

# WAIHĪ COLLEGE

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 29 | 2025

## PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

**Tēnā koutou e te whānau,**

At Waihi College we often remind our rangatahi that what truly defines them is not their grades, achievements, or reputation — but the way they treat others. A powerful message we've shared recently with our Year 9–13 students is this:

**How you treat people is who you are.**

Through the lens of **manaakitanga**, this idea carries deep weight. Manaakitanga is about showing respect, care, and generosity of spirit. It is not always easy to do. Sometimes it requires patience, effort, and courage to notice someone, to listen, to offer encouragement. But those daily choices are what reveal our character — as individuals, and as a school.

We were so thrilled at the end of last term, to receive the invitation to send eight of our juniors to Rainbows End, with Bluelight and our local Police, in recognition of their amazing efforts and showcasing our values on a daily basis - well done to you all! We are very proud of you.



**Supporting our Seniors**

For our Year 11–13 students, the next **four weeks are their final weeks of school-based learning** for the year. This is a critical time that will ask for perseverance, self-discipline, and focus.

But as we reminded them at assembly, success at Waihi College is not measured only in exam results or credits gained. It is also measured in how our young people walk alongside each other — checking in on a mate who might be struggling, encouraging someone who feels overwhelmed, and ensuring no one feels left behind.

This is manaakitanga in action, and it is what makes our kura strong.

### **A Collective Challenge**

To all of our students, staff, and whānau, my challenge is simple: let us be known as a community where people are valued not by what they own or achieve, but by how they treat others.

When we act with kindness, respect, and care — especially in the hard moments — we show who we really are. Together, we can create an environment where every student feels seen, supported, and uplifted.

**Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.** Together, let us live manaakitanga in all we do.

**Ngā manaakitanga,**

Briar *Principal* | *Tumuaki* Waihi College

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# SCHOOL WIDE

## Spirit Day Extravaganza!

Spirit Day 2025 didn't disappoint! Even though it ran for just one day this year, it was a magical occasion full of energy, fun, and school pride. The participation was fantastic, with students coming together to celebrate and honour those we remember through our Spirit Day tradition.

We also had all our usual fun—amazing games, activities all over the school, the famous lip-sync, the breakfast relay, and so much more. A brilliant day of laughter, spirit, and memories! Massive congrats to Royal for taking out the Spirit Day win this year, and to Stuart Hartly and Sam Bjerring for winning the Jodi Alsdorf Shield for most Senior Spirit and Freya Cannell for taking home the Emilie Silberer cup for Junior Spirit.





WAIHĪ COLLEGE

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

**A letter went home over the weekend with important information regarding our seniors. Please see a copy below.** If you have any questions, please get in touch with Ms Howell via email on [joh@waihicol.school.nz](mailto:joh@waihicol.school.nz) or by phone on 07 863 8349:

We are approaching the last few weeks of timetabled classes for students who are in Year 11-13. The senior prize giving will take place on the 30th October and, after that, there will be no more timetabled lessons for senior students as the NCEA examinations begin. Please read through the information below to find out about the organisation for these last few weeks:

## **1. Subject Selection 2026**

Students in Year 11 and 12 will complete subject selection on **Thursday 9th October** in the school hall. All students will complete this even if they are leaving Waihi College at the end of the year. We will complete their exit interview at the same

**Students in Year 11 and 12 will need to wear school uniform (no jackets or jerseys as it gets very hot in the hall). Year 13 students need to wear formal dress.**

For students who are receiving a placing in class (2nd or 3rd) or an endeavour award, these will be presented during the **Endeavour and Service Prize Giving assembly on Wednesday 29th October which will be held in the school hall at 12.15pm.** Service awards will also be presented during this assembly as well as the House Trophy. Parents, whānau and caregivers are welcome to attend this prize giving if they would like to.

## **3. Sports Awards**

The Winter Sports Prize Giving assembly will take place on Tuesday 28th October at 9am. The Sports Awards Dinner and Special Prizes will be the following day, Wednesday 29th October at the Waihi

time.

