



BERKLEY

Normal Middle School

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



PROSPECTUS 2027

Take Up The Challenge



CO-EDUCATIONAL



YEARS 7-9



HAMILTON



A place to belong, grow, and succeed.



WELCOME TO BERKLEY

Berkley Normal Middle School

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Berkley Normal Middle School provides a rich and engaging learning experience for students in Years 7–9. Our school is designed for emerging adolescents — young people who are growing in confidence, independence, curiosity, and identity.

Inside this prospectus, you'll discover what makes Berkley different: our strong homeroom relationships, specialist learning opportunities, broad curriculum, outdoor education, sport, performing arts, Year 9 pathway, international student welcome, and the many ways students are encouraged to *take up the challenge*.

AT A GLANCE



Years 7–9

A middle school designed for the needs of emerging adolescents.



Strong homeroom system

Students are known, supported, and guided by teachers who understand them.



Specialist learning

Opportunities across science, technology, arts, media, languages, PE, and more.



Beyond the classroom

Camp, New Horizons, sport, culture, performing arts, leadership, and challenge.



A welcoming community

A place where every child has a place and every learner is encouraged to grow.

INSIDE THIS PROSPECTUS

Principal's Welcome

The Berkley Difference

Curriculum: Choice and Challenge

Student Voice, Homeroom and Learning

Education Outside the Classroom

Sport, Culture and Performance

Performing Arts and OOSPA

International Students

Year 9: Continue the Journey

Working Together

Student Life at Berkley

Contact / Come and See Berkley



Take Up The Challenge



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Berkley Normal Middle School

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



OUR SCHOOL VISION IS FOR EVERY LEARNER TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE — TO GET INVOLVED, TO TRY NEW THINGS, TO BUILD CONFIDENCE, AND TO EXPERIENCE SUCCESS.



Nathan Leith • Principal

Kia ora koutou,

We extend a warm Berkley welcome to all prospective students and families. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our school.

Berkley offers high-quality educational programmes that engage Year 7–9 learners in a safe, supportive, and challenging environment. Our teachers work hard to provide students with connected learning experiences where learning is meaningful, purposeful, and designed for the middle years.

Our school vision is for every learner to *Take Up The Challenge* — to get involved, to try new things, to build confidence, and to experience success across academic, cultural, sporting, creative, and social opportunities.

We strongly believe that for students to succeed, they need positive self-esteem, strong relationships, and an environment that celebrates effort, growth, and achievement. If you choose to join Berkley, your child will become an important part of our learning community.

Ngā mihi,

Nathan Leith
Principal



Kia ora • Talofa lava • Malo e lelei • Ni hao
Konnichiwa • Annyeong haseyo • Namaste • Bula vinaka



Take Up The Challenge



THE BERKLEY DIFFERENCE

Designed for the middle years

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Berkley is a school created specifically for emerging adolescents. These years are not simply a step between primary and secondary school. They are important years where young people begin to shape their identity, develop independence, form lasting attitudes, and discover what they are capable of.

At Berkley, our programmes, relationships, learning spaces, values, and opportunities are designed around the needs of young adolescents in Years 7–9.

“
**EVERY
CHILD HAS
A PLACE AT
BERKLEY.**



WHY THIS MATTERS

The right mix of structure, challenge, care, independence, friendship, and opportunity helps students thrive in the middle years and beyond.



Years 7–9 only

A focused middle school experience for emerging adolescents.



Learning designed for emerging adolescents

Curriculum, teaching and pastoral care that meet the needs of this stage.



Strong sense of belonging

A supportive community where every student is known and valued.



Opportunities to grow and succeed

Encouraging students to explore, contribute and achieve their best.



Take Up The Challenge



THE BERKLEY DIFFERENCE

RELATIONSHIPS THAT HELP STUDENTS THRIVE

Strong homeroom and specialist learning

At Berkley, students are more than a name. Our homeroom model ensures every student has a trusted teacher who knows them well and supports their growth. Specialist learning opens doors to wider opportunities and helps students discover their strengths and interests.



THE STRENGTH OF HOMEROOM

Homeroom teachers build strong relationships with students and families, providing consistent care and guidance that supports learning, wellbeing, and confidence.



