



International Students Pre-Departure Information



Welcome to Northcross Intermediate



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International Department Staff

The International Office is open from 8.30-3.00pm Monday – Friday. We are here to help you and answer any questions or concerns you may have.



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Learning support

For speakers of other languages please contact the International Office and a First Language Support Person can be arranged for you. We also have a number of First Language Student ESOL Ambassadors that are also here to help you.

Kia Ora (Welcome to New Zealand)

Auckland

Auckland is the country's largest city with a population of approximately 1.47 million people. The city is surrounded by sea and as a result of our beautiful harbour, Auckland has been named the "City of Sails". Auckland is a multicultural city and people from all over the world come to study, visit, live and work here. Some of New Zealand's best educational institutions are located in Auckland. To learn more about studying in Auckland you can visit the Study Auckland Website where you can find information about accommodation (if coming with a parent), transportation and places to visit: <http://www.aucklandnz.com/study>



The North Shore of Auckland

Head North over the Harbour Bridge from Auckland City and you find yourself on the North Shore of Auckland. Northcross Intermediate School is located in the East Coast Bays on the North Shore near a small town called Browns Bay which is a lovely coastal area. Close by in Albany is Westfield Mall, a large shopping and movie complex.





Climate:

The average daily temperature in Auckland during the summer is 23°C (74°F), while winter temperatures are on average 14°C (57°F). While these temperatures are the norm, the weather in Auckland ***can change unexpectedly*** as cold fronts or tropical cyclones quickly blow in. Because of this, you should be prepared for sudden changes in weather and temperature.

When to arrive in New Zealand:

We recommend you arrive a couple of days before school starts so you can have a rest from your long flight and get to know the area a little before you start.

What to take to New Zealand?

Below are items we suggest you bring to New Zealand. The time of year you are coming, will determine what you need to bring. Here are some suggestions:

Spring/Summer (Oct – April)

Swimwear, sunhat, sunglasses, sunscreen, shorts, skirts, t-shirts, 1 jumper/sweatshirt, light raincoat (something that will keep you dry), good walking shoes. Black lace up school shoes & a pair of sports shoes.

Autumn/Winter (May – Sept)

Warm waterproof jacket, sweater/jumpers, long trousers/jeans, long sleeve shirts, scarf, hat, gloves, It DOES get very cold at times in Auckland, July & August can often be wet, windy and very cold. Many houses do not have central heating, only electric or gas heaters. Electricity is very expensive in New Zealand.

Please note that if you are bringing anything valuable (e.g. camera, phone, laptop etc.), you MUST have copies of the purchase price (i.e. proof of purchase or receipt) as you will not be able to claim for insurance if you don't have these. If you have a current medical condition we MUST know about this not only for insurance purposes but so we can assist you if you become un-expectedly ill.

Arriving at the Airport:

When you arrive in New Zealand, you'll need to be carrying a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond your intended departure date.

On arrival you will need to complete an arrival card before passing through Customs Passport Control. An arrival card will usually be given to you during your flight; if not, cards are available in the Passport Control area.

If you are an Unaccompanied Minor the airline will help you with the arrival process and hand you over to the person nominated to meet you. Please ensure the school knows who will be responsible for your pick up.

Culture Shock:



One way to successfully minimize and overcome culture shock is to read about the place you're going to. Find out what you can about New Zealand. If possible, speak with someone who has also studied in New Zealand.

Once you are here, keep in mind that people and customs may be very different from what you are used to. It's good to have realistic expectations, keep an open mind and know that there are lots of people here to help you with any difficulties or misunderstandings that may occur during your time in New Zealand.

Try to interact with the students in your class. Don't be scared to make a mistake and remember that **a smile is the same in all languages**. When **you** are eager to learn, people are usually more than willing to meet you half-way and learn from you in turn. If you are going to live in a homestay try not to hide away in your room playing on your phone or computer. Join in with the family, offer to help make dinner or ask for help with your homework.

