

WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 35 | 2025

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau o Waihi College.

As we move toward the final weeks of the school year, I want to acknowledge the mostly calm and committed way our students are approaching this busy period. It's a time when many of our rangatahi are wrapping up sporting codes, heading into competitions, or preparing for new opportunities. Despite the pressure, a large number continue to demonstrate our school values with integrity, respect, and determination. We are proud of the way they carry themselves and represent Waihi College.



A sincere thank you to the whānau who have taken the time to reach out with feedback and messages of appreciation for our staff. Your acknowledgement of the support shown to your young people throughout the year is genuinely valued. These connections strengthen our sense of whanaungatanga and remind us of the collective effort behind student success.

In the coming weeks, our Year 9 students will be heading out on day trips, and our Year 10 students will be preparing for camp. Please take a moment to talk with your young person about what they may need for these experiences. If there is anything we can assist with—gear, information, or support—please get in touch. We want all students to participate fully and confidently.

Although the end of the year is approaching quickly, there is still important work ahead. Our focus remains steady, and we intend to finish the term strongly in December. Please keep an eye on school newsletters and our website for upcoming prizegiving dates and mark them in your calendars.

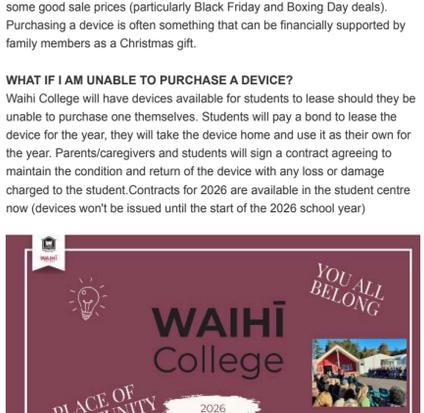
Ngā manaakitanga,
Briar Principal | Turuaki Waihi College

SCHOOL WIDE

Armistice Day Tunnellers Memorial

On the 11th of November, our community gathered at Gilmore Reserve to honour the legacy of our Tunnellers and all those who served. The Armistice Day Tunnellers Memorial is a deeply moving reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and unity that shaped our history.

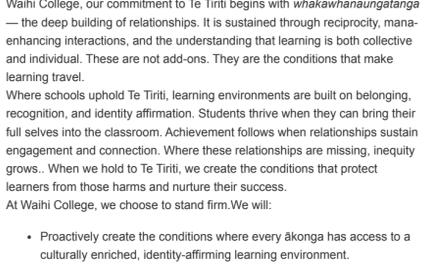
We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who continues to honour our Tunnellers and keep their stories alive in remembrance each day. We're also incredibly proud of our Waihi College Head Students for 2026, who attended this special commemoration and represented our school with respect and aroha.



The best way to keep informed with dates and events is by using the Portal and viewing our School Calendar. If you need help logging into the Portal, contact us at office@waihicol.school.nz or on 07 863 8349.

Setting Sail for Adventure and Discovery

Thanks to the generous support of Blue Light Waihi and One Foundation, 19 lucky Waihi College students are about to embark on a truly unforgettable experience — a three-day, two-night voyage with the New Zealand Sailing Trust. Setting sail through the sparkling waters of the Hauraki Gulf, our students will not only learn the ropes of sailing but also deepen their connection with this unique marine environment. As they journey across the Gulf's islands and bays, they'll take part in hands-on conservation activities, gaining a real sense of what it means to be kaitiaki — guardians of our natural world.



This trip isn't just about adventure on the water; it's about growth and discovery. The students will have the chance to uncover hidden strengths, build teamwork and leadership skills, and overcome challenges together — all while experiencing the beauty and power of Aotearoa's moana. What an amazing opportunity for our rangatahi to connect, learn, and be inspired by the sea that shapes so much of our identity as New Zealanders.

We're so proud of our students and so grateful to Blue Light Waihi and One Foundation for making this voyage possible.

He waka eke noa — we're all in this together.

HAURAKI CULTURAL FESTIVAL: 22nd NOVEMBER

Kia ora koutou,

We'd like to wish our Te Kapa Haka o Ngāti Waihinui rōpū all the very best as they head to the Hauraki Cultural Festival 2025 in Waihi on Saturday, 22nd November.

Our taura — Sam, Hirini, Blake, Rā, Johnny, Ngatata, Daniel, Noah, Tanekaha, Moana, Aleesha, Nia, and Alizah — have been practising with real heart and pride under the guidance of Matua Ngawehi and Whaia Te Awhi.