SPECIALIST LEARNING

Students learn with specialist teachers in a range of areas including science, technology, the arts, physical education, languages, and other practical learning areas.



BELONGING TO A TEAM

Every student belongs to one of five Teams: Aranui, Kia Kaha, Mahi Tahī, Tainui, or Te Aroha. Teams create a smaller community within the school, helping students build identity, connection, and pride.



“
STUDENTS
ARE KNOWN,
SUPPORTED,
AND CHALLENGED.”



Take Up The Challenge



CURRICULUM: CHOICE AND CHALLENGE

Learning designed to engage emerging adolescents

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

At Berkley, our curriculum is designed to meet the unique needs of Year 7–9 students. It is balanced, future-focused, and promotes critical thinking and creativity.

Students develop confidence and capability through meaningful learning that connects ideas, encourages inquiry, and celebrates curiosity. Choice and 'Take up the Challenge' ensure every learner is supported, and inspired.

A CURRICULUM FOR GROWTH

Our programs are intentionally designed for the middle years—challenging students to think deeply, work collaboratively, and take ownership of their learning.



“
LEARNING IS
PURPOSEFUL,
ENGAGING, AND
DESIGNED FOR
THE MIDDLE YEARS.”



STRONG FOUNDATIONS

We build confident communicators through targeted English and mathematics teaching, providing the essential foundations for success across all learning areas.



CONNECTED LEARNING

Subjects are designed to connect real-world contexts with classroom learning.



CHOICE AND 'TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE'

A range of enrichment opportunities, and extension pathways ensure students can pursue passions, build strengths, and aim high.



Take Up The Challenge



CURRICULUM AREAS

A broad and balanced learning experience

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Our curriculum offers a wide range of learning areas that allow students to build strong foundations, explore their interests and discover new passions. Each area is connected by our values and designed to help students thrive now and in the future.



ENGLISH

Building strong literacy skills through reading, writing, speaking and listening to communicate with confidence and clarity.



MATHEMATICS

Developing number sense, problem solving and logical thinking to make sense of the world around us.



SCIENCE

Exploring the natural world through inquiry, experimentation and real-world applications that spark curiosity.



SOCIAL SCIENCES / AOTEAROA HISTORIES

Understanding people, places, cultures and events to develop informed, thoughtful and active global citizens.



THE ARTS

Encouraging creativity, expression and imagination across visual arts, music, drama and dance.



TECHNOLOGY

Designing and creating solutions through digital technologies, materials, food and innovative thinking.



HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Promoting hauora through movement, health education and positive choices for life.



LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL LEARNING

Valuing Te Reo Māori and other languages and cultures to build identity, respect and connection.



“
A CURRICULUM
THAT OPENS MINDS,
BUILDS CAPABILITIES
AND DEVELOPS
COMPASSIONATE,
CONFIDENT LEARNERS.”



Take Up The Challenge



STUDENT VOICE, HOMEROOM AND LEARNING

EVERY CHILD HAS A PLACE

Strong relationships. Strong learning.

One of Berkley's greatest strengths is the way students are known and find their place. Homeroom teachers build strong relationships with students and support them academically, socially, and personally.

This sense of connection helps students feel safe to ask questions, contribute ideas, make mistakes, try again, and grow in confidence.



“

“Teachers here make you feel comfortable to ask questions. You flourish — not just academically, but socially.”

STUDENT VOICE • Year 8

“

“A place to belong, grow, and take up the challenge.”



FACILITIES AND LEARNING SPACES

Berkley students learn across a wide range of spaces that support different types of learning — from homeroom classrooms to specialist rooms, the Rec Centre, performing arts spaces, technology areas, science facilities, library, outdoor spaces, and creative learning environments.



LEARNING AND WELLBEING TOGETHER

At Berkley, learning and wellbeing are connected. Students do their best learning when they feel known, supported, challenged, and included.

- ☆ confidence
- 👤 independence
- 🌱 resilience
- 👥 teamwork
- 💡 curiosity
- 🗨️ communication
- 🛡️ responsibility
- 🏆 pride in themselves and their school



STUDENT VOICE

Real students. Real opportunities.

