WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 26 | 2025

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau o Waihī College,
Ka t'ohā anouā au kia, I am overwhelmed with the strength, resilience and potential in our young people.
Last Friday evening, I had the privilege of speaking about life being like capturing a song. You see it isn't always calm – weeks of challenge and storms of pressure rise up, but due our great navigator Kaye, who helped the cast crave with courage and determination, it is g'nah, mate! Our students have been through a lot this year, and don't have to be the fastest, the strongest, or the cleverest. What matters is showing up, holding the wheel steady, and keeping faith in the journey ahead.

That message feels especially important right now, as our students head into demand grade exams and common assessment activities. Our wave earthquake tester, Ben, reminded us: Exams test knowledge, but not who you are as a person. I encourage all students to remember that. Your worth isn't measured by a grade. It's shown in how you show up, how you encourage others and always rather more than a grade on paper.

Community Thanks and Celebrations

- Daffodil Day: A huge thank you to everyone who baked, generously and spent. Together, we raised a whopping $5000 towards the Cancer Society – an epic cause that touches so many of our whānau. Ka mihi ki ngā kaiwhakahaere ahua tinouā.
- Board of Trustees Representative: We express our heartfelt thanks to Moana, who has been a passionate and dedicated representative on our Board. She has carried the voices and values of our students with pride. We now warmly welcome Steph Hamilton, who will be joining the Board and excited for work with you. Stuart, as you continue this important mahi.

Upcoming Events – Now into, have mark! We have some wonderful opportunities for our community to come together:

- Spring Concert – a celebration of talent, creativity, and the vibrancy of our students. All are welcome to come and be inspired!
- Street Wear for Leukaemia – an act of courage and solidarity from our students. Bring a gold coin donation to many hearts. Your presence and support mean so much.

Global Connections

We send our very best wishes to our students and staff who are off-shore on a cultural exchange, and to those travelling to Japan next week to visit with our sister and brother schools. These journeys embody kotahitanga and strengthen relationships across cultures, learning, and sharing who we are as a community of Waihī.

Congratulations to all of our champions who represented Waihī College on Thursday August 28 at the Athletics. Our students and four Year 13 students also represented our school at the Athletics Sectionals on behalf of the Waihī College District competition. Whānui unfortunately we didn't come away with any prizes at sectionals. Ironclad gave it their all and put in their best efforts. These students were:

Year 9: Chloeland Lopez, Reuben Carey, Kaia Goldsten, Brooklyn Kohler

Year 10: Elijah Cornes, Eli Townsend, Alex Townsend, Thomas Carson

We navigate the weekes ahead, may we be remarkable: the grace to rest, but the strength we ponder. Like Hupe, may we dance on waves with courage, with determination, and with faith in the journey the wide ocean ahead – we are all in this waka together.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Brian Principal | Tumuaki Waihī College

SCHOOL WIDE

Partial Strikes – 15–18 September

From Monday 15 Sept-Sept 18, PPTA members will not be able to teach, instruct, or supervise students in the following year levels:

- **Monday 15 Sept – Years 12 & 13** All year 12 and 13 students will stay at home and complete a derived grade exam (Year 13 English Term 3). Year 12 English.
- **Tuesday 16 Sept – Year 11** – Year 11 stay at home students attending Trades, PCTU Food and Beverage or Outward will still attend these courses.
- **Wednesday 17 Sept – Year 10** Year 10 stay at home
- **Thursday 18 Sept – Year 9** Year 9 stay at home

MATHS MIND COMPETITIONS

A huge thank you and well done to our students who participated in our recent Maths Mind competitions. As expected, it was a little bit chaotic – but in a good way. It was great to see our students keen to see our students getting involved and having fun with Maths.

We are very proud of our entry to our senior students who rocked with learning and scoring at the top. Well done to all participants, everything is not smooth:

- **Year 9 Maths Mind Champions** Bradley Cones, Caden Morgan, Chineael Lopez, and Ryan Fletcher
- **Year 10 Maths Mind Champions** Donna-Belle Paul, Hinerai Pio-Ainsley, and Paige Sproles

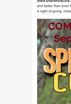
Also big thanks to Miss Minika's Year 10 Literacy class that did a sterling job helping out with the Year 9 participants. One that special mention to Lara Cameron and Connor Peters for their technical assistance with both of the school competitions.

