

# WAIHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 16 | 2025

## PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

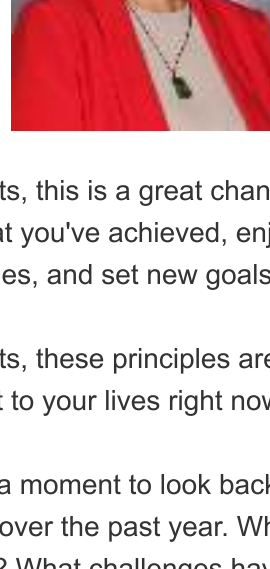
Gracious me - only two and half weeks left of term - the year is flying by!

Soon, we celebrate **Matariki**, the Māori New Year. This year, it's on **Friday, June 20th**.

**Matariki is about three main things:**

- **Remembering the past:** Thinking about those who have passed away and reflecting on our journey.
- **Celebrating the present:** Gathering with family and friends, sharing food and stories.
- **Planning for the future:** Setting goals and looking ahead to the new year.

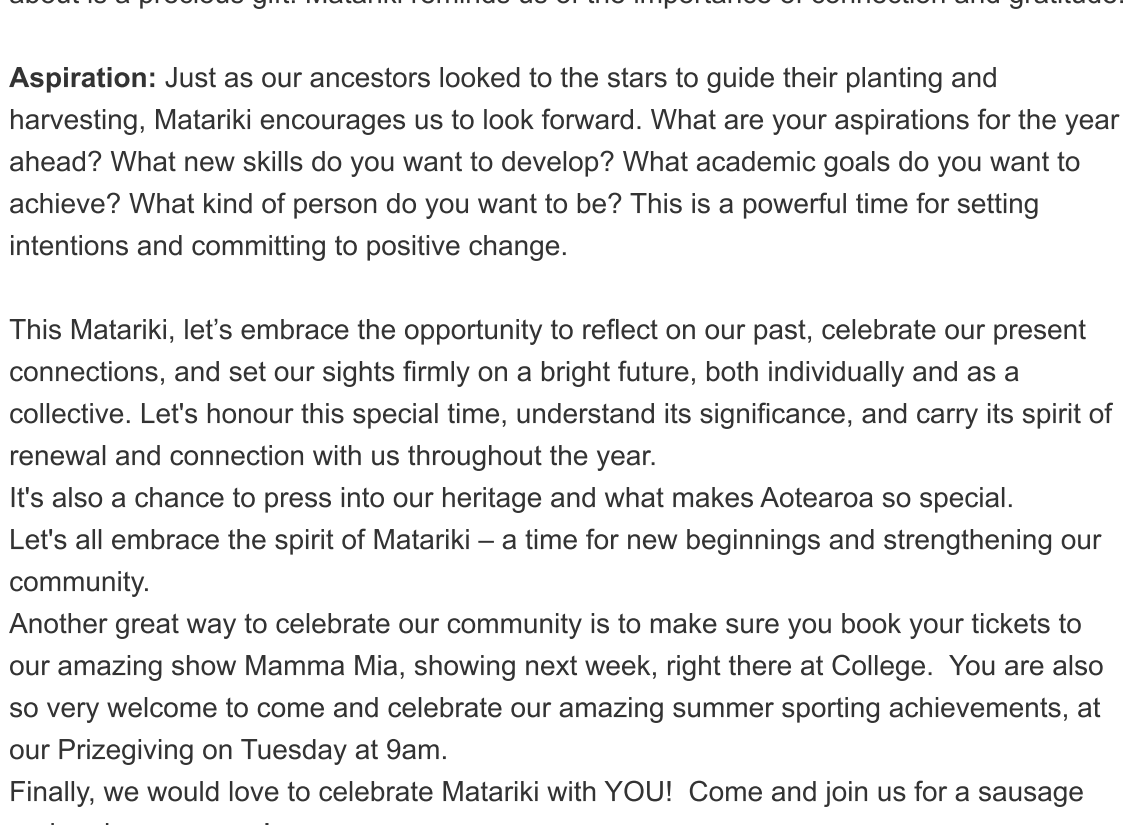
Just like our ancestors used Matariki to guide their planting, we can use this time to **reflect on our past year, celebrate our connections, and plan for what's next.**



As college students, this is a great chance to think about what you've achieved, enjoy time with loved ones, and set new goals for the year ahead.

As college students, these principles are incredibly relevant to your lives right now.

