WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 21 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa,
At a recent school assembly, I spoke with our students about a simple but powerful idea: leadership starts with you.

Leadership is not only about having a title, wearing a badge, being a prefect, captain, coach, or principal. Leadership is shown in the everyday choices we make — how we treat others, how we respond when things are difficult, how we support our friends and whānau, and how we choose kindness even when no one is watching.

We reflected on the idea of the Kindness Boomerang — that one small act of kindness can create a ripple that travels much further than we may ever see. A smile, a helping hand, including someone, encouraging a friend, or standing up for what is right can all make a real difference.

I encouraged our young people to think about the values they want to be known for, the people they surround themselves with, and the kind of person they are becoming. Values such as manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, courage, integrity and service help guide us when the path ahead is not always easy.

Leadership is also about knowing your purpose, building your village, looking after yourself, and having the courage to do hard things. One of the messages I shared with students was a phrase that has stayed with me for many years:

“You can do hard things.”

Not because hard things are easy, but because challenges often teach us the most about who we are becoming.

Our young people continue to give us so many reasons to be proud. Every day we see creativity, courage, kindness, humour, determination and potential. Often the most important acts of leadership are the quiet ones — the student who helps someone without being asked, includes someone who is on their own, encourages a friend, or admits when they have made a mistake and works to put it right.
These moments matter. They shape the culture of our kura.

A Warm Farewell to Our Friends from Japan

It has also been a real pleasure to welcome our new friends who have travelled all the way from **Siebu, Japan**.
Thank you to everyone in our school community who helped make their time with us so welcoming and memorable. We hope our visitors leave with many positive memories of our kura, our community and Aotearoa.
We wish them a very fond farewell and safe travels home, and we look forward to **reconnecting later in the year** and continuing to strengthen this special relationship.

Teacher Only Day — 28 August

A reminder to whānau that we have a **Teacher Only Day on Friday, 28 August**.
There will be no classes for students on this day.
Please ensure you have made the necessary arrangements for your child.
This day provides important professional learning and planning time for our staff as we continue to strengthen teaching and learning across the school.

Property Developments

There are also some exciting discussions taking place around the future development of our school property. We are currently exploring **upgrades to classrooms and a number of possible modifications**, with planning and discussions already in progress.
There is still work to be done before we can share the full details, but there are some positive developments ahead.

Watch this space.
We look forward to keeping our community updated as these plans progress.