If you'd like to support them and soak up the waiura of the day, check out the schedule. Come along and cheer them on! Mā te wā.

BYOD

Waihi College is a BYOD school (Bring Your Own Device). Students are required to have a device for their classes from Year 7 through to Year 13. Students and teachers are working more and more with digital platforms for the distribution and completion of work in the classroom. By students having their own device, there is a seamless link between home and in school learning and the student can personalise their device to suit their own needs.

WHAT SORT OF DEVICE DO I NEED?

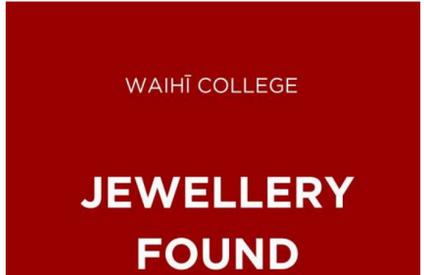
For most students a standard Chromebook is sufficient. Chromebooks have already built in Google suites including Google classroom that is used throughout the College. For senior students in Year 12 and 13 who have more specialised courses or are thinking of moving on to University they may wish to purchase a laptop.

WHERE CAN I GET A DEVICE?

You can purchase a device from most electronic retailers and they often have some good sale prices (particularly Black Friday and Boxing Day deals). Purchasing a device is often something that can be financially supported by family members as a Christmas gift.

WHAT IF I AM UNABLE TO PURCHASE A DEVICE?

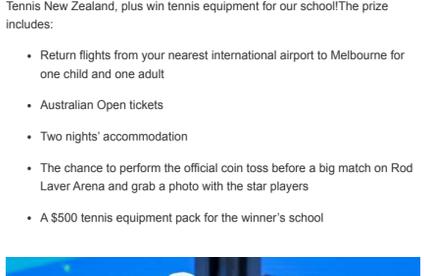
Waihi College will have devices available for students to lease should they be unable to purchase one themselves. Students will pay a bond to lease the device for the year, they will take the device home and use it as their own for the year. Parents/caregivers and students will sign a contract agreeing to maintain the condition and return of the device with any loss or damage charged to the student. Contracts for 2026 are available in the student centre now (devices won't be issued until the start of the 2026 school year)



Check out the full Year 7&8 slide presentation on our website in the Year 7&8 section, under School Life.

www.waihicol.school.nz

Te Tiriti o Waitangi – The Living Heart of Waihi College



At Waihi College, the Te Tiriti o Waitangi is not a document we reference from afar — it is the living heartbeat of how we teach, learn, and relate to one another. It shapes our daily practice, our decisions, and our relationships. We are unwavering in our belief that when Te Tiriti is lived, learning becomes a space where every young person is seen, valued, and able to succeed as themselves.

This week, the Government announced its intention to remove the requirement for school boards to "give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi." The reasoning offered is that the Crown will hold this responsibility centrally, while schools continue to focus on education. But Te Tiriti has never been about *where* the duty sits — it is about *how* it is lived. And it is lived in classrooms, in conversations, and in the everyday acts of recognition and relationship that shape belonging.

When Te Tiriti is honoured in schools, it is not an abstract ideal; it is tangible in how people feel. It is seen in who feels recognised, who feels safe to speak, whose stories are told, and whose knowledge is treated as legitimate. At Waihi College, our commitment to Te Tiriti begins with *whakawhanaungatanga* — the deep building of relationships. It is sustained through reciprocity, mana-enhancing interactions, and the understanding that learning is both collective and individual. These are not add-ons. They are the conditions that make learning travel.

Where schools uphold Te Tiriti, learning environments are built on belonging, recognition, and identity affirmation. Students thrive when they can bring their full selves into the classroom. Achievement follows when relationships sustain engagement and connection. Where these relationships are missing, inequity grows... When we hold to Te Tiriti, we create the conditions that protect learners from those harms and nurture their success.

At Waihi College, we choose to stand firm. We will:

- Proactively create the conditions where every akonga has access to a culturally enriched, identity-affirming learning environment.
- Continue to deliver on our obligations under *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* and the Education and Training Act 2020.
- Know and understand the causes of educational inequity within our kura and community, and respond with courage and purpose.
- Provide learning environments where all akonga have equitable opportunities to realise their potential — academically, socially, culturally, and emotionally.

Our Strategic Plan holds fast to the principles of *partnership, protection, and participation*:

- Partnership:** We work alongside local iwi, hapū, and whānau to ensure aspirations, knowledge, and perspectives shape our curriculum and decision-making.
- Protection:** We safeguard and celebrate *te reo Māori me ona tikanga*, embedding these into daily learning and school life.
- Participation:** We ensure Māori learners and whānau are active, valued participants across all spaces of the kura — from governance to the classroom.

