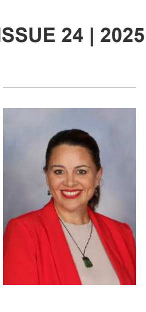
WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 24 | 2025

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT



Tēnā koutou katoa,

Thank you in advance for your support on Wednesday, as our teachers join the rest of Secondary Kura, in Aotearoa, to strike. Just to clarify, this will affect all of our kura, from year 7-13. Most teaching staff will be offsite, supporting fellow colleagues, raising the awareness of what our sector needs to continue to provide the very best for our young people.

This means, students will not be able to be supervised in class. Please ensure suitable arrangements are made for your young person for Wednesday, or contact the school office if this is not possible for your whanau.
As mentioned in my pānui last week, there will be rolling strikes later in September, and some more information coming out soon.

Ngā Mihi Nui to Our Exiting Board of Trustees
As we farewell our outgoing Board of Trustees, Scott Spicer, Mathew Carden-Scott, Dot Carter, and thank Tineke Iversen and Cat Sole-Osbourne, who are continuing; we pause to acknowledge and celebrate the **hard work, guidance, and wisdom** they have shared over the last three years. We also acknowledge and thank our Student Representative, Moana McGee.
Their service has strengthened our kura and helped shape brighter pathways for our rangatahi.

1. Leadership and Vision – Kotahitanga
Our Board has guided the school through:

- Developing strategic plans that focused on every student's learning and wellbeing.
- Supporting innovation in teaching and learning pathways.
- Ensuring all voices were heard when shaping our kura's future.

This unity of purpose reflects **Kotahitanga – working together as one**.

2. Guiding with Care – Manaakitanga
Our trustees have led with compassion by:

- Supporting whānau during times of need, and community hardship.
- Prioritising student wellbeing and pastoral care.
- Championing inclusion and equity across all levels of school life.

These actions are **Manaakitanga in action**, caring for our community with heart.

3. Building Connections – Whanaungatanga
Strong relationships have been at the heart of the Board's mahi:

- Maintaining open and respectful communication with staff, students, and whānau.
- Encouraging whānau involvement in school events, such as concerts, cultural celebrations, and community fundraisers.
- Strengthening connections with local iwi and community groups.

This work has deepened our sense of **Whanaungatanga – belonging and connection**.
4. Guardianship for the Future – Kaitiakitanga
The Board has upheld its role as kaitiaki by:

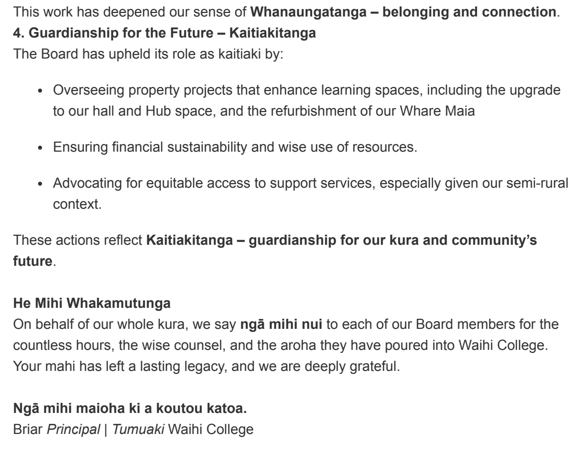
- Overseeing property projects that enhance learning spaces, including the upgrade to our hall and Hub space, and the refurbishment of our Whare Maia
- Ensuring financial sustainability and wise use of resources.
- Advocating for equitable access to support services, especially given our semi-rural context.

These actions reflect **Kaitiakitanga – guardianship for our kura and community's future**.

He Mihi Whakamutunga
On behalf of our whole kura, we say **ngā mihi nui** to each of our Board members for the countless hours, the wise counsel, and the aroha they have poured into Waihi College. Your mahi has left a lasting legacy, and we are deeply grateful.

Ngā mihi maioha ki a koutou katoa.
Briar *Principal* | *Tumuaki* Waihi College

SCHOOL WIDE



STRIKE ACTION

Our secondary teachers will be taking strike action over the coming weeks to stand up for better resourcing, teacher supply, and the needs of our rangatahi. This includes a full day strike on **20 August 2025**, and partial strikes by year level from **15–18 September**. We know this will cause some disruption and appreciate your understanding and support as our teachers work to secure the best future for education in Aotearoa.
Please see a copy of the letter emailed home to all caregivers yesterday regarding the upcoming strike. Should you have any questions, please contact us as on principal@waihicol.school.nz or reception@waihicol.school.nz

13 August 2025.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

Tēnā koutou e te whānau o Waihi College,

I am writing to you today to share important information about upcoming industrial action by our secondary teachers, and to ask for your understanding and support.

