WAIHĪ COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 19 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora e te whānau,

As we move through another busy and rewarding term, I continue to be reminded that a great school is never built by one person or even one team—it is built by a village.

Every day, we see the strength of our community reflected in the opportunities created for our young people, the care shown to one another, and the belief that together we can achieve remarkable things.

One of our values, Kaitiakitanga, reminds us that we are guardians—not only of our environment, but of our people, our future and the potential that exists within every learner. It is about nurturing, protecting and investing in what matters most. This value has been beautifully demonstrated across our kura this term, with students, staff, whānau and community partners working together to ensure our rangatahi have every opportunity to flourish.

Last week we celebrated an extraordinary milestone —200 Restricted Driver Licence passes through our JumpStart Programme. Behind every licence is a young person who now has greater independence, improved employment opportunities and increased confidence to take their next steps.

This achievement simply would not be possible without the incredible generosity of our volunteers, community organisations and business partners. Thank you for your unwavering belief in our students and for giving your time, patience and expertise so generously. You are an essential part of our village. The care you show reflects Manaakitanga, the relationships you build strengthen Whanaungatanga, your investment in our young people embodies Kaitiakitanga, and together we demonstrate Kotahitanga through our

shared commitment to helping every student succeed.

On behalf of everyone at Waihi College, thank you. Here's to celebrating 200 passes—and to the next 200!

There is plenty of excitement building as we head into the weekend, with our First XV preparing for their final. We know our school and wider community will be proudly behind them as they take to the field. We wish the team every success and know they will represent Waihi College with pride, determination and heart.

To all of our winter sports teams whose seasons have recently drawn to a close, congratulations. Thank you for the commitment, resilience and teamwork you have shown throughout the season. Every training, every game, every challenge and every success has contributed to your growth. While this chapter may be ending—for now—we know many more opportunities await, and we look forward to seeing what comes next.

We are also eagerly anticipating Rā Whakangahau, one of the true highlights of our calendar. It is always a privilege to welcome our local primary schools and wider community onto our campus to celebrate together through waiata, kapa haka, performance and storytelling. These occasions remind us of the richness of our community and the power of coming together to share our talents, culture and identity. We can't wait to celebrate alongside you all.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the outstanding students of the Manaaki Marae class, who hosted our Matariki celebration with extraordinary professionalism, generosity and pride. The menu they created, the presentation of each dish and the genuine care they extended to every guest left us completely awestruck. Their celebration of the Matariki stars, narratives and waiata was thoughtful, authentic and deeply moving, showcasing not only exceptional culinary skill but also the values that sit at the heart of our kura.

A very special thank you goes to our fearless leader, Ms Fitz, whose passion, high expectations and unwavering support inspired such an outstanding event. We extend our sincere gratitude for the countless hours invested in guiding these talented young people. The evening was a wonderful reminder of what can be achieved when dedication, creativity and manaakitanga come together.

Thank you to every member of our Waihi College whānau for continuing to believe in our young people and in the shared vision of our kura. Together, we are creating opportunities, strengthening connections and ensuring that every student has the chance to discover their purpose and thrive.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College

DID YOU KNOW?

At Waihī College, we have a range of ways we can support our students and whānau. Alongside KidsCan, we can also help with school jackets, shoes, socks, kai (via Kura Kai), and, where possible, funding assistance for essential items. If things are a little tough at the moment, or there's something your whānau needs, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We're here to help, and all conversations are treated with care and respect.

Rā Whakanāhau – A Wonderful Celebration of Kapa Haka

Rā Whakanāhau was such a heartwarming and special day, and without a doubt one of my favourite events on the school calendar. It was wonderful to see so many schools come together to celebrate Matariki through kapa haka, sharing their culture, talent and pride with our community.

Every performance was special, and it was lovely watching our tamariki and rangatahi take to the stage with so much confidence and support. Looking around the hall, you could see just how proud the schools and whānau were of the students, and it really was a reminder of how special these opportunities are for our young people.

A huge congratulations to everyone who performed and to all those who helped make the day such a success. It was a beautiful celebration of culture, community and connection, and we can't wait to do it all again next year.

📸 Photos from the day are now available on our **School Photos** page (kindly taken by Isabelle Carey), so be sure to jump on and have a look. They're well worth checking out!