Level 1, 2 and 3, getting into the bush

Level 1 students have been out and about in the bush, learning about the environment and about what it means to belong. Kid Kare Dunn's crew had an amazing time getting amongst it, what to wear and take and some basic risk management. Level 2, a little more relaxed in terms of navigation, weather forecasting, technical gear, cooking and a remote bush cooker. Level 3 students plan their own adventure, they need to be self-sufficient, navigate, cook, and be aware of what to expect in open and enclosed spaces, underwater and amongst with the pests they are in through relevant or local encounters. Even though this is cross-learning theory can be tough at times, it was great to see our senior students helping our junior students, and all with a student online asking a bush ranger to a zoom lesson. Our Year 12s and 13s have completed their training for the year with the Year 11's setting off for their first training and overnight camp assessment this week. Congratulations to all the students and parents/whanau collate their own comfort zones and remain open minded to the natural world, what we can gain from it, and how we can give back.

Checkmate! A Fantastic Chess Competition

Well done to everyone who took part in our recent chess competition! It was wonderful to see so many students participating, especially some of our younger players from the community. A big thank you to Power Chess for setting up such a great event. Congratulations to all who took part – you've made us proud!



JUNIOR ROCK BAND - SMOKEFREE ROCK QUEST

The Junior Rock band needed to transition this week and rocked up a storm. They really stepped in at short-nought of Mr Wright's crazy courageous getting up there and performing on a big stage in front of a large audience. Well done boys. Extra shout out to Jesse Randall who was awarded Best Instrumentalist of the Day.

STRIKE ACTION

Our secondary teachers will be taking strike action over the coming weeks to support our colleagues in Primary schools, and the needs of our students. This included a full day strike on **28 August 2025**, and the upcoming partial strikes by year level from **15-18 September**.

We know this will cause some disruption and inconvenience, and we appreciate your 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 recently regarding the upcoming strike. Should you have any questions, please contact us as in school@waihicollege.school.nz and principal@waihicollege.school.nz

WAIHĪ COLLEGE
UPCOMING STRIKE ACTION
Secondary teachers will be taking strike action on the following dates:
- Monday 15 September – Year 12 & 13 students will stay at home and complete a derived grade exam (Year 13 English Term 3 English)
- Tuesday 16 Sept – Year 11 – Year 11 stay at home students attending Trades, PCTU Food and Beverage or Outward will still attend these courses
- Wednesday 17 Sept – Year 10 Year 10 stay at home
- Thursday 18 Sept – Year 9 Year 9 stay at home

Spirit Day Extravaganza!

Usually Spirit Days run over two days, but this year it's all happening in ONE epic day – Friday 19th September! Get ready for a day packed with fun, energy, and school spirit and action! Put Dress Up Day, the Parent Art EXTRAVAGANZA – and a little faster than the word and dress up as something that starts with it. This bigger, bolder, and brighter, the better. Let's make this one day Spirit Day unforgettable!

WAIHĪ COLLEGE
SPIRIT DAYS
Friday 19th Sept
Word: Extravaganza

Shave for a Cure & Spring Concert

On Tuesday 16th September, we're combining the annual Shave for a Cure with our Spring Concert to kick off Street Wear for Leukaemia week in a big way. Help your name on the flyer or sheet outside Jane and Kim's office, or head to www.shaveforacure.co.nz/join/WaihiCollegeSA. Let's make this year's event bigger and better than ever! Not sure what to shave off or what to wear? Don't worry, we've got heaps to spark ideas. Head to spring concert, shave, and dance.

TERTIARY INFORMATION EVENING: 3rd SEPTEMBER @ 5.30PM

TERTIARY INFORMATION EVENING

You are invited - Parents/Guardians of Year 11-13 students who will be attending or considering tertiary education in 2026 to our information evening.
University, Polytech or Private Training Institutes.

Date: Wednesday, 3rd September, 5.30pm
Location: Waihi College Staffroom

We will be covering the information on course choices, finance and scholarships, applications, fees and living costs and the understanding of the Trades Fees System.
It can be daunting but we are here to reassure and guide you through the process.

Contact: Jane Kelly
Phone: 07 863 8150
Email: jane.kelly@waihicollege.school.nz

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- Lincoln University
- Waikato University
- Massey University
- Unitec
- Toi Ohomai
- Eastern Institute of Technology
- Wintec
- Bay of Plenty Polytechnic
- Universal College of Learning
- Northtec
- Wanaka Wānanga
- Ara Institute of Canterbury
- Otago Polytechnic
- Southern Institute of Technology
- Lincoln Agritech
- Skills Organic
- Trade Academy
- Top Tech
- Hanmer Springs
- Pacifica Beauty
- Hairdressing Academy
- Hairdressing Academy
- Hairdressing Academy