Beach RSA from 5.30pm

## **2. Senior Academic Prize Giving and Graduation**

I would like to take the opportunity to invite all parents, whānau, friends and community members to the Senior Prize Giving on **Thursday 30 October at 6pm** in the Waihi College school hall. During the prize giving we will celebrate the learning achievements of students who have gained a 1st in class award, 1st in Year award, scholarships, student leader positions and the prizes for special character. Students in Year 13 who are graduating will also be presented with their certificates.

If your student is receiving an award for this prize giving, or if they are involved in the Year 13 Graduation, you will receive an email from me in the next few weeks. Students will be expected to be in school at 5.40pm so that they can be seated at 5.50pm for the 6pm start.

*Year 13 will go straight to the hall*

*Year 12 will meet in B9 with Mr Budgen (Kaiarahi)*

*Year 11 will meet in B8 with Whaea Tracy (Kaiarahi)*

## **4. Art Exhibition and Cultural Prize Giving**

An opportunity to see some of the amazing talents that we have at Waihi College will take place on **Tuesday 28th October**. This will include performances in music, art, photography, kapa haka and culinary arts as well as awards for each of these disciplines. The Art and Photography Exhibition will take place in the **Senior Hub from 4.00pm** through the 5.45pm. The performances and awards will start in the **school hall from 6.00pm**.

## **5. Study Leave**

All students in Year 11-13 are eligible for study leave from **Friday 31st October**. This means that students will not be required to attend school unless they are completing an NCEA examination (timetable for exams is attached to this email). The senior hub will be open from **Monday 3rd November** for students to study for their exams or to complete internal assessments that are still outstanding. Students who are attending school will need to be wearing school uniform (Year 11 and 12)

## **6. Leavers Breakfast and Last day of School (Year 13 only)**

On the morning of Thursday 30th October, we will host the traditional Year 13 Leavers Breakfast in the school hall. This will start promptly at 8.00am. Following the breakfast all Year 13 students are invited to attend a final Year 13 trip to Tauranga completing a range of activities together. Students will leave after the breakfast and return to school by 3pm. Students will go in school transport and are not permitted to take their own vehicles. You will receive a permission slip and more information about this trip from Mrs Morley soon. There will be no timetabled lessons for Year 13 on this day.

A reminder that students are not permitted to complete pranks. Over the last few years students have been very respectful of this and it has ensured a pleasant last day for everyone.

Yours faithfully,  
Ms Joanne Howell

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# **WAIHI COLLEGE COLOUR RUN - IT'S BACK!!**



actively seeking parent helpers to assist with transport, please fill out the relevant section on the form if you can help. Finally, all trip payments must be submitted to the office by Friday, December 14th; please contact your child's homeroom teacher if you have any questions.

## SCHOOL TOURS & OPEN DAY

### 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.

# WAIHI COLLEGE TOURS & OPEN DAYS

## OPEN AFTERNOON

Thursday 11th September  
3.00pm-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 2026 program. Please return all completed enrolment forms to the front office at your Primary School.

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# 2025

Waihi College  
Kei konei tātou e tū ana



### Buses from:

- ✓ Waihi Beach
- ✓ Waikino
- ✓ Golden Valley & East
- ✓ Bowentown
- ✓ Tauranga Rd



### For More Information

[www.waihicol.school.nz](http://www.waihicol.school.nz)

Ph: 07 863 8349

Briar Carden-Scott, Tumuaki | Principal



**OPEN HOURS | Term 4, 2025**  
7 Oct - 3 Dec

**Tuesday** 8.00am - 9.00am

**Wednesday** 1.40pm - 3.40pm

Closed on Public Holidays and Teacher Only days.  
Hours may be subject to change.

