WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 20 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa,

As many of our winter sports teams wrap up another fantastic season, I want to congratulate every student who has represented Waihi College with pride, commitment and determination. Whether you achieved a podium finish, celebrated personal growth, or simply gave your best, you have represented our kura with mana.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to our coaches, managers, officials, sponsors, parents, caregivers and supporters. Your willingness to travel far and wide, volunteer your time, and cheer on our students makes these opportunities possible. Sport truly is a partnership between school and community, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

Leadership Starts With You

Leadership isn't about a title—it's about the choices you make every day.
It begins with leading yourself: showing kindness, acting with integrity, persevering when things are tough, and making decisions that reflect your values.
As you continue your journey, remember to:

- **Know your values** – they become your compass.
- **Know your purpose** – let it guide your direction.
- **Build your village** – surround yourself with people who encourage and challenge you.
- **Protect your wellbeing** – leadership is sustainable when your cup is full.
- **Be brave** – as my mum always reminded me, *"You can do hard things."*

One of my favourite leadership quotes from Brené Brown reminds us to lead with a strong back, soft front and wild heart—to be courageous, compassionate and hopeful.
As you reflect this week, ask yourself:

- What three values do I want to be known for?
- Who is in my village?
- Would my future self be proud of the choices I'm making today?

Leadership begins the moment you choose to make a positive difference in someone else's life.

Health & Physical Education Consultation

Thank you to everyone who completed our Health and Physical Education curriculum consultation. Your feedback is invaluable as we continue to shape a curriculum that reflects the aspirations of our community.
Congratulations to the Goodwin whānau, whose name was drawn to receive our appreciation voucher.
We'll be sharing a summary of the consultation findings over the coming month.
We also know there are many wonderful things happening at Waihi College that not everyone hears about. The best way to stay connected is through our Facebook, Instagram, SchoolBridge, and website, where we regularly celebrate student success and share upcoming events.

We'd also love to see you in person. Throughout the year we host productions, performances, information evenings and community events, and everyone is welcome. We are continually looking for new ways to strengthen the connection between home and school because we know our young people thrive when we work together.
Thank you for your continued support of Waihi College.

Kia kaha. Kia māia. Kia manawanui
Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College

DID YOU KNOW?

At Waihi College, learning goes far beyond the classroom.

Students can explore their interests through **robotics, engineering, agriculture, hospitality, drama, music, kapa haka, outdoor education and a wide range of sports**. Along the way, they build skills, confidence, friendships and experiences that prepare them for life beyond school.

Whatever their interests or future goals, every student has the opportunity to discover their strengths and thrive at Waihi College.

CULINARY FARE RESULTS

VOLARE
BREAD & OTHER
BAKED GOODS

The Waikato Culinary Fare marked its 21st year this year with an incredible 2 days of competition. More than 400 aspiring chefs competed from 20 schools and tertiary providers showcasing their talent, creativity and passion for the industry. A huge thanks to Wintec and Cater Plus for running such an amazing event.

This years results for Waihi College were really humbling for coach Siobhan Fitzgerald, with her rangitahi taking home a total of 10 Gold medals, 11 Silver and 8 Bronze, a huge testament to the dedication of these amazing young humans. Ana, Ella, Charisse and Clarisse were all also awarded top in class for their dishes, winning a total 7 of the 13 events that we competed in. These students will be ones to watch in the future.

The dynamic duo of Clarisse and Charrise Mercader do need a special mention. The girls created dishes heavily influenced by their heritage and took the judges on a mini holiday to the Philippines with their flavours. They were awarded top of class with their Team cook. Charisse also was awarded top for her Healthy lunch dish and Clarisse top for her Cupcakes, Burger and Live Dessert, with Bronze medals for their Mystery box challenge.

WAIKATO
CULINARY
FARE

Waikato Culinary Fare

Static Description Card

Class Number	1
Name of Class	Cupcakes
Competitor Number	35
Portions	6
Name of Dish	Ube cupcake
Description of Dish	Soft ube cupcake, swirled with rich ube frosting and topped with a silky, smooth, and creamy leche flan. A combination of two classic Filipino favourites.

