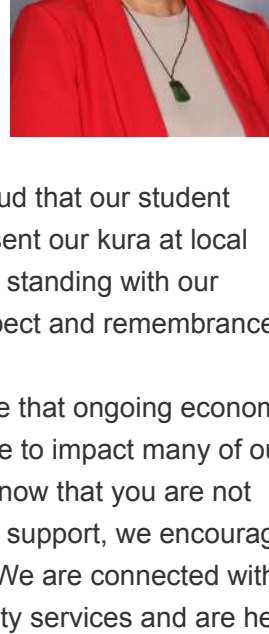


# WAIHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 2026

## PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou e te wāhānau o Waihi College, Nau mai, haere mai ki te wāhanga tuarua o te tau – we're back together for Term 2. I hope the break has provided time for rest, connection, and renewal with those who matter most.



This term is shaping up to be an exciting and vibrant one, filled with opportunities for our rangatahi to shine. We are looking forward to a number of highlights across the college. Our much-anticipated Wearable Arts Show is on the horizon, alongside preparations for our school show season, where creativity, collaboration, and courage take centre stage. These events are always a powerful expression of student voice and talent, and we can't wait to share them with you.

As we move through the term, we will also acknowledge and celebrate Matariki – a time for reflection, remembrance, and looking ahead with hope. This will be woven through learning experiences across the school, grounding our students in te ao Māori and the values that connect us all.

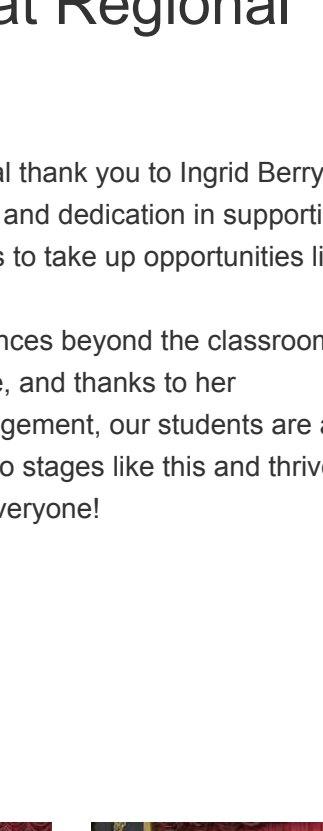
There are also a range of trips and experiences planned, providing authentic, hands-on learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Alongside this, our focus remains firmly on strong core learning. Establishing positive routines and knocking down into a consistent learning rhythm will be key, particularly for those students preparing to sit their Common Assessment Activities (CAAs). We will be supporting our learners to feel confident, capable, and well-prepared.

As we begin the term, we also take a moment to acknowledge ANZAC Day this coming weekend. This is a time to honour the service and sacrifice of so many, including members of our own Waihi College wāhānau. We remember those who gave their lives, and we acknowledge those who continue to serve our country

today. We are proud that our student leaders will represent our kura at local commemorations, standing with our community in respect and remembrance.

We are very aware that ongoing economic pressures continue to impact many of our wāhānau. Please know that you are not alone. If you need support, we encourage you to reach out. We are connected with a range of community services and are here to help in any way we can.

One way we are strengthening that support is through becoming a Kura Kai school. This is something we are truly excited about. Several times each term, we will host cook-offs where staff, students, and wāhānau can come together to prepare meals to support our own community. This kaupapa reflects who we are – a kura grounded in manaakitanga, where we look after one another in practical and meaningful ways.



As always, my door is open. Please feel free to get in touch, drop by, or connect if you would like to share celebrations, raise concerns, or simply have a kōrero. We are a small but strong community, and it is through kotahitanga and manaakitanga that we continue to uplift one another.

## Young Performers Shine at Regional Shakespeare Festival

A huge congratulations to our talented students who took part in the Regional Shakespeare Festival at Cambridge Town Hall at the end of last term. As the youngest group attending, they more than held their own—truly shining on stage and capturing the attention and praise of the judges with their performance.

We are incredibly proud of the way they represented the college with confidence, creativity, and professionalism. It's exciting to think about what lies ahead for these students as they continue to grow in their dramatic journeys.