COMING UP

STRAW POLL FOR NCEA SUBJECTS 2027

As we look ahead to 2027, we are already beginning the planning process for our NCEA course offerings. To ensure our curriculum reflects the interests and aspirations of our students, we will be running a **Subject Selection Straw Poll in August**. This Straw Poll will be completed by students in Year 10,

Year 11 and Year 12.

This straw poll is a crucial first step in building our 2027 school timetable. The choices students indicate in this survey directly inform which subjects we are able to run and how many classes we allocate to each learning area. While this initial poll is indicative rather than final, high participation gives us the clearest picture of what our students need.

Please keep an eye out for an email early next month with the link to the survey. We encourage you to sit down with your young person over the coming weeks to start discussing their potential pathways and subject interests for next year.

Hauraki Plains Regional Chess Tournament

Interested in representing Waihi College at the Hauraki Plains Regional Chess Tournament? The tournament will be held at Paeroa College on Thursday 3 September. If you're keen to take part, please let Mrs Sutton know in the library so we can gauge interest.

SCHOOL WIDE

Purākau of Matariki: A Journey Through Kai

What an incredible evening! Friday's Purākau of Matariki: A Journey Through Kai was a truly special event, and our students made Waihi College and Ms Fitzgerald incredibly proud. The food was absolutely delicious, the atmosphere was wonderful, and the care, creativity and hard work that went into every part of the evening shone through. We'll be sharing a full write-up soon, but for now we'd simply like to say a huge congratulations and thank you for such a memorable success. Ka rawe!

The Stars of Matariki
What is Matariki?

KOTAHITANGA

Science Roadshow

On Tuesday 21 July, our Year 7 students had the opportunity to attend the annual Science Roadshow in Paeroa.

It was a great experience where the students were treated to two shows - the first was to help students to determine the differences between things that are living and things that are not. Mr Davison made the volunteer role of a caveman truly come to life!

The second show was all about Kitchen Chemistry and had some amazing experiments for us all to enjoy. We learned the differences between acids, bases and alkaline solutions.

We had the opportunity to look at a range of interactive displays to further increase our understanding of Science. Our favourites were the Human Gyro and the Shooting Game.

Thanks to Ms Clare for the exciting morning out in Paeroa.

JUMP START CELEBRATES 200 LICENSES

Congratulations to the Jump Start team! 200 restricted licenses! Was fabulous to host the volunteers, Police and Oceana, for a celebratory morning tea!

You must report
near-misses of
reportable events.

MOST BEAUTIFUL WORD IN THE WORLD

One of Waihī College's core values has just been recognised on the world stage! 'Kaitiakitanga' has recently been named the most beautiful word in the world by language learning platform Babbel. It topped a list of 223 words from 75 languages after discussions across online communities, including Reddit and TikTok, were analysed before an international panel selected the winning word.

At WaihĪ College, kaitiakitanga is one of our four core values, and we couldn't be prouder to see it receive this recognition.

Kaitiakitanga means guardianship and protection. It reflects our responsibility to care for the environment and the world around us, ensuring it is protected for both present and future generations. It is a value that shapes the way we learn, the way we care for our school, and the way we contribute to our community.

For us, kaitiakitanga has always been far more than just a beautiful word. It represents a beautiful way of thinking and living. We have always believed kaitiakitanga is a truly special word, and it's wonderful to see the rest of the world recognising its beauty too.

Kyoritsu High School

Welcome to our 19 students from Kyoritsu High School who are visiting Waihi College from Tokyo, Japan. This is the 25th year we have had our cultural exchange with this school. Thanks to our host families and school buddies for making them so welcome. We know our 11 Waihi College students will be made equally welcome when they visit Japan in September.

KIA
KAHA

MAIA

Mountain Bike Helmets Wanted

If you have any bike helmets which are no longer used, we'd be keen to share them with Mountain bikers at school. Only helmets in good condition can be used. No cracks or other damage please. If you are able to help, helmets can be left at the Student Center. Safe Biking!

Thanks,

David Tait

ONLY HELMETS IN GOOD CONDITION CAN BE USED. NO CRACKS OR OTHER DAMAGE PLEASE.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP, HELMETS CAN BE LEFT AT THE STUDENT CENTER. SAFE BIKING!

FUTURE PATHWAYS WITH 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 6 August 2026**
🕒 **10:00am – 12:00pm**
📍 **389 Anglesea 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 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

Interested in a Career in Aviation Engineering?

The **New Zealand Certificate in Aeronautical Engineering (Pre-Employment Skills) (Level 3)**, offered through the Air New Zealand Academy of Learning, is a fantastic hands-on pathway for students interested in a career in aviation engineering.
This practical programme is designed to build foundational knowledge, develop practical engineering skills, and prepare students for further training and career opportunities within New Zealand's aviation industry. It's ideal for students who enjoy problem-solving, working with their hands, and learning in a practical environment.

If you'd like to find out more, please see **Mrs G** in the Gateway Office or email carolyng@waihicol.school.nz.

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

UNIFORM GROUP
CREATING IDENTITY

THE U SHOP operated by UNIFORM GROUP

PARENT CORNER

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

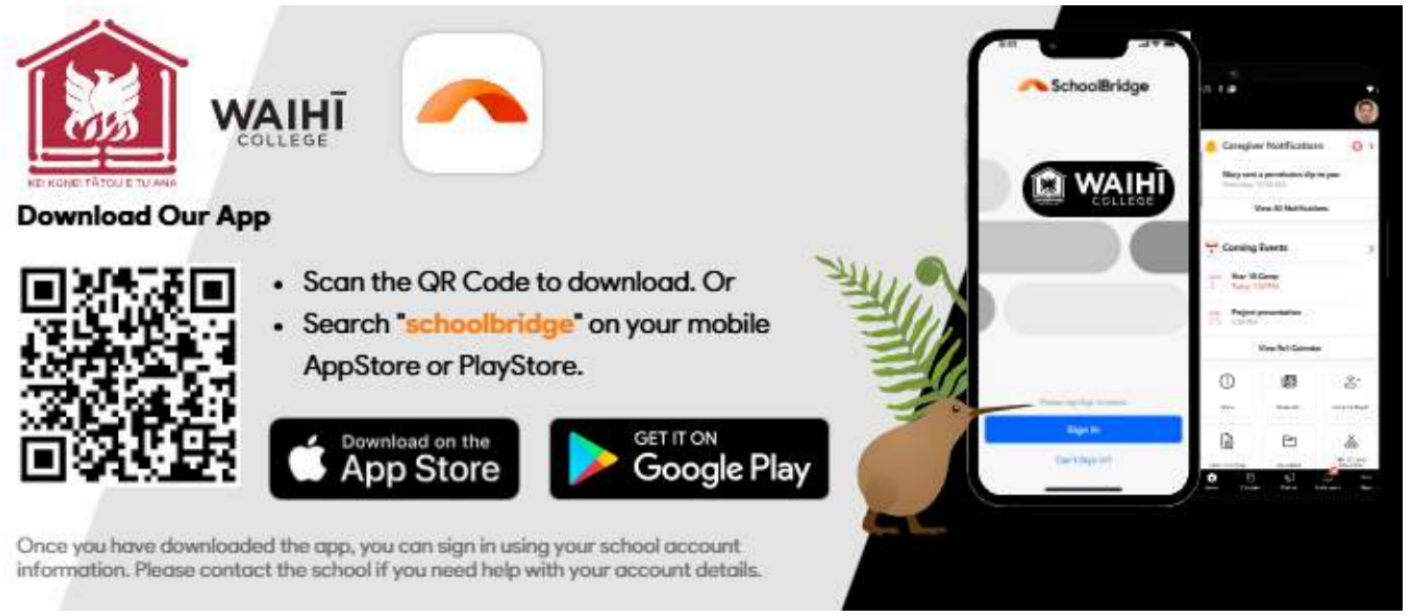
We’re encouraging all students and caregivers to download the SchoolBridge app — your new first port of call for all things school-related.

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

Getting started is easy:

STEP1: 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! Head to the Latest News section of our website for handy links.



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

Justified Absence

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:
- In Class
- On-Site Activities
- Approved Off-Site Learning
- Necessary Appointments

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:
- Health
- Family
- Representation
- 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 Amanda at amandac@waihicol.school.nz or contact Susan in the Student Centre at susant@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 Waihī College.

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

Pinnacle
Midlands Health Network

the SCHOOL Nurse

Ngā mihi, with kind regards
Margie (She/Her)

Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE WAIHI
M: 0272983787
W: www.pinnacle.co.nz

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