Statics:

Cupcakes:

Clarisse: Gold with Distinction (a perfect score & Class Winner)

Jazmine Gold

Cold Dessert:

Ana: Silver

Kendra: Bronze

Cafe Cake:

Auriol: Silver

Meliza: Silver

Shaniah: Silver

Live Restaurant Classes:

Chicken :

Cleopatra: Gold

Shaniah: Bronze

Healthy Lunch:

Charisse: Gold & Class Winner

Cleopatra: Silver

Pizza:

Ana: Silver

Saffire: Bronze

Mystery Box:

Charisse/Clarisse Bronze

Ana/Cleopatra Merit

Burger:

Clarisse: Gold & Class Winner

Charisse: Gold

Ana: Silver

Meliza: Bronze

Shaniah: Bronze

Dessert:

Clarisse: Silver & Class Winner

Ella: Silver

Kendra: Silver

Dumplings:

Ella: Gold & Class Winner

2 Course team menu:

Charisse/Clarisse: Gold & Class Winner

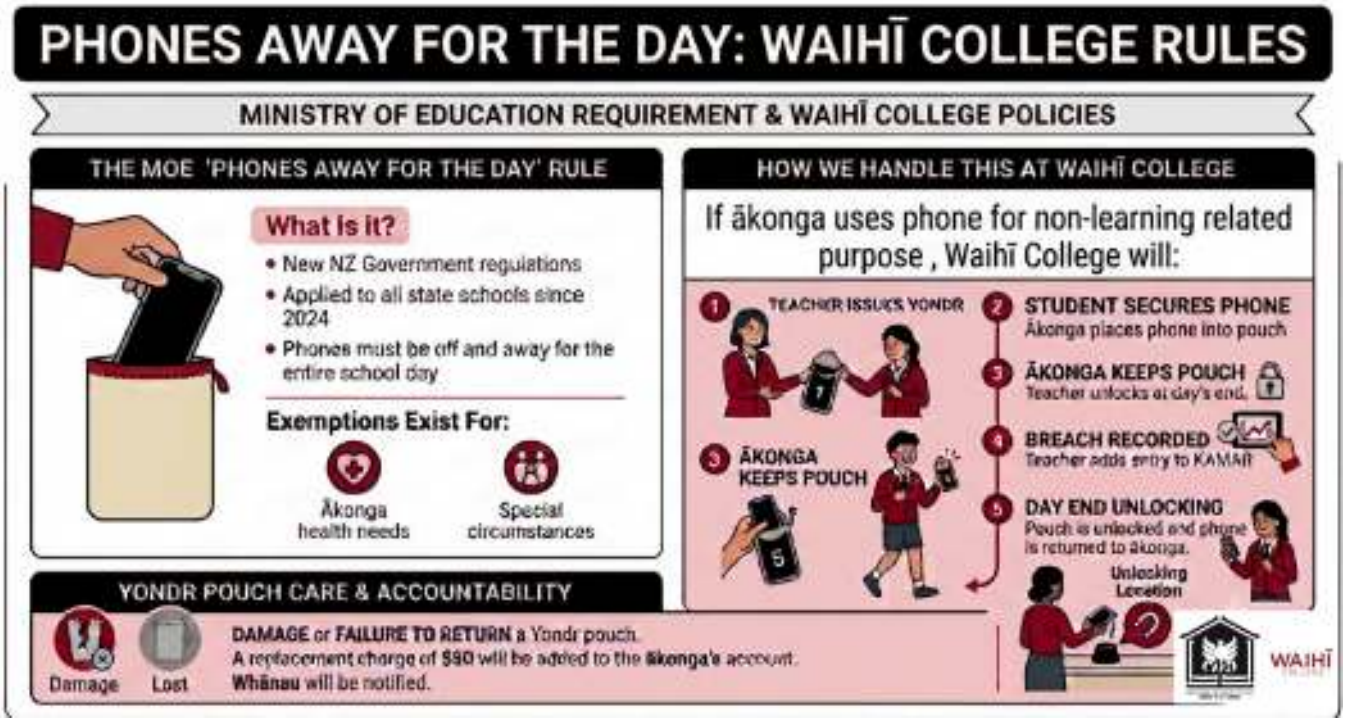
Barista:

Jazmine: Silver

Volare Toastie:

Ana: Gold & Class Winner

Kendra: Bronze



COMING UP

Fry Bread anyone??

You can PRE-ORDER YOUR FRY BREAD! Support our Waihi College Senior Girls Development Netball Team as we fundraise for our Kurangaituku Netball Tournament in Rotorua (11–13 September)! Tuesday 18 August First Break Pre-order your fry bread packs now: Pack 1 – 3 for $5 Pack 2 – 5 for $8 Pack 3 – 10 for $15 We'll also have: Sausage Sizzle $3 Cold

Drinks $2.50 Home Baking From $2Combo - Drink & Sausage Sizzle $5

Every purchase helps our team get one step closer to representing Waihi College at the Kurangaituku Tournament in Rotorua.

https://forms.gle/DmmzH4X9iuJ82k826

Thank you for your support—we appreciate every order! Please make your payment to: WAIHI COLLEGE BOARD 12-3171-0263271-00 PLEASE REFERENCE: SNR DEV NETBALL / FBREAD

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA
HERE WE STAND

Help Shape the Future of Waihi College

Ākonga Success & Future Pathways Hui

WHĀNAU OF WAIHI COLLEGE STUDENTS

Date: Wednesday 26th August

Time: 5.00pm – 6.00pm

Venue: The Hub

We want to create a document similar to a graduate or learner profile, describing the values, skills and qualities we want Waihi College students to leave school with. This hui gives whānau the opportunity to help shape what is included and ensure it reflects our community.

We are seeking just 20 people. To register, email kater@waihicol.school.nz

To thank you for your time,
you will receive a $20 fuel voucher.

Session will be recorded. Feedback will be anonymised.

Te Puna Whare Mātauranga ā Kura

SLANZA

School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa

School libraries are essential to ensure that the building blocks of structured literacy are strengthened by developing the joy of reading, increasing reading comprehension, empathy, and the capacity to learn.

"EVERY child deserves the benefits of a school library programme"

IFLA-UNESCO School Library Manifesto 2025

School Libraries TRANSFORM

Essential Learning Infrastructure

School libraries are not optional extras, they are critical infrastructure required for equitable student achievement and Māori and Pasifika learner success.

Every student in Aotearoa deserves access to a well-resourced school library and specialised librarian, to ensure that they have equitable access to resources needed to achieve their reading and learning potential.

From 'Learning to Read' to 'Reading to Learn'

Sanctuary for Well-Being

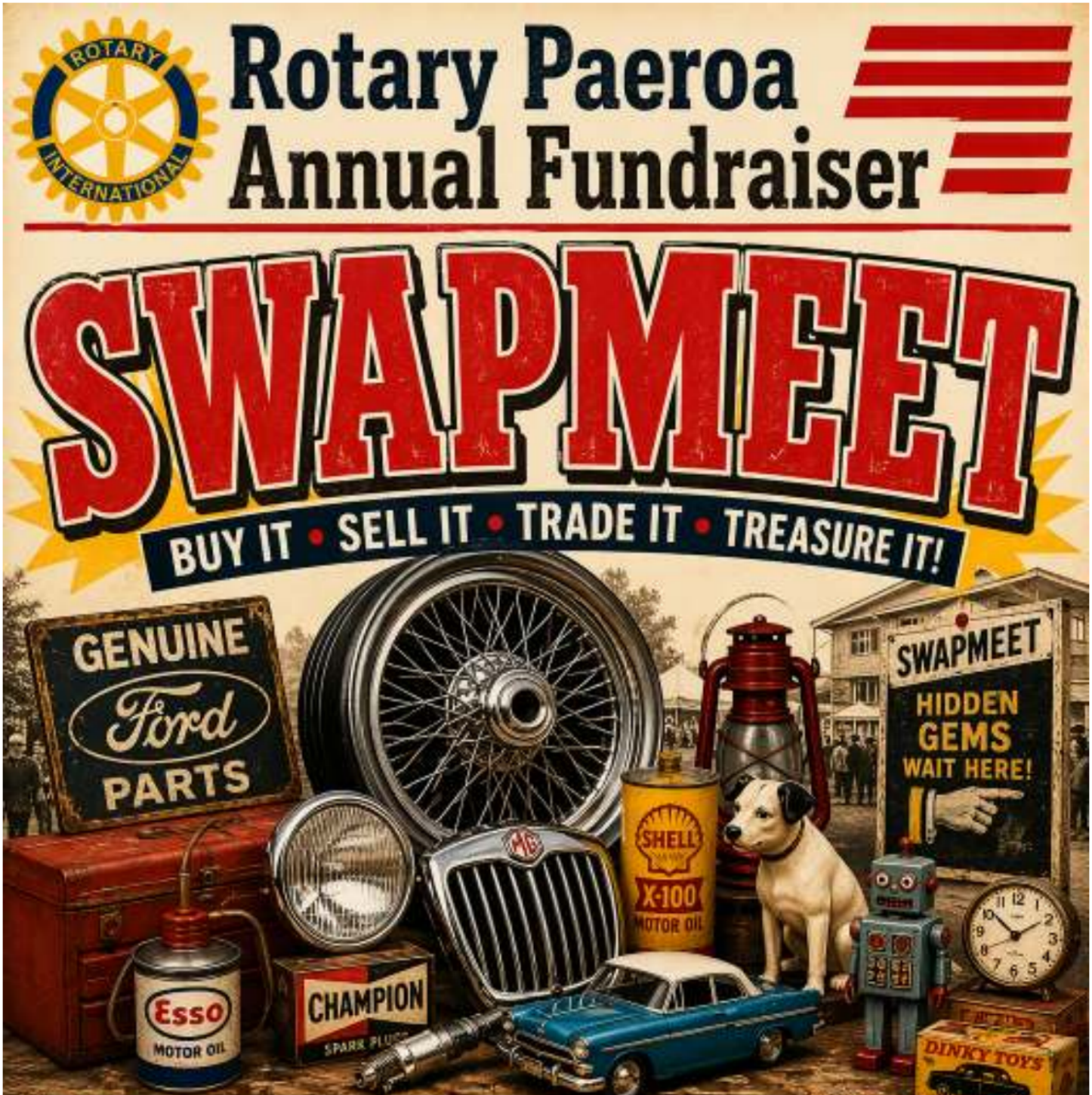
Future-Ready Learners

School librarians cultivate a culture of reading for pleasure, essential for students to consolidate the fundamentals of literacy.

School libraries provide safe and inclusive spaces that are vital for supporting student mental health.

School librarians are research specialists who teach students critical thinking, how to navigate AI, find information, and evaluate sources.

The Power of School Libraries



SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026

GATES OPEN 6AM SETUP | 8AM PUBLIC

$20 PER SPACE • $5 PUBLIC ENTRY

1 RAILWAY STREET PAEROA

MAJOR OAKS BUILDING

CARPARTS, COLLECTABLE, BRIC A BRAC, TREASURERS.

INFORMATION PHONE VIV 027 533 4328

ONE MAN'S JUNK ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE!

DON'T MISS IT!

GOOD STUFF • GREAT PEOPLE • GREAT DAY OUT!

Rotary Paeroa Charity GOLF DAY

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Sunday 4 October 2026

10:00am Shotgun Start

Paeroa Golf Club

524 Rotokohu Road, Paeroa

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.

ITM FESTIVAL

Waihi College is very excited to be taking our Concert Band and Guitar Ensemble to the Hamilton festival this year. The date is Friday, 28 August. Permission slips will be going out soon. Students should be practising 1 hour a day at least!

Any questions, get in touch with Mr Randell at edwinr@waihicol.school.nz

HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL
Te Kura Tuarua o Tihipuke

ITM Festival

SCHOOL WIDE

KURA KAI

As Christmas and exams approach, we know it can be one of the hardest times of the year for many whānau. This is the third year of our Kura Kai Kirihimete Bag Campaign, helping ensure students heading into study leave and the school holidays receive a little extra aroha when they need it most. The bags are distributed through our trusted school partners to students and whānau identified by their pastoral care teams.

Sponsor a School – $500
For $500, you can sponsor one of our 37 Kura Kai partner schools, from Northland to Dunedin.
We'll take care of everything:

- Purchase the items.
- Pack the Christmas bags.
- Deliver them to your chosen school.

The school will then distribute the bags directly to the students and whānau who need them most over the month of October.

As a thank you, we'll acknowledge your support across our Kura Kai social media channels. You can choose a school that has a special connection to your business, staff or community.

Simply reply to this email with the school you'd like to sponsor, and we'll take care of the rest.

If your team would like to get even more involved, there's also the opportunity to pack your own Christmas bags as a fun activity. We'd love to chat if this is something you'd be interested in.

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

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

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!

FUTURE PATHWAYS WITH MRS GRAVESON

Auckland University

Scholarship applications are still open and we hope your learners were able to spend some time working on theirs over the holidays. You'll find more information and helpful resources further down in this newsletter. Applications close on Wednesday 12 August at 11.59am.Accommodation applications open on Saturday 1 August. Students applying for scholarships must also submit their accommodation application by Wednesday 12 August at 11.59am. For all other students, accommodation applications remain open until the end of September.

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

Wāhine in Trades and Engineering event

Join the Centre for Trades and Hospitality and the Centre for Engineering and Industrial Design whānau for an inspiring session celebrating wāhine who are making their mark across a range of trades and engineering careers. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to hear real stories, ask questions, and explore future career pathways.

Event details:

Date: Wednesday, 26 August 2026

Please see Mrs g at Gateway office or email carolyng@waihicol.school.nz

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**.

LEAVING SCHOOL

MAGAZINE LINK

To check out the current issue of the Leaving School Magazine, please head to this link: https://oliverlee.co.nz/leavingschool-issue36/

Auckland University of Technology (AUT) **Scholarships:**

- Applications for the AUT Knowledge That Works Scholarships are currently open and close on 1 September 2026.
- International Scholarship applications are expected to open later this month. Further information will be shared once confirmed.

Accommodation:

- Application dates are still being finalised. In previous years, applications have typically opened in early August and closed in late September. We'll let you know as soon as the confirmed dates are available.

Events:

- AUT LIVE is happening on **29 August**. More details will be shared soon, but you can join the journey now, register through the AUT LIVE link to stay updated on everything AUT LIVE related like the app, the schedule, and how to plan your day: https://www.aut.ac.nz/live. We would love you to share this with your students and their whanau so they can make the most of this opportunity.

OTAGO

Hands-On at Otago applications are open now and close Thursday 6 August This is a unique opportunity for students from your school (who will be in Years 12 and 13 in 2027) to come down and experience a week of Otago student life. There are over 20 subjects on offer, from across Business, Health Sciences, Humanities (Arts & Social Sciences) and Sciences. They'll learn from our world-class academic staff, meet students their age from schools across the country and participate in a huge range of activities that will challenge and inspire them for the year ahead. Please see Mrs G at the Gateway Office or email carolyng@waihicol.school.nz

Canterbury University Important Information for Year 12 and 13 akonga:

Scholarship Applications are due soon

Scholarship applications for first year close on **6 August.** The University of Canterbury offers a wide range of scholarships, recognising factors such as academic excellence, impact of sporting achievements. Others have an emphasis on social inclusion and equality and are awarded on the basis of financial need or other hardship. Students should apply for all scholarships they are eligible for.

Student accommodation for 2027

Applications (https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/accommodation) open on **1 August** for our student halls of residence for next year.

CCRFs (https://ccrf.ac.nz/Account/Login.cshtml) are due by **15 September**, with completed applications due by **25 September**.

Applications are now open for WiE CAN

WiE CAN – Women in Engineering Residential Programme (https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/engineering/uc-engineering-outreach-for-schools/wie-can) gives students the chance to explore engineering as a possible study and career option through five days of hands-on workshops, inspiring presentations, and social activities at UC.

Dates: 10 –14 January 2027
Location: University of Canterbury, Christchurch
Accommodation: Tupuānuku
Cost: Free

UC will provide accommodation and meals during the programme.

Attendees are responsible for arranging and paying for their travel to and from Christchurch, however support with travel costs may be available for successful applicants who are facing financial barriers.

Applicants must be:
- Completing Year 12 in 2026 at a New Zealand high school.
- Currently studying physics and maths.
- Female or identify as female.

There are **60 places** available, and applications close at **6pm on Friday 28 August 2026**. Please see Mrs G at Gateway Office for registration.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

FUNDRAISER

Saturday 29TH AUGUST

$15 PER PERSON

MAXIMUM 6 PEOPLE PER TEAM

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM

QUIZ STARTS 7.00PM

TO BE HELD AT

WAIHI BEACH BOWENTOWN BOATING AND FISHING CLUB

PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED TEAM

RAFFLES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT

COURTESY VAN AVAILABLE

Come support our tamariki!

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

0275 786 766 | julie-ann@athenreemontessori.co.nz

Funds go towards...

NEW OUTDOOR AREA & EQUIPMENT

Great night out • Great cause • Great memories

ALL FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS RESOURCES & EXPERIENCES FOR OUR TAMARIKI AT ATHENREE MONTESSORI

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

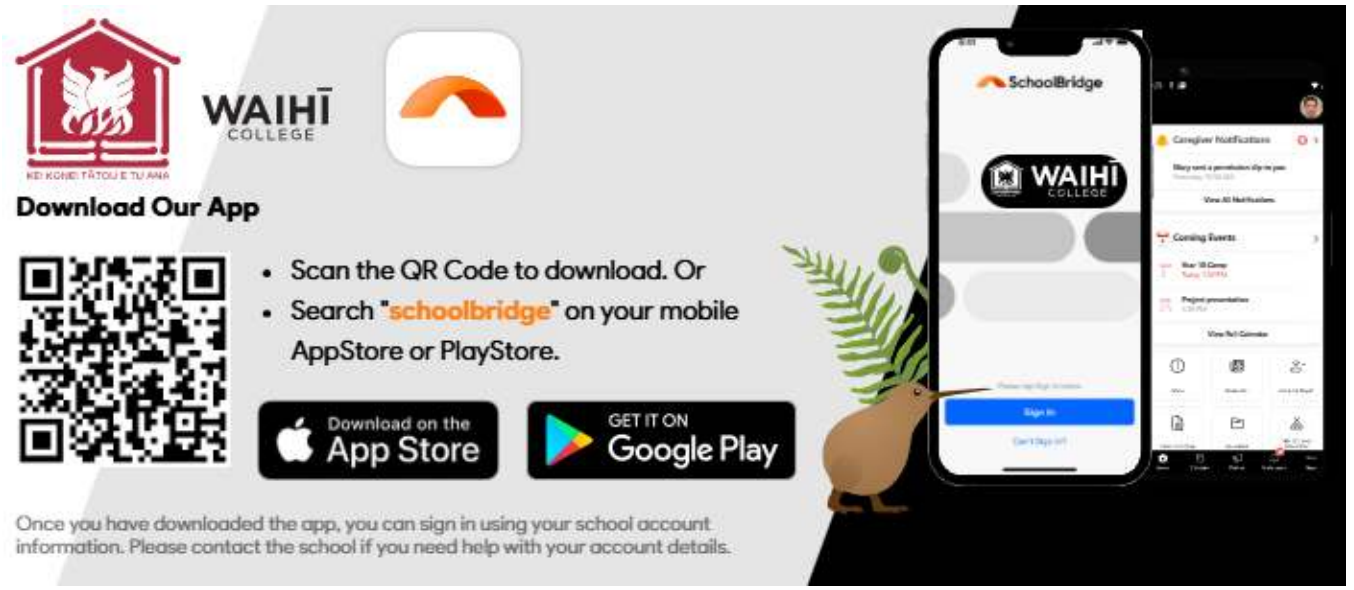
We’re encouraging all students and caregivers to download the SchoolBridge app — your new first port of call for all things school-related.

- 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

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

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:

- 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.waihicol.school.nz