

WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 28 | 2025

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau o Waihi College.

Recently at assembly I spoke with our Year 9–13 students about motivation — what it really looks like, and what can easily pull us off track. I drew on the work of Mel Robbins, who talks about the 5-second rule: when you feel the urge to do something that's good for you, but you hesitate, count down 5-4-3-2-1 and act. Don't wait for motivation to arrive — take action first, and motivation will follow.

We also talked about the things that can demotivate us, especially the role of phones and social media. The truth is, much of the behaviour and wellbeing data we see at school links back to what influences young people's minds through their screens. Social media algorithms are designed to keep you hooked, not to help you grow. At Waihi College, we want our rangatahi to use technology as a tool for creativity, connection, and leadership, not simply as consumers of endless scrolling.

For myself, I've started something I call "Show Up for Me." Every day I commit to backing myself in one small way — whether that's going for a run, creating something from scratch, or taking the time to kōrero with whānau or friends instead of staying in my own head. I've invited our students to take up this challenge too: to show up for themselves, and for each other.

Industrial Action A reminder that **rolling strikes continue**, as the PPTA makes its point to the Government about the importance of investing in education. Our teachers are deeply committed to bringing the very best to life for our young people, and we appreciate your understanding as this mahi continues.

International Opportunities We have been hearing wonderful things about our students currently in **Taiwan**, making the most of their cultural exchange and representing Waihi College with pride. Next week, a group of students head off to **Japan** to visit our sister and brother school. We wish them all the very best as they prepare for this epic adventure and new cultural learning.

Assessments & Examinations This is also a key time for our senior students, with common assessment activities and derived grade exams underway. These are logistically complex to organise, and I would like to extend a special thank you to Ms Howell and our teaching team for keeping everything running smoothly. We are proud of the calm and mature way our students have approached this challenge — it is excellent preparation for the external assessments to come.

Ngā mihi nui for your continued support of our kura. Let's keep encouraging our young people to show up for themselves and for each other, and to step forward with courage as we head towards the end of term.

Term Break As we head into the holidays, I encourage everyone to take the time to rest, recharge, and connect with your whānau and friends. Be safe if you're travelling, look out for each other, and enjoy the chance to reset. Term 4 will be here before we know it, and it promises to be a term filled with both hard work and celebration.

Ngā mihi nui to our teachers, support staff, students, and whānau for the mahi, aroha, and commitment that you pour into our kura every day.

Have a safe and happy break — and we look forward to welcoming you all back, refreshed and ready for the final term of the year.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Briar Principal | Tumukaki Waihi College



7 Reminders Every Teen Needs

1. You are loved — no matter what.
2. Mistakes don't define you.
3. Your voice matters.
4. It's okay to not have it all figured out.
5. You're not alone, even when it feels like it.
6. Being kind is still cool.
7. You were made for a purpose.

What's Happening at Waihi College:

Upcoming Events & Updates As the final weeks of term unfold, please keep a close eye on our school website and social media pages. Events and activities are continuing to take shape, and updates will be posted as plans are confirmed.

SCHOOL WIDE



WAIHĪ COLLEGE

TERM BREAK

Monday 22nd September -
Friday 3rd October

**SEE YOU BACK ON
MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER**

Partial Strikes – 15–18 September

From 9am to 3.15pm each day, 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 unless completing a derived grade exam (Year 12 English 9am, Year 13 English 1pm)
- **Tuesday 16 Sept – Year 11** - Year 11 stay at home (students attending Trades, PCTI Food and Beverage or Gateway 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

Shave for a Cure & Spring Concert Success

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our combined Shave for a Cure and Spring Concert! It was such a special night filled with generosity, courage, and incredible music. We were blown away by the bravery of those who stepped up for a ponytail chop or a head shave, and inspired by the amazing performances from all our talented artists. Together, we raised an outstanding amount of money to support both cancer research and our music department.

Thank you to everyone who gave, performed, shaved, chopped, or simply came along to support—what a night! PHOTOS COMING NEXT TERM!

WAIHĪ COLLEGE



FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS

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.

YEAR 10 CAMP: 1st-4th December

Year 10 parents, please check your emails for information RE Camp! The camp will be held from Monday the 1st of December finishing on Thursday 4th December.

The main purpose of the camp is for students to experience kiwi camping and be self-sufficient. This will mean that students will be planning and cooking their own meals for the duration of the camp. This will include breakfast, lunch and dinner. The planning will be done at school but will require them to communicate with their group as well as their caregivers.

We also aim to build positive relationships whilst working in challenging outdoor beach activities. The students will be staying at Oputere Beach Camping Ground, and possible activities they may be participating in include mountain biking, kayaking, beach activities, paddle boarding, team building, fishing and more.

At this stage we are looking to get an idea on how many students will be attending camp this year so we can start the initial planning staged of the camp. If you could please fill in the google form, it would be very much appreciated.

<https://forms.gle/TTRDpPpskdnbC1Yk9>

SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

The time has come to think about what students have served their school or community (in a voluntary/unpaid basis), who deserve recognition. This can be from service in areas such as Hall Tech, helping at events after hours, Leo's Club, refilling, coaching, student council, service to marae, teaching kapa haka, service to the arts and much more. Please email us at wendys@waihicol.school.nz if you, or a student you know, deserves recognition. They will be awarded a certificate at our Service Prizegiving in Term 4.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE



SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

SCHOOL TOURS & OPEN DAY

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 INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday 6th November
5.15pm-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.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

For More Information

www.waihicol.school.nz
Ph: 07 863 8349

Briar Carden-Scott, Tumukaki | Principal

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

Grow Their Brain Through Experiences

Let them try new things – New activities spark new brain connections.

Support creativity – Music, art, drama, and design build flexible, resilient thinking.

Encourage physical activity – Exercise grows brain cells and boosts mood.

Promote service and contribution – Altruism activates reward systems and builds purpose.

Model a growth mindset – Your attitude teaches them that intelligence can grow.

TEACHING YOUR TEEN TO DRIVE?

Are you teaching your teen to drive or have a young driver in the family?

This popular workshop is designed to help parents and caregivers support their children through the learning-to-drive process. Research shows that teens become safer drivers when their parents are involved and set clear boundaries. The Driver Coach program aims to give you the tools you need for this important journey.

During this 1-hour workshop, you'll learn from a License Tester:

- How the teenage brain works and the best approach to road safety education.
- The difference between instructing and coaching your child.
- Core safety issues for young drivers.
- How to understand the graduated licensing system.
- Tips for choosing a safe vehicle (explaining ANCAP stars).

This is a completely free session with no obligation. It's an excellent chance to get expert advice and support. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/1560691723959>

Navigate the Teenage Driver's Journey:

- Unlock the mysteries of the teenage brain: What makes driving a challenge?
- Decode risk factors for Young Drivers
- Learn the art of coaching a learner driver
- Help you support the transition to solo driving
- Set a plan for collaborating with driving instructors ...and much more.

DRIVE COACH

Helping you support your teen driver

Location and time:
Thursday 16 October
6:00pm to 7:00pm
Bethlehem Baptist Church
90 Bethlehem Road, Tauranga

Register now on Eventbrite

Powered by TOYOTA

ROAD SAFETY Education

SCHOOL TV

Don't forget to check out what's happening this week on School TV!

<https://waihicol.nz.schooltv.me/>

Wellbeing for schools

A resource for parents, caregivers and educators to better support student wellbeing.



STV Home

All Edi



INTRODUCING SchoolTV

A resource supporting the parenting of young people

04:18

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/APPPOINTMENT, 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



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

Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE

WAIHI
M: 0272983787
W: www.pinnacle.co.nz

This newsletter can also be found on our website: www.waihicol.school.nz

under Keeping Informed on the main menu.