

WAIHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

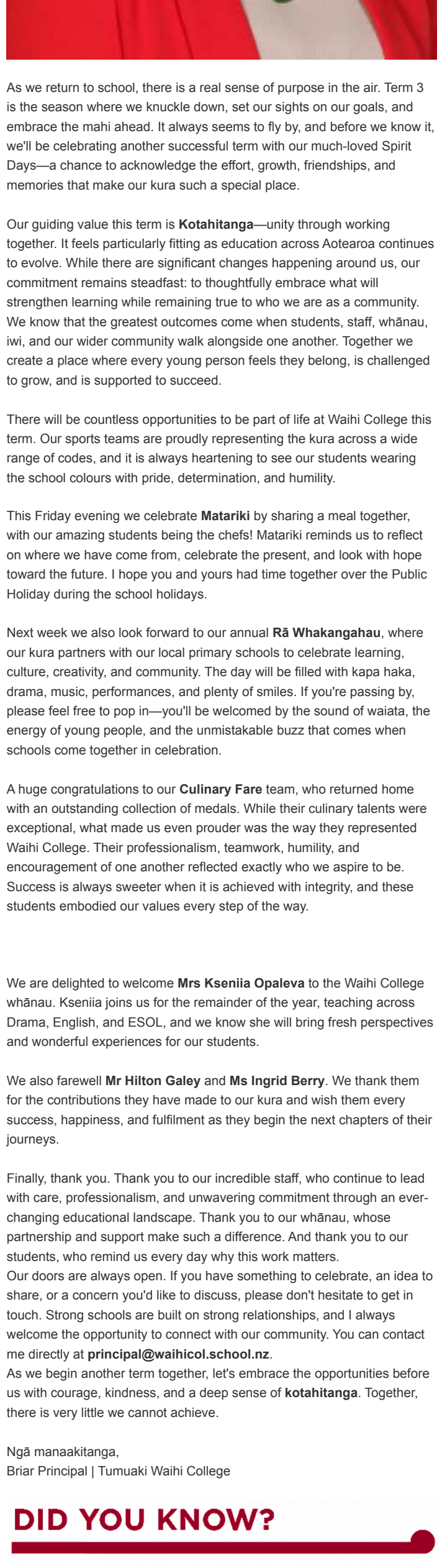
ISSUE 18 2026

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 need to endow, 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 we 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.

This Friday evening we celebrate **Matariki** by sharing a meal together, with our amazing students being the chefs! Matariki reminds us to reflect on where we have come from, celebrate the present, and look with hope toward the future. I hope you and yours had time together over the Public Holiday during the school holidays.

Next week we also look forward to our annual **Rā Whakangahau**, where our kura partners with our local primary schools to celebrate learning, culture, creativity, and community. The day will be filled with kapa haka, drama, music, performances, and plenty of smiles. If you're passing by, please feel free to pop in—you'll be welcomed by the sound of waiata, the energy of young people, and the unmistakable buzz that comes when schools come together in celebration.

A huge congratulations to our **Culinary Fare** team, who returned home with an outstanding collection of medals. While their culinary talents were exceptional, what made us even prouder was the way they represented Waihi College. Their professionalism, teamwork, humility, and encouragement of one another reflected exactly who we aspire to be. Success is always sweeter when it is achieved with integrity, and these students embodied our values every step of the way.

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 their contributions they have made to our kura and wish them every success, happiness, and fulfillment 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.

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 | Tumuaki 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 **sous vide machines** and **smoke 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.

REMINDER TO WHĀNAU
OF YEARS 10-13

COMPLETE THE YEAR 13 UNIFORM REVIEW SURVEY

Check your email inbox

Survey closing date: **JULY 27**

Your feedback matters! Ngā mihi nui.

Year 13 Cohort

ENTER PRIZE DRAW!

