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FOLLOW US AS WE TRY TO
CHALLENGE MIND-SETS ABOUT
HOW LEARNING CAN HAPPEN
FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

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International
Department



KAIKORAI VALLEY COLLEGE

URBAN FARM





VISION

Our Farm is all about learning differently. We want to challenge mind-sets about how education can happen for our young people; and how humans interact with the environment. Our learning is focused on Science and Technology in Sustainable Agriculture. However, we also apply a broader cross-curricula approach wherever possible.

The College's Farm education programme includes our international students. At elementary and intermediate level, our students can take an ESOL Farm course that uses Farm contexts for learning English. Examples are learning how to prune and maintain fruit trees; trapping for pests, growing food, bee keeping, looking after chickens, caring for sheep and lambs and how to measure water quality.

We find that our students greatly enjoy applying their language learning in the Farm context. In the process, the students get to be outside and learn differently from the rest of their school subjects. Learning a language can be very tiring day after day – so, being able to take a break and learn differently is good for mental health and well-being. Students can earn credits from English Language Learning standards that use the Farm learning as a context for writing, reading, speaking and listening. Those standards also count for credits towards NCEA.

There are other opportunities for involvement of international students too. These are not linked to earning credits: such as during a lunchtime Farm visit, through the Year 12 Activities programme at the end of the Year. Lastly, we have visits through the year from agents from different countries such as China, Japan and Brazil. Interested? Make contact!



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