

# Domestic Prospectus



## Mt Hobson Academy



*Pathway to Opportunity*



VILLA EDUCATION TRUST  
*a model for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*



## Mt Hobson Academy: (School 487) A Model for the 21st Century

### No ordinary school

Mt Hobson Academy (MHA) offers a truly unique individualized educational experience that fully engages students, during their pivotal schooling years. MHA is a well-established, registered private school established in 2003.

With an emphasis on small class sizes, averaging only **12-15** students per class, the Academy possesses the unique ability to genuinely personalize and customize learning experiences to empower students to reach their utmost academic and personal aspirations.

**A safe place where students can be themselves and reflect who they want to be!**

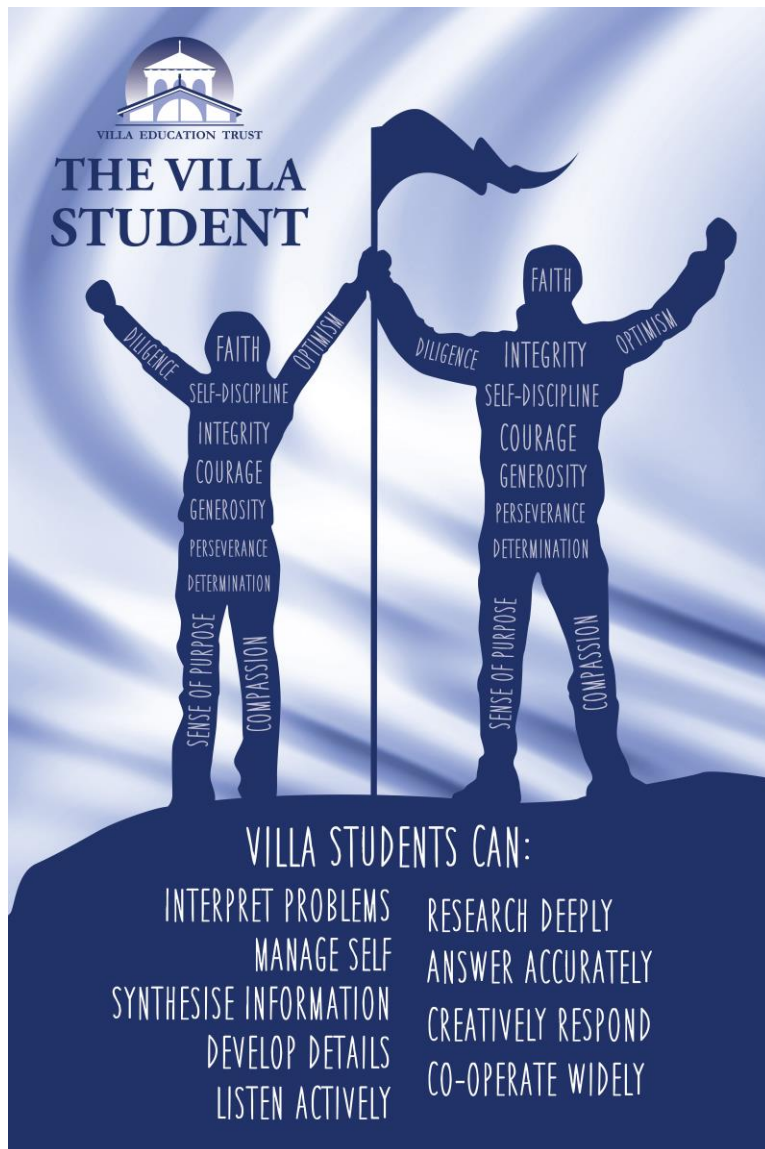
MHA is a cutting-edge online school that offers a transformative educational experience within a live and dynamic classroom setting. At MHA, we foster a positive and engaging learning environment, where each student is individually valued while being part of an inclusive school community. Our innovative approach includes an interactive Project Based Curriculum for Years 4-10 and follows the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) pathway for Years 11-13, facilitating a smooth progression to higher education. MHA is the ideal choice for parents and students seeking uninterrupted learning, along with the highest standards of education and teaching for their children and young adults.

