

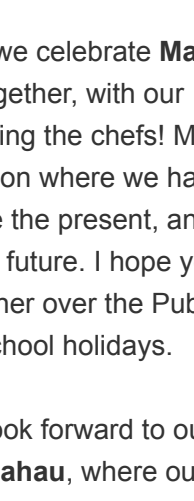
# WAIHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 18 2026

## PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora e te whānau,

Nau mai, haere mai, and welcome back to Term 3.  
I hope the holiday break offered your whānau the chance to slow down, spend time together, and enjoy a well-earned rest.



As we return to school, there is a real sense of purpose in the air. Term 3 is the season where we knuckle down, set our sights on our goals, and embrace the mahi ahead. It always seems to fly by, and before we know it, we'll be celebrating another successful term with our much-loved Spirit Days—a chance to acknowledge the effort, growth, friendships, and memories that make our kura such a special place.

Our guiding value this term is **Kotahitanga**—unity through working together. It feels particularly fitting as education across Aotearoa continues to evolve. While there are significant changes happening around us, our commitment remains steadfast: to thoughtfully embrace what will strengthen learning while remaining true to who we are as a community. We know that the greatest outcomes come when students, staff, whānau, iwi, and our wider community walk alongside one another. Together we create a place where every young person feels they belong, is challenged to grow, and is supported to succeed.

There will be countless opportunities to be part of life at Waihi College this term. Our sports teams are proudly representing the kura across a wide range of codes, and it is always heartening to see our students wearing the school colours with pride, determination, and humility.

We are delighted to welcome **Mrs Ksenia Opaleva** to the Waihi College whānau. Ksenia joins us for the remainder of the year, teaching across Drama, English, and ESOL, and we know she will bring fresh perspectives and wonderful experiences for our students.

We also farewell **Mr Hilton Galey** and **Ms Ingrid Berry**. We thank them for the contributions they have made to our kura and wish them every success, happiness, and fulfilment as they begin the next chapters of their journeys.

Finally, thank you. Thank you to our incredible staff, who continue to lead with care, professionalism, and unwavering commitment through an ever-changing educational landscape. Thank you to our whānau, whose partnership and support make such a difference. And thank you to our students, who remind us every day why this work matters.

Our doors are always open. If you have something to celebrate, an idea to share, or a concern you'd like to discuss, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Strong schools are built on strong relationships, and I always welcome the opportunity to connect with our community. You can contact me directly at [principal@waihicol.school.nz](mailto:principal@waihicol.school.nz).

As we begin another term together, let's embrace the opportunities before us with courage, kindness, and a deep sense of **kotahitanga**. Together, there is very little we cannot achieve.

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Briar Principal | Tumukaki Waihi College

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our Technology Department is equipped with some incredible industry-standard equipment that many people don't realise our ākonga have access to. From **3D printers**, **laser cutters**, **plastic and vacuum formers**, and **milling machines** through to **sound video machines** and **sneak guns** used in Hospitality, our students are learning with the same types of tools and technologies used in modern workplaces. Access to this equipment helps students build practical, future-focused skills, grow their creativity, and gain confidence with current technologies—preparing them for a wide range of pathways beyond school.

## COMING UP

### WAIHI / KATIKATI COLLEGE SCHOOL SPORTS EXCHANGE 2026 - Thursday 23rd July

Check our the draw for how the day will go. Any questions, please contact Jess on [jesso@waihicol.school.nz](mailto:jesso@waihicol.school.nz)