COMING UP

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

Check out the draw for how the day will go. Any questions, please contact Jess on jess@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	KKC Girls 1st XI	Rudge/Kati		12:30pm	2 x 40	Top Field
U14 Boys	KKC 1st XI	Rudge/Kati		10am	2 x 35 (11 aside)	Top Field
U14 Girls	KKC 2nd XI	Rudge/Kati		10am	2 x 35 (11 aside)	Top Field
Senior Girls Development	KKC College A	Te Awhi Cooper	Stella Millichip	10:50am	4x 10 minutes quarters, 12/17 minute breaks	Waika Netball Court 1
10 A	Senior B	Jaylah Rolleston	Hollie	12:30pm	-	Waika Netball Court 2
9 A	Junior B	Melanie Hutchins	Eden Burton	10:50am	-	Waika Netball Court 2
8 A	Junior A	Te Awhi Cooper	Poppy	12:30pm	-	Waika Netball Court 2
7 A	8A	Jess O'Brien	Isla	9:50am	-	Waika Netball Court 1
7 A	7&8 B	Melanie Hutchins	Edina	9:50am	-	Waika Netball Court 2
Senior Girls VB	KKC Senior Girls	Senior Boys		12:15pm	3 sets 25	Gym
College A Boys VB	KKC Senior Boys	Senior Girls		12:45pm	3 sets 25	Gym
10a VB	KKC Jnr Girls	Senior Girls		1:45pm	3 sets 25	Gym
Year 8 Spikers	7&8 girls	10a Volleyball		1:15pm	3 sets 25	Gym
Senior Boys Basketball	KKC Seniors			4x 10 minutes quarters, 3x3 minute breaks	-	Gym
Junior Boys Basketball	KKC Junior A	Blake Smith	Jack OH	11:30am	-	Gym
Year 7&8 Basketball	KKC 7 & 8	Paynter / Byron Perkins	Jack OH	9:30am	-	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

WAIHI COLLEGE

TEACHER AIDE

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 a team
- Participate in diverse activities
- Hold a Full NZ Driver Licence
- Pass Police Vetting

****POSITION HOURS: 12 Hours/Week**

POSITION COMMENCES: Term 3

LOCATION: Bay Pathways (Offsite Learning Centre)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 14th July, 2026

TO APPLY: Send cover letter and CV (including 2 referees) to Mrs Amanda Cook at amandac@waihicol.school.nz

CONTACT: Amanda Cook (027) 836 1936

Fixed Term Position

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Position Hours

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Position Commences

Term 3

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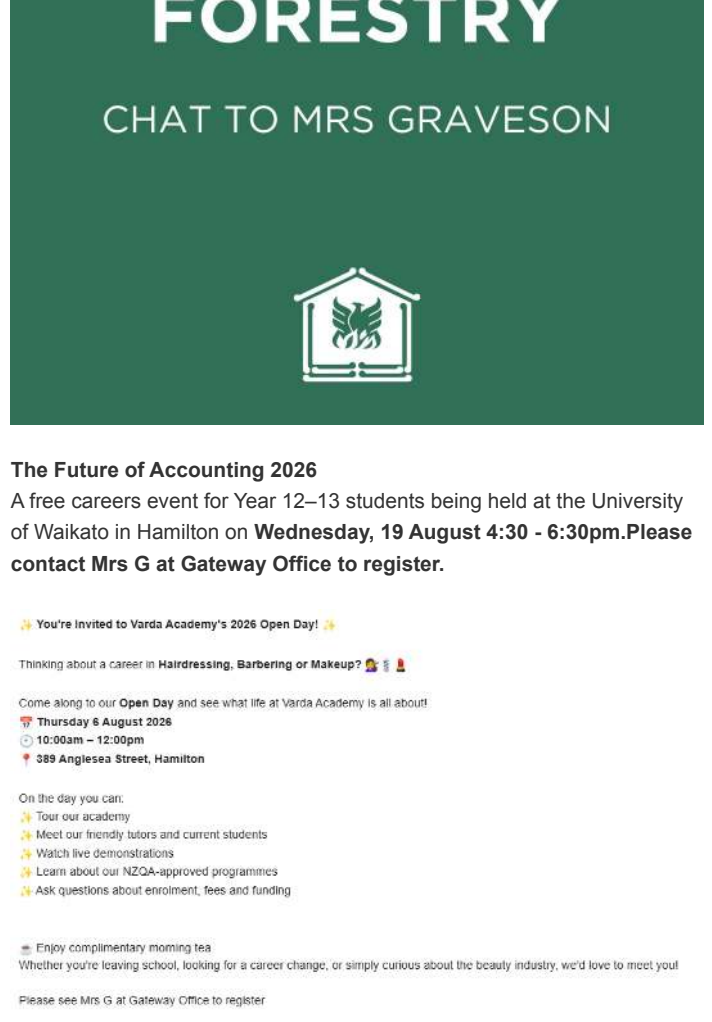
Email: amandac@waihicol.school.nz

Contact

Amanda Cook

Phone: (027) 836 1936

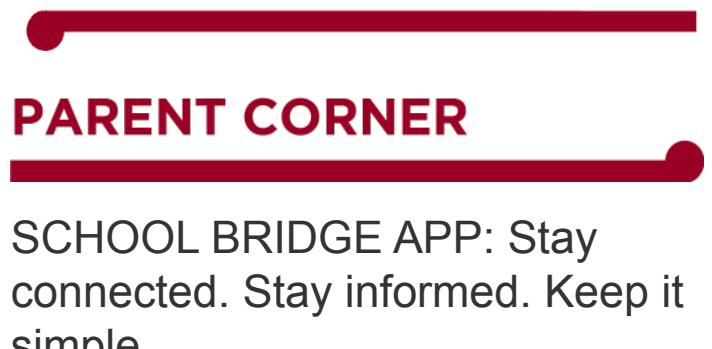
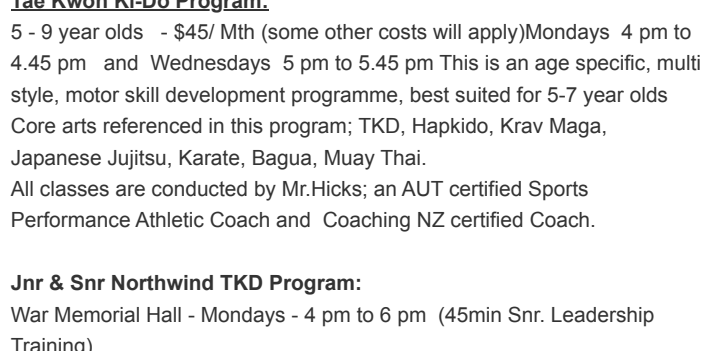
SCHOOL WIDE



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 loan 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.

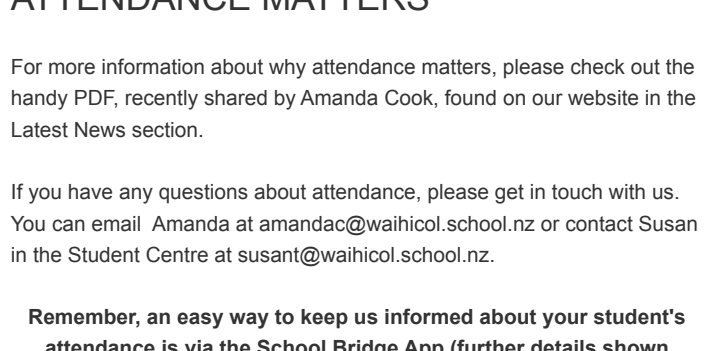
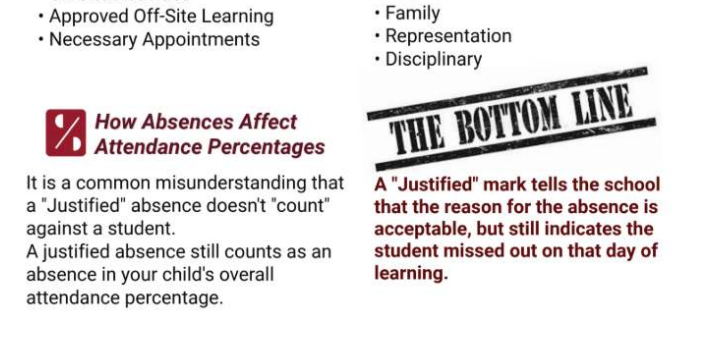
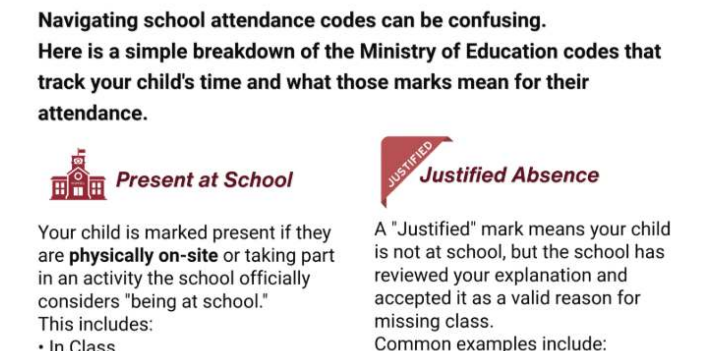


