

WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 | 2025

SENIOR LEADERSHIP CAMP

Congratulations to all the Year 12 and 13 students who chose to start their school year at Aongatete Outdoor Education Centre for our Senior Leadership Camp. It was fantastic to see all the refreshed keen faces after the summer break. The focus of this year's camp was Cohesion and Collaborative Leadership. It provided an opportunity for students to identify their own strengths and weaknesses and understand that working within a team has huge benefits in terms of achieving personal and group goals. As well as plenty of silly games, swims, speed dating, a formal dinner, and four guest speakers, students were given the opportunity to lead within their house groups and other various teams. Observations from this helped select our new House Leaders for 2025. Special congratulations to them.





Empire: Izzie Cannell, Stella Shave, Stuart Hartley and Sam Bjerring

Amaranth: Evah Carey, Brooke Kelly, Luke Butler and Zara Davies-Young

Dominion: Mischa Nand, Piper Dixon, Makiyla Liakimatagi

Royal: Max Morley, Isla Menary, Charlie Joyce and Kate Townsend

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora Whanau

We have had a great first week back at kura - our new students are getting to know their way around, and our older students are awesome role models for them.

A big welcome to our International students - we are so glad you have joined us from around the world, and are



looking forward to learning so much about your countries
and cultures - nau mai, haere mai!

We have a school wide focus of Kotahitanga this term, along with our other school values, in creating a space that reflects unity and 'togetherness'.

Listening to some of the courses available are rather inspiring, such as animal care, landscaping, hair and beauty, financial literacy and so much more! There are so many ways to have learning pathways created, to suit our older students' needs. Our students have some great opportunities to bring the house points pouring in, with both athletics and swimming days coming up. Please keep an eye on the newsletter, for times and dates, and when you can, pop on down to cheer and support.

A huge shout out to many of our students, who have competed in various events over the summer and pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, trained hard and committed to their goals - amazing! Several of our staff have also smashed their competition goals over the summer - and we are so very proud for you!

You will notice a separate Sports newsletter coming out this term - we have so much to share that it warrants its own space! Pour a cuppa and enjoy reading about our amazing young people.

Lastly - congratulations to our students who have been recognised for gaining an endorsement in their subject, based on results for 2024. We are very proud of your efforts and results! I would like to congratulate our teachers who craft programs of learning to support our young people to reach for their star.

As always, please reach out to share your concerns and celebrations.

Nga manaakitanga,
Briar

COMING UP



WAIHĪ COLLEGE



Auditions have started!! We are also in the process of gathering expressions of interest for behind the scenes involvement. Please see Ms Berry or Mr Randell regarding auditions and Wendy for anything behind the scenes.

Student Vehicles

If senior students wish to bring a vehicle to school, they will now require a vehicle pass. Applications were given out during camp but they are also available in the student centre. Once completed, and a copy of your license is in our files, you will receive your pass. Passes will need to be displayed in the vehicle whilst on school site. This will be monitored by duty staff.

Waihi College Attendance Management Plan

In September 2024, the Ministry of Education announced a new package of measures to improve school attendance. Part of the package is the Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) system to encourage regular student attendance.

Waihi College Attendance Management Plan provides a structured approach to:

- **Early Intervention:** If a student has five absences, we will contact whānau to discuss the reasons for absence and set expectations for regular attendance.
- **Increased Support:** If a student has ten absences, we will meet with whānau and the student to identify any barriers to attendance and develop a plan to address them.
- **Escalation:** If a student has 15 or more absences, we may need to escalate the matter to the Ministry of Education or another agency.

This system is being implemented across New Zealand schools to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed in their education.

The Government has a goal of 80% of ākonga present for 90% of each school term by 2030.

At Waihi College we will be implementing the STAR system in our new Attendance Management Plan.

We understand that there may be various reasons why a student might miss school, and we want to work with whānau to address these issues and get students back in the classroom.

Please note that both justified and unjustified absence codes (see attachment for full descriptions) will count towards the number of days absent. This includes absences due to illness, medical appointments, family emergencies, and other legitimate reasons.

We believe that open communication and a strong partnership between school and whānau are essential for ākonga success.

We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance.

We are committed to providing a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students at Waihi College. We believe that the Waihi College Attendance Management Plan will help us to achieve this goal.

NURSE'S CORNER

**WAIHI COLLEGE HAS A SCHOOL NURSE
AVAILABLE MONDAY-THURSDAY ALL DAY**

POP IN TO THE BUILDING NEXT TO THE TREE OF
LIFE
WALK IN APPOINTMENT, OR TEXT/PHONE TO
0272983787

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IF YOU HAVE
ANY HEALTH NEEDS OR QUESTIONS
MARGIE GOLDSWORTHY / SCHOOL NURSE FOR
WAIHI COLLEGE



Ngā mihi, with kind regards
Margie (She/Her)

Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE

M: 0272983787

E: margie.goldsworthy@pinnacle.health.nz

STUDENT ABSENCES

We have several ways that you can let us know that your child/children will be absent from school.

You can ring the student centre from 8.30am or the front office from 8am 07 863 8349 or txt 021 830 055. If we have not heard from a caregiver by 10am then we will send a txt message and email to parents/caregivers. If you save the phone number/email address on this message it can be used for future absence notifications.

Please contact us every day that your child is absent unless you have told us in advance that they will be away for more than one day.

If your child has an appointment, please tell us what type of appointment it is e.g. Doctor, dentist etc as this affects the code we use.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM

We have a supply of second-hand uniform available. If you would like to have a look, please come and see us at the front office or the student centre.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

CHECK YOUR
EMAILS



All parents will be receiving an email very soon with the details Waihi College holds for your tamariki on our school system.

Please would you check these details: address, phone numbers, email addresses and let the kura know if any updates are required.

If you do not receive an email, please call our kura and update the email address.

Thank you



**Neurodiversity
Celebration
Week**

**We're
supporting!**

March 17 - 23, 2025
www.neurodiversityweek.com

BYOD IN 2025

This year, Waihi College has moved to a **fully BYOD model**. BYOD stands for Bring Your Own Device. Students and teachers are working more and more with digital platforms for the distribution and completion of work in the classroom. By students having their own device, there is a seamless link between home and in school learning and the student can personalise their device to suit their own needs.

Why BYOD?

Personalised, flexible learning • Increased access to devices for learning activities eg Google Drive, research, skills practice etc • Seamless learning between home and school • 24/7 anywhere/anytime access to learning • Preparing for the future – IT/ collaborative/ cloud-based tools.

What sort of device do I need?

For most students, the most economical device is a Chromebook. Ideally the device would have a minimum of 4GB RAM, a minimum of 32GB and a screen that is large enough for the student to read information on easily. All Chromebooks will have access to Google classrooms and the Google suite where the majority of work is completed in class.

For senior students (Year 12 and 13) who have specialised courses, they may choose to purchase a laptop that has higher specifications and the ability to add course related programmes. Noel Leeming, PB Tech, The Warehouse, Harvey Norman and JB Hi-Fi are some of the examples of retailers that offer excellent deals for devices.

Expectations

The device must be brought to school each day fully charged and is expected to

have a minimum charge life of 6 hours. Students will be expected to use their own device in class and there will be no option for borrowing a device if a student fails to bring their device. The student will work on paper if they do not bring their device to school.

What if I am unable to purchase a device?

Waihi College will have devices available for students to lease should they be unable to purchase one themselves. Students will pay a bond to lease the device for the year, they will take the device home and use it as their own for the year. Parents/caregivers and students will sign a contract agreeing to maintain the condition and return of the device with any loss or damage charged to the student.

More Information

Buying a device can be confusing with lots of overwhelming information. Please take a look at this handy guide from NetSafe NZ about buying a device and how to keep your child safe online.

<https://netsafe.org.nz/byod/>

As the 2024 year progresses, we will continue to give you more information.

This information can also be found in the [Administration & Policies](#) tab under Our School.

Providing information to parents on topics and resources that support students learning

Lessons from Learning Support Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a common learning difficulty that affects reading, writing, and spelling skills. It is not linked to intelligence but rather to how the brain processes language. Secondary school students with dyslexia may face **unique challenges**, including increased academic pressure, complex reading materials, and a greater demand for independent learning. As a parent, understanding dyslexia and knowing how to support your child can make a significant difference in their academic journey and overall confidence. By secondary school, **dyslexia symptoms** may become more noticeable due to higher academic demands. Some signs include: Difficulty reading fluently or understanding complex texts, Trouble with spelling and written expression, Slow writing speed and frequent grammar mistakes, Avoidance of reading assignments, Difficulty following written instructions and Low self-esteem or frustration related to academics

Dyslexia can make it challenging for students to keep up with the fast pace of secondary school learning. **They may struggle with:** Comprehending lengthy textbooks and essays, Taking notes during lectures, Organizing their thoughts for written assignments, Remembering new vocabulary and subject-specific terms, Managing time effectively for homework and exams

How a Parent Can Support Their Child

- 1. To Get a Formal Assessment** :If you suspect your child has dyslexia, seek an evaluation from an educational psychologist or a specialist teacher. A diagnosis will help in accessing the right support and accommodations at school.
- 2. Work with the School** : The school can offer accommodations for dyslexic students, such as extra time on tests, the use of assistive technology, or alternative assessment methods. Speak with teachers and special education coordinators to develop an Individualized Education Plan
- 3. Encourage the Use of Assistive Technology** : Text-to-speech software (e.g., Google Read&Write), Audiobooks to assist with reading comprehension, Dyslexia-friendly fonts and reading apps
- 4. Support Literacy at Home** Encourage reading through audiobooks, graphic novels, or texts with larger fonts. Help with spelling and writing by breaking words into syllables and using mnemonic devices. Create a quiet study environment with minimal distractions
- 5. Build Confidence and Emotional Support** Dyslexia can take a toll on a child's self-esteem. Parents can help by: Praising efforts rather than focusing on mistakes, Encouraging strengths in areas such as art, sports, or problem-solving Seeking counseling or support groups if their child feels discouraged.
- 6. Develop Organizational Strategies** Help your child stay on top of schoolwork with: Color-coded notebooks and folders, Digital planners or reminder apps, Breaking tasks into smaller steps with deadlines and Practicing time management techniques
- 7. Seek External Support** : A wealth of resources and information can be found at : [Dyslexia Foundation of New Zealand](#)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

February 2025

Kia ora e te Whanau.

The Mobile Dental Unit that services your School and Community is located at Waihi, Beach School and will be there for Term 1, 2025.

Pre-schoolers and students are entitled to regular free dental check-ups from for 0 to 17 year olds. Students to year 8 are seen by the Mobile Dental Service. From year 9 they continue to be seen and treated for free by a private dentist until they turn 18 years old – please ensure you follow this up with your local dentist.

If you have an urgent dental concern for your child, or wish to make an appointment for your child's routine examination, please phone or text us direct on 021 359 798, or phone 0800 825 583, or email

AdminDental@waikatodhb.health.nz.

Ngaa mihi nui.



SPORTS NEWSLETTER

Keep an eye on your emails for our new Sports Newsletter, coming soon.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE



SPORTS NEWSLETTER