

International Prospectus 2022



Mt Hobson Academy Years 11-13



Pathway to Opportunity





Mt Hobson Academy: A Model for the 21st Century

No ordinary school

The Mt Hobson Academy (MHA) offers a truly unique individualized educational experience that fully engages your child at the most critical time in their schooling. Children enrolling in years 11-13, follow the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) pathway as well as experience a level of personal support and teaching style that motivates them to learn and mature their thinking. MHA is registered as a private school which grew out of Mt Hobson Middle School in 2017.

With very small class sizes (12 students per class), the academy can truly personalize and tailor learning to support students achieve their academic and personal goals

A place where students can be who they want to be

The academy, which has a maximum capacity of 30, is designed for students who will benefit from being in a small, positive environment which allows them to flourish as individuals, unconstrained by traditional teaching styles.

Student's testimony

“Being a student of the academy was the most welcoming and calming environment I could have asked for. Having the freedom to do my work in a room on my own, as well as having the freedom to work alone on days where I felt down really helped with my learning and the ability to improve my mental health. Learning via the online classes was a change from other schools. It allowed me to have control over my own learning which ended up being a key skill for university. The staff adjusting to a teaching style that best worked for me, while also adjusting the style for other students, is something very rare, as well as being a core reason to my success in the academy and has attributed me making it to university.”





The Core Values of MHA are:

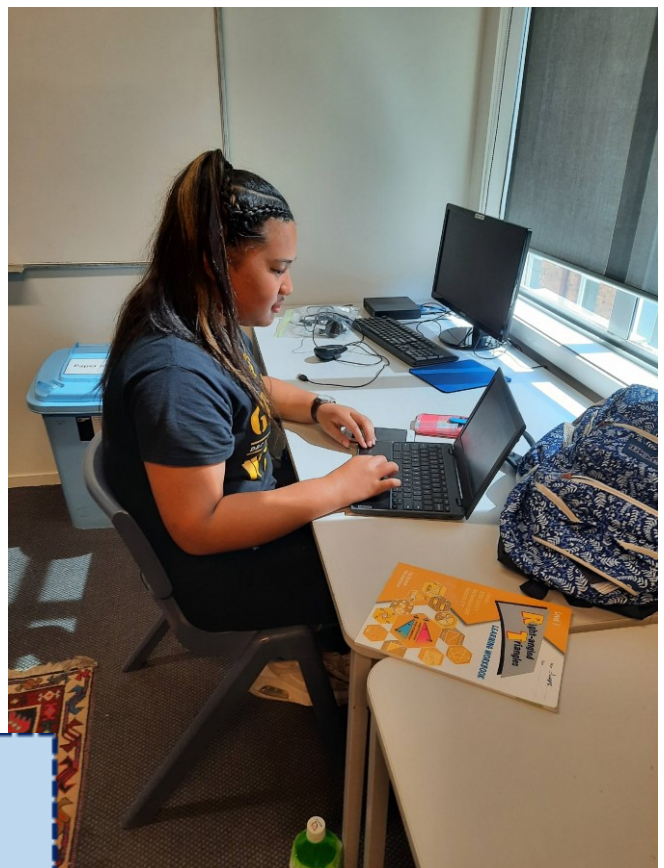
- Provide a window of opportunity for outstanding learning.
- Provide a learning environment that is, innovative and able to be applied to the best advantage to **each** student.
- Preparing students for full participation in their future careers, based on a university pathway.

Special Features of MHA:

- A small school environment.
- Extracurricular sports, cultural groups are accommodated for. E.g., Dance, gymnastics, or horse riding.
- Supports students' whose learning process does not fit the mainstream secondary school environment
- Site of MHA is easily accessible by public transport, with paid parking available.
- Individualized education plan created for each student upon enrolment

Flexible day structure

School is open from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Students attend school flexibly between these times committing to between 4 to 6 hours of focused learning each day. Timetabled face to face and/or online learning classes fall within these time and attendance is compulsory. Each day there is a compulsory 1pm-1:30pm Form/Class time for ALL students. This flexible timetable allows students the morning and or the afternoon to study/homework at school and or at home. The flexibility in the day structure for students also allows them to pursue their extra-curricular interests.



What our parents say -

"What you have at your school is extremely special and should be preserved at all costs. To provide a school environment that achieves additional goals in a nurturing environment gives teenagers the confidence to try new things and overcome fears. It is simplistic to tell children to be more risk adverse, but to provide them with the platform to do so allows this to happen of its own accord."



