

Our History



A Great History, and an Exciting Future.....

Otago Boys' High School was established in 1863 to provide education for students from Dunedin, Otago and Southland. This remains the central focus for the school today, although students from other parts of New Zealand and overseas are now included on our roll.

Otago Boys' High School is a state boys' school with a proud tradition. It is the third oldest school in New Zealand. Established in 1863, it is one of the most famous schools in our country. The Main Tower Block, designed by Mr R.A.Lawson, is regarded as one of the best pieces of architecture in Dunedin, and is regularly visited by tourists to Dunedin. The main tower block is often described as a castle.

The school opened on its present site in Arthur Street in 1885. Until then it had shared a site in Dowling Street with Otago Girls' High School. Increasing roll numbers from 1903 led to the opening of the Shand Building in 1914. In 1920 the Fulton Building provided six additional classrooms but this has since been replaced by the gymnasium complex and swimming pool.

A former Rector, Mr W.J.Morrell gave his name to one of the more recent teaching blocks sited on what was the old fives courts. Specialist science laboratories were constructed in 1967, and were named after world-renowned plastic surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe, an Old Boy of the school.

The new buildings blend naturally and elegantly with the architecture of the past, providing a unique environment for learning and the enjoyment of school life and activities. Mr D.J.MacLachlan, Rector from 1963 to 1985, worked tirelessly for the construction of the main teaching block, which now bears his name. Included in his efforts were the preservation and refurbishment of the Main Tower Block the central feature of which is the Maurice Joel Theatre. These buildings were opened in 1983.