



OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

INSPIRE ~ EMPOWER ~ CHALLENGE ~ DREAM

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR GIRLS SINCE 1871





Nau Mai, Haere Mai Welcome

to Otago Girls' High School



For over 150 years our school has provided the highest quality of education for our students and we have consistently produced remarkable women who have gone on to achieve success in their chosen fields. We are extremely proud of our history and our heritage, especially in this, our 150th year.

Our facilities, teaching approaches and curriculum are innovative and progressive, producing exceptional academic results nationally. These, along with an exciting range of sporting, cultural and other opportunities to learn outside the classroom, make for well-rounded and open-minded students.

Our Positive Behaviour for Learning approach supports everything we do. We embrace our core values of Respect-Whakaute, Positivity-Hihiri

and Integrity-Pono and these are explicit in our classrooms, assemblies and all areas of our vibrant school life.

Our school motto in Latin is *Recti Cultus Pectora Roborant - The Right Education makes the Heart as Strong as Oak*. The Māori parallel is *Mā Te Matauranga Ka Tū Teitei Te Tōtara - Through Education the Tōtara will Stand Tall*. Our aim is that every student who passes through our doors will indeed stand tall and be strong of heart.

Please contact us if you require further information. We are very happy to talk with you any time and to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to meeting and welcoming you.

Linda Miller, Principal



Otago Girls' is a school where you are provided with so many different opportunities and people that will allow you to grow and become yourself. The value of being in a school with the level of resources we have is that you will gain awesome experiences both in the classroom and out of it.

After attending for four and a half years, I can safely say that Otago Girls' has been an incredible school that has supported me and helped to grow my confidence. However

what has stood out the most to me is the people you will meet; both staff and students. There is a diversity of people you may not find elsewhere, in culture, interests and self-expression and this means that you can and will find "your people" which is pretty special! My time here has been so impactful and it is a privilege to be a part of the fantastic community that is Otago Girls' High School.

Jemma Wilson, Head Girl 2021

HISTORY

Our 150th Birthday

Otago Girls' High School was the first state secondary school for girls in the Southern Hemisphere. We are proud of our long history of achievement and excellence since Otago Girls' was founded in 1870.

An unequalled tradition of success in educating girls has seen Otago Girls' graduates become New Zealand's first women doctors, lawyers and judges; win Olympic and Commonwealth games medals; and gain international recognition in cuisine, music, technology, and the arts.



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MALAGA

Navigating our Journey

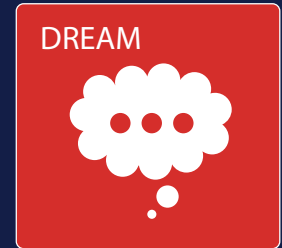
THE OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



MALAGA



Our Vision is to:



Our Principles are:



Our Learners are:



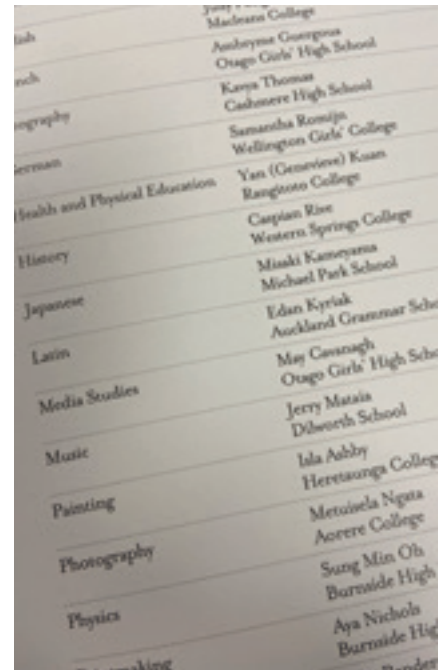


ACADEMIC

Life-Long Learners and Thinkers

Otago Girls' High School provides:

- Quality programmes of learning with high expectations for all students
- Excellent results in NCEA, University Entrance and national competitions
- Highly successful Scholarship programme, including three New Zealand Top Scholars in 2020
- Innovative and flexible i-Time programme with Big and Small Projects
- Choice of over 40 different subjects
- A focus on literacy and numeracy
- Facilities and opportunities that allow digital learning to be integrated into all programmes
- Learning support and extension for all students
 - Accelerate classes
 - Gifted and Talented Education
 - Learning Support
 - Study skills and tutorial support
 - Literacy and numeracy support
 - Global Leadership Programme
- Central city location in proximity to museums, art galleries, swimming pool, University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic
- Green-Gold Enviroschool with learning centred on the Sustainable Development Goals. Finalist in the Zayed Sustainability Prize - Global High Schools 2019



ACADEMIC

The goal of excellence

Otago Girls' High School has a robust and vibrant academic programme. Students at each level have a choice of over twenty subjects, including classes for six languages. The size of our school provides students with choices and flexibility.

Our programmes of learning encourage and support students to become confident, connected, actively involved, life-long learners. All students have access to digital technology. We encourage students to bring and use their own devices at school.

All teachers deliberately teach creative and critical thinking skills in the classroom. Students learn to move beyond recall and understanding, to analysing, evaluating and synthesising information.

The curriculum offered at Otago Girls' enables every student to develop self-confidence; explore a range of learning, recreational and sports skills; extend special interests and talents; participate in social action; and make good choices based on their abilities and interests while pursuing the goal of excellence.

Students excel in NCEA qualifications at all levels and we are proud of our outstanding results, which each year, include numerous scholarships of various types, including three Top Scholar Awards in New Zealand in 2020. Students receive excellent preparation for tertiary study and 88% of Year 13 students gained University Entrance in 2020.



“THERE ARE NO SPEED LIMITS ON THE ROAD TO EXCELLENCE”

CURRICULUM

Essential learning areas

	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13	OPEN ENTRY
Arts	Art Dance Drama Music	Art Dance Drama Music	Art Dance Drama Music Māori Performing Arts	Art Dance Drama Music Photography Māori Performing Arts	Art - Painting Art - Sculpture Art History Dance Drama Music Performance Music Studies Photography Māori Performing Arts	
English	English	English	English	English Media Studies	English Media Studies	ELLS IELTS TOEFL
Languages	Chinese/ Mandarin French German Japanese Spanish Te Reo Māori	Chinese/ Mandarin French German Japanese Spanish Te Reo Māori	Chinese/ Mandarin French German Japanese Spanish Te Reo Māori	Chinese/ Mandarin French German Japanese Spanish Te Reo Māori	Chinese/ Mandarin French German Japanese Spanish Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori for beginners
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics Calculus Statistics	
Health & Physical Education	Health & Physical Education	Health & Physical Education	Health & Physical Education Outdoor Education	Health & Physical Education Outdoor Education Sport	Health & Physical Education Sport	Sports and Recreation
Sciences	Science	Science	Science	Biology Chemistry Physics Science	Biology Chemistry Physics Science	
Social Sciences	Social Studies	Enterprise Social Studies	Accounting Economics Geography History	Accounting Business Studies Economics Geography History Tourism	Accounting Business Studies Classical Studies Economics Gateway Geography History Tourism	
Technology	Digital Food Hard Materials Textiles	Digital Design and Visual Communication Food Hard Materials Textiles	Digital Design and Visual Communication Food & Nutrition Hard Materials Textiles	Digital Design and Visual Communication Food & Nutrition Hard Materials Textiles	Digital Design and Visual Communication Food & Nutrition Hard Materials Hospitality	

**“WE ARE FREE
TO CHOOSE
OUR PATHS”**





**LEARNING HAPPENS
EVERYWHERE**



FACILITIES

Progressive learning environments

State of the art, attractive facilities provide specialist learning environments for the wide curriculum.