Members of PPTA Te Wehengarua, covered by the Secondary Teachers' Collective Agreement (STCA), have overwhelmingly voted to take strike action this term. This is not a decision made lightly. Our teachers are deeply committed to our rangatahi and their learning, but they also believe it is necessary to stand up for the future of education in Aotearoa.

The current offer from the government is one of the lowest ever, and it does not address the teacher supply crisis or the increasing, unmet needs of our students. Long-term, we hope that this action will send a strong message: that our education sector deserves the very best resourcing and support, so that our young people can thrive.

Planned Strike Action

- **Full Day Strike:**
Wednesday 20 August 2025 – Teachers will not work between 8:30am and 4:30pm.
- **Partial Strikes:**
From **Monday 15 September to Thursday 18 September 2025**, there will be targeted strikes by year level from 9:00am to 3:15pm each day.
  - **15 Sept:** Years 12 & 13
  - **16 Sept:** Year 11
  - **17 Sept:** Year 10
  - **18 Sept:** Year 9

During partial strikes, teachers will continue teaching the unaffected year levels and carry out administrative work, but will not be teaching or supervising the year levels on strike that day.

We know this may cause some disruption to our usual routines, and we will communicate any practical arrangements with whānau as each strike approaches.

How You Can Support
We ask our community to stand with our teachers during this time. This is about more than salaries — it's about ensuring we can recruit and retain great teachers, provide the support our learners need, and keep our kura strong for the future. Your encouragement and understanding will make a real difference.

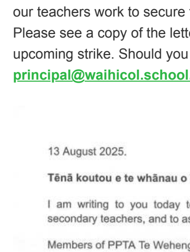
Ngā mihi nui,

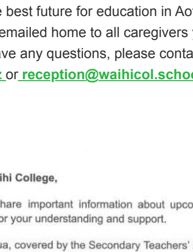
Briar Carden-Scott
Principal – Waihi College

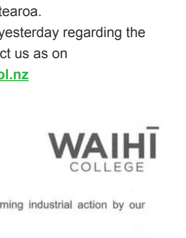
07 863 8349 | www.waihicol.school.nz | 105 Kensington Road, Waihi, 3610

THANKS OCEANA GOLD

Huge thank you to OceanaGold for sponsoring the Science Department for the purchase of digital microscopes. The students have been super excited by the easy use of this technology, the clarity of the magnified images, and the world of the microscopic. Currently they are using them to look at rock samples and identify quartz veins where gold is found.

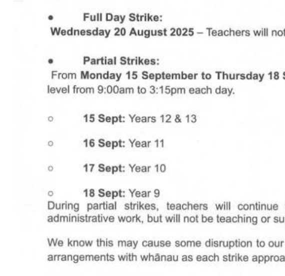






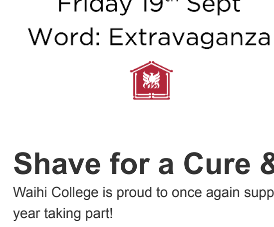
Spirit Day Extravaganza!

Usually Spirit Days run over two days, but this year it's all happening in ONE epic day — Friday 19th September. Don't worry though, we're still packing in just as much fun, energy, and action! For Dress Up Day, the theme is EXTRAVAGANZA — pick a letter from the word and dress up as something that starts with it. The bigger, bolder, and brighter, the better. Let's make this one-day Spirit Day unforgettable!



Shave for a Cure & Spring Concert

Waihi College is proud to once again support Shave for a Cure — this will be our fourth year taking part!
On Tuesday 16th September, we're combining this amazing cause with our much-loved Spring Concert. Come along for an evening of great music, delicious food, and plenty of community spirit — all while supporting a charity that makes a real difference. We've set up a fundraising page so you can get involved, donate, and start raising money today. Select 'sign up to shave' and choose Waihi College as the school to join. Once you are registered, you can share the link to start raising money.
https://www.shaveforacure.co.nz/fundraisers/waihicollege/shave-for-a-cure
Let's make this year's event bigger and better than ever.