Find ways to keep in touch with family and friends at home. If you need to talk to someone in your First Language we can arrange for you to speak to another Northcross Student or a First Language Support Person.

If you are going to stay with a homestay family, email them before you leave your home country. That way you can get to know them a little bit BEFORE you arrive. The homestay family will do their best to make you feel welcome. Please remember that they are a family; they may have their own children and often most host parents will work full-time, so the house may be a very busy place. Breakfast is often a very busy time getting ready for school and work so it's unlikely that you will be sitting down to a fully cooked breakfast 😊. Most families in New Zealand have toast or cereal for breakfast during the week.

Please read your Homestay Handbook for more tips about living with a homestay

Want to find out more about living and studying in New Zealand visit the Education New Zealand's new website:

<https://naumainz.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz/get-started>



Visiting the Doctor

It is compulsory for all International Students who study in New Zealand to have Travel and Medical insurance. If you need **to visit a local doctor for something minor you will need to pay** first before claiming the costs back from your insurance company. This includes any medicine you may need. To make a claim you will need to have a copy of the doctor's report and all the receipts. If you have to go to hospital then the hospital will deal directly with the insurance company. Your caregiver **MUST** notify the insurance company as soon as possible if you are admitted to hospital. The school must also be notified immediately. If you are coming with your own medication please ensure you let your caregiver or homestay mother know so that it can be stored in a safe place.



Money & General Living Costs;

Pocket money is a personal decision to make. Most NZ school students at Intermediate age get between \$5 and \$10/week. How much money you need will depend on who are living with. If you are in a homestay provided by the school you may need to pay for own entertainment, travel costs, visits to the hairdresser and other personal expenses. You should have access to a NZ bank account unless you have a nominated caregiver in charge of your finances or your parent has made arrangements with the school. Please refer to your homestay handbook for more information.



ID & Bus Cards

You will be issued with a student ID card a few days after you start school. This will get you cheaper bus fares and cheaper entry into places around Auckland and NZ. If you catch a bus you may need to buy a Hop Card. Once you have purchased a Hop Card and loaded money onto it you will need to take it along with your Student ID to an Auckland Transport Counter (one is located at Albany Park and Ride Bus Station so that they can link your Student ID with your Hop card to ensure you get cheaper fares. Public transport on the North Shore is NOT what you may be used to. There are no trains on the North Shore and taxis are very expensive. For more information regarding Auckland Transport please visit: <https://at.govt.nz/>



Safety in New Zealand



Road Rules

We drive on the **left** side of the road in New Zealand, so you need to be very careful when crossing the road – make sure you look both ways!! **Remember look right first, then left, then right again**, before crossing the road. Please be VERY careful and **use pedestrian crossings or cross at the traffic lights wherever possible.**



Water Safety

We are surrounded by the ocean in Auckland it takes between 45 minutes – 1 hour to drive from the East Coast to the West Coast. It is **extremely important** that you understand how dangerous swimming at the beach can be. The West Coast is particularly dangerous even for very experienced confident swimmers. **Please make sure you take care in the water whenever you visit a beach or a river.** To find out more please visit Water Safety New Zealand's Web Site:

<http://www.watersafety.org.nz/>

The Emergency Telephone Number in New Zealand is 111
This will connect you to Fire, Police & Ambulance Services

TRANSPORT OPTIONS

Public Transport:



Northcross Intermediate School is located close to major bus routes however Public Transport in New Zealand may not be what you are used to in your own country. Most people living in Auckland use their own cars and many families have more than one car. Buses run regularly during peak times but may be quite infrequent off-peak. Please also note that there are **no trains on the North Shore.**

Below are the links to Auckland's bus timetables and journey planners.

<https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/timetables/>

<https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/journey-planner/>

There is a school bus service from Northcross Intermediate to areas within the school zone. For areas outside of our local zone students need to take a public bus.