ERO Visit — Week 6

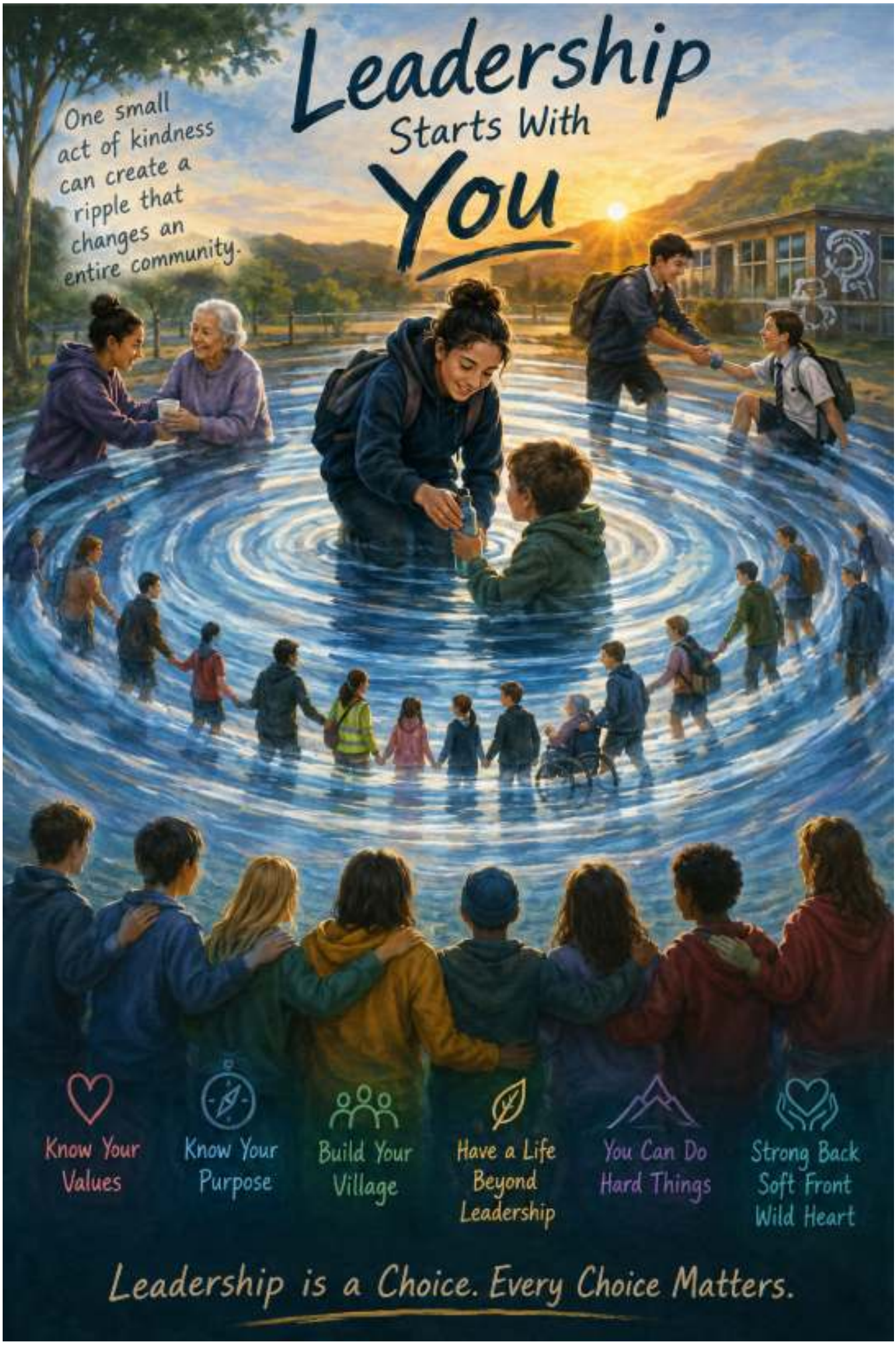
In Week 6, we will also be welcoming the Education Review Office (ERO) to our kura.

We are looking forward to the opportunity to share the many success stories that make our school special — our learning, our community, our relationships, and most importantly, our amazing young people.
An ERO visit provides us with an opportunity to reflect on what we are doing well, the progress we are making, and the areas where we can continue to grow.

We are proud of the work happening across our kura and look forward to sharing that story.
As we move through the term, I encourage everyone — students, staff and whānau — to remember that we all have a role to play in creating the kind of school and community we want to be part of.

Leadership begins with the small choices we make each day.
Be kind. Make a difference. Support others. Start the ripple.
Kia kaha. Kia māia. Kia manawanui.

Ngā mihi nui,
Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College


Leadership
Starts With
You
One small act of kindness can create a ripple that changes an entire community.
Know Your Values
Know Your Purpose
Build Your Village
Have a Life Beyond Leadership
You Can Do Hard Things
Strong Back Soft Front Wild Heart
Leadership is a Choice. Every Choice Matters.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

TEACHER ONLY DAY: 28TH AUGUST

STAFF WILL BE FOCUSING ON PLANNING FOR JUNIOR CURRICULUM CHANGES

DID YOU KNOW?

The outdoors is one of our classrooms. Waihī College students have opportunities to explore New Zealand's natural environment through outdoor education, building confidence, resilience, teamwork and leadership while developing practical life skills.