A reminder that we have FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS available in the Student Centre. These are for our students to take home, not just an emergency supply at school. They are allowed to take whatever they need for use at home and can top up before the holidays too.

If your child feels a bit shy, feel free to pop in to collect products for them.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Raffles donations from:
Waihi Stihl Shop
Robert Street Bakery
Around the Bend Driver Training
Mrs G
The Silk Whānau
Meares Earthworks
BNT Tauranga
JA Russell Tauriko
BNT Tauranga
Waihi Laundromat
Tandoori Chambers
Waihi Butchers
The Secret Garden Waihi Beach
Motion Bearings, Power Transmission & Consumables Mount Maunganui

UNIFORM REMINDER

Please remember to wear the correct uniform. Now that it is colder, we are seeing a lot of non uniform pants/trousers. These are not allowed. We have Waihi College sports trackpants and Waihi College trousers available from the Uniform Shop available for purchase.

Waihī College Uniform

Two of our school values here at Waihi College are **Whanaungatanga** and **Kotahitanga**- knowing who we are, having a sense of identity and our relationships to one another. Having a uniform gives our tamariki a sense of belonging – making them feel they are a member of a school, having a togetherness with their peers, showing unity and cohesion within our kura.

Waihi College Uniform (available from Uniform Group - shop online or onsite)

Shirt:	Jacket/Sweatshirt:	Pants, Shorts and Skirts:
Regulation Waihi College maroon polo shirt (Junior, Year 7-10) OR Regulation Waihi College black polo shirt (Senior, Year 11-12) Plain black or white long sleeved thermal top if desired (no logo, pattern or writing)	Waihi College jacket and/or Waihi College black cotton sweatshirt, NO HOODIES	Waihi College shorts, skirt, sports track pants or long trousers NO JEANS, NO CARGO PANTS, NO SWEATPANTS

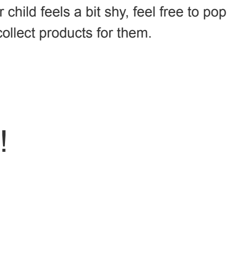
Shoes: Flat, plain black shoes (any material) with plain black or white socks (no logos) or Waihi College socks OR flat plain black sandals (shoes must have a back strap, no slides). Examples of suitable footwear are shown below

LOST PROPERTY

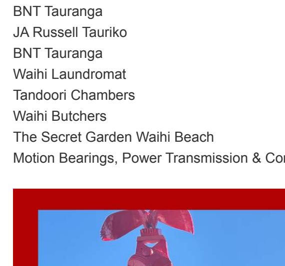
We have a large quantity of unnamed school uniform in the Student Centre.

If your child has told you that their uniform was stolen, it is a good idea to get them to check lost property. They are usually just too scared to tell their parents that they lost it. If it is named, the Student Centre does an amazing job of reuniting it with the correct student. Unnamed uniform items however, sit with us for a term or two then are put into the second hand uniform area.

Most of the clothes in this photo are just from one week!



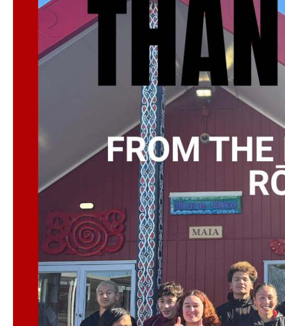
STUDENT ABSENCES



We have several ways that you can let us know that your child/children will be absent from school. Our parent portal now has the option "Notify Absence". Please let us know if you need help accessing the parent portal.

Alternatively, 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.

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.

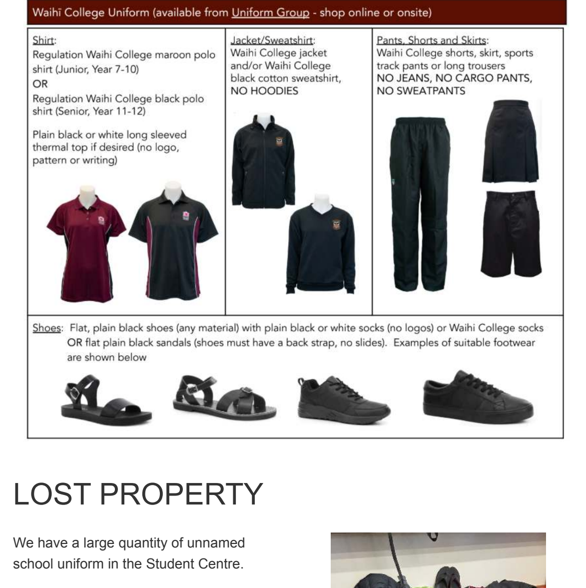


More details about these events can be found on the website and in our Sports Newsletter

