



HAMILTON GIRLS'
HIGH SCHOOL

Sonninghill Hostel

APPLICATION INFORMATION

2023





MARIE GORDON
Principal

Boarding at Hamilton Girls' High School Sonninghill Hostel provides a caring and supportive environment where students are encouraged to do well academically and participate fully in the sporting, cultural and social life of the school. We assist our students to develop skills which will stand them in good stead throughout their lives. We help each girl develop an understanding of other cultures, respect for others, sound moral values and leadership skills.

Learning to live and work with others teaches independence, tolerance and co-operation with each other in our boarding community. There are many advantages to boarding at Sonninghill Hostel but none more so than the strong sense of community, the wonderful friendships which are formed and the brilliant support that the boarders extend to one another in times of need. Our community offers a warm welcome to all who enter.

Marie Gordon
Principal

HISTORY OF SONNINGHILL

The hostel for Hamilton Girls' High School was first established in 1915 at "Abbotsford", a gracious old Hamilton home situated in Anglesea Street.

In 1930, the hostel was moved across the river to the former Diocesan School building in River Road and named "Sonning" after an English village. Over the next few decades, the building became old, inadequate and in need of extensive repairs. The decision was made to relocate to the present site on land formerly owned by Hamilton Technical College. This move removed the long walk from one side of the city to the other and was much more convenient for the students.

The official opening of Sonninghill was in 1971 with 83 students accommodated in a brand new hostel. Since then, senior units, a senior common room (Wynne-Jones Lounge), a games room and television lounge have been added.

SONNINGHILL HOSTEL

Sonninghill is a modern boarding hostel, which provides a safe supportive environment for girls attending Hamilton Girls' High School. The hostel is located in Marama Street, a short walk to HGHS.

ACCOMMODATION

- Junior boarders share two-bed cubicles in dormitories and separate rooms on a term rotational basis
- Senior boarders (usually Year 12 & 13) stay in motel-style units with four beds and an ensuite
- Fully catered central dining room

RECREATION AND RELAXATION

- Landscaped grounds with solar-heated swimming pool, tennis/netball court and BBQ area, trampoline
- Activities Room: pool table, piano, gym equipment
- TV auditorium with home theatre
- Lounge for socialising; Piano Room; Quiet Room
- Separate senior facilities; lounge with kitchen, TV, Sky/DVD player
- Hostel staff organise a range of activities for boarders including the annual swimming sports and a variety of in-house competitions.
- Some activities are held with Argyle House of Hamilton Boys' High School. These include inter-hostel swimming sports/tabloid sports, socials and other activities.

FACILITIES

Sonninghill caters for up to 136 boarders in Years 9 to 13. The main hostel building accommodates all Year 9-11 students in four dormitories. The hostel also has a modern fully-equipped industrial kitchen, dining room, laundry, sick bay, lounge, movie style TV lounge and prep rooms.

HOME LEAVE

- Compulsory set leave two weekends each term
- Home leave permitted every weekend (except one compulsory stay-in for new boarders at start of year.)

HEALTH

The hostel has a sick bay where students are cared for until parents/caregivers can collect them.

HOSTEL MANAGEMENT

The hostel is led by the Principal. The hostel is run on a day-to-day basis by the Director of Boarding who is assisted by Boarding Managers and other support staff.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Sonninghill can accommodate international students. The Hostel provides a wonderful experience and life skills for international students who wish to study in NZ at Hamilton Girls' High School. Boarding allows students to be fully immersed in the English Language and experience other cultures with girls of similar ages.

MEALS

The catering service provides tasty, balanced, nutritious meals and will cater for students requiring special dietary needs where possible or appropriate. Students make their own school lunches at breakfast time.

Themed dinners are planned occasionally and students are encouraged to help organise and get involved.

PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Parents/caregivers and prospective students are welcome to make an appointment to view the Hostel prior to enrolment.

Parents/caregivers have access to their daughter(s) at all times. Parents/caregivers attending to school business in Hamilton are welcome to stay overnight in the hostel flat.

Parents/caregivers and families are invited to a barbecue held after the first set leave weekend of Term 1 each year.

STUDY

- Compulsory supervised prep for Yrs 9-12 Monday through Thursday evenings.
- Separate Year 13 study room with some computers.
- Wireless Internet

TELEPHONE / CELLPHONES

Each Year 9-10 student is permitted to have one cell phone which can be used at designated times. Year 11-13 students have free access to their cell phones. Local calls may be made from the hostel telephones.

TRANSPORT

- Minibus available during set hours within defined area for transport to school sporting, school cultural activities, bus depot
- Close to public transport for home leave

SONNINGHILL APPLICATIONS

To be considered for the first allocation of places, applications for the following school year are required by 12 April. Applicants will be advised of their acceptance as soon as possible. Applications received after closing date will receive consideration thereafter.

Students who receive places at Sonninghill gain automatic entry to Hamilton Girls' High School.



EXCELLENCE
Kairangi



COURAGE
Māia



CURIOSITY
Manawareka



CREATIVITY
Auahatanga



RESILIENCE
Manawaroa



IDENTITY
Tuakiritanga

"Empower young women to dare to excel as innovative individuals who are globally connected"



All requests for information, applications and tours of hostel are to be addressed to:

The Director of Boarding

P.O. Box 512

Waikato Mail Centre

HAMILTON 3240

Email: director@sonninghill.school.nz

Sonninghill Hostel

Telephone: 07 839 0074

Email: admin@sonninghill.school.nz

Hamilton Girls' High School

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