

ACTIVE  
LEARNING  
OUTSIDE OF THE  
CLASSROOM  
FOR YEARS 7 & 8

## ENCOUNTERS PROGRAMME

### WHAT IS ENCOUNTERS EDUCATION?

The Encounters Programme supports developing boys through outdoor experiential education. It is an integral part of the Nelson College Preparatory School fabric.

The Programme invigorates and stimulates learning outside the school grounds. It also takes account of differing learning styles and has an emphasis on real life experiences and hands-on learning.

Encounters takes place for three hours every Friday and develops and encourages:

- E nvironmental education
- N ew connections
- C ultural awareness
- O utdoor pursuits
- U nderstanding responsibility
- N o or limited digital technology use
- T ogetherness
- Eureka moments
- R esponse to community needs

The Encounters Programme is part of the school curriculum, but is not based on students sitting in a room with books. We recognise that for many boys learning can happen outside the classroom and requires hands-on experiences. Encounters is also about teaching boys a sense of responsibility and provides a link to the community.

The boys do Encounters in their houses: Tasman, Whakatu, Matakītaki and Kaiteriteri. This provides for better integration between years 7 and 8 and offers opportunities for mentoring, leadership and friendship.

Encounters is led by our teaching team and all activities comply with Ministry of Education policies and procedures.



### ENCOUNTERS PHILOSOPHY

*At Prep we want everyone to thrive and our goal is to deliver an education programme purposefully focused at boys. We firmly believe that “Our boys deserve meaningful relationships, the freedom to pursue what interests and challenges them, a feeling of belonging and social connection to others, and a sense that they’re contributing to something larger than themselves”*

(WISEMAN, R., RINGLEADERS AND SIDEKICKS, P34).



# ENCOUNTERS PROGRAMME

## ACTIVE LEARNING

### Hands-on education

Nelson is the perfect place to go exploring. We discover the rich local environment and help the boys to develop a deeper relationship with nature. Environmental programmes include visits to the Brook Waimarama Wildlife Sanctuary, restoration of the Little Go Stream and tree planting at Paremata Flats.

### Hanging out together

Students will learn about our culture and heritage. They will gain an appreciation of the Maori, Pacific and other cultural groups living in Nelson. As part of the programme, boys will be taught the college haka, customary greetings and traditional cultural songs and games. The boys will learn about our history including the World Wars; and the Nelson Provincial Museum will be a focus for learning and activity. We will also explore many of the art and sculpture offerings in the Nelson CBD.

### Eureka moments

Students undertake outdoor activities that challenge their abilities and build self-esteem. Boys will be coaxed, cajoled and encouraged to extend themselves and work together. They examine how teams work, solve group problems and learn to develop and trust others. They build independence and a sense of personal achievement through outdoor activities like mountain biking, snorkeling and climbing. In year 8, boys may choose to build on these challenges through participating in the William Pike Challenge Award.

### Green-time not screen-time

With fewer opportunities for children to connect with nature, we focus on getting them out amongst it. While outdoors we encourage an appreciation for sustainable living, survival and a responsibility to protect the environment. The boys will be too busy exploring the outdoor classroom to miss their electronic devices.

### Togetherness

Our boys will be introduced to different groups in the community and we will help them learn how to be responsive to the needs of others. Activities for the boys include visiting a retirement village and meeting with the Nelson refugee community to learn what it is like to be a new citizen in a new country. Such experiences will help enhance the boys' personal and social growth.

"I have found that I am good at things that I didn't know I was good at."

"I like trying new things and finding new things in Nelson."

"It is fun doing experiments and meeting new people, including parents of my friends who have cool jobs."

"I love Fridays because we get to go outside and do real stuff."



NELSON COLLEGE  
New Zealand  
*pictas probitas et sapientia*  
Te Kura Tamatāne O Whakatū