### 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:



We strive to:

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



## Special Features of MHA:

### **Option 1: Mt Hobson Academy – Teacher Led** Day-to-day full provision for Academic Year Levels 4-13

#### **Y4-10**

All students from years 4-10 experience an interesting, varied, engaging and well-paced day, where they are taught by specialist teachers across the New Zealand Curriculum Learning areas. We work to nurture relationships and weave mindfulness through the day to ensure student well-being is a foundation upon which to build good teaching and learning.

Students will experience an academic morning. Each morning there are four one-hour teaching blocks for academic subjects such as - English, Maths, Science, Social Studies, and Technology. Each subject is taught 3 times a week and the additional hour is for independent project time. Classes will be varied with plenty of student interaction, well balanced and a range of activities. These classes will be directly delivered by high quality, New Zealand registered teachers who are subject specialists.

There will be one, one hour block each day in the academic morning, for independent project work. During independent project time students will have access to Project Coaches who are online for specific hours each day for drop-in workshops to support project completion.

The afternoon session will be activity based around Arts, Music, Languages, Movement, Community Learning and Community Service.

The Arts & Activities afternoon (1:30 - 3pm):

- Music
- Art
- Health & PE
- Community Learning
- Community Service

#### **Y11-13**

Students at this level work through a full provision NCEA Level 1 - 3 programme with a variety of online teachers. Gateway courses can be used to supplement a programme and may incur an additional cost.

### **Learning Platforms**

Within MHA, we use Microsoft 365, and for teaching, learning, communications, turning in projects and assessment feedback, this all takes place through Teams. On enrolment you and your child will be given an orientation around the platform and follow-up is available if required. Some of our senior classes may be instructed via an external provider who may use Google as a platform. Students will receive their own email address, a login to our student management system and a login to Education Perfect. In partnership, we support students to navigate and optimize the online platforms to build learning capability, confidence and digital literacies required in today's world.



## Electronic Requirements

We suggest a good quality laptop (not Chrome book) with Microsoft Suite, camera and microphone in working order. If possible, a touch screen with a stylus, but this is not a must, just a suggestion it does come in useful for certain subjects, especially at NCEA level.

A monitor can be helpful especially for senior students and a printer, but not essential.

Must have a strong internet connection.

## Academic Managers

In each area of the school (Yr 4-10), (Yr 11-13), we have an Academic Manager who oversees the pastoral and academic progress and development of all students. We also assign small groups of students to each staff member who will regularly check in on the students individually, or in smaller groups during their independent project time to develop learning relationships, answer questions about learning and trouble shoot any technical platform issues they may experience in a more personalized manner.

## Option 2: Mt Hobson Academy Parent-Led

### Y1-10

**This option involves the parents or caregivers overseeing daily teaching and learning using our comprehensive academic resources.** For parents of Year 1 - 10 students who have the time and skills set, this can be a very good option. We have found that younger students Y1-3 can get the best results when they are under the supervision of their parent or caregivers. This enables the student to have flexibility in their learning styles and lessons can be tailored around their family environment. One important aspect to note is that we fully monitor, moderate, and evaluate the curriculum delivery to meet our Ministry obligations as a registered Private School.

### What our Parent-Led Families Receive

- Comprehensive Project Documentation
- Subject Unit Plans
- Day structure to suit your family
- Ongoing teaching and learning support for students and parents from registered teachers
- Opportunities for parent networking group meet-ups and camps
- Principal Chats in virtual meeting three times per term
- Student is fully enrolled at Mt Hobson Academy (homeschool exemption is not required)





## Learning Partnerships with Parents

We believe in genuine three-way partnerships for learning between school, child, and parents. Research shows that children whose parents are involved actively in their schooling achieve higher and make swifter rates of progress. If your child is working and learning through MHA there is an expectation that parents/caregivers will be involved in the students' learning journey. You are the first educator of your child and know them best. Our teachers know the curriculum and are committed to providing opportunities to build support networks and relationships to support your child. We would expect you to check in with your child, encourage, guide, and ask questions to assist teachers in ensuring optimal engagement and educational opportunities are provided.