| WAIHI / KATIKATI COLLEGE SCHOOL SPORTS EXCHANGE 2026 - Thursday 23rd July |                          |                                    |                    |         |                                             |                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Waihi Team                                                                | Katiki Team              | Waihi Referee                      | KKC Umpire/Referee | Time    | Format                                      | Venue                |
| 1st XI Girls                                                              | vs KKC Girls 1st XI      | Budge/Matt                         |                    | 12:30pm | 2 x 40                                      | Top Field            |
| U14 Boys                                                                  | vs 2nd XI/13th Grade     | Budge/Matt                         |                    | 10am    | 2 x 35 (11 aside)                           | Top Field            |
| U14 Girls                                                                 | vs KKC 2nd XI/13th Grade | Budge/Matt                         |                    | 10am    | 2 x 35 (11 aside)                           | Top Field            |
| College A                                                                 | vs KKC College A         | Te Awhi Cooper                     | Stella Millichip   | 10:50am | 4x 10 minutes quarters, 12/21 minute breaks | Waka Netball Court 1 |
| Senior Girls Development                                                  | vs Senior B              | Jaylah Rolleston                   | Hollie             | 12:30pm | - -                                         | Waka Netball Court 2 |
| 10 A                                                                      | vs Junior A              | Malika Hutchins                    | Eden Burton        | 10:50am | - -                                         | Waka Netball Court 1 |
| 9 A                                                                       | vs Junior B              | Te Awhi Cooper                     | Poppy              | 12:30pm | - -                                         | Waka Netball Court 2 |
| 8 A                                                                       | vs 8A                    | Jess O'Brien                       | Isla               | 9:50am  | - -                                         | Waka Netball Court 1 |
| 7 A                                                                       | vs 7&8 B                 | Malika Hutchins                    | Edina              | 9:50am  | - -                                         | Waka Netball Court 2 |
| Senior Girls VB                                                           | vs KKC Senior Girls      | Senior Boys                        |                    | 12:15pm | 3 sets 25                                   | Gym                  |
| College A Boys VB                                                         | vs KKC Senior Boys       | Senior Girls                       |                    | 12:45pm | 3 sets 25                                   | Gym                  |
| 10a VB                                                                    | vs KKC Jnr Girls         | Senior Girls Volleyball            |                    | 1:45pm  | 3 sets 25                                   | Gym                  |
| Year 8 Spikers                                                            | vs 7&8 girls             | 10a Volleyball                     |                    | 1:15pm  | 3 sets 25                                   | Gym                  |
| Senior Boys Basketball                                                    | vs KKC Seniors           |                                    | Jess / Logan       | 11:30am | 4x 10 minutes quarters, 3/5/3 minute breaks | Gym                  |
| Junior Boys Basketball                                                    | vs KKC Junior A          | Blake Smith                        | Jack DH            | 9:30am  | - -                                         | Gym                  |
| Year 7&8 A Basketball                                                     | vs KKC 7 & 8 Mako        | Mitchell Paynter / Byron Parkinson | Jack DH            | 8am     | - -                                         | Gym                  |

The College A Netball team are also doing American Hot Dogs, Nachos and a bake sale to raise money to get them to UNISS.

Come along and support our girls. Cash only please.

COLLEGE A NETBALL UNISS FUNDRAISER

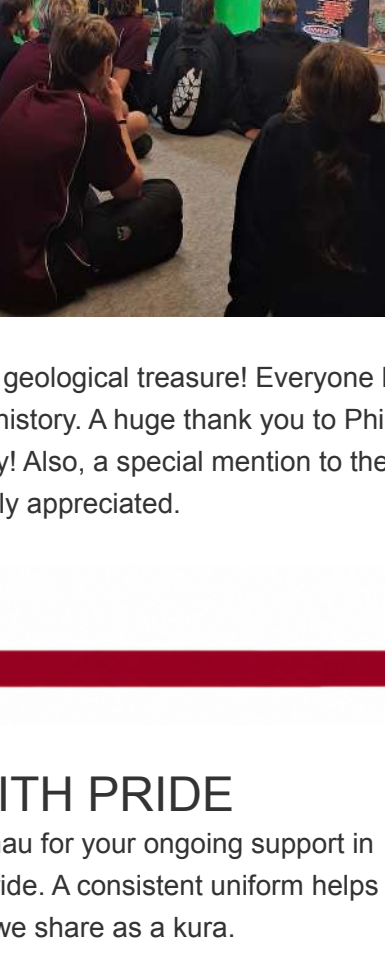
# BAKE SALE

HELP SUPPORT OUR GIRLS

AMERICAN HOT DOGS - \$5  
NACHOS - \$6  
BAKE SALE - \$2 to \$5

CASH ONLY  
Thursday 23rd at 11am in Te Ara Hou

## TEACHER AIDE WANTED: FIXED TERM POSITION



### Fixed Term Position

The Ideal Candidate Will:

- Have experience working with young people
- Build trust and positive relationships
- Be patient, resilient, and solutions-focused
- Have strong communication skills
- Work independently and as part of a team
- Participate in diverse activities
- Hold a Full NZ Driver Licence
- Pass Police Vetting

### Position Hours

12 hours per week

### Position Commences

Term 3

### Location

Bay Pathways (Offsite Learning Centre)

### Applications Close

14 July 2026

### To Apply

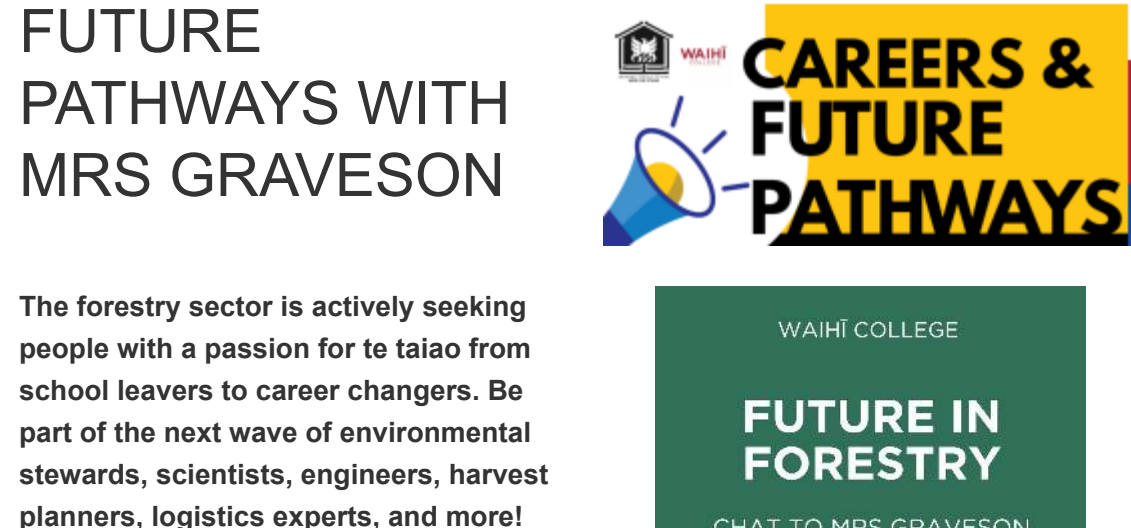
Send a cover letter and CV (including two referees) to:

Mrs Amanda Cook  
Email: [amandac@waihicol.school.nz](mailto:amandac@waihicol.school.nz)

### Contact

Amanda Cook  
Phone: (027) 836 1936

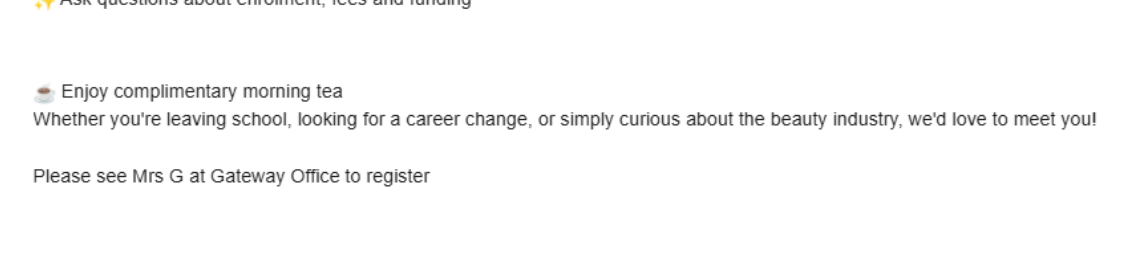
## SCHOOL WIDE



Congratulations to all of our talented Hospitality students, and to their teacher, Ms Siobhan Fitzgerald, on their outstanding efforts at the Waikato Culinary Fare at the end of last term. The team has already achieved some fantastic results, and the feedback from the judges has been nothing short of exceptional. We are incredibly proud of the skill, creativity, professionalism, and dedication our ākonga have shown throughout the competition. We are eagerly awaiting the final results and look forward to sharing all of their achievements with our school community very soon.

## INTERNATIONALS

Our 12 new German long stay students have met some Waihi College locals already and are looking forward to joining into Kiwi life. If you are interested in hosting next year please contact Rochelle or Magdeleen.

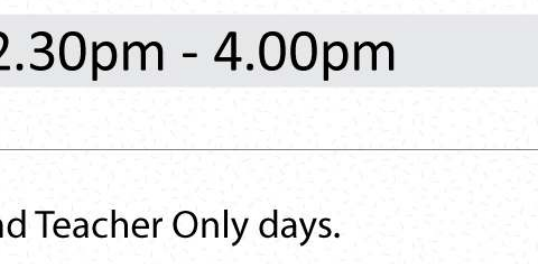
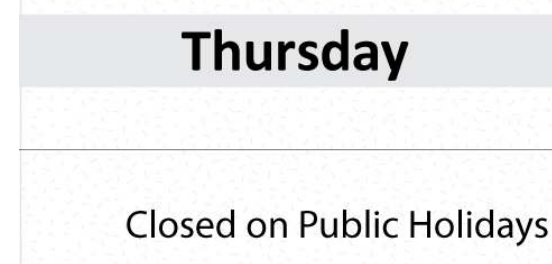
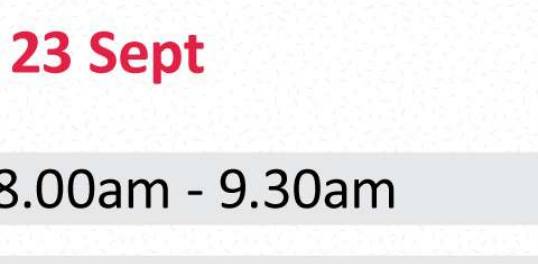


## Exploring Local History: Year 7 & 8 at the Martha Mine

What a way to wrap up Term 2! Our Year 7 & 8 classes took a trip to the Waihi Gold Education Centre to bring our term's learning to life with local expert Phil Salmon.

We kicked off at the lookout platform with a captivating talk on Martha Mine—complete with a wild tale of a missing gold nugget! After learning about the modern underground operations, the friendly competition began. Students split into teams to tackle three hands-on challenges:

- Gold Panning
- Simulated "Drilling"
- An Escape Room Challenge



The winning team walked away with some authentic geological treasure! Everyone had a fantastic time exploring and engaging with our local history. A huge thank you to Phil Salmon for his generosity, knowledge, and hospitality! Also, a special mention to the whānau that joined us on our trip. Your support is truly appreciated.

## WEARING OUR UNIFORM WITH PRIDE

As we move into Term 3, we'd like to thank our whānau for your ongoing support in helping our ākonga wear their school uniform with pride. A consistent uniform helps create a strong sense of belonging and reflects the values we share as a kura.

### A few uniform reminders

#### Outerwear

Only Waihi College sweatshirts and school jackets are to be worn as outerwear. Hoodies (including Waihi College sports hoodies) and puffer jackets are not part of the school uniform and cannot be worn during the school day.

#### Footwear

Students are expected to wear flat, plain black shoes (any material) with plain black or white socks. Slides and Crocs are not permitted.

#### Keeping Warm

Plain black or white thermal tops or undershirts may be worn discreetly underneath the school shirt for extra warmth.

#### Bottoms

Students may wear regulation shorts, skirts, sports track pants or long black trousers. Please note that trousers must not be jeans, cargo pants or sweatpants.

### If your child is out of uniform

We understand that from time to time there may be genuine reasons why a student is unable to wear the correct uniform.

- If your child is out of uniform, please send them with a note explaining the reason. They will be issued with a uniform pass for the day.
- If a student arrives without the correct uniform and does not have a note from home, they should report to the Student Centre before school. Our Uniform Officer will provide a suitable replacement item from our spare uniform supply for the day and will make contact with whānau if required.
- Any non-regulation items, such as hoodies or incorrect footwear, will be tagged and safely stored in the Student Centre for collection at the end of the school day.

### Need help with uniform?

We understand that purchasing school uniforms can place financial pressure on families, and we are here to help.

We have a supply of shoes, socks and school jackets available for students to keep, as well as a small number of shorts and sweatshirts.

If purchasing uniform items is difficult, please contact Amanda Cook at [amandac@waihicol.school.nz](mailto:amandac@waihicol.school.nz), or get in touch with the school directly. We will work with you to find a solution.

### Uniform Shop

Uniforms can be purchased online at:

<https://wcol.uniformgroup.co.nz/>

The Uniform Shop is also open for fittings and purchases during term time and school holidays:

- Monday: 8.00am – 9.30am
- Tuesday: 8.00am – 9.30am
- Thursday: 2.30pm – 4.00pm

### Wearing our uniform with pride

Our school uniform reflects the values that are at the heart of Waihi College.

**Kotahitanga** reminds us that we are stronger together and that our uniform creates a sense of unity and belonging.

**Manaakitanga** encourages us to show respect for ourselves, our school and our community. Wearing our uniform well reflects positively on our kura wherever we go.

**Whanaungatanga** celebrates the connections we share as one school whānau.

**Kaitiakitanga** reminds us to take pride in and care for our school, our environment and one another.

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Open to all students! Capture a landscape, nature scene or wildlife photo on any device (phones welcome) and add a short caption. Judging is based on creativity and composition, not equipment. Entries close at the end of the upcoming holidays. Past photos are welcome. Earn house points for entering, with a prize for first place.

Finalists will be selected by Mrs Kingston, then voted on by the school, with the top three showcased at assembly. Email to [rian@rm020074@waihicol.school.nz](mailto:rian@rm020074@waihicol.school.nz) or Cade on [ctu20022@waihicol.school.nz](mailto:ctu20022@waihicol.school.nz)

## FUTURE PATHWAYS WITH MRS GRAVESON



The forestry sector is actively seeking people with a passion for te taiao from school leavers to career changers. Be part of the next wave of environmental stewards, scientists, engineers, harvest planners, logistics experts, and more!

There's a future for you in forestry. There are lots of scholarships available. See Mrs G in the Gateway Office.

### WAIHI COLLEGE FUTURE IN FORESTRY

CHAT TO MRS GRAVESON

### The Future of Accounting 2026

A free careers event for Year 12–13 students being held at the University of Waikato in Hamilton on **Wednesday, 19 August 4:30 - 6:30pm**. Please contact Mrs G at Gateway Office to register.

You're invited to Varda Academy's 2026 Open Day!

Thinking about a career in Hairdressing, Barbering or Makeup?

Come along to our Open Day and see what life at Varda Academy is all about!

Thursday 8 August 2026

10:00am – 12:00pm

388 Angleside Street, Hamilton

On the day you can:

- Tour our academy
- Meet our friendly tutors and current students
- Watch live demonstrations
- Learn about our NZQA-approved programmes
- Discuss Activities
- Agreement of Intent learning
- Necessary Appointments

Free complimentary morning tea

Whether you're leaving school, looking for a career change, or simply curious about the beauty industry, we'd love to meet you!

Please see Mrs G at Gateway Office to register

## COMMUNITY NOTICES



## OPEN HOURS | Term 3, 2026

20 July - 23 Sept

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| Monday   | 8.00am - 9.30am |
| Tuesday  | 8.00am - 9.30am |
| Thursday | 2.30pm - 4.00pm |

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)



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)