Visit for more info: [www.wcol.uniformgroup.co.nz](http://www.wcol.uniformgroup.co.nz)

**Ayusa Japan 2026 WINTER CAMP**  
2 WEEKS IN WINTER WONDERLAND! **JANUARY 6 - 18, 2026**

**Featured Experiences**

- Japanese Language Lessons
- Local High School Visit
- Tours & Sightseeing
- Japanese Cooking Lesson
- Cultural Activities & Workshops
- And a lot more!

**Includes:**

- Tokyo Airport Pick-up & Drop-off
- Accommodation
- Local Transportation
- Japanese lesson fees and materials
- Guided tours/ excursions
- Activities & Workshops fees
- Breakfasts
- Entrance fees to attractions
- 24-hour supervision

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
**DECEMBER 5, 2025**

For students  
Ages 13 - 19 years old  
**No Japanese language requirement!**  
Program Fee: \$2,700 USD

More information  
<https://www.intraxip.com/ayusa/wintercamp/>

Apply by October 31, and get **\$400 USD discount!**

# PARENT CORNER

## SCHOOL TV

Don't forget to check out what's happening this week on School TV. This week's Special Report is all about World Mental Health Day, coming up on 10th October.

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

### Wellbeing for schools

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



WAIHĪ  
COLLEGE

STV Home

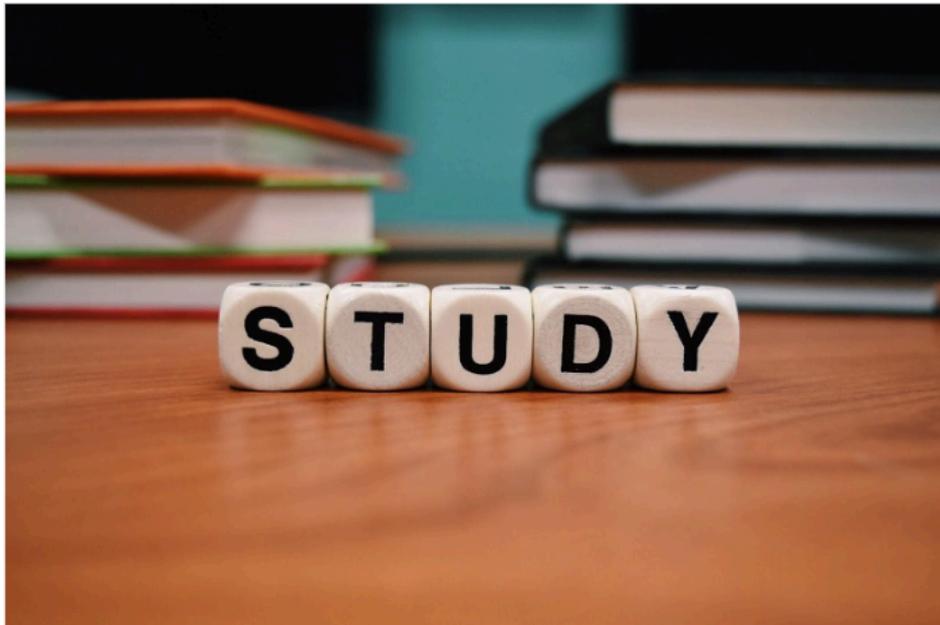
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INTRODUCING  
**SchoolTV**

A resource  
supporting the  
parenting of  
young people

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## **Little lessons from Learning Support**

### **5 Weeks of Study Skills Advice for Parents**

A 5-week series giving parents clear, practical ways to support their child with study at home.

#### ***Setting Up for Success***

- Help your child establish a daily study routine (same time, same place).
- Encourage healthy habits—sleep, water, and nutritious snacks.
- Show interest by asking what subjects they're working on.
- Provide structure but also give them ownership of their learning space.
- Model focus—do your own reading or quiet tasks alongside them.

## 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



**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



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

Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE  
WAIHI

M: 0272983787

W: [www.pinnacle.co.nz](http://www.pinnacle.co.nz)

This newsletter can also be found on our website:

[www.waihicol.school.nz](http://www.waihicol.school.nz)

under Keeping Informed on the main menu.