

Three more new charter schools to open in term one next year

An online learning academy, a school primarily for disengaged Pasifika and Māori students in Hawkes Bay and an academy providing a classical education will open as charter schools in term one next year.

The new schools are:

- Aotearoa Infinite Academy
- Te Aratika High School
- Altum Academy

They will join the three charter schools announced in August that will also open at the same time.

Aotearoa Infinite Academy

Aotearoa Infinite Academy is an online charter school. Its online approach is an option for students who find the traditional classroom isn't the right fit for them, and for whānau whose geographical location means they have limited schooling options.

Its educational philosophy is centered around deliberate, relational teaching and student engagement.

Students will study in small virtual classrooms of around 15 to 20 students and will be taught at a level that matches their ability in a certain subject, not their age.

Learning in this virtual environment with other students throughout the country means students are able to connect with other like-minded students and build friendships based on shared interests and not only geographic proximity.

The school offers a structured academic pathway with a combination of local and international curriculum.

Year 9, 10 and 11 students will be taught the international GCSE curriculum, followed by NCEA Levels 2 and 3 for students in Years 12 and 13.

Te Aratika High School

Te Aratika High School will focus primarily on preparing disengaged Māori and Pacific students for careers.

The Mangateretere, Hawkes Bay high school will also focus on the cultural, academic, physical, social and emotional needs of its students, many of whom who have had negative education and life experiences.

Te Aratika High School will use a curriculum based on Māori values as the basis of its teaching and philosophy. It will prepare and support students to become ready for careers in both academic and non-academic pathways.

Teaching programmes will be based on practical skills with opportunities for work experience with iwi, hapū and industry partners. Vocational pathways will have a primary focus on infrastructure works and employment opportunities.

Using an indigenous approach, each year students will learn through contexts including te taiao (the environment), celestial navigation, and sailing on waka hourua (twin-hulled voyaging waka). The school will work with local experts to teach students these skills. These experiences will then be translated into the students' educational journey, enabling them to use the analogy of planning, preparing, and undertaking a voyage to define goals for the academic year.

Altum Academy

Altum Academy aims to provide a structured education covering subjects such as English, the arts, languages, sciences, maths.

This classical approach will support the development of students' academic excellence and good character through clear routines and deliberate teaching methods.

Students will study both Latin (only a handful of schools in the country offer this subject) and Te Reo Māori.

Latin supports deep learning across subjects by strengthening understanding in English, history, science, and the arts. Te Reo Māori, as the indigenous language, enriches the culture of the academy and affirms commitment to Te Ao Māori values.

Both languages enhance cognitive skills, foster cultural awareness, and help students make meaningful connections across learning.

It will begin with years 7, 9 and 9 will use a variety of curriculum resources to teach this initial cohort.

The first year 12 class in 2029 is likely to either study the revised NCEA qualifications or potentially the Cambridge Assessment International Examinations.