Waihi College BYOD

A reminder that Waihi College is a BYOD school for all students in Year 7-13. BYOD stands for Bring
Your Own Device. Students can bring any device from laptop, chromebook, tablet or ipad. The
'phones away for the day' policy means that cell phones are not suitable for use in class time.
Students need to bring their devices to school every day and fully charged.
Devices are available to hire from the school. Please ask at the front office for the paperwork or get
your student to pick up a form from the student centre. Finance options are available.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



WAIHĪ COLLEGE

7 August 2025

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Following the recent Board of Trustees (BOT) elections, four of the five parent representative positions have been filled. We would like to thank all those who put their names forward and congratulate our successful candidates.

Gemma Barden
Tineke Douglas
Victoria Menary
Catherine Sole

As one position remains vacant, the Board now needs to decide whether to fill this vacancy by holding a **bi-election** or **by selecting a candidate.**

Before we can proceed, we are required to consult with our community. You have **28 days** from the date of this letter to let us know if you would prefer the Board to hold a bi-election or to select to fill the vacancy.

Please email your feedback to debbiec@waihicol.school.nz or contact the school office by Thursday 4 September 2025.

Once the consultation period ends, the Board will consider the community's views before deciding.

Ngā mihi

Tineke Douglas
Presiding Member
Waihi College Board of Trustees

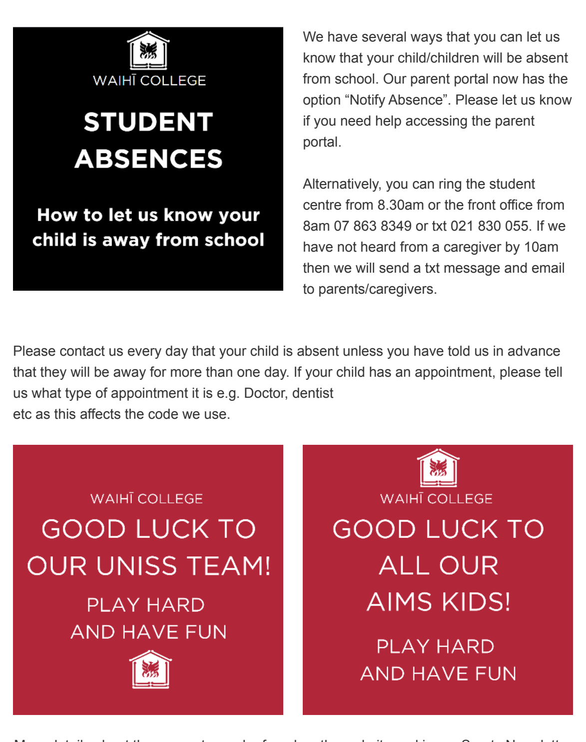
SCHOOL TOURS & OPEN DAY

OPEN AFTERNOON: Thursday 11th September, 3.00-6.00pm
An opportunity for parents and whanau of current Year 7&8 students as well as Year 6 students and whanau to visit the Year 7&8 classrooms, where students will be presenting information about different cultures who live in our local area.

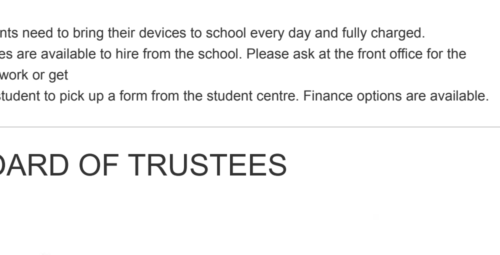
ENROLMENT FORMS DUE: Friday 12th September
The early return of enrolment forms will ensure that the Waihi College team have plenty of time to organise the 2025 program. Please return all completed enrolment forms to the front office at your Primary School.

SCHOOL TOUR: Friday 31st October, 9.00-11.20am
This is an opportunity for all students who have enrolled to visit Waihi College and see how our school works. Parents are welcome to join their child on this tour.

PARENT INFORMATION MEETING: Thursday 6th November, 5.15-6.15pm
Parents are welcome to visit the Year 7&8 area of the school and find out how the program works. It is a chance to meet the teachers, see the waka environment and ask questions.