MATHSMIND

Well done to all our students for last week's MathsMind competition. MathsMind involves teams of 3 or 4 students working collaboratively to solve a challenging set of 20 mathematics problems within a 45 minute time limit - there is racing (aka fast walking), lots of thinking and a ton of fun. We also had a heap of students step up to do the marking which helped make for a really fun event. Thanks to Mr Hallam for organising it!

Year Level	Winning Team	Total Score	Winning Margin
Year 7	Remiel Pillay, Hamish Sanderson, Ella Pratt	**55 points** (11 correct)	Won by 10 points
Year 8	Mariah Yandall, Janisha Ranchhod, Mackenzie Bell	**65 points** (13 correct)	Won by 15 points
Year 9	Jack Kayes, Jimi Randell, Elijah de Ocampo, Konstantin Opalev	**75 points** (15 correct)	Won by 5 points
Year 10	Bradley Crowe, Jacob Jackson, Tex Clay, Luke Madsen	**40 points** (8 correct)	Won by fastest time (tied score)

Future healthcare heroes in the making!

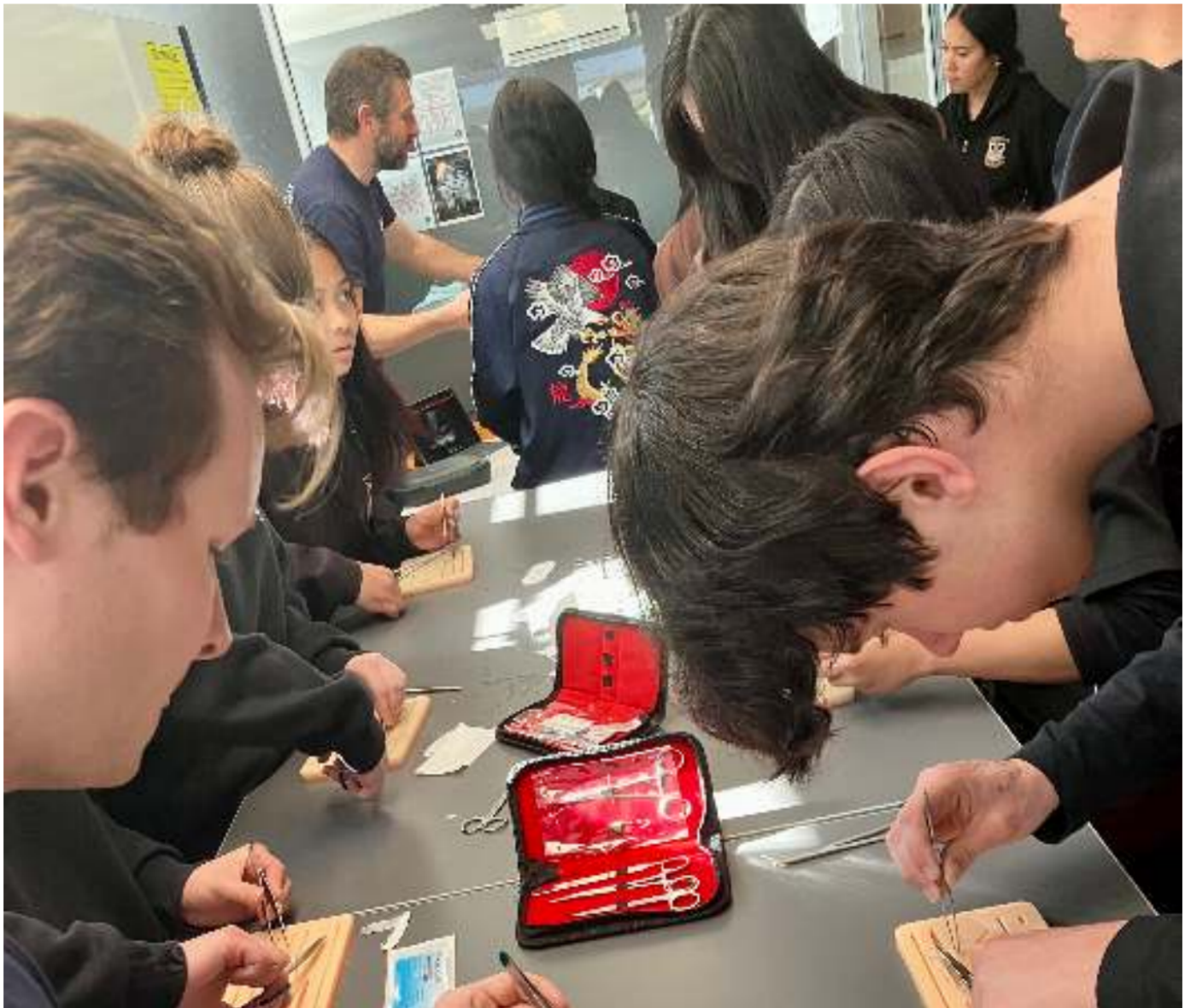
22 Waihi College students got an incredible hands-on taste of medicine today with the University of Auckland’s Rural Medical Immersion Programme (RMIP)!