- Performing Arts suite, including theatre, dance and drama rooms, recently refurbished music suite and recording studio
- Extensive art facilities incorporating design, sculpture, painting and photography
- International standard gymnasium with fitness and weights rooms
- Tennis/netball courts, Weights facility, Astro turf field and three-storey climbing wall
- Specialist digital learning suites
- BYOD and digital technologies in all curriculum areas
- Robotics and e-Sports equipment and facilities
- Carpeted classrooms with multimedia capabilities
- Modern library and research centre
- Specialist science laboratories
- Contemporary Textiles and Foods rooms
- Hard materials workshop, including facilities for laser-cutting, wood, plastics and jewellery
- Common rooms with food preparation facilities for all levels
- Large school hall for whole-school assemblies
- Classroom by the Sea next to the harbour for water sports and Education Outside the Classroom

Classroom by the Sea

Our Classroom by the Sea in Kitchener Street was opened early in 2020 and provides a cutting-edge facility for water sports as well as having a fully functioning classroom located on the Otago Harbour. The classroom is used for workshops, art classes, weather studies, writing, sports teams, sports coaching and other group activities. The facility has a shower block, kitchen and outdoor area - and a world-class view!



CARING FOR OUR AKONGA

At Otago Girls' High School every student is valued and there is a place for everyone. We support students to have self-belief, wellbeing and resilience. There is a range of programmes, resources and individuals to support students at all levels.

The form/whānau teacher is responsible for all the students in their class. It is important to the form/whānau teacher that students are happy, working hard and making friends.

The dean has responsibility for all the students in a year group. If there are any problems with health, courses, homework, or any other matter, parents and

pupils are invited to consult with the dean. Māori, Pasifika and International deans offer further support.

Each student in Years 10 to 13 has a mentor. Thirty minute Learning Conferences are held twice a year with parents/whānau attending with the student to reflect on their learning journey and set goals.

Year 13 Peer Support students support and help every Year 9 class, acting in a tuakana-teina role. They give advice and encouragement.

The Career Education Leader and her team meet with each student to explore future plans and study

options. They help with decision making and goal setting. Parents are also welcome to meet with the Careers team.

The Guidance Support Network helps students through any difficulties whether they are educational, vocational or personal. The Guidance Counsellors are available to help all young people and their parents. Outside agencies are involved as needed.

The principal and senior staff take a close and personal interest in all students and play an active role when required.



CARE CONNECT GROW



Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)

Otago Girls' High School is a Positive Behaviour for Learning school.

PB4L has had a significant impact on the culture of the school. The essence of PB4L is the encouragement and reward of positive behaviour that enables students to learn more effectively. The focus of the initiative is on the three core values of **Respect, Positivity and Integrity**.

The Shelly card and badge system rewards students for meeting expectations and doing the right thing. All students are clear about the school's values and we have exemplary positive behaviour data. We use restorative practices to resolve conflicts or issues that may emerge, focusing on a solution-focused approach.



Respect
Kia Whakaute

▶

Attitude
Manners
Punctuality
Consideration

+

Positivity
Kia Hihiri

▶

Fun
Support
Confidence
Enthusiasm

+

Integrity
Kia Pono

▶

Honesty
Reliability
Commitment
Responsibility

+

House system

The house system at Otago Girls' High School was introduced in 2014 and has been growing in popularity since its introduction.

The four houses are named after former students, all of whom are ingrained in the history of Otago Girls' High School and New Zealand. Flora Allan was Principal of Otago Girls' from 1912-1921, Ethel Benjamin was the first woman law graduate in New Zealand, Margaret Cruickshank was the first medical doctor to practise in New Zealand and Yvette Williams was the first New Zealand woman to win an Olympic gold medal. Their names are synonymous with high achievement.

Throughout the year students compete in a range of competitions for which they earn points for their house. athletic sports, swimming sports, cross country, haka and house singing are some of the events that will contribute towards winning the House Trophy.



ALLAN



BENJAMIN



CRUICKSHANK



WILLIAMS



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Go there

The Outdoor Education programme at Otago Girls' High School is a comprehensive and highly regarded programme that offers a high level of participation and enjoyment.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To develop confidence, self-esteem, self-management, resilience and interpersonal skills
- To learn new skills across all aspects of hauora (physical, social, spiritual, mental/ emotional)
- To research and participate in field-work

Year 9 Overnight Orientation Camp

Year 10 Building Memories and Skills for Life multi-day camp

Local marae experience

Year 11 Multiple Outdoor Education overnight camps
Aoraki Mount Cook Geography multi-day camp

Year 12 Multiple Outdoor Education overnight camps
A three day Physical Education camp
Biology/ Geography multi-day camp to Borland Lodge and Doubtful Sound, Fiordland

Year 13 Five day cross country skiing Physical Education camp
Geography multi-day camp to Queenstown

Get-2-Go Challenge

Annual Ski and Snowboard four day excursion

Opportunities for senior students to participate in **Outward Bound** and **Spirit of Adventure**

Hillary Award (Duke of Edinburgh) across all year levels

Rock Climbing, Surfing and Tramping are all offered as extracurricular activities for all students

Curriculum subjects involve field trips at all levels



**“ENDLESS PLACES TO
LEARN, PLAY AND EXPLORE”**

“LEARNING IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT”



SPORT

Participate and enjoy

Otago Girls' High School has a commitment to nurturing participation and excellence in sport. We offer competition and games in 32 different sports. Many of our teams and athletes excel at regional and national level. Students are also encouraged to develop new sporting interests.

Our sportswomen have gone on to represent New Zealand in cricket, basketball, volleyball, rugby, curling, sailing, swimming, touch, ice hockey, ultramarathon, equestrian, Māori football and athletics. We currently have ex-pupils from our school in the New Zealand White Ferns cricket team, the New Zealand Black Ferns Sevens rugby team, the Southern Steel Netball team and the New Zealand Kayak Squad.

Emphasis is on achieving sporting potential, while ensuring

enjoyment and participation for every student. There is a team and a sport for everyone. Both school sport and sport played outside of school are supported and celebrated. Fitness training and sessions are provided in our world class gymnasium and weights room facilities.

We have sporting exchanges with Waitaki Girls' High School (Oamaru) and Southland Girls' High School (Invercargill). Students enjoy the sister-school experiences and friendships that these exchanges provide.

Opportunities and coaching are offered in the sporting codes opposite. Practice times vary to meet the commitments of coaches and players. Our Sports Council and Sports Scholarships support and resource students to compete and reach their goals.

Aerobics
Athletics
Badminton
Basketball
Cricket
Cross Country
Curling
Cycling
Equestrian
eSport
Fencing
Football
Futsal
Handball
Hockey
Ice Hockey
Multi sport
Netball
Orienteering
Rock Climbing
Rowing
Rugby
Rugby Sevens
Sailing
Skiing
Softball
Squash
Surfing
Swimming
Tennis
Touch Rugby
Volleyball
Waterpolo



Kelly Brazier
INSPIRE



Yvette Williams
EMPOWER



Suzie Bates
CHALLENGE



Anna Frost
DREAM

CULTURAL

Showcase your talents

Otago Girls' High School celebrates cultural diversity through an extensive cultural programme that enables each student to realise their strengths and talents. The Arts are supported generously by the Arts Council and we participate in the Creatives in School programme. We also have whole school singing and haka.

Choral Music: Otago Girls' High School is highly acclaimed throughout New Zealand for its choirs. We have the Otago Girls' High School choir and combined choir "Fortress" with Otago Boys' High School. There are always places in these choirs for Year 9 and new students and we welcome new members.

Orchestra: Otago Girls' High School and Otago Boys' High School have a large combined orchestra that plays at school events and festivals.

Jazz Band: Otago Girls' High School has a strong jazz band that rehearses weekly. The group performs at school events, concerts and festivals.

Music Groups: Chamber music groups, string quartets, jazz bands and rock bands are all part of the music scene here at Otago Girls' High School.

Music Lessons: A wide range of lessons are available for individual students and small groups in brass, strings and woodwind instruments, piano, guitar, drums and singing.

Combined OGHS/OBHS Production: Every year Otago Girls' High School and Otago Boys' High School come together to produce a fantastic stage show featuring drama, song, dance and live music. Recent shows include "Back to the 80's", "High School Musical", "Hairspray" and "Cry Baby".

Junior Production: We also create a fun stage show just for our junior students, where they get to sing, dance and act in a performance for parents, friends and neighbouring schools.

Theatresports & Shakespeare Festival: At Otago Girls' students have the option to further hone their dramatic skills via a student lead theatresports club where they learn to play improvisation games in groups. They also have the opportunity to take part in the Sheilah Winn Regional Shakespeare Festival, hosted by Otago University, where they perform a five minute student-directed performance.

Showquest: Otago Girls' High School takes part in this nationwide, student led, stage extravaganza. Performers are made up of all senior students taking Dance at school and a further 10 to 20 senior students





“PLAYING MUSIC IS LIKE GOING TO ANOTHER PLACE”

via auditions. Students also have the opportunity to design costumes and lighting for this show. The regional competition is held in May at the Regent Theatre.

Hip Hop: Year 9 and new students are very welcome to audition to be part of a hip hop team at Otago Girls'. Our teams compete in regional and national competitions and have experienced many successes on the stage at both levels.

Visual Arts: Otago Girls' High School has always enjoyed success in local and national art competitions and exhibitions. Students are offered a wide variety of opportunities to enter competitions and exhibit their artworks across a number of disciplines including Drawing, Mixed Media, Painting, Sculpture and Photography and we host our own exhibition for students in the senior school.

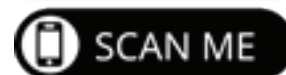
Design: Students are offered a wide variety of opportunities to enter competitions and exhibit their own designs across a number of disciplines including Fabric Technology, Architecture and Product Design and have been very successful in local and national competitions.

Wairua Pūhou: Otago Girls' is known for its strong kapa haka. Wairua Pūhou is a performance-based group that encompasses Te Ao Māori, all Māori performing arts and tikanga. It runs for the whole year with competitions held in July. Wairua Pūhou welcomes visiting groups to the school and performs at school events. New students are always very welcome.

Tagata Pasifika: The school has a very strong Pacific Island choir and cultural performance group that performs regularly at school functions and festivals, including Polyfest. They meet regularly and

are always keen to welcome new members.

Debating and Public Speaking: Otago Girls' High School plays an enthusiastic and successful role in debating and public speaking competitions locally and nationally, including Ngā Manu Korero and Pasifika Voices Speech Competitions. All students take part in public speaking and inter-class debating. Private speech lessons are also available at the school.



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Otago Girls' High School has strong international links through exchange programmes abroad, international students at our school and online partnerships and friendships across the globe.

Each year when possible some of our students choose to take up opportunities provided by the school to study in Germany, France, Japan, Canada or New Caledonia, or to take part in educational trips to Japan, New Caledonia or Argentina. The length of these study programmes varies between three weeks and one year. We also participate in World Challenge and run a school-wide Global Leadership Programme.

The school has strong sister school relationships with:

- Bunkyo Gakuin University Senior Girls' High School, Tokyo, Japan
- Yasuda Girls' High School, Hiroshima, Japan
- Guangming High School, Shanghai, China

We welcome their students each year and some of our students make the return journey.

There are opportunities each year for our students and families to host students from overseas.

Each year we welcome 30 to 40 students who come from Germany, Japan, Hong Kong,

Korea, China, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand to study with us. These students come to us for between three months and the full five years. We provide intensive English language courses for these students and they can complete University Entrance qualifications that will give them access to universities worldwide.

These exchanges and reciprocal hosting of students provide experiences which contribute to the Global Leadership Programme.

ENVIROSCHOOLS

Otago Girls' High School has been a Green-Gold EnviroSchool since 2017. In 2019 we were finalists in the Zayed Sustainability Prize and attended the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, Youth 4 Sustainability Summit and Global World Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi in 2020. We were awarded a Global High Schools Recognition Award of US\$10 000 to carry out sustainability projects in our school. We are also part of the United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) for Sustainability – one of 167 RCEs globally that promote education for sustainable development. Each year students participate in the UWF Waterwise, Healthy

Harbour, Tomahawk Lagoon Citizen Science and Blake Inspire programmes.



CLUBS

All students take part in a recreational clubs programme. Clubs offered vary. Recent clubs have included:

- Aerobics
- Art exposure
- Board games
- Bone carving
- Card games
- Choir
- Cross stitch
- Digital photo albums
- Food from around the world
- Future problem solving
- Golf
- Junior production
- Kapa haka
- Pacific Island choir
- Planning your career
- Power walking
- Reading club
- Robotics
- Running
- Science investigators
- Social justice club
- Squash
- Ten pin bowling
- Tennis for beginners
- Textiles appreciation
- Volunteering and active citizenship
- Writing for pleasure
- Zumba



OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP

Students can become:

- Prefects
- School Council Representatives
- Whānau Leaders
- House Captains and Leaders
- Peer Support Leaders
- Sports Co-ordinators and Coaches
- Cultural Co-ordinators
- Librarians
- Wellbeing Representatives
- Enviroschools Representatives
- PTSA Representatives
- School Board Representative
- Canteen Assistants

OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTES TO THE COMMUNITY

Otago Girls' students are encouraged to look outward, to play a part in the affairs of their community, their country and the world. They have a proud record of supporting many organisations, including:

- Guide dogs
- Easter baskets for the elderly
- 40 Hour Famine
- Model United Nations Assembly
- Hospice Can Appeal
- Amnesty International
- Braille Week
- Shave for a Cure
- Pink Shirt Day
- Relay for Life
- Daffodil Day
- Red Cross
- Save the Children
- Dunedin Youth Forum
- Enviroschools
- Salvation Army
- Christmas hampers for Presbyterian Support
- Mufti Days to raise funds for worthy causes

OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL ENCOURAGES SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Our school encourages the enjoyment of social activities including:

- School formals
- Writing camps
- Noho Marae
- Co-curricular activities
- Clubs
- School Camps
- Lunchtime programmes
- Class outings
- Ski trips
- Activities with Otago Boys' High School
- Exchanges with Southland Girls' and Waitaki Girls' High Schools
- 'Spirit of New Zealand' voyages
- World Challenge
- Language and Science camps
- Quiz nights
- Chess

OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL PREPARES YOU FOR YOUR FUTURE

Otago Girls' offers an extensive Careers Education programme to every student. This includes:

- Extension opportunities in career-related areas
- Career competency development in all curriculum areas
- Curriculum vitae preparation
- Careers advice and information
- Careers evenings
- Option selection advice
- Gateway Programme
- Interview skills
- Job seeking skills
- Otago Secondary Tertiary College (OSTC)
- STAR programme
- University visits and Open Days
- Tertiary qualifications information
- Work exploration
- Visiting speakers
- Year 13 programme - flatting, budgeting and life advice

WHY CHOOSE A GIRLS' SCHOOL?

Students have better academic success in single-sex environments.

Students are more confident and assertive in single sex environments.

Students benefit from having no expectations that they should fulfil traditional gender stereotypes in the subjects they study, the activities they participate in or the careers they pursue. Without the presence of boys, girls are less self-conscious, more willing to take chances, and less afraid to show their interest, knowledge and skill in traditionally male-dominated fields.

Students in girls' schools are free to pursue academic excellence in any area they choose, including in the 'gender atypical' areas of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Statistics show that girls from girls' schools are more likely to study STEM at school and pursue university studies and careers in STEM fields.

Students in girls' schools have access to all leadership positions and are encouraged to participate, lead, compete and take risks – all of which are advantageous skills for careers and leadership.

Girls' schools also provide nurturing environments, leading to many social, emotional and health benefits, including higher rates of participation in sport. At a single-sex school, girls are free to be who they want to be, both in the classroom and outside.

www.agsa.org.au

WHY CHOOSE OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL?

We have a long, proven record of academic excellence.

We foster talents in music, art, public speaking and drama.

We offer coaching for participation in top level sport.

We provide an unrivalled variety of activities outside the classroom, with something to involve every girl.

We provide a large range of additional programmes to extend the able and assist those needing extra help.

Ka mua, ka muri - We look back in order to move forwards. Otago Girls' High School has strong traditions and role-modelling of ground-breaking success which gives us the confidence to bravely move forwards in innovative ways.

We are large enough to offer the full range of option choices and small enough for every girl to be treated as an individual.

We have an unequalled tradition of success in educating girls.

INSPIRE EMPOWER CHALLENGE DREAM






OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

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