PARENT CORNER



Little Lessons from Learning Support

Each week this term we will focus on research-based, interesting, grounded in neuroscience and engaging tips to help ***parents*** optimize adolescent brain performance

Manage Technology Wisely

Model balance – Show them how you manage your screen time too.

Teach "brain breaks" – Use timers and apps to reset between work and fun.

Limit multitasking – The brain can't learn well while toggling between TikTok and homework.

Talk about dopamine – Help them understand why apps are addictive.

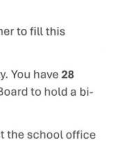
Use tech as a tool, not a babysitter – Encourage creative and educational use.

WAIHI COLLEGE HAS A SCHOOL NURSE AVAILABLE MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 8.30AM—4.30PM FOR YEAR 9-13 AVAILABLE FOR YEAR 7-8 IN EMERGENCIES

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

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

Pinnacle Midlands Health Network



Ngā mihi, with kind regards
Margie (She/Her)
Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE WAIHI
M: 0272983787
W: www.pinnacle.co.nz

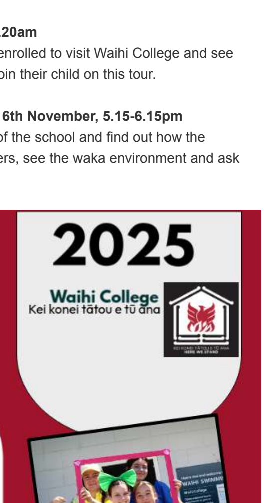
COMMUNITY NOTICES

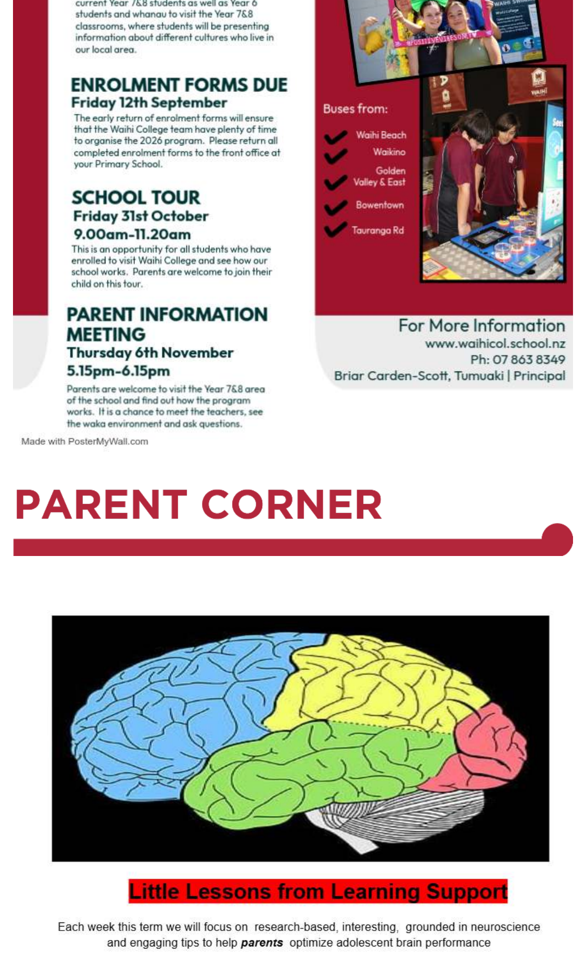
WOW THEM WAIHI

Waihi Wow Them - Streetwear fashion parade. Seeking models, girls, guys, all sizes shapes, a love for fashion. Backstage set artists, makeup/hair and model co-ordinators also wanted. Talent scouts may be among us so be warned.

Performances are also welcome dance, music. What are you in for: A springtime fashion catwalk experience showcasing all that main street Waihi has to offer as well as our local fashion design talent. 3-4 rehearsals, a show in mid October date TBA, Maybe some freebies.

Let's get behind our local retailers, have some fun putting outfits together and represent! Contact Nina 021611730, nina.mcduff@outlook.com.





When: Term 3: Thursday 7th August, Thursday 14th August, Thursday 21st August and Thursday 28th August – 6pm – 7.30pm

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 matt@wcrc.org.nz to register. We will be able to provide additional information around the course content at time of registration if need be.

WAIHI COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

This newsletter can also be found on our website:
www.waihicol.school.nz
under Keeping Informed on the main menu.