Curriculum and Academic Information

At Mt Hobson Academy students meet in their assigned grouping. These consist of NCEA Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Pre-NCEA Foundation Studies.



NCEA is the main qualification for secondary school students in New Zealand. It is recognized by employers and used for selection purposes by universities and polytechnics both in New Zealand and overseas. At MHA, students can take six subjects across NCEA Levels 1-3. Core subjects of English and Mathematics are taught by specialist teachers for one period

respectively each day.

[How NCEA works. – \(NCEA website click here\)](#)

Level 1

Students are taught three face-to-face subjects, English, Science and Mathematics. Which will gain them 20 internal credits within the years programme. Students within this group will have completed Numeracy and Literacy by mid-year. Students will choose one or 2 other subjects from either the “Virtual Learning Network” or a Gateway course. Students need 80 credits to pass Level 1 NCEA these credits can come from any NCEA level course, literacy and numeracy are included in the 80 credits.

Level 2

In Level 2 students are taught English and Mathematics as face-to-face subjects. Students can choose four further subjects from the “Virtual Learning Network” or a Gateway course. Students need 60 credits at Level 2 or above and 20 credits from any level to achieve NCEA Level 2. The Level 1 literacy and numeracy requirements must also be met.

Level 3

For our level 3 students they follow the academic pathway to university, or they follow a vocational gateway course to gain 60 credits. The university pathway consists of 10 credits at Level 1 Mathematics, Level 1 English, and Level 2 English these are university entrance credits which can be achieved at Level 1 & Level 2. If a student chooses not to take a gateway course to gain 60 credits, they have the options of choosing subjects from the “Virtual Learning Network” to gain 60 credits. However, part of UE there must be 14 credits from three subjects on the approved university entrance list. Some Universities will also require a specific grade point average as a pre-requisite for their programmes.

Foundation Studies

At MHA we provide a foundational level. This is to ensure students are set up well before they enter NCEA. This group meets over three school days as a homeroom class. The remaining two days the students will engage offsite in their chosen Gateway Vocational programme in which they will be earning credits.

The group has members from Years 11,12 & 13. The class works together to achieve Numeracy and Literacy within NCEA [based on Unit Standards and or a Foundation al Certificate. Differing students will branch off to study an NCEA Level 1 or 2 subject based on their skills and strengths. This group is capped at 8 students in total.



Virtual Learning Network

One of the unique characteristics of MHA is the ability to allow students to pick any subject. This is due to using the virtual learning network. The virtual learning network consists of 85+ small secondary schools across Aotearoa who have formed a partnership cooperative. This grouping is recognized by the Ministry of Education and NZQA.



The VLN has each school contribute 1 specialist at all NCEA levels subject teacher. Each school enrolls its students into specialist courses [classes of 10]. These classes meet once a week with their teacher via zoom or google classroom. Work is then set in google classroom and students are expected to complete the set work throughout the week. The teachers monitor it and keep in contact with the teachers at MHA regarding students' progress. Mt Hobson Academy contributes Level 2 mathematics and the Level 1, 2 & 3 Credit Top Up Life/Work Skills.

Gateway Vocational Pathways

As an academy we highly encourage and support students undertaking at least 1 gateway programme while they study with us. Gateway is designed to support students by giving them a practical outlet to gain credits while simultaneously giving them workplace experience. By including Vocational Pathways credits this allows students to see how their level 2 study can lead to higher qualifications

and career opportunities. Many of our students have found part time jobs due to a gateway programme. Gateway courses can be 1-day per week or a few consecutive days during school holidays. Here are some of the subjects that our students have taken via gateway programmes:

- Makeup artistry
- Barista
- Cafe cooking
- Computer skills
- Early Childhood

- Retails/Customer service
- Animal care
- Horticulture
- Mc Donalds
- Video game design

Location and Facilities

Mt Hobson Academy is co-located at upper Queen Street, Auckland. This is a sunny, quiet, airy, warm site. The building is a secure, purpose-built education facility. This space provides excellent learning spaces, including a science room, an art room, a kitchen, and areas set aside for quiet, individual and group learning. Students in MHA are encouraged to have their own laptops as this helps with work at school and at home.

Transport systems are excellent, as is access to a range of community activities to enrich the learning experience making the site stimulating and exciting, for students. There is also paid parking connected to the building, with 10-minute free parking for drop offs and pickups.



Personal Support and Guidance

Academic counselling ensures students can follow a pathway to achieve the University of Auckland rank score for their chosen course of tertiary study, therefore encouraging students to achieve NCEA at Merit and Excellence levels. The approach also helps students to choose academic subjects that lead to high-quality degrees.