Exploring Local History: Year 7 & 8 at the Martha Mine

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, 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 at rmo20074@waihicol.school.nz or Cade on ctu20022@waihicol.school.nz

FUTURE PATHWAYS WITH MRS GRAVESON

WAIHI COLLEGE CAREERS & FUTURE PATHWAYS

The forestry sector is actively seeking people with a passion for the 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 Varsity Academy's 2026 Open Day! 👉

Thinking about a career in **Accounting, Marketing or Makeup**? 🤔

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

📅 **Thursday 8 August 2026**
10:00am – 12:00pm
📍 **288 Angelica 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
- Ask questions about enrolment, fees and funding

👉 Enjoy complimentary morning tea

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

Please take time to register with the Gateway Office to register!

COMMUNITY NOTICES

THE U SHOP

YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

WAIHI COLLEGE

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

THE U SHOP CREATING IDENTITY
THE U SHOP operated by UNIFORM GROUP

Tae Kwon Ki-Do Program:
5 - 9 year olds - \$45/ Mth (some other costs will apply) Mondays 4 pm to 4.45 pm and Wednesdays 5 pm to 5.45 pm This is an age specific, multi style, motor skill development programme, best suited for 5-7 year olds. Core arts referenced in this program: TKD, Hapkido, Krav Maga, Japanese Jujitsu, Karate, Bagua, Muay Thai. All classes are conducted by Mr Hicks, an AUT certified Sports Performance Athletic Coach and Coaching NZ certified Coach.

Jnr & Snr Northwind TKD Program:
War Memorial Hall - Mondays - 4 pm to 6 pm (45min Snr. Leadership Training)
War Memorial Hall - Wednesdays - 6 pm to 8 pm
Jnr. TKD - St Johns Hall - Fridays - 4.30 pm to 6 pm
Snr. TKD - St Johns Hall - Fridays - 6 pm to 8.30 pm (Fitness, Sparring & Tactical only)

Senior Taekwon-Do Program 8 - 13 year olds -
Junior TKD Teenage & Adult Program \$59/mth (some other costs will apply)

Mr. Paul A. Hicks Head Coach and Master Trainer
Contacts: Mr Paul A Hicks 0268 4000
7550northwindtkd@gmail.com <https://facebook.com/Northwind> Taekwondo

PARENT CORNER

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 into care 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! Head to the Latest News section of our website for handy links.

WAIHI COLLEGE

Download Our App

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

Check out our download page, too! You can also follow our school account. Information. Please contact the school if you need help with your account details.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: A GUIDE FOR WHĀNAU

Navigating school attendance codes can be confusing. Here is a simple breakdown of the Ministry of Education codes that track your child's time and what those marks mean for their attendance.

Present at School

Your child is marked present if they are **physically on-site** or taking part in an activity the school officially considers 'being at school.'

This includes:

- On-Site Activities
- Approved Off-Site Learning
- Necessary Appointments

Justified Absence

A 'Justified' mark means your child is not at school, but the school has reviewed your explanation and accepted it as a valid reason for missing class. Common examples include:

- Family
- Health
- Disciplinary

How Absences Affect Attendance Percentages

It is a common misunderstanding that a 'Justified' absence doesn't 'count' against a student. A justified absence still counts as an absence in your child's overall attendance percentage.

THE BOTTOM LINE

A 'Justified' mark tells the school that the reason for the absence is acceptable, but still indicates the student missed out on that day of learning.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

For more information about why attendance matters, please check out the handy PDF, recently shared by Amanda Cook, found on our website in the Latest News section.

If you have any questions about attendance, please get in touch with us. You can email amandac@waihicol.school.nz or contact Susan in the Student Centre at susan@waihicol.school.nz.

Remember, an easy way to keep us informed about your student's attendance is via the School Bridge App (further details shown above).

Download it now and keep in touch with all things going on at Waihi College.

WAIHI COLLEGE HAS A SCHOOL NURSE AVAILABLE MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 8.30AM – 1.30PM FOR YEARS 1-13 AVAILABLE FOR YEAR 7-8 IN EMERGENCIES

POP IN TO THE BUILDING NEXT TO THE TREE OF LIFE WALK IN AFTERNOON OR TEXT/PHONE ON 0272285787

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

Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE

Ngā mihi, with kind regards
Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE
WAIHI
M: 0272285787
W: www.pinnacle.co.nz

This newsletter can also be found on our