**Reflection:** Take a moment to look back on your own journey over the past year. What have you learned? What challenges have you overcome? What successes have you celebrated, big or small? Matariki gives us permission to pause, to acknowledge our growth, and to appreciate the experiences that have shaped us.



**Celebration:** This is a time to connect with your own whānau, your friends, and your community. Share a meal, tell stories, simply enjoy each other's company. In our increasingly busy lives, the opportunity to truly connect and be present with those we care about is a precious gift. Matariki reminds us of the importance of connection and gratitude.

**Aspiration:** Just as our ancestors looked to the stars to guide their planting and harvesting, Matariki encourages us to look forward. What are your aspirations for the year ahead? What new skills do you want to develop? What academic goals do you want to achieve? What kind of person do you want to be? This is a powerful time for setting intentions and committing to positive change.

This Matariki, let's embrace the opportunity to reflect on our past, celebrate our present connections, and set our sights firmly on a bright future, both individually and as a collective. Let's honour this special time, understand its significance, and carry its spirit of renewal and connection with us throughout the year.

It's also a chance to press into our heritage and what makes Aotearoa so special.

Let's all embrace the spirit of Matariki – a time for new beginnings and strengthening our community.

Another great way to celebrate our community is to make sure you book your tickets to our amazing show Mamma Mia, showing next week, right there at College. You are also so very welcome to come and celebrate our amazing summer sporting achievements, at our Prizegiving on Tuesday at 9am.

Finally, we would love to celebrate Matariki with YOU! Come and join us for a sausage and and cuppa soup!

Keep an eye out on our social media and website, for up and coming events!

As always, I am here to connect with you, so please feel free to reach out and share what is on top for you.

Nga manaakitanga,  
Briar

## SCHOOL WIDE

### MAMMA MIA TICKETS SELLING FAST!!!

**BE IN QUICK!!** On **Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th** and **Friday 20th June** we have shows starting at 6.30pm then on **Saturday 21st June** we have a 1pm matinee. You can select from General Admission for \$15 each, or Student and Senior tickets for only \$12.50. This year we are also selling premium seating for \$25 for the front few rows! Please get in quick before they sell out. Head to Humanitix to purchase yours now: <https://events.humanitix.com/mamma-mia-fgu5gqni>.

Meal ticket sales have now finished, but we will have a Food Stall where you can buy drinks, slices, lollies and sausage rolls for cash or eftpos on the night.

Lastly, our Kapa Haka ropu will be holding a raffle stall to help them raise money for their trip to Taiwan later in the year. Cash only for raffles.



### WORLD VISION: 40 HOUR CHALLENGE

Recently we sent home an email to let you know Waihi College is taking part in the World Vision 40 Hour Challenge. We would love as many of our students as possible to sign up so we can give kids in Solomon Islands food for today, and a future for tomorrow. Every dollar will make a difference.

If you or your student would be keen to sign up, go to this link to find out how:

<https://fundraise.worldvision.org.nz/join/WaihiCollege>

Follow the easy steps to set up your fundraising page and then share the link with your family and friends so you can start raising money. The Challenge is from 13th-15th June and our aim is to raise as much as possible. We will also be hosting a bake sale on Wednesday and would love as many baking donations as possible.

### Matariki Community Celebration



Waihi College will be celebrating Matariki with shared kai (delicious soups, curried sausages, bread and more) from 1.15pm on Thursday 19th June. Staff will be preparing the food to gift to our students to encompass our school values of Manaakitanga, Kotahitanga, Kaitiakitanga and Whanaungatanga. The food will be homemade and donated by the staff for the students and their whānau (who are attending). There will also be games on the field and the art room will be open for students and little ones to do some painting/colouring in.

We would love for families to join us if you would like to. Please come along to the Waka fields from 1.15pm till around 3.10.

### Parent Teacher Interviews: 23 June

A letter was emailed home recently to all caregivers from Ms Howell. The letter was to inform you about upcoming Parent/Teacher Interviews held at the college for all students in Year 7 - 13. These interviews will be held on Monday, 23rd June with the students Homeroom or Subject teacher. Interviews start from 2.30pm and run until 6.00pm and we encourage you to attend with your student so they can be part of the success story and be part of finding solutions to their learning needs.