"If a child cannot learn in the way we teach, we must teach in a way the child can learn,"
Unknown

Academy Rules

The Trust Board sets rules to ensure that all students are treated fairly and respect each other and their property. Rules may be changed from time to time as the Board sees fit. Given the location of the school and the frequency we are in the community, it is important that the rules are adhered to.

Uniform

Students studying at the academy are not required to wear a uniform. Instead, they are encouraged to attend school tidily, dressed in smart, casual clothing.

Inappropriate Items

Items including gum, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and inappropriate literature or electronic material are not to be brought into MHA or onto the grounds.

Off-Site Behaviour

When off-site during school hours, Mt Hobson Academy students must treat all people with respect and obey all laws with regards to traffic.

Attendance

Students must attend each scheduled day. When there is sickness, or another good reason, the Academy must be notified as soon as possible on that day. When students return to the Academy, a written note is required.

Internet Use

Internet and e-mail facilities must not be misused in terms of sending or downloading inappropriate materials. All students/parents will be required to sign a standard Cybersafety Agreement Form.

On-Site Behaviour

When on site students are expected to be respectful to all staff and other students. They are also expected to work between 4-6 hours each day.



Timetable structure

The timetable is designed to allow students to maximize their learning through a number of contexts and experiences. It also allows parents to be able to have effective input and be fully and actively involved in the education of their children.

- Classes function from 10.00 am – 5.00 pm as need be
- Most students are onsite by 10.00am until 4.00 pm [some arrive earlier, and others go earlier]
- Students commit to 4 -6 hrs.' per day of focused on-task learning
- External sports and cultural/service groups are accommodated.
- Each student has an individualized timetable that covers face to face classes, Virtual Learning Network classes and offsite gateway classes
- Students maintain contact with the School/Principal by phone, text or email.



Student management system

Mt Hobson Academy uses the services of EDGE Learning. This system has an app as well as access via a computer. This allows both students and or parents to have access to their timetable, attendance records, and academic credit progression results.





Our Staff

At Mt Hobson Academy, not only are our teaching and support staff highly qualified; they are also dedicated and enthusiastic about sharing knowledge and always on hand to support students' development in every way. With international experience and expertise, staff are able to empathize with students of all cultures and backgrounds, as well as enhance intercultural and interracial understanding.

Principal of MHA



Bruce Knox

**D Litt: ATEMF;
Post Grad Dip
(Ed Manag)
BSC, BA**

Dean of Students



Angela Withers

**BA, DipEd
English MHA**

Homeroom teacher



**Rachel
O'Connor**

**BE, Dip Tchg
Maths and
Science**

Villa Education Trust Board Members

Karen Poole (B.B.S)

Cameron Astill (Board Chair)

Josefina Me Fuimaono-Sapolu BCom/LLB, LLM Honours

Our First Patrons



Hayley Parsons (BEd, Dip Tchg) has previously worked for the Villa Education Trust, been on the VET Board and has provided extensive support to the NZ Army acknowledged by the award of the Chief of Army Commendation.

Chris Parsons, MNZM, DSD has served New Zealand for 31 years as an officer in the New Zealand Army, He is now developing leaders in New Zealand's primary sector as CEO of NZ Rural Leaders.

Both Hayley and Chris are remarkable New Zealanders who are passionate about their family, their careers and contributing to humanity in New Zealand and overseas.

Term Dates 2022

Tuesday 1st February - All staff day
 Wednesday 2nd February – Mt Hobson Academy
 Teacher Only day

Term 1: Thursday 3rd February to Thursday 14th April

Statutory Holidays: Waitangi Day (observed) - Monday 7 February, and Easter: Good Friday – 15 April

Term 2: Monday 2nd May to Friday 1st July
 Statutory Holidays: Queen's Birthday – Monday 6 June
 Matariki – Friday 24th June

Term 3: Monday 25th July to Friday 30th September
 No Statutory Holidays in Term 3

Term 4: Monday 17th October to Friday 9th December
 (Dependant on exam dates)
 Statutory Holidays: Labour Day- Monday 24th October

Term Dates 2023

Tuesday 31st January - All staff day
 Wednesday 1st February – Mt Hobson Academy
 Teacher Only day

Term 1: Thursday 2nd February to Thursday 6th April

Statutory Holidays: Monday 6th February (Waitangi Day)
 Friday 7nd April Good Friday, Mon 10th (Easter Monday), Monday 24th (Teacher Only Day), Tuesday 25th April (ANZAC Day)