EVERY
CHILD HAS
A PLACE



“ HANNAH, YEAR 8

There are so many things to love about Berkley, but I most enjoy the range of opportunities anyone can take part in. From production and performing to all of the sports, there's so much to sign up for. There's something for everybody.

 Sport •  Culture •  Performance



“ EDWARD, YEAR 7

I love the amount of opportunities available at Berkley. I can try new activities, take part in events and develop new skills while learning in a safe and friendly environment.

 Opportunity •  Confidence •  Belonging



“ CHARLIE, YEAR 8

What I enjoy most are the Tech and Arts classes and TUTC, because they help develop useful skills. In Food Tech you learn to cook safely, in Materials Tech you use tools, and in Drama you build confidence.

 Tech •  Arts •  Challenge



“ HOLLY, YEAR 7

Berkley has helped me become more independent and proud of what I've achieved. I've loved trying tech subjects, going to camp, playing netball, and knowing there are so many activities to get involved in.

 Camp •  Sport •  Independence

STUDENT VOICE, HOMEROOM AND LEARNING

EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Experiences students remember

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Some of the most powerful learning happens beyond the classroom. Berkley students have opportunities to take part in experiences that build confidence, resilience, responsibility, leadership, teamwork, and a strong sense of adventure.



“
Take up the
challenge in every
part of school life.
”



NGATUHOA LODGE CAMP

Every even year, Berkley students take part in a three-day camping experience at Ngatuhua Lodge in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park. Students experience activities such as bushwalking, river challenges, abseiling, survival skills, and outdoor teamwork. For many students, camp is a major challenge — and one of the experiences they remember most.

NEW HORIZONS

Every odd year, Berkley's New Horizons programme gives students the chance to choose from a wide range of experiences over three days. Activities may include outdoor adventure, visual art, caving, cycling, rock climbing, movie making, and other exciting opportunities.

HILLARY OUTDOORS

Each year, a group of students may have the opportunity to attend Hillary Outdoors, where they experience a range of challenging outdoor activities in environments such as the Coromandel or Tongariro.

WHY IT MATTERS

- ☆ build confidence
- 👤 work with others
- 🚩 take responsibility
- 🏔️ step outside their comfort zone
- 🗨️ discover new strengths
- ❤️ show the school values in action



Take Up The Challenge

EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

EXPERIENCES STUDENTS REMEMBER

Real challenges. Real growth.

Education outside the classroom gives students the chance to step beyond familiar routines, try new activities, work with others, and discover what they are capable of. These experiences help students build confidence, resilience, responsibility, leadership, and friendships that last.



CONFIDENCE

Trying something new and discovering what you are capable of.



TEAMWORK

Working with others through challenges and shared experiences.



RESILIENCE

Keeping going, adapting, and learning when things are hard.



RESPONSIBILITY

Looking after yourself, others, and the environment.



CONNECTION

Building friendships, belonging, and memories that last.



LEADERSHIP

Encouraging others and taking positive action.



“ TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE IN EVERY PART OF SCHOOL LIFE. ”

“ Camp helped me step outside my comfort zone and realise I could do more than I thought. ”

Student voice • Year 8



Take Up The Challenge



SPORTING PROGRAMMES

Active, skilled and proud

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

At Berkley, sport is for everyone. Through regular physical activity, competitive teams, AIMS Games and Sports Camp, students develop fitness, confidence and skills for life. They learn resilience, teamwork and fair play while representing our school with pride.



Being part of a team helps me challenge myself, support others and represent Berkley with pride.

Student voice • Year 8



TEAMING

With specialised PE teachers, physical activity and play support personal growth, confidence, teamwork, fitness, and skill development.

- Everyone can find their place and have fun.

LUNCHTIME OPPORTUNITIES

Organised sport and games at lunchtime give students a chance to practise skills, be active, and connect with peers.

- Stay active. Make friends. Have fun.

REPRESENT BERKLEY

Representative teams compete against Waikato Intermediate and Middle schools, building pride, team spirit and a commitment to fair play.

- Wear the jersey. Represent with pride.

AIMS GAMES

AIMS Games provide opportunities for students to compete individually or as a team against the best schools in the country.

- Challenge yourself.
- Compete at a high level.

SPORTS CAMP

Year 7 and 8 students can take part in a week-long multi-sport competition, focusing on preparation, resilience and learning.