A special thank you to Ingrid Berry for her passion and dedication in supporting our students to take up opportunities like this.

Experiences beyond the classroom are so valuable, and thanks to her encouragement, our students are able to step onto stages like this and thrive. Well done, everyone!

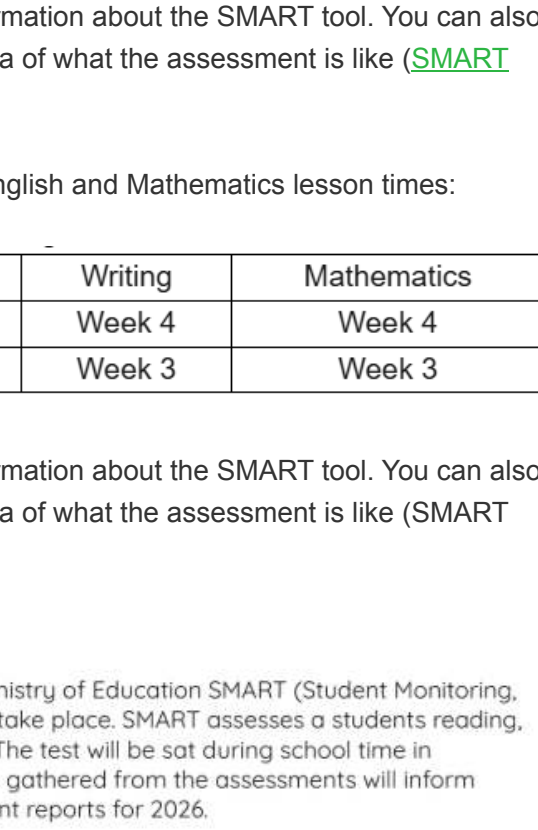
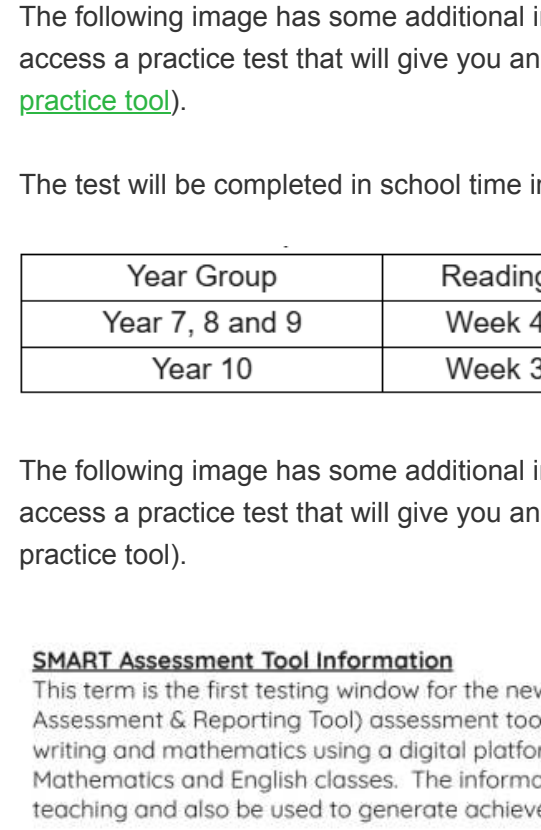
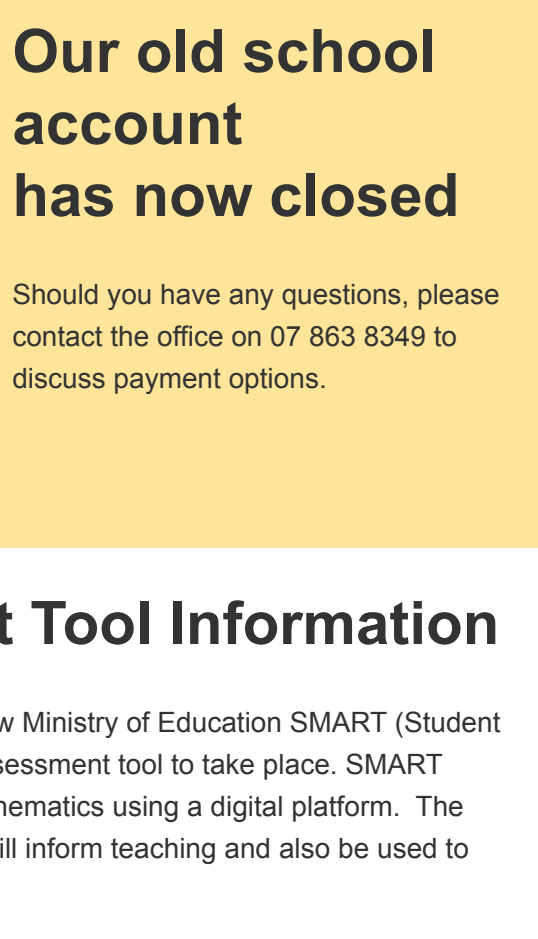


## YEAR 7 CAMP

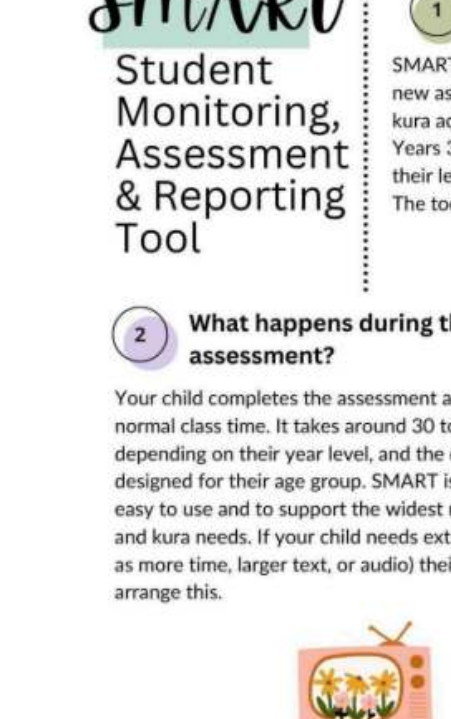
Our Year 7s just got back from a fantastic two-day trip to Bowentown, and it was a blast from start to finish! We were so lucky to have beautiful weather, which made our time at the beach even better. Between splashing in the waves and going on some great nature walks to see the views, everyone was kept busy and active.

One of the biggest highlights (and challenges!) was setting up our own tents. It was great to see everyone helping each other out and working as a team. This trip was all about making new friends and getting to know each other better outside of the classroom.

A huge thank you to all our parent helpers who came along to help—we couldn't have done it without you! It was a quick trip, but we made memories that will last all year.



## Our old school account has now closed



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

## SMART Assessment Tool Information

This term is the first testing window for the new Ministry of Education SMART (Student Monitoring, Assessment & Reporting Tool) assessment tool to take place. SMART assesses a student's reading, writing and mathematics using a digital platform. The information gathered from the assessments will inform teaching and is also used to generate achievement reports for 2026.

The following image has some additional information about the SMART tool. You can also access a practice test that will give you an idea of what the assessment is like ([SMART practice tool](#)).

The test will be completed in school time in English and Mathematics lesson times:

Year Group	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Year 7, 8 and 9	Week 4	Week 4	Week 4
Year 10	Week 3	Week 3	Week 3

The following image has some additional information about the SMART tool. You can also access a practice test that will give you an idea of what the assessment is like ([SMART practice tool](#)).

**SMART Assessment Tool Information**  
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- What is SMART?** SMART (Student Monitoring, Assessment & Reporting Tool) is a new assessment tool being introduced this year for schools and kura across New Zealand. It's designed for students in Years 3-10 and helps teachers understand where your child is in their learning and what they're ready to learn next. The tool assesses: Reading, Writing and Mathematics.
- What happens during the assessment?** Your child completes the assessment at school, during normal class time. It takes around 30 to 45 minutes, depending on their year level, and the questions are designed for their age group. SMART is designed to be easy to use and to support the widest range of school and kura needs. If your child needs extra support (such as more time, larger text, or audio) their teacher can arrange this.
- How can I prepare my child's learning at home?** You don't need to prepare your child for a SMART assessment. It's designed to reflect what they're learning in class. But there are always ways to support learning at home:
  - Talk with your child about what they're learning at school
  - Look for everyday opportunities to practise skills (like reading together, measuring while cooking, talking about stories)
  - Ask your child's teacher if you'd like more ideas for home support
  - Head to the MoE [Parent Portal](#) for resources and a mathematics practice tool if you want to help at home
- What does SMART tell us?** SMART gives really rich information about how your child is learning and progressing, and is designed to support the new curriculum. After each assessment, your child's teacher will have a clear picture of:
  - What your child can do: the skills and practices they've shown they have
  - Where they are in their learning: how they're progressing through the curriculum
  - Their next steps: what they're ready to learn next.

**SPARKLE & SHINE CAR WASH**  
Saturday 9th May from 12.30 till 5.00  
BAKE SALE & BBQ  
Support our girls going to Japan!  
Where: Waihi Tyre Services: Rosemont Rd  
Prices: Cars: \$10 | Utes or larger: \$15-20  
Help our girls raise funds for their Japan exchange!

**THE U SHOP**  
YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

**WAIHI COLLEGE**

**OPEN HOURS | Term 2, 2026**  
21 Apr - 1 July

<b>Tuesday</b>	8.00am - 9.00am
<b>Wednesday</b>	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)

**UNIFORM GROUP**  
CREATING TOGETHER  
THE U SHOP operated by UNIFORM GROUP

## COMING UP

### REVENGE OF THE AMAZONS

Rehearsals are under way and it's shaping up to be an amazing play.

We will keep you informed as we get closer to ticket selling time! They will be through Humanitix as per and we will have adult and concession prices, as well as a food stall

Keep an eye on socials, our newsletter and our website to stay informed.

**WAIHI COLLEGE CAST ANNOUNCEMENT**  
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TALENTED STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR OUR UPCOMING PLAY - REVENGE OF THE AMAZONS!

### HOST FAMILIES WANTED

Create connections with people from all over the world

Introduce someone to your local area and traditions

Choose a hosting option that suits you, short or long term.

You Receive Weekly Payments for Hosting!

**INTERESTED?**  
Contact: Magdeleen 021 0277 8120 or [magdeleeng@waihicol.school.nz](mailto:magdeleeng@waihicol.school.nz)

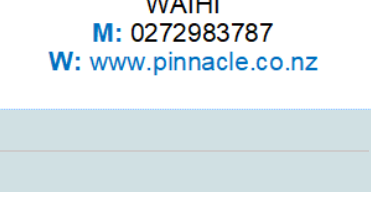
**WAIHI COLLEGE HOST FAMILIES WANTED**

### Head Students & Sports Honours Board: Community Support to help preserve our history

We're incredibly grateful for the generosity already shown as we begin creating our new Head Students and Sports Honours Boards – special pieces that will celebrate the achievements and legacy of our kura for years to come. A heartfelt thank you to **Margaret-Ellen Pipe** and **Mary Carmine** for their kind donations towards this project. Your support helps bring this vision to life and ensures our students' accomplishments are recognised and remembered.

We warmly welcome further community support for these honours boards. If you or your wāhānau, business, or organisation would like to be part of preserving this important part of our school's history, please get in touch at [wendys@waihicol.school.nz](mailto:wendys@waihicol.school.nz). Every contribution, big or small, is truly appreciated.

**Massive thanks to Margaret-Ellen Pipe and Mary Carmine who have stepped forward and kindly donated some funds towards this important project!**  
Ngā mihi nui Margaret and Mary.



**LEST WE FORGET ANZAC DAY**  
Tunnelling Company Memorial  
Saturday 25 April 2026—9am to 10am  
A Community ANZAC Day event  
Come and share a story from your family or whānau. Listen to stories and memories from our community. Meet and hear an opportunity for you to buy a wreath, poppy or flower tributes. Attend an afternoon.

