBHS community. The purpose of the School House Committee is to align through strategic planning the philosophy of the school, with the boarding community to improve the opportunities and educational outcomes for all School House students.

At termly meetings, the Parent Committee hear from the Director of Boarding and the Rector on the progress of School House students, they have an input into the hostel policies and the student development spend, as well as acting as a sounding board for all parents.

Membership of the committee is through volunteering; there are no elections, although we like to have one parent from each of the year levels. Parents commit to one meeting per term and to assisting the Director with enhancing the social connections that are so important in country areas.



# STAY CONNECTED

School House has regular updates on our website and social media.

Below are the accounts we would love for you to follow and stay connected.



Facebook  
[@obhshostel](#)



Instagram  
[@obhshostel](#)



# THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING OBHS SCHOOL HOUSE



## Key Contacts

Director of Boarding: John Hedges  
[john.hedges@obhs.school.nz](mailto:john.hedges@obhs.school.nz)

Matron: Susan Landels  
[susan.landels@obhs.school.nz](mailto:susan.landels@obhs.school.nz)



## Stay Connected

Website: [obhs.school.nz](http://obhs.school.nz)

Social Media: Follow us for updates, news, and glimpses into daily life at School House

We hope this handbook has given you valuable insights into life at School House and the unique opportunities that await. Our commitment to fostering a supportive and enriching environment ensures that every boy can thrive both academically and personally. We look forward to welcoming your son to the School House family. Together, we will build a foundation of excellence, honour, respect, perseverance, and courage.