Our students got right into the clinical action—

practicing suturing, testing stethoscopes and reaction tools, and using real ultrasound tech to look at hearts, kidneys, arteries, and veins!

It was extra special to highlight college alumni Kate Dunstall (Class of ’23) to help inspire our next generation of rural doctors!

A huge thank you to the UoA RMIP team for bringing this STEM opportunity to our school!



UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND
Waipapa Taumata Rau
NEW ZEALAND

Graduate's passion for rural medicine has roots in field trip

15 December 2023 | Health and medicine, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Graduation

A new medical graduate says her enthusiasm for rural medicine was confirmed by rural placements through the University of Auckland's rural stream, as well as student groups.

Kate Durstall came from the country and is keen on rural medicine. Photo: Elise Manahan

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

We're very proud of what the JumpStart programme has grown into today.

I take my hat off to the

More than a Licence

200 locals gain mobility, confidence, and opportunity

Since 2022, the JumpStart Driver Training programme has helped local people build confidence on the road and work towards an achievement that can open doors to work, study, and greater independence.

Supported by community volunteers, local Police, and OceanaGold, the free programme provides supervised on-road driving sessions for Waihi residents and Waihi College students working towards their restricted licence.

Recently, JumpStart volunteers, Police, Waihi College staff and students, as well as OceanaGold employees met at Waihi College for a celebration marking the 200th person to gain their restricted licence through the programme.

The idea for JumpStart grew from conversations between OceanaGold and Waihi College in late 2021 about how best to support local young people.In a semi-rural community like Waihi, access to a driver's licence was recognised as critical to provide participants with employment opportunities, increase safety on our roads, and assist their personal growth and development.

volunteers.

I've had two teenage boys myself, so I know it's a special skill and patience to be able to teach others how to drive!

Michael van Anen
Asset President, OceanaGold Waihi

JUMP START DRIVER TRAINING

200
RESTRICTED LICENCES ACHIEVED

1,875
SUPERVISED DRIVES COMPLETED

COUNTLESS POSSIBILITIES!

Volunteer driver Navigators; the heart of the programme

These local people generously give their time to help others gain the skills and confidence to drive. After being Police-vetted and given training to be able to teach others how to drive, they work alongside learners, supporting them every step of the way.

Four and a half years ago we had our dream and got it into gear, and now we've just had our 200th person pass their restricted licence, which is really exciting.

With the amount travelled, our navigators are now 6.2 times around the perimeter of Australia in their driving with our students.

Carolyn Graveson
Waihi College Future Pathways Co-ordinator

I think that piece of paper lifts young people's self-esteem tremendously.

Lynette Steele
JumpStart Navigator

OceanaGold Update

7th August 2026

Meet our 200th success story

As well as being the 200th JumpStart graduate, Lincoln Alexander had a special reason to get his licence.

My mum's blind so I had to really step up and get my licence and help her out a bit. She couldn't get to her appointments and everything she needs to get to, like church and stuff.