**WAIHI CLUB ANZAC DAY**  
SATURDAY 25TH APRIL  
DAWN SERVICE 6am  
BREAKFAST STRAIGHT AFTER DAWN SERVICE  
CEMETERY 8am  
MARCH TO HALL AT THE CLUB AT 10.30AM  
LUNCH AT THE RSA

## SCHOOL WIDE

### SCHOOL BRIDGE APP: Stay connected. Stay informed. Keep it simple

We're encouraging all students and caregivers to download the SchoolBridge app – your new first port of call for all things school-related.

- Mark absences in seconds
- Check notices and updates
- Stay in the loop wherever you are

Getting started is easy:

- 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*

It's quick, convenient, and we'll be adding even more features as we go. Jump on board today and make school communication smoother for everyone!

**Download Our App**

- Scan the QR Code to download. Or
- Search "SchoolBridge" on your mobile AppStore or PlayStore.

Once you have downloaded the app, you can sign in using your school account information. Please contact the school if you need help with your account details.

## PARENT CORNER

### Understanding Teen Behaviour: What Science Tells Us.

#### Part 2: The Power of Belonging

Have you ever wondered why friends suddenly seem more important than family?

As we learned last time, the teenage brain is undergoing a "software upgrade". One of the biggest changes that comes with this is an **increased need for peer connection and approval**. In fact, for a teenager, being "left out" by friends can trigger the Red Brain just as much as a physical threat.

If your teen suddenly starts to value their friends' opinions more than yours, don't take it personally. This stage is a **normal developmental phase** where their brain tells them to **prioritise peer belonging in order to find their tribe and to form their own identity**, separate from the family, as they **prepare for independence**.

**How to Keep the Connection Strong**  
Even though they are pushing for independence, they still need you. Here are three ways to stay close:

- 1. Use Micro-Connections:** A simple "high-five", a casual "hello", or sharing a snack are small moments that keep the door open.
- 2. Stay in their Zone:** Show interest in what they value, whether it is a game, a hobby or their music. You don't have to be an expert; you just have to be interested.
- 3. Be their anchor:** When they are ready to talk, create a calm space, validate their feelings, and then problem-solve with them rather than for them.

It helps to remember that **they aren't 'pulling away', they are 'growing up'**. Find small moments to connect and build a village of trusted adults who can support your teenager as they navigate this upgrade safely.

For more information: Listen to the "I've Got Questions" podcast with Kathryn Berkett and Pio Terei: [About our adolescents being reckless and defiant](#). As well as Nathan Wallis' YouTube video: [Complexities of the teenage brain](#)

In Part 3, we will be learning that behaviour is communication.

## DENTAL CARE

**DENTAL CARE IS FREE TILL YOU TURN 18.**  
YEAR NINE STUDENTS AND ANY NEW SENIOR STUDENTS AT WAIHI COLLEGE – A REMINDER THAT YOU NEED TO BE REGISTERED WITH WAIHI FAMILY DENTAL CENTRE IN SCHOOL LANE

**UNSURE? CHECK WITH ME, YOUR SCHOOL NURSE- MARGIE**

**IMPORTANT TEETH AND HEALTH**

- VAPING
- TOOTH GUM

**TIPS ABOUT MOUTH**

- CAUSES BAD BREATH, DECAY AND

- WATER IS THE BEST DRINK. IT IMPROVES BRAIN FUNCTION AND CLARITY AND IS PREVENTIVE AGAINST TOOTH DECAY
- SUGARY DRINKS CAN LEAD TO TOOTH DECAY AND GUM DISEASE!
- WEAR A MOUTH GUARD FOR CONTACT SPORTS – A BROKEN TOOTH IS DAMAGED

**WAIHI COLLEGE HAS A SCHOOL NURSE AVAILABLE MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 8.30AM-4.30PM FOR YEAR 9-13 AVAILABLE FOR YEAR 9-8 IN EMERGENCIES**

POP IN TO THE BUILDING NEXT TO THE TREE OF LIFE WALK IN APPOINTMENT. OR TEXT/PHONE ON 0272983787

LOCK 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 Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE  
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)