The focus of the interviews will be on the work completed in Terms 1 and 2 and looking forward to Term 3. Interviews are by appointment only. If you are unable to book an appointment or there are no available times at a time that suit you, please make contact with the teacher directly via email or phone Sue in reception. You can find the email address of staff on the staff directory on our website: [Staff Directory](#)

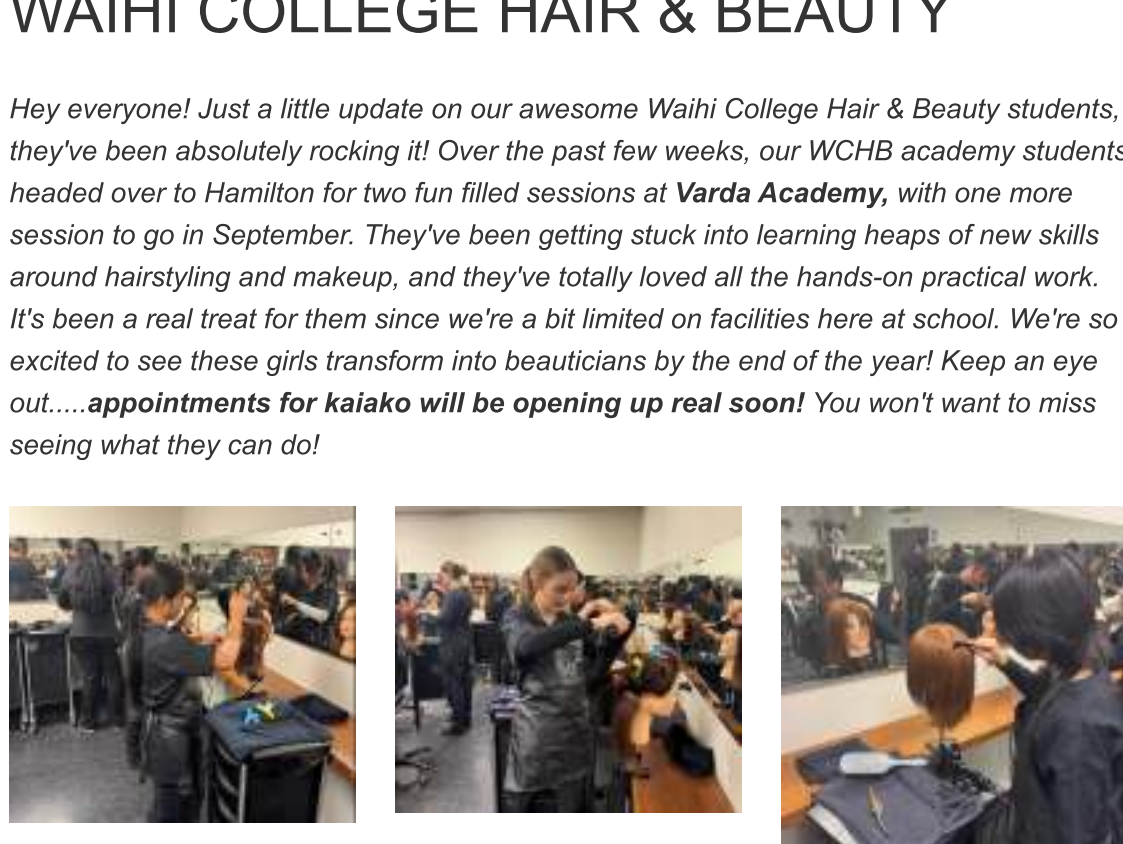
Please note that you do not need to make an appointment with every teacher on the students timetable. Please make targeted interviews with the subjects that you specifically would like more information or feedback from.

To make an appointment please choose one of these options:

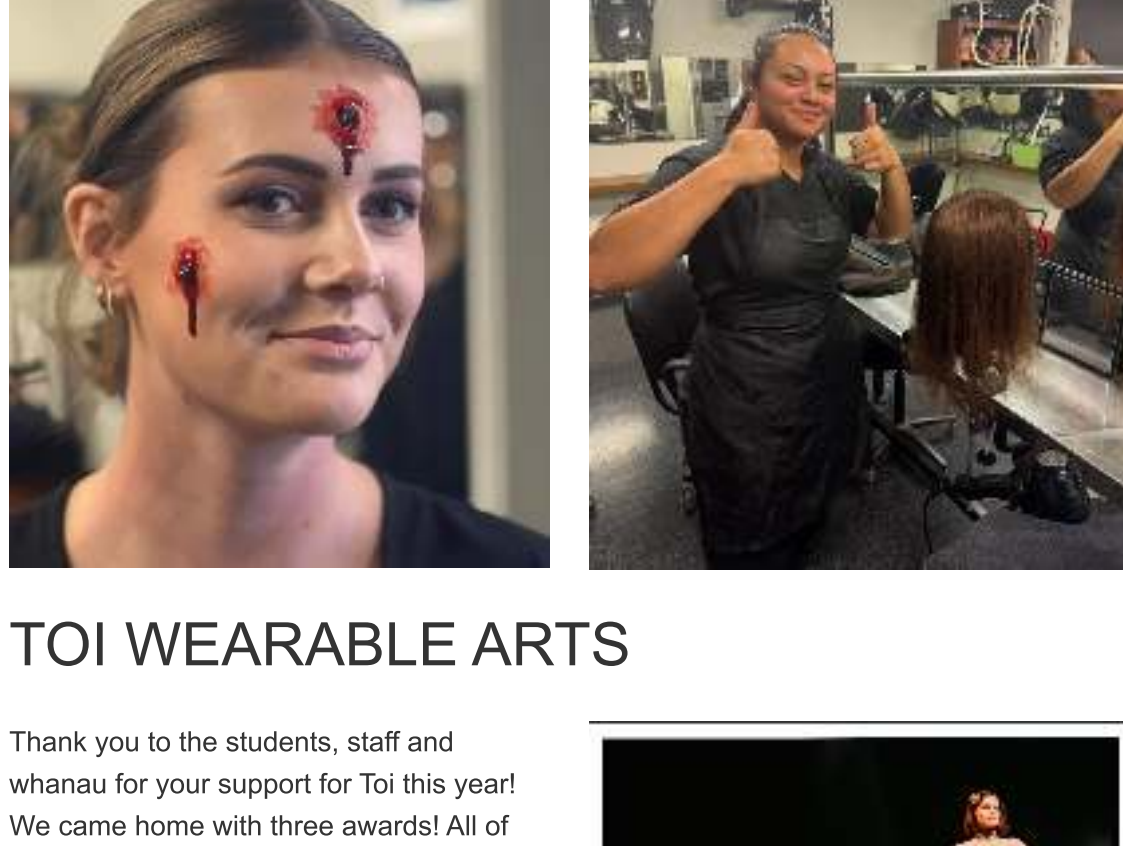
Click on the QR code attached to this letter which will take you to the bookings directly OR

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and press the green button 'Make a Booking'. Enter the event code which is **m4xxd**

If you are having trouble making an appointment you can also call Sue in the college reception on 07 863 8349

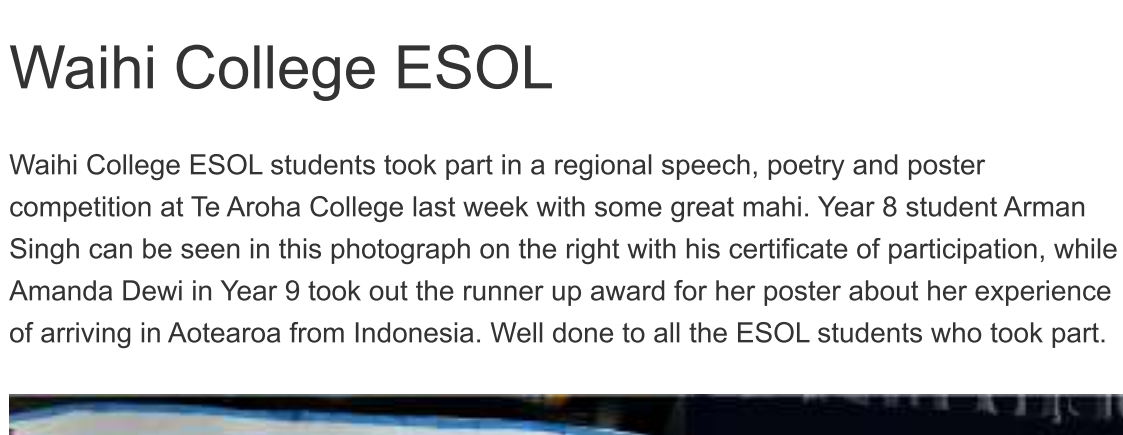


### VENDORS REQUIRED



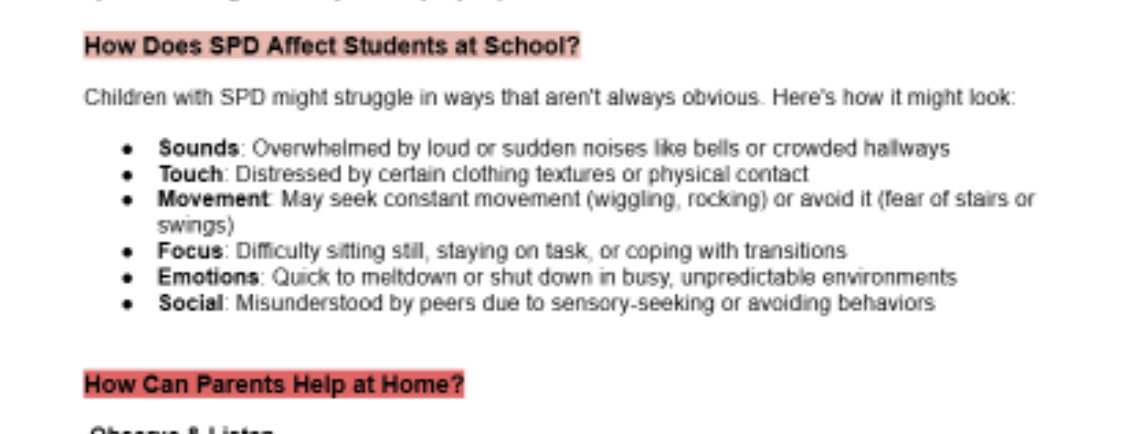
### WAIHI COLLEGE HAIR & BEAUTY

Hey everyone! Just a little update on our awesome Waihi College Hair & Beauty students, they've been absolutely rocking it! Over the past few weeks, our WCHB academy students headed over to Hamilton for two fun filled sessions at **Varda Academy**, with one more session to go in September. They've been getting stuck into learning heaps of new skills around hairstyling and makeup, and they've totally loved all the hands-on practical work. It's been a real treat for them since we've a bit limited on facilities here at school. We're so excited to see these girls transform into beauticians by the end of the year! Keep an eye out.....**appointments for kaiako will be opening up real soon!** You won't want to miss seeing what they can do!



### Waihi College ESOL

Waihi College ESOL students took part in a regional speech, poetry and poster competition at Te Aroha College last week with some great mahi. Year 8 student Arman Singh can be seen in this photograph on the right with his certificate of participation, while Amanda Dewi in Year 9 took out the runner up award for her poster about her experience of arriving in Aotearoa from Indonesia. Well done to all the ESOL students who took part.



### PARENT CORNER

#### Little Lessons From Learning Support

##### What is Sensory Processing Disorder?

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) is a condition where the brain has trouble receiving and responding appropriately to information that comes in through the senses. Children with SPD may be over-sensitive, under-sensitive, or experience mixed responses to things like sound, touch, smell, movement, or visuals. It's not about "bad behavior" — it's about the nervous system reacting differently to everyday experiences.

##### How Does SPD Affect Students at School?

Children with SPD might struggle in ways that aren't always obvious. Here's how it might look:

- **Sounds:** Overwhelmed by loud or sudden noises like bells or crowded hallways
- **Touch:** Distressed by certain clothing textures or physical contact
- **Movement:** May seek constant movement (wiggling, rocking) or avoid it (fear of stairs or swings)
- **Focus:** Difficulty sitting still, staying on task, or coping with transitions
- **Emotions:** Quick to meltdown or shut down in busy, unpredictable environments
- **Social:** Misunderstood by peers due to sensory-seeking or avoiding behaviors

##### How Can Parents Help at Home?

###### Observe & Listen

- Notice what triggers sensory overload or soothes your child
- Validate their reactions — don't force them into uncomfortable situations

###### Create a Sensory-Friendly Home

- Provide quiet spaces and use noise-cancelling headphones or calming music
- Provide fidget tools or weighted blankets if helpful

###### Prepare for Transitions

- Use visual schedules or verbal notifiers for changes in routine
- Preview new environments when possible

###### Partner with the School

- Share what works at home
- Ask about sensory supports in the classroom (calm spaces, breaks, etc.)
- Collaborate on strategies and accommodations for learning profiles and plans



### COMMUNITY NOTICES



**Where:** Waihi Community Resource Centre, 4 Mueller Street

**Who:** Parents of year 7 and year 8 teenagers who are transitioning through their later primary years leading into college.

##### Content:

- Week 1** – Healthy Relationships and Sexual Wellbeing
- Week 2** – Internet safety & safety through social media
- Week 3** – Mental Health & Coping Mechanisms
- Week 4** – Budgeting hints and tips about dealing with financial pressure. Delivered by Annette from Waihi Budgeting Services.

##### Registration is a must:

Registration is a must so if you can please call the office on 07 863 7555 or email [mtti@wcc.org.nz](mailto:mtti@wcc.org.nz) to register. We will be able to provide additional information around the course content at time of registration if need be.