The age and confidence of your child will depend on how much walking alongside them will be needed. The most important areas you can gently encourage your child is - in broadening their perspective to look at the bigger picture, reach out to their teachers for guidance and to take informed risks in their learning.

Learning is messy, nonlinear and challenging. If there is no struggle there is no learning, simply doing. So, help your child to celebrate their successes, learn from their mistakes and remember that learning is a journey, a lifelong journey which is collaborative and should be fun!

## Camp and Events

We have school camp every year to bring our school community together to experience new adventures individually and as a team.



We believe it's important for our students to meet face-to-face to make connections, form friendships, experience a range of outdoor pursuits and have loads of fun together and with their teachers. Our camps are optional, but we encourage our students to come along and try something new.

### Camp and Community events

Term 1 – Teacher Led/Parent Led – Community Event for all families.

Term 2 –Teacher Led – Camp at Lakewood Lodge, Huntly.

Term 3 – Senior Academic Camp – Y11-13 students.

Term 4 – Teacher Led/Parent Led – Prizegiving followed by a community event the next day.



## Curriculum and Academic Information

At Mt Hobson Academy students meet in their assigned grouping. These consist of NCEA Level 1, Level 2, Level 3. All students will receive an individualised program to provide appropriate opportunities.



**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 two subjects, English, and Mathematics. Students within this group will have completed Numeracy and Literacy by mid-year. Students will choose 3 other subjects from either MHA 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. Students can choose up to four further subjects from MHA, 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 MHA 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.



## 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 for a term or a year or a few consecutive days during term time or the school holidays. Here are some of the subjects that our students have taken via gateway programmes:

- Makeup artistry
- Barista
- Cafe cooking
- Computer skills L 1, L2 & L3
- Early Childhood
- Sport Coaching
- Hair dressing

- Retails/Customer service
- Animal care
- Horticulture
- Mc Donalds
- Video game design
- Countdown, Torpedo 7, Warehouse

## Personal Support and Guidance

Academic counselling ensures students can follow a pathway to achieve the chosen University 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, demonstrate respect, maximize learning, show consideration to one another and be for 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.

### 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.

### Attendance

All 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.





## Timetable structure Years 4 - 13

The timetable is designed to allow students to maximize their learning through several 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 8.30 am – 4.30 pm as need be
- Students commit to 4 -6 hours per day of focused on-task learning
- External sports and cultural/service groups are accommodated
- Each student has an individualized timetable that covers all classes
- Students maintain contact with the School/Principal by phone, text or email

## Timetable structure Online (Sample)

Y1-4 2022					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.50-9.26	Daily Routines and Maths	Daily Routines and Maths	Daily Routines and Maths	Daily Routines and Maths	Daily Routines and Maths
9.50-10.26	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	ASSEMBLY (9.15-9.45) Indep Project Work
10:26 - 10:50	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:50 - 11:26	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
11:50 - 12:26	Integrated Curriculum Project Learning	Integrated Curriculum Project Learning	Integrated Curriculum Project Learning	Integrated Curriculum Project Learning	Integrated Curriculum Project Learning
12:26 - 1:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30 - 3:15	Community Service	Community Learning (live or online)	PE/Health/Sport	Art (1.20pm-2pm)	Drama/Music/ Dance

Year 7/8 2022					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 9:30	Indep. Project Wk	Technology	Maths	Maths	Technology (8.30-9.15)
9:30 -10:30	English	English	Technology	Social Studies	ASSEMBLY (9.15-9.45) Indep Project Work
10:30 - 10:50	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:50 - 11:50	Science	Indep. Project Wk	Science	Indep. Project Wk	Maths
11:50 - 12:50	Social Studies	Social Studies	Indep. Project Wk	English	Science
12:50 - 1:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30 - 3:15	Art	CS	PE/Health/Sport	Drama/Music/ Dance	CL



### Student management system

Mt Hobson Academy uses the services of EDGE Learning. This system has an app as well as access via 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 can empathize with students of all cultures and backgrounds, as well as enhance intercultural and interracial understanding.



