



Charter School Agency

13 December 2024

Seventh new charter school confirmed for 2025

Today's confirmation that TIPENE will open in 2025 adds further depth to the growing network of diverse learning options for young New Zealanders, Charter School Agency Chief Executive Jane Lee says.

Associate Education Minister David Seymour made the announcement about TIPENE at the school's South Auckland grounds today, making it the seventh new charter school to be confirmed since the end of November.

TIPENE is a full-time boarding school for Māori and Pacific boys. Familiar to many as St Stephen's School which closed in 2000, the new TIPENE charter school will open its doors to year nine and 10 students in 2025 and gradually phase in additional year groups.

"I welcome TIPENE to the charter school network and commend its governing body Te Tuara Trust and its supporters for their dedication and vision to give this historic school a new beginning," says Ms Lee.

"Like all of the new charter schools, TIPENE will offer its students an environment that more closely meets their learning needs to help lift achievement levels. This will support young people to progress and achieve and empower them to reach their potential."

Chair of the independent Charter School Authorisation Board, Justine Mahon, says TIPENE is another example of how charter schools will provide greater flexibility in teaching and innovation in learning.

"Today is a remarkable milestone for the TIPENE community and a further meaningful educational alternative for young people and their families."

The Charter School Agency will now focus on supporting the establishment of all seven new charter ahead of their respective opening days.

There will be a further application round next year. Applications from those who were unsuccessful in the first round will have an opportunity for their applications to be reconsidered.

The seven new charter schools announced to open in 2025 are:

- TIPENE (Auckland)

- Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki (Christchurch)
- Christchurch North College (Christchurch)
- The BUSY School NZ (Auckland)
- Te Rito, Te Kura Taiao (Kaitaia)
- École Française Internationale (Auckland)
- North West Creative Arts College (Auckland)