Lincoln Alexander
Waihi College Student and JumpStart Graduate #200

JumpStart has been really great, the people are nice, very helpful.

The JumpStart programme is also available free of charge to members of the wider Waihi community, helping more people take the next step towards gaining their restricted licence. Among them was community graduate Nikita Anderson ...

Participants reflect on their journey

For Waihi College student Ruby Wilhelmi, gaining her driver licence through the JumpStart programme has opened the door to new opportunities and greater independence. Now in Year 13, Ruby gained her restricted licence earlier this year and is already looking ahead to her next chapter. In 2027 she plans to study Marine Biology at Victoria University in Wellington.

Ruby Wilhelmi
Waihi College
JumpStart Graduate

JumpStart has given me lots of opportunities I otherwise wouldn't have had.

To the Navigators; it's probably nerve-wracking sometimes, but the patience, and the time and effort you've invested in all of us is inspirational, and we really appreciate everything you've done for our futures."

I would say to go for it because it is an amazing way to learn how to drive and to get better skills while driving.

Saffire Walters
Waihi College and
Current JumpStart Student

What driving achievement are you the most proud of ?

I got my parallel parking first try!

Nikita Anderson
Community JumpStart
Graduate

JumpStart was very important for me. My husband found work outside of Waihi, so it was my job to get the kids to Kindy and everything.

David, my JumpStart Navigator was excellent. He gave me tips and advice throughout the driving lessons.

Having my licence allowed me to go back to work after maternity leave, be independent, do things around town, go out of town – just daily life.

If you're thinking about JumpStart, I would say do it because getting a 'Restricted' is freedom, so you can do a lot more things. Just do it, your life is so much easier.

Driving New Opportunities

Julie Stephenson, the Hauraki District Council Community Employment Liaison, is no stranger to the requirements of local employers. She says having a driver's licence can be a real game changer for young people.

Without a doubt, not having a licence is by far the biggest barrier to employment for youth – by a long way. Whether it has been not getting a licence in the first place or if young people have lost a licence, it is the most common factor in ruling out many opportunities for employment."

Julie Stephenson
Hauraki District Council
Community Employment Liaison

APPLY NOW

JUMP START DRIVER TRAINING

If you're a member of the local community looking to gain your restricted driver's licence, contact Rachel Gillingham at Waihi Police to find out more:

rachel.gillingham@police.govt.nz or drop into the Waihi Police Station Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 3.00 pm

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary Paeroa Annual Fundraiser

SWAPMEET

BUY IT • SELL IT • TRADE IT • TREASURE IT!

GENUINE
Ford
PARTS
SWAPMEET
HIDDEN GEMS WAIT HERE!
SHELL
X-100
MOTOR OIL
Esso
MOTOR OIL
CHAMPION
SPARK PLUGS
DINKY TOYS
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

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

Home > ITM Festival

MACTRAP

CLEANER WATER

Massive thanks to Steve and the team from Mac Trap for your incredible donation of 3D laser printers ~ we are incredibly grateful! These will be put to great use!

SCHOOL WIDE

Seibu Tokyo

Welcome to our 10 short stay students and teacher Yoko from Seibu Tokyo

FLAVOURED BEVERAGE
LEMON
AND
PAEROA
YOUR
MESSAGE
HERE

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

WANT TO BE A STUDENT REP?

Call for Nominations:
Tuesday, 18 August 2026

Nominations Close (12:00 pm):
Monday, 24 August 2026

Election Day: Wednesday, 9 September 2026

Do you want to make a difference in your school?

Then why not stand for election as the Student Representative on your School Board?

As a board member you'll have new skills, be able to have your say on student issues and make a positive contribution to your school and community.

For more information, go to www.waihiocollege.co.nz

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.**

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.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

THE U SHOP

YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

WAIHI COLLEGE

OPEN HOURS | Term 3, 2026

20 July - 23 Sept