Term 2: Wednesday 26th April to Friday 30th June
 Statutory Holidays: Monday 5th June (Queen's Birthday), Friday 14th July (Matariki Observed)

Term 3: Monday 24th July to Friday 22nd September
 No Statutory Holidays in Term 3

Term 4: Monday 9th October to Friday 8th December
 (Dependent on exam dates)
 Statutory Holidays: Monday 23rd October (Labour Day Observed)

School Fees – International Student

(All amounts inclusive of GST)

Overseas Student – less than 1 term (Agents fee of \$70 per week included)	\$830 per week (discounted if no agent is involved in the enrolment process)
Overseas Students Tuition Fees - Annual (These fees apply to students without permanent residence in New Zealand. They do not include the cost of private tuition which must be paid for separately.)	\$30,000 (per year) Inclusive of application fee, enrolment fee and NZQA standards fees. The annual tuition fees for overseas students must be paid in full by January 14th to provide adequate time for a student visa to be issued by the New Zealand Immigration Service).
Overseas Students Tuition Fees (Information for agents)	\$28,000 (per year) (Commission negotiable)
Additional Costs	Additional costs throughout the year, will include: Any course workbooks, materials, and EOTC. All MHA students are encouraged to have their own laptops for use at school and at home. Costs for Gateway courses above a fixed provision, will be charged as extra. Teacher aide support (if not MOE funded) is at a cost to the parents or to be provided by the parents.
Homestay Fees *	Homestay Administration Fee: \$250.00 Homestay Placement Fee: \$250.00 (exempt for the first placement within a 12-month period). Average weekly charge: \$300.00 (please note, this fee can range between \$250.00-\$300.00).

Notes:

- No refunds will be made except at the discretion of the Trust Board.
- Early notice of withdrawal of application should be given.
- One full term's notice in writing must be submitted to the Principal prior to withdrawal of a student from MHA. Failure to do so will result in a full terms fees being charged.
- In cases where the parent or guardian has nominated another person as the 'person responsible for the payment of fees', then that *other* person will be responsible in addition to and not in substitution for the parent or guardian.
- Where fees become outstanding the student's place will be withdrawn with reasonable notice. Any debt recovery costs will be added to debt.
- Fee Protection Insurance – the school operates a fee protection scheme in the case of death by natural causes or accident of fee-paying parents. Upon payment of the first term's fees, new parents qualify for this scheme.
- In the event of suspension or expulsion of a student, a refund of fees will not be made.

Feedback and Comments



*"The influence you have personally had on *** had helped him through two impressionable years of huge growth and learning in a way which cannot be measured by academic results alone. He now has a far better attitude to learning. The pride, self-belief, sense of humor and respect you have fostered will be with him for life and will help him have the confidence to tackle future challenges. For this we are very grateful."*

"The Academy has allowed me to be able to keep up with my academics while also balancing co-curriculars. It offers a different style of learning that allows for flexible learning. I like that I am able to do my schoolwork on a time basis that suits me and works with my schedule."

"You have all done such a good job in setting high expectations for behavior and reinforcing the importance of respect, whilst allowing them the freedom to have some fun. I can't thank you enough for playing a huge part in helping my son to grow from an impulsive kid who was disillusioned with the value of school into a lovely young man who actually enjoys learning and has increased his personal confidence level enormously."

"What you have at your school is extremely special and should be preserved at all costs. To provide a school environment that achieves educational goals, but most of all is done so in a nurturing environment, gives teenagers the confidence to try new things and overcome fears that most of my generation were taught to conceal in clever ways, but to our overall collective detriment. It is simplistic to tell children to be more risk adverse, but to provide them with the platform to do so allows this to happen of its own accord."

"Being at the Academy enabled me to achieve my goal of level 3 NCEA and University Entrance. The small classes meant that I had the full attention of the teacher and we were able to work at my pace. We could ask and discuss issues as a team. Outside noise and distractions are kept to a minimum so we can focus on our tasks. The staff are like family, they are keen to help you succeed. The teachers have strong links with outside providers that specialise in your interest. I was encouraged to get involved with a tertiary provider by doing holiday programmes this opened the pathway for me to continue my education after secondary school."

"Thank you so much for an amazing experience. I look back at it now and can't believe how much I learned and developed."

"The class sizes are great. Children cannot 'hide' or 'slip through the cracks. We like the work ethic and culture being encouraged."



VILLA EDUCATION TRUST
a model for the 21st century

**Mt Hobson Academy
Level 1, 441 Queen Street
Auckland CBD**

Phone: 09 5231241

**e-mail: admin@mthobson.school.nz
website: www.mthobson.school.nz**