Other Options

UBER - Download the app and get a ride in minutes: <https://www.uber.com/en-NZ/cities/auckland/>



Taxi - There are a number of Taxi stands around major towns and cities however if you are not waiting at taxi stand then you generally need to **phone the company to collect you.** <https://www.localist.co.nz/north/taxis>





SUGGESTED LOCAL ACCOMMODATION & PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION FOR VISITING FAMILY AND FRIENDS

airbnb

Albany:

<https://www.airbnb.co.nz/albany-auckland-new-zealand/stays>

Browns Bay

<https://www.airbnb.co.nz/browns-bay-auckland-new-zealand/stays>

Channel View House: *Walking distance to school*

East Coast Road, Browns Bay

<http://www.channelview.co.nz/>

Olive Tree Motel: *Walking distance to school 24*

Glencoe Road, Browns Bay

<http://www.olivetreemotel.com/>

Sea Vista Apartments – bus ride

869 - 871 Beach Road, Torbay

<http://www.seavistaapartments.co.nz/>

Other

Ramada Suites – Albany

<http://ramadaalbany.co.nz/>

Trademe

<http://www.trademe.co.nz/property/residential-property-to-rent/auckland/north-shore-city>

Book a Bach North Shore:

<http://www.bookabach.co.nz/baches-and-holiday-homes/search/locale/north-shore-city>

Visit the Study Auckland Website to find out more about living and studying in

Auckland: <https://www.aucklandnz.com/study-work-and-live/work-and-live/living-here>

A popular website used by many NZ Chinese; <http://www.skykiwi.com/>

Korean Society of New Zealand: <https://nz.korean.net/>

Pease note that the above websites are suggestions of local accommodation. They are independent business and are not endorsed by, nor have any connection to Northcross Intermediate School.

At School



We understand that you may be feeling scared and unsure but please know that we will do all we can to help you adjust and enjoy our school. Regardless of whether you are here for a few weeks or the whole school year you are very brave in coming so far from home. We encourage you to take advantage of everything that our school has to offer.

Masks are required to be worn inside the classrooms.

Orientation

You will be greeted by Mrs Hines and/Ms Lewthwaite on your first day. Depending on your arrival date you may also need to be fitted with a uniform. Please bring your own black lace up school shoes or sports shoes with you on the first day. A stationery pack will be provided for you. A student leader or one of our ESOL Ambassadors will show you around the school and be your 'go to person' for the first few weeks.

You will then be taken to your home classroom and introduced to your new teacher and classmates. You will have designated classmates to help you. You may or may not have a person who can translate for you as some classes may or may not have a person in the class who speaks the same language as you. Don't worry as we have staff at school who can help you in your first language and we can always find students to help within the school.

Classroom Placement &

You will be assigned a mainstream classroom. Each class will have approximately 30 students and one homeroom teacher. Classes are divided into Teams (Houses). Second language students have an English assessment to determine their language level. Based on your level you will be placed into a small ESOL group with other students of similar English ability.

Expectations while studying at Northcross Intermediate School:

- Treat all staff and fellow students with respect
- Be kind to each other
- Be on time for school
- Correct uniform to be worn at all times
- No pushing, punching, name calling, swearing.
- No spitting
- Computers are for in class learning time only. If used during break times they will be taken to the office and given to the Duty Principal. Learning devices can be collected by classroom teachers. Phones are NOT to be used at all during school time. They should be handed to the teacher at the start of the day and collected at 3.00. If you don't hand it in the school takes NO responsibility for your phone.
- Students are only allowed in classrooms when a teacher is present. Classrooms will be locked when a teacher is not present.
- Climbing of trees on the banks by the field is permitted but with careful self-judgement.
Students are not permitted on the grass area by Room 40 and around Room 21/22.
- Hats are to be worn when outside during Terms 1 and 4. This includes for structured PE/Sports Activities and during Interval and Lunchtime. Students without hats during break times are to go to the PAC.

Games around the school

Only **SMALL** ball type games around the classrooms and on the back grass by Room 40 (ie., Handball)

- **Non-kicking** ball games (ie., Basketball, Netball) may be played on Hard Courts.
- **Kicking** ball games (ie., Rugby, Football) ONLY to be on the field & astro. **No ball is to be kicked higher than the top of the fence.**

ON FIELD/ASTRO & IN GYM

- PE Gear must be worn.
- Food is to be consumed before entering the gym/astro. Only closed water bottles.
- Any tackle games must be supervised by a teacher other than the duty teacher.
- Remind students not to hang from the goals, sit on tennis nets or on goals.

IN THE GYM

- Only Basketballs should be used in the gym – the PE SHED gear is for use during structured lessons/games only.

Some other points to keep in mind:

- Please do not sit on top of the tables.
- The bush is only accessible with a teacher present.
- Please WALK bikes and scooters on school grounds.
- Please use the correct rubbish bins for recycling.



Food at School:

New Zealand schools do not have sit down cafeterias that you may have in your own school. Students bring a lunch box from home. A common lunch if living with a Kiwi homestay is a sandwich, fruit & snacks. Northcross has a 'no sugar drinks' policy which means **no** soft drinks at school e.g. Coca-Cola or Sprite.



Stationery

International Students have pre-paid for their stationery but we do ask that you provide your own pencil case and you will need to bring your own lap top or chrome notebook. Stationery will be given to you on the first full day of school. You do not need to purchase it via Office Max.

Online School Shop

As an International Student you will have pre-paid for many things but at times you will need to pay for things like sport, music, languages-in fact everything is now required to be paid online. The person who is the day-day caregiver (unless living in a homestay) is usually the person who needs to register:

1. Go to www.northcross.school.nz and access the NX Online shop on the home page.
 - Select "**REGISTER**" to login to our online shop if you are first-time user- please note that your email address needs to match the email we hold on record at the school; OR
 - Select "SHOP" if you are already a registered user

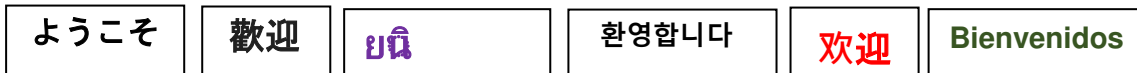
Note: if you've used ezlunch or Kindo/Online shop at Northcross or any other school in NZ for anyone in your family, log in using your existing email and password. You may be asked to add your Northcross student if you've not used the shop at our school before

Student Support Services/Facilities

- Twice weekly after school ESOL/language support (free of charge). (Available to international students only).
- After school care (privately run so additional cost)
- School nurse
- Access to school counselling services
- First language support

ESOL Student First Language Support (ESOL Ambassadors) Welcome to Northcross

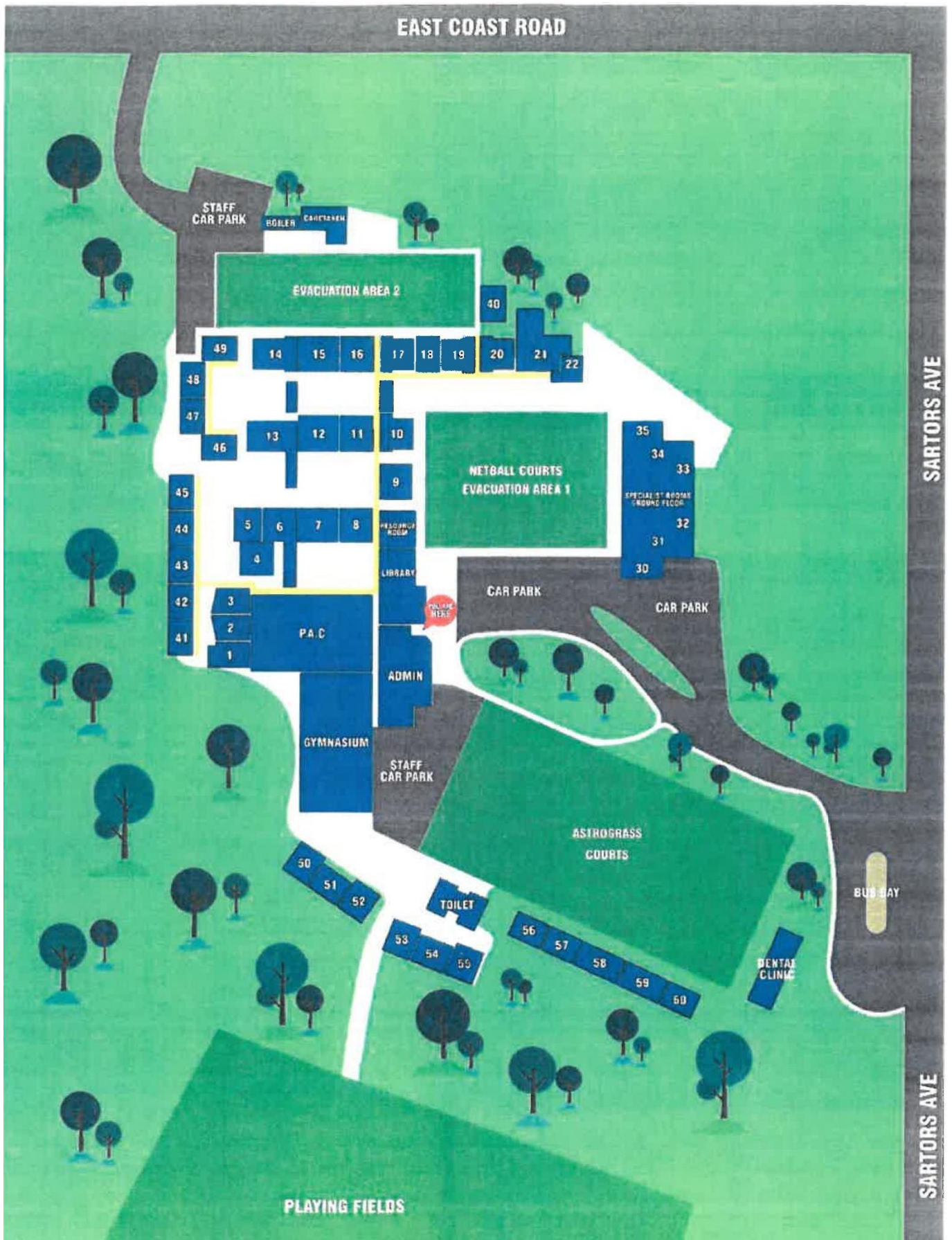
We have over 23 different ethnicities at our school so there is always going to be another Northcross Student who speaks the same language as you. At Northcross we have a wonderful group of Student Leaders who are bi-lingual and are always available to talk to you. You will be given a booklet when you arrive at school so you know where you can find them.



We hope you enjoy your time with us. It's very important that you ask for help if you need it. You can ask your class teacher, a fellow student, one of our ESOL Ambassadors, International Department (Mrs Hines, Mrs Inger, Mrs Yang)- EVERYONE is here to help if you; you just have to ask.



NORTHCROSS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



Matching Activity

Can you match the pictures to the New Zealand 'Kiwi' words?



Jandals

Sunnies

Iceblock

Lollies

Togs

Chips

Gumboots

CHECK LIST BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

- Make sure you pack some warm clothes if coming for Term 3 (July)
- Bring your insurance certificate with you (if the school has not arranged it for you)
- You will need to bring your own device/laptop
- If you bring electrical items you will need to bring an adaptor. New Zealand is 240volts
- If you get lost or have any trouble at the airport please call the school's emergency number
- Have you read your Student Information Booklet?
- If living in a homestay have you read the Homestay Booklet?
- You will need to bring your own school shoes (black sandals or black lace-up shoes)
- Have you made contact with your homestay family? (if applicable)

KITE WAVE KOUTOU (SEE YOU SOON)