- New experiences.
- Lasting memories.
- Grow together.

SPORTS OFFERED

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross country
- Football
- Futsal
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rugby / rippa
- Sailing
- Squash
- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Touch
- Volleyball
- Water polo



PERFORMING ARTS

Creativity, confidence and expression

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

The performing arts are an important part of life at Berkley. Students are encouraged to explore their creativity, build confidence and express themselves in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Whether on stage, behind the scenes or in the music room, there are countless opportunities to perform, create and collaborate.



“

Performing arts helps me be creative, express myself and connect with others.

Student Voice • Year 8



PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Students can take part in a wide range of performance opportunities throughout the year.

- ✓ School productions and showcases
- ✓ Music concerts and recitals
- ✓ Assembly and community events
- ✓ Kapa haka performances
- ✓ Solo and group performance opportunities



AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

Students can explore and develop their talents in:

- ✓ Drama
- ✓ Music – band, choir, orchestra and ensembles
- ✓ Dance
- ✓ Kapa haka
- ✓ Technical production and stage design
- ✓ Songwriting and composition
- ✓ Music technology
- ✓ Stage crew and backstage roles
- ✓ Public speaking and performance
- ✓ Out-of-school performing arts (partnerships and pathways)



DISCOVER YOUR TALENT

We celebrate every kind of creativity. Whether you are new to performing or have been doing it for years, there is a place for you at Berkley.

Take up the challenge and shine.



Take Up The Challenge



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

A warm welcome to Berkley

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Students from around the world are welcomed into our Berkley whānau. We are here to help you feel at home, improve your English, make new friends and take part fully in school life. At Berkley, you will be known, supported and challenged to grow in confidence and achieve your best.



STUDENT STORY



Shiyao Zeng / 曾诗尧

Yunnan, China • International Student

Hello, my name is Shiyao Zeng and I come from Yunnan, China. At Berkley, I have had many happy experiences.

Camp Ngatuhua was special because I could be close to nature and learn in a real way.

Learning here is very different from China. It is not only reading and writing. We learn through art, camp, friendships and trying new things. Berkley has helped me work hard, think independently, and return to my learning with new focus.

The teachers and students are very friendly. My favourite subject is art, and I really love it here.

曾诗尧 / 中国云南

大家好，我叫曾诗尧，来自中国云南。在 Berkley，我有很多美好而快乐的经历。

Ngatuhua 露营对我来说很特别，因为我可以亲近大自然，用真实的体验来学习。

这里的学习方式和中国很不一样。学习不只是读书和写字，也可以通过美术、露营、朋友和新的尝试来完成。

Berkley 让我学会努力学习、独立思考，并带着新的专注继续进步。

这里的老师和同学都很友好。我最喜欢的科目是美术，我很喜欢这里。



ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT

We provide English language support to help you build confidence, communicate effectively and succeed in all areas of learning.



PASTORAL CARE AND WELLBEING

Our caring staff support your academic, social and personal wellbeing every step of the way.



ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

You will learn across a broad curriculum with specialist subjects, hands-on experiences and digital learning opportunities.



GET INVOLVED

Join in sports, arts, culture and clubs to make friends, discover new passions and be part of the Berkley community.



You are welcome here.

**YOU BELONG HERE.
YOU CAN ACHIEVE HERE.**

Berkley is a place where you can be yourself, take up new challenges and create your future.



Take Up The Challenge



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

YOUR JOURNEY AT BERKLEY

Support, pathways and practical guidance

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



From your first enquiry to your first day and beyond, Berkley is with you every step of the way. We help international students settle in, build confidence, improve English and take part fully in school life, so they can thrive and achieve their goals.

ENROLMENT JOURNEY

- 1 ENQUIRE**
Get in touch with our International Team to learn more about Berkley.
- 2 APPLY**
Complete the application and submit the required documents.
- 3 CONFIRM YOUR PLACE**
Receive your offer and secure your enrolment.
- 4 PREPARE TO ARRIVE**
We'll give you the information and support you need for a successful start at Berkley.
- 5 START AT BERKLEY**
Join orientation and begin your Berkley journey with confidence.

HOW WE SUPPORT YOU

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT**
Targeted English support to help you build confidence and succeed in class.
- PASTORAL CARE AND WELLBEING**
Caring staff and mentors who support your wellbeing and sense of belonging.
- ACADEMIC SUPPORT**
Academic help and encouragement when you need it.
- OPPORTUNITIES IN SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE**
Join teams, clubs and creative activities to explore your passions.

WHAT FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW

- Application documents: transcripts, passport copy, reference and English proficiency (where applicable).
- Fees and insurance information provided at application.
- Student visa requirements and timings.
- Homestay or guardian arrangements where needed.
- Orientation on arrival and ongoing support throughout your child's time at Berkley.
- Contact our International Team for personalised advice and support.



BELONG

DISCOVER

CREATE

“

Berkley has helped me feel at home. The teachers are kind, my English is getting better and I've made friends from all over the world.

International Student • Year 8



A SUPPORTED START

Our International Team is here to help you and your family every step of the way.

Contact us for international enrolment information.



YEAR 9: CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

Known, challenged and ready

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Year 9 at Berkley gives students a purposeful final year of middle schooling. Students are known, supported and challenged while developing independence, confidence, leadership and strong learning habits for the next stage of education.



“ A HEAD START ON THE REST. ”

Known by your teacher.
Challenged in your learning.
Ready for what comes next.



1. DEDICATED HOMEROOM TEACHER

Students continue with the same dedicated homeroom teacher who teaches the core curriculum. This creates consistency, strong relationships and a deep understanding of every learner's strengths and next steps.



2. ACADEMIC RIGOUR

Year 9 has a strong focus on achievement and high expectations in literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and preparation for future pathways.



3. SPECIALIST TEACHING

Students access specialist teaching in Science, Technology, Performing Arts and Physical Education, giving both depth and breadth of learning.



4. LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

Year 9 students take on leadership roles, contribute to Team Hui and school teams, host assemblies, welcome new whānau and students, and model positive school culture.



5. READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT

The year builds confidence, independence, identity and resilience for the transition ahead.



STRONG FINISH. BRIGHT FUTURE.

Year 9 is a time to consolidate learning, embrace new challenges and build the skills, habits and confidence for what's ahead.



Known and supported



Challenged to do your best



Building confidence and independence



Strong habits for lifelong learning



Prepared for future pathways



Take Up The Challenge



YEAR 9: CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

LEAD AND BE READY

Confidence, contribution and responsibility

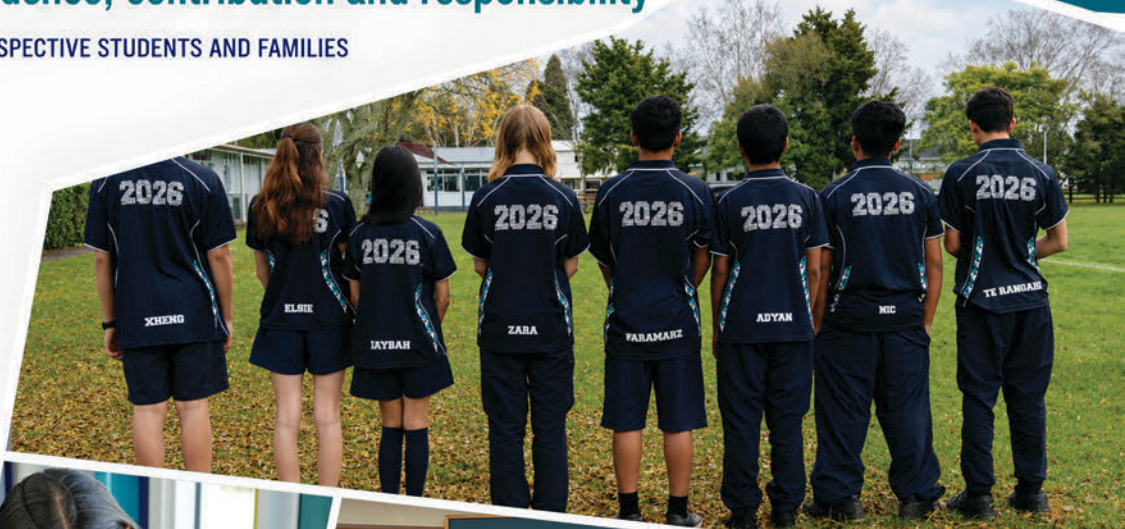
FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

In Year 9, students are trusted to step forward, support others and contribute to the life of the school. They build the confidence, independence and responsibility they need for what comes next.



Year 9 gives you more responsibility, more confidence and more ways to make a positive impact.

— Student voice • Year 9



1. LEAD IN REAL WAYS

Year 9 students host assemblies, contribute to Team Hui, support school teams and help welcome new students and whānau.



2. GROW WITH GUIDANCE

Mentoring, student voice and leadership opportunities help students develop confidence, judgement and a stronger sense of identity.



3. READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT

Students leave Year 9 with stronger habits, greater independence and the confidence to take their next step.



Take Up The Challenge



WORKING TOGETHER

Whānau, students, and school

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



Berkley values the partnership between students, families, whānau, and school. When we work together, students are better supported to learn, grow, take responsibility, and experience success.

COMMUNICATION AND CONNECTION

We encourage families to stay connected with school life through communication from the school, student learning conversations, reports, newsletters, website information, events, and Team Facebook pages, events, and conversations with teachers.

REPORTING AND PROGRESS

Berkley keeps families informed about student learning, progress, and development. Twice yearly reporting helps students reflect on their learning, understand next steps, and celebrate growth.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS TOGETHER

Families can support students by:

- ✓ encouraging regular attendance
- ✓ helping students be prepared for the school day
- ✓ supporting school expectations
- ✓ talking about learning and goals
- ✓ staying connected with homeroom teachers
- ✓ encouraging students to take up opportunities



When school and whānau work together, students are better supported to belong, grow, and succeed.

A partnership that makes a difference.



STAY CONNECTED

We keep you informed and welcome your questions and input.



TALK ABOUT LEARNING

Conversations at home about learning build curiosity and confidence.



SUPPORT ATTENDANCE

Attending school every day helps your child feel connected and succeed.



ENCOURAGE INVOLVEMENT

Getting involved in school life helps students build skills and connections.



CELEBRATE GROWTH

We celebrate effort, progress and achievement — every step forward matters.



Take Up The Challenge



EVERYDAY BERKLEY

Everything you need to start well

FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



1. CANTEEN

Food, friendship and fuel for the day

Students can buy a range of healthy and tasty food and drinks from the canteen during the school day. Current menus, prices, and payment details are shared on the school website and through school communications.



2. UNIFORM

Belonging, identity and pride

Berkley students are expected to wear the school uniform correctly and with pride.

Hair colour must be natural, not dyed or coloured. Hair accessories should be in school colours.

Jewellery is limited to one pair of small ear studs, one wrist watch, and one plain chain or bone carving of cultural or spiritual significance.

Nail polish and makeup are not permitted.



3. KEY DATES

Plan ahead

2027 Term Dates:

Term 1

Tuesday 2 February - Friday 9 April

Term 2

Tuesday 27 April - Friday 2 July

Term 3

Monday 19 July - Friday 24 September

Term 4

Monday 11 October - Thursday 16 December



*Start prepared.
Stay informed.
We're here to help.*



WEBSITE

News, dates, forms and resources



OFFICE

Absences, enrolments and support



COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletters, notices and Facebook updates



CELLPHONES

Hand in each morning



Take Up The Challenge



COME AND SEE BERKLEY

Take the next step

We welcome prospective students and whānau to discover Berkley Normal Middle School.

The best way to understand Berkley is to experience it — to see our learning spaces, meet our people, and get a feel for what makes the school such a special place to belong, grow, and succeed.

“

The rest can only be felt in person.

Come and see Berkley for yourself.



SEE THE SCHOOL IN ACTION

Book a visit, attend an information evening, or arrange a time to come and see Berkley.



TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Find enrolment information, forms, key dates, and zone details on the school website.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Contact the school office with any questions about enrolment, visits, or starting at Berkley.

CONTACT US



Berkley Normal Middle School
26 Berkley Avenue
Hillcrest, Hamilton 3216
New Zealand



Phone: 07 856 6537



Email: office@berkley.school.nz



Website: www.berkley.school.nz

We'd love to show you around.



SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Take Up The Challenge