These commitments are woven through our values of *manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga, and kaitiakitanga*. They align with the aspirations of *Ka Hikitia – Ka Hāpaihia* and *Tau Mai Te Reo*, guiding us toward an education system where all learners succeed, and every learner thrives in the richness of a bicultural Aotearoa.

Te Tiriti is not an addition to education. Remove it, and we do not create neutrality — we create absence. And absence has always been filled by inequity.

At Waihi College, we will continue to uphold Te Tiriti not as a policy obligation, but as a living covenant of respect, belonging, and shared flourishing. It is — and will remain — at the core of who we are and how we teach.

Nāku iti nei, nā
Waihi College Board of Trustees

COLOUR RUN PIZZA PRIZE DRAW

Pizza Prize Draw! Everyone who's raised \$20 or more for our Colour Run fundraiser will go into the draw to win one free large pizza of your choice! Heaps of people have already signed up — now it's time to get those last donations in.

The draw will be made on Monday 17th, so make sure you're in it to win it!



If you haven't signed up yet but would like to, grab a brochure from your Ako or Homeroom teacher. It's easy as.

Chalk to Chromebooks!

Opening Night is 28 November at the Waihi Arts Centre & Museum, 54 Kenny Street.

Step back in time and explore the history of education in our town! "Chalk to Chromebooks: Waihi Schools Throughout the Decades" is a fascinating historical exhibition created by our amazing Year 13 student, Bella Paulsen. From slate boards to digital screens, see how learning has evolved through the generations.

Waihi Schools Through the Decades
Opening Night: 28 November
Waihi Arts Centre and Museum, 54 KENNY STREET
[more information to come](http://www.waihicol.school.nz)

Don't miss out on this incredible event celebrating our local schools, stories, and students!

The **Elaine P. Snowden Astronomy School** is a programme for students who are **Year 13 in 2026** interested in studying Astronomy or Physics at university. The programme runs from **12 - 17 April 2026** and consists of a mix of seminars and practical work.

Akonga | students travel to UC's Mt John Observatory at Takapō | Tekapo and explore our cosmic neighbourhood with modern astronomical instruments.

Back at the University of Canterbury, participants learn about the universe past, present and future, the life cycles of stars, planet exploration, extraterrestrial life and more.

A highlight of the programme is meeting fellow students with the same astronomical interests and making new friends.

Link to apply: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/news-and-events/regular-events/elaine-p-snowden-astronomy-school/>

Elaine P. Snowden Astronomy School is a programme for students who are **Year 13 in 2026** interested in studying Astronomy or Physics at university. The programme runs from **12 - 17 April 2026** and consists of a mix of seminars and practical work.

Thanks to a generous donation from a private sponsor, the Elaine P. Snowden Astronomy School is offered free of charge to successful applicants.

Accommodation, meals, transport during the camp and materials are provided.

If this sounds like a great way for your students to spend the April school holidays, get them to check out more [info online](https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/news-and-events/regular-events/elaine-p-snowden-astronomy-school/) and apply by **Sunday 15 February 2026**.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE JEWELLERY FOUND

We have found some jewellery inside a vase that was used at the 2023 or 2024 Waihi College Ball. A silver tie pin and a gold chain.

If you are missing either, please contact Wendy on wendys@waihicol.school.nz

Win the Ultimate Australian Open Experience!

Your child could win the tennis trip of a lifetime with Tennis Hot Shots and Tennis New Zealand, plus win tennis equipment for our school! The prize includes:

- Return flights from your nearest international airport to Melbourne for one child and one adult
- Australian Open tickets
- Two nights' accommodation
- The chance to perform the official coin toss before a big match on Rod Laver Arena and grab a photo with the star players
- A \$500 tennis equipment pack for the winner's school

Win a once in a lifetime Australian Open 2026 Experience, including the chance to perform the coin toss on the iconic Rod Laver Arena!

Register for a Chance to Win!

The competition is open to all children aged 8–13 across New Zealand — no tennis experience required! **Enter now at www.tennis.kiwi/win** Entries close 8 December. We'd appreciate you passing this on through your networks.

Ngā mihi nui,
Tegan Lloyd
Junior and Youth Participation Manager | Tennis NZ | Tēhēni o Aotearoa
P: 09 528 5428 M: +64 21 084 44 146 <https://tennis.kiwi>

PARENT CORNER

Dyslexia Information sheet for parents

Understanding and Supporting a Child with Dyslexia

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a specific learning difference that primarily affects reading, spelling, and writing skills. It is not related to intelligence — many people with dyslexia are highly creative, logical, and strong problem solvers. Dyslexia can also affect memory, organisation, and processing speed.

Common Signs

- Difficultly reading fluently or decoding unfamiliar words
- Spelling the same word differently in one piece of writing
- Struggling to remember sequences (days, times tables, instructions)
- Avoiding reading aloud or written tasks
- Stroop oral vocabulary but weaker written work
- Fatigue or frustration with schoolwork

How Schools Help

- Differentiated teaching and extra time for tasks
- Use of assistive technology (text-to-speech, audiobooks, speech-to-text)
- Visual aids and structured lessons
- Specialist literacy interventions
- Flexible assessment methods (oral presentations, digital submissions)

How Parents Can Help at Home

- Encourage and support
- Praise effort and dyslexia, not just results.
- Take openly about dyslexia as a difference, not a problem.
- Share success stories of famous dyslexic individuals (e.g. Richard Branson, Algalita Christie)
- Read together and discuss ideas, not just words.

Practical Help

- Establish routines — clear homework times, checklists, and reminders.
- Use technology, apps like *NaturalReader*, *Google Read & Write*, or *Speechify* can help.
- Encourage typing rather than handwriting when possible.
- Use coloured paper or overlays if reading print is uncomfortable.

Build Confidence

- Focus on your child's strengths (e.g. creativity, empathy, problem-solving)
- Share success stories of famous dyslexic individuals (e.g. Richard Branson, Algalita Christie)
- Celebrate small wins regularly

Stay Connected

- Keep in touch with teachers and the learning support coordinator.
- Ask about your child's learning plan and strategies used in class.
- Work as a team — consistency between home and school makes a big difference.

Enroute to 2026

LITTLE LESSONS FROM LEARNING SUPPORT

Prepare for the Next Level

- For Year 8s — go talk about high school routines, transport, timetables, and expectations.
- For Year 12s — go talk about university pathways — uni, trades, gap years.

- Work experience
- Stack up on stationary and devices early (avoid last-minute stress)
- Review school websites for uniform updates, start dates, and key information.

- Strengthen Communication & Connection
- Keep open, judgement-free conversations going — listen more than you talk.
- Support friendships and social connections invite friends over or encourage group outings.

- Remind them that change (new teachers, classmates, or school) is normal and manageable
- Support Wellbeing & Mental Health
- Encourage daily movement, good sleep, hydration, and healthy food.

- Keep routines — even flexible ones — to avoid last-minute burnout.
- Watch for signs of stress, anxiety or social withdrawal and seek support early if needed.

Don't forget to check out what's happening this week on School TV. This month's special report is about Embracing Change & New Beginnings.

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

Wellbeing for schools

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

SPECIAL REPORT: Embracing Change & New Beginnings

Change is a natural part of growing up. Whether it's the start of a new school year, moving between year levels, or stepping beyond the school gates for the final time, each transition brings a mix of emotions, presenting both new routines and challenges. These shifts call on young people to adjust to new environments, navigate unfamiliar environments and develop emotional flexibility. While some may embrace these changes, others may find the disruption unsettling and struggle with the loss of predictability.

Research shows that periods of transition are often linked to heightened anxiety, reduced academic engagement and changes in peer relationships. For families, these periods can also bring added stress. Recognising the emotional and psychological impact of change helps us respond more effectively and supportively.

While change can feel daunting, it also offers valuable opportunities for young people to learn and grow. By normalising uncertainty and encouraging open conversations, we help young people face new beginnings with curiosity rather than fear. When children are surrounded by guidance, encouragement and consistent structure, they're far better equipped to manage life's transitions with confidence and resilience.

Here is the link to your school's wellbeing news/special-report-embracing-change-new-beginnings-nz

INTRODUCING **SchoolTV** — A resource supporting the parenting of young people

WAIHĪ COLLEGE HAS A SCHOOL NURSE AVAILABLE MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 9.30AM-3.00PM 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 0272983787

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IF YOU HAVE ANY NEEDS OR QUESTIONS

MARGIE GOLDSWORTHY SCHOOL NURSE FOR WAIHĪ COLLEGE

Ngā mihi, with kind regards Margie Goldsworthy | School Nurse Waihi M: 0272983787 W: www.pinnacle.co.nz

This newsletter can also be found on our website: