

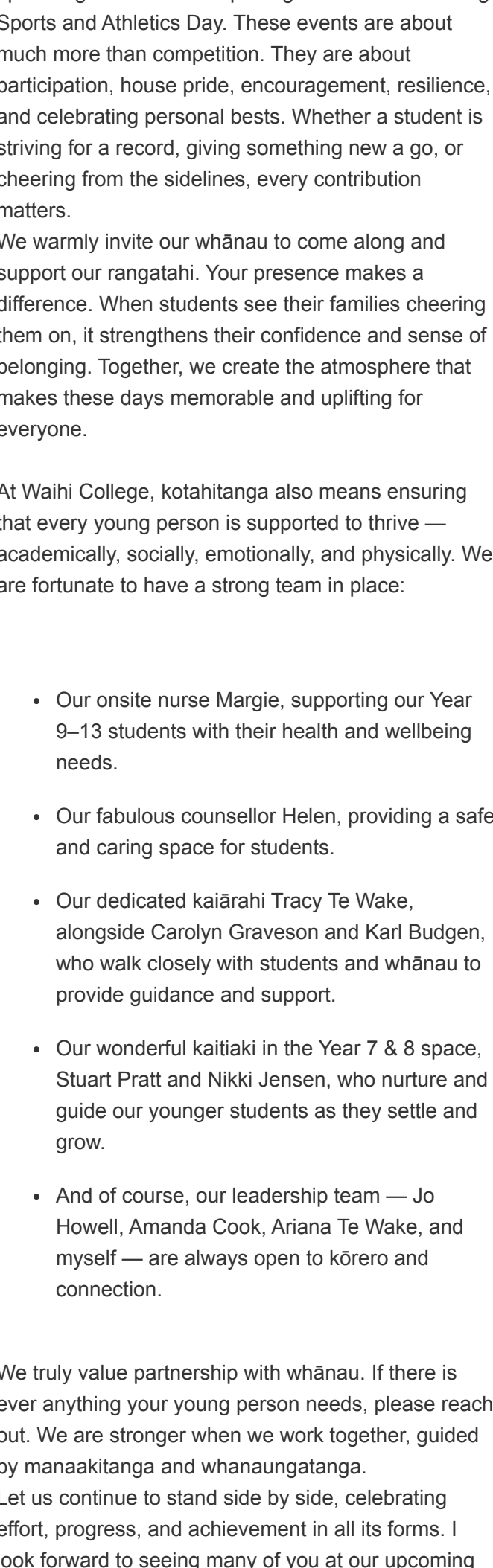
WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 | 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau o Waihi College,

As we move further into the term, I have been reflecting on the strength of *kotahitanga* within our kura — the power of standing together with shared purpose. When we act in unity, we create the conditions for every young person to flourish. Kotahitanga is not just one of our values; it is something we see in action every day — in classrooms, on the sports field, in our cultural spaces, and in the way our community shows up for one another.



This is especially evident as we head into our upcoming whole-school sporting events — Swimming Sports and Athletics Day. These events are about much more than competition. They are about participation, house pride, encouragement, resilience, and celebrating personal bests. Whether a student is striving for a record, giving something new a go, or cheering from the sidelines, every contribution matters.

We warmly invite our whānau to come along and support our rangatahi. Your presence makes a difference. When students see their families cheering them on, it strengthens their confidence and sense of belonging. Together, we create the atmosphere that makes these days memorable and uplifting for everyone.

At Waihi College, kotahitanga also means ensuring that every young person is supported to thrive — academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. We are fortunate to have a strong team in place:

- Our onsite nurse Margie, supporting our Year 9–13 students with their health and wellbeing needs.
- Our fabulous counsellor Helen, providing a safe and caring space for students.
- Our dedicated kaiārahi Tracy Te Wake, alongside Carolyn Graveson and Karl Budgen, who walk closely with students and whānau to provide guidance and support.
- Our wonderful kaiārahi in the Year 7 & 8 space, Stuart Pratt and Nikki Jensen, who nurture and guide our younger students as they settle and grow.
- And of course, our leadership team — Jo Howell, Amanda Cook, Ariana Te Wake, and myself — are always open to kōrero and connection.

We truly value partnership with whānau. If there is ever anything your young person needs, please reach out. We are stronger when we work together, guided by manaakitanga and whanaungatanga.

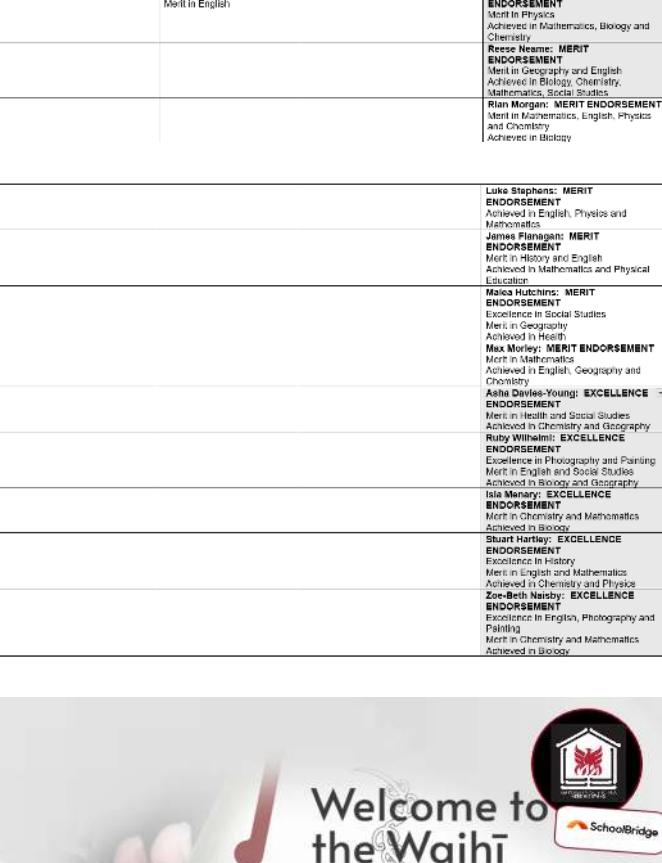
Let us continue to stand side by side, celebrating effort, progress, and achievement in all its forms. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming sports days, proudly cheering on our students.

As we farewell Kate Morley, Paula Galey, Peter Roy, and Kevin Wall who officially left in 2025 but have spent the first weeks of 2026 with us, we send our heartfelt thanks for your years of dedicated service, the wisdom, aroha and mana you have shared so generously with our ākonga. We wish you all every success in the next chapter ahead.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa
Briar Principal | Tumukaki Waihi College

SCHOOL WIDE

Celebrating Excellence, Effort and Opportunity with our High Achievers & the OceanaGold Scholarship Recipients



Last week was a proud and uplifting moment for our kura as we gathered to recognise the outstanding achievements of our students. The presentation of Subject Endorsements, Overall Endorsements, Vocational and Pathway Awards, and the OceanaGold Scholarships was a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through dedication, resilience and belief.

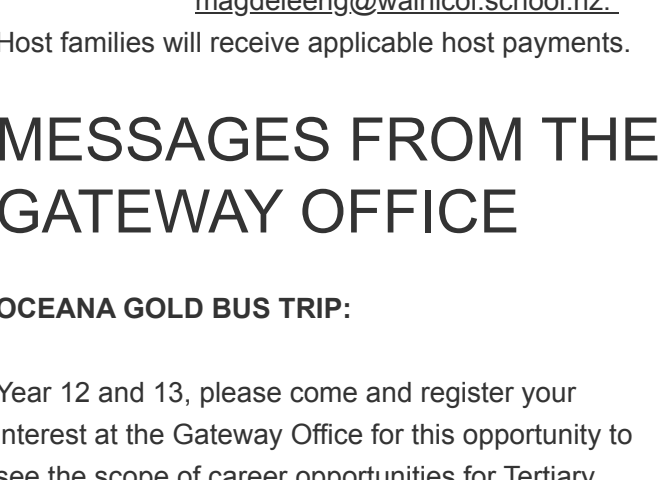
Our endorsement recipients have shown consistent commitment across the year. Subject Endorsements reflect not just academic achievement, but sustained focus, perseverance and a willingness to go the extra mile in individual learning areas. Overall Endorsements represent an even broader level of excellence and merit, recognising students who have maintained high achievement across multiple subjects. These results do not happen by chance. They are the outcome of late nights, early mornings, steady determination and the courage to keep striving.

We also proudly celebrated students who received Vocational and Pathway scholarships from OceanaGold. These awards acknowledge young people who have demonstrated clear direction, practical skill development and real-world readiness. Whether their next step is tertiary study, apprenticeship, training or employment, these students have shown initiative and purpose. Their achievements reflect the many pathways to success and the value of diverse strengths within our school community.

A special acknowledgement goes to OceanaGold for their continued support of our students. We are deeply grateful for their partnership and generosity. Year after year, their support recognises the effort and potential of our young people. Beyond celebrating academic and vocational success, these scholarships provide meaningful financial assistance at a pivotal time in our students' lives. As they transition from school into further study or the workforce, this support helps ease financial pressures and opens doors to wider opportunities.

It was heartening to see whānau, staff and peers celebrating together. Achievement is never an individual journey alone. Behind every certificate and scholarship is a network of encouragement — teachers who guide, families who support, friends who motivate, and a community that believes in its young people. To all of our award recipients: we are incredibly proud of you. Your hard work has paid off, and your success inspires those who follow. As you take your next steps into the wider world, carry with you the confidence that comes from effort and accomplishment. You have earned it.

Congratulations to each and every one of you.



OceanaGold Scholarship recipients:

Academic: Bella Paulson, Māhe North, Charlie Joyce, Evah Carey and Brooke Kelly
Vocational: Cameron Lamont, Xyrus Manaot, Rhys Hodgson and Sean Todd

High Achievers:

Level 1 Subject Endorsements	Level 2 Subject Endorsements	Level 1 Overall NCEA Endorsement	Level 2 Overall Endorsement
Ramona Gordon: Merit in Food Technology Achieved in Level 1 English Claire McEwen: Merit in Food Technology	Maddy Davies: Merit in Chemistry	Elzabeta Carey: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in Food Technology Loren Posing: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in Food Technology	Piper Emmsley: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in Mathematics Zane Clark: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Achieved in Mathematics
Jamille Jones: Merit in Food Technology	Ari Pihai: Merit in English	Carla Huijg: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in Food Technology Merit in Science Merit in Mathematics Merit in Mathematics	Stella Shaw: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in Mathematics Achieved in Mathematics
Christie Merriam: Excellence in Food Technology Achieved in Health and Mathematics	Makana Mappo: Merit in Photography	ENDORSEMENT Merit in Physical and Science Achieved in Drama, Health and Science Merit in Science Merit in Mathematics	Arysha Donning: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in Mathematics Merit in Chemistry Merit in English, Biology and Social Studies
Alison Hughes: Merit in History and Art/Design Achieved in Biology	Allyson Smith: Merit in History and Art/Design Wynne Wakaia: Merit in English	Jessica White: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in Geography, Mathematics, Science and Photography Achieved in English	Hana Koroheua: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in English Achieved in English, Biology and Mathematics
			Grace Dean: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in Physical Education and Health Achieved in English, Geography and Social Studies
			Jack Unsworth: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in Mathematics Merit in Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry
			Britni Hooper: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in Geography and English Achieved in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Social Studies
			Ryan Morgan: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Merit in Mathematics, English, Physics and Chemistry Achieved in English
			Luke Stephens: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Achieved in English, Physics and Mathematics Merit in Mathematics Achieved in Mathematics and Physical Education
			Maria Huijg: MERIT ENDORSEMENT Excellence in Social Studies Achieved in Health Merit in Mathematics Achieved in English, Geography and Social Studies
			Alina Davies-Young: EXCELLENCE Merit in Health and Social Studies Achieved in Chemistry and Geography Merit in Mathematics
			Ruby Williams: EXCELLENCE Excellence in Photography and Planning Merit in English and Social Studies Achieved in English and Mathematics
			Shant Harvey: EXCELLENCE Excellence in History Merit in English and Mathematics Achieved in Chemistry and Physics Merit in Mathematics, English, Photography and Planning Merit in Chemistry and Mathematics Achieved in Biology

Welcome to the Waihi College Kura

- Sciences: **Harris Wang**
- International: **Rochelle Kean**
- Technology: **Bruce Lyu**
- Learning Support: **Toni Kayes**
- Science Tech: **Sharon Watkins**
- Future Pathways: **Tim Spurgeon**
- Itinerant Music: **Alice McConnochie**
- Itinerant Music: **Joe Arrow**

2026 New Staff
www.waihicol.school.nz

SCHOOL BRIDGE APP

Exciting news, Waihi College whānau! We're thrilled to announce that Waihi College will now be using the SchoolBridge app to help keep our community connected and informed. SchoolBridge makes it easy to view the school calendar, check notices, see timetables, and report student absences —all in one place. We'll also be rolling out digital permission slips through the app in the near future, making things even simpler for busy whānau.

The app is super easy to download —use the QR code or download via Apple Store or Google Play. If you want it on your PC, go to <https://waihicol.bridge.school.nz/>

We're looking forward to using SchoolBridge to strengthen communication between home and kura and support our students together.

Nāu mai, haere mai to an easier way to stay connected.

STEP 1: download the Schoolbridge App
Either scan the QR code or download via App Store or Google Play

STEP 2: Sign in with your school registered email
For caregivers, this is the email address you used when enrolling your student and for students, it is your school email address. If you are unsure, use the 'Request a Magic Sign-in Code' option

Year 7 Camp: Bowentown Campground

Thursday 19th - Friday 20th March. Please check your emails and fill in the google form as soon as possible so we can start organising things from our end!

If you have any questions or did not receive this form email nikkij@waihicol.school.nz

WAIHĪ COLLEGE YEAR 7 CAMP

KEEN TO HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

If you would like to host one of our short terms students, as part of the GoKiwi Japanese short stay group from 23rd March 23 to 5th April, please get in touch with Magdeleen at magdeleeng@waihicol.school.nz. Host families will receive applicable host payments.

MESSAGES FROM THE GATEWAY OFFICE

OCEANA GOLD BUS TRIP:

Year 12 and 13, please come and register your interest at the Gateway Office for this opportunity to see the scope of career opportunities for Tertiary graduates, apprenticeships and a wide range of labouring jobs. This trip is a pre-requisite to be accepted onto the Mining Skills Pre-start Course unless you have Trades Academy that day. Any questions, please see Mrs G in the Gateway Office.

Defensive Driving Courses 2026:

First Defensive Driving course for this year starts on 9 March from 3:15 - 5:15 pm in Senior Hub. The course will run over 4 Monday afternoons from 9 March until 30 March. The cost is \$220.50 (significant saving by doing this through school) and is to be paid to Sue at the Front Office before the course starts. Come and put your name on the list in the Gateway Office. There are only 20 spaces available but we will run another course later in the year but please put your name on the list so we can plan ahead. Any questions, see Mrs G in the Gateway Office.

JumpStart Driving:

Driving lessons resume from Wednesday 11 February from Waihi College. Please check the daily notices for driving times. If you have passed your Learners Licence in the holidays, come and get a registration form from the Gateway Office. Lessons are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Any questions, please see Mrs G in the Gateway Office.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE CHANGE OF BANK DETAILS

ACCOUNT: WAIHI COLLEGE BOARD
NUMBER: 12-3171-0263271-00

CHANGE OF BANK DETAILS

Please check that you've updated our kura bank account details.

Should you have any questions, please contact the office on 07 863 8349 to discuss payment options.

ITINERANT MUSIC LESSONS: 25th February

We've had a ton of interest for the upcoming itinerant lessons.

Lessons start on 25th - come and check timetabled slots on the music room windows.

PARENT CORNER

WAIHĪ 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 GOLD HEALTH NEEDS OR QUESTIONS MARGIE GOLDSWORTHY | SCHOOL NURSE FOR WAIHĪ COLLEGE

Ngā mihi, with kind regards Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE WAIHĪ M: 0272983787 W: www.pinnacle.co.nz

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