**Saira Boyle,  
MHA Principal**

**Post Grad Cert  
Education Secondary,  
BSC Hon, GCI  
Accredited Coach**

### MHA Teaching Staff

- **Bruce Knox** *D Litt: ATEMF; Post Grad Dip (Ed Manag) BSC, BA – Academic Support*
- **Marija Naumouska** *BMus, GradDipTchg (Sec), MEd – Academic Manager Year 4-10*
- **Alison Gonscak** *BSc, Math & Computer Science, Grad Dip Sec Tchg – Academic Manager Years 11-13*
- **Kathryn Pick** *M.Ed, Minor in educational leadership, Dip Tchg*
- **Rachel O'Connor** *BE, Dip Tchg - Onsite Class Teacher*
- **Jennifer Cummins** *BHSc, DipEd - Science-Technology*
- **Rachel McClure** *BMA GradDipT (Secondary School), MIS with Merit - Art*
- **Richard Meikle** *B.Soc.Sci. Dip. Teaching (Secondary)*
- **Geoff Hamp** *BA – double major Psychology and English (UOA), GradDipT (Secondary School) - English/Music*
- **Erica Oliver-Poole** *BE - Parent-Led Academic Manager*

### MHA Administrator

- **Steve Zonneville** *DipTeaching, Dip Educational Management - Administration*

### Villa Education Trust Board Members

- **Karen Poole** (B.B.S)
- **Cameron Astill** (Board Chair)
- **Josefina Me Fuimaono-Sapolu** *BCom/LLB, LLM Honours*
- **Saira Boyle** *Post Grad Cert Education – Secondary (Dist); BSc (Hons); GCI Accredited Coach*



## **Term Dates 2024**

- All staff day - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January
- Mt Hobson Academy Teacher Only day - Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January

### **Term 1: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **Statutory Holidays:**

- Waitangi Day - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February
- Good Friday - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March
- Easter Monday - Mon 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Easter Tuesday - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- ANZAC Day - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April

### **Term 2: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

#### **Statutory Holidays:**

- King's Birthday - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June
- Matariki Observed - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June

### **Term 3: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

(No Statutory Holidays in Term 3)

### **Term 4: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

*(Dependent on exam dates)*

#### **Statutory Holidays:**

- Labour Day Observed - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October

## 2024 School Fees – Domestic Student



(All amounts inclusive of GST)

<p><b>Application and Entrance Fee:</b> Applies to newly enrolled students</p>	<p>\$300.00 for one student (non-refundable)</p>
<p><b>Tuition Fees for Mt Hobson Academy Teacher Led: (Option 1)</b> Fees cover online teaching and assessment.</p>	<p><b>Year 4 to Year 10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$9,000 (per year) or \$2,250 per term</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 11 to Year 13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$10,000 (per year) or \$2,500 per term</li> </ul> <p>Fees, as shown below, will be charged four times per year and are payable <u>by the end of the first week of every term.</u></p> <p>A discount of 5% is applied where there are two students from the same family. The discount increases to 10% when three or more attend from the same family. Discount applies to the tuition fee only.</p>
<p><b>Tuition Fees for Mt Hobson Academy Parent Led: Year 1-10 only (Option 2)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With our Projects Unit Plans and available advice, \$3,000 (per year) plus \$300 application fee. \$750 (per term)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Payment options:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A monthly payment option is available with <b><u>Option 1 Only.</u></b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional course related costs</b></p>	<p><b>Any course workbooks, materials, and EOTC</b> <b>Required Books or films</b> <b>All MHA students are required to have their own laptops and any required stationery.</b></p> <p><b>Costs for Gateway courses above a fixed provision, will be charged as extra.</b></p> <p><b>Camps cost is additional approx.. \$2000</b></p>

### 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 fee 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 these are very grateful."*

I haven't seen \*\*\* this engaged in school for a long time. He is much happier and is gaining in his confidence.

Great passionate teaching staff and the level material being taught at MHA is of a very high standard.

*"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."*

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

*"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."*

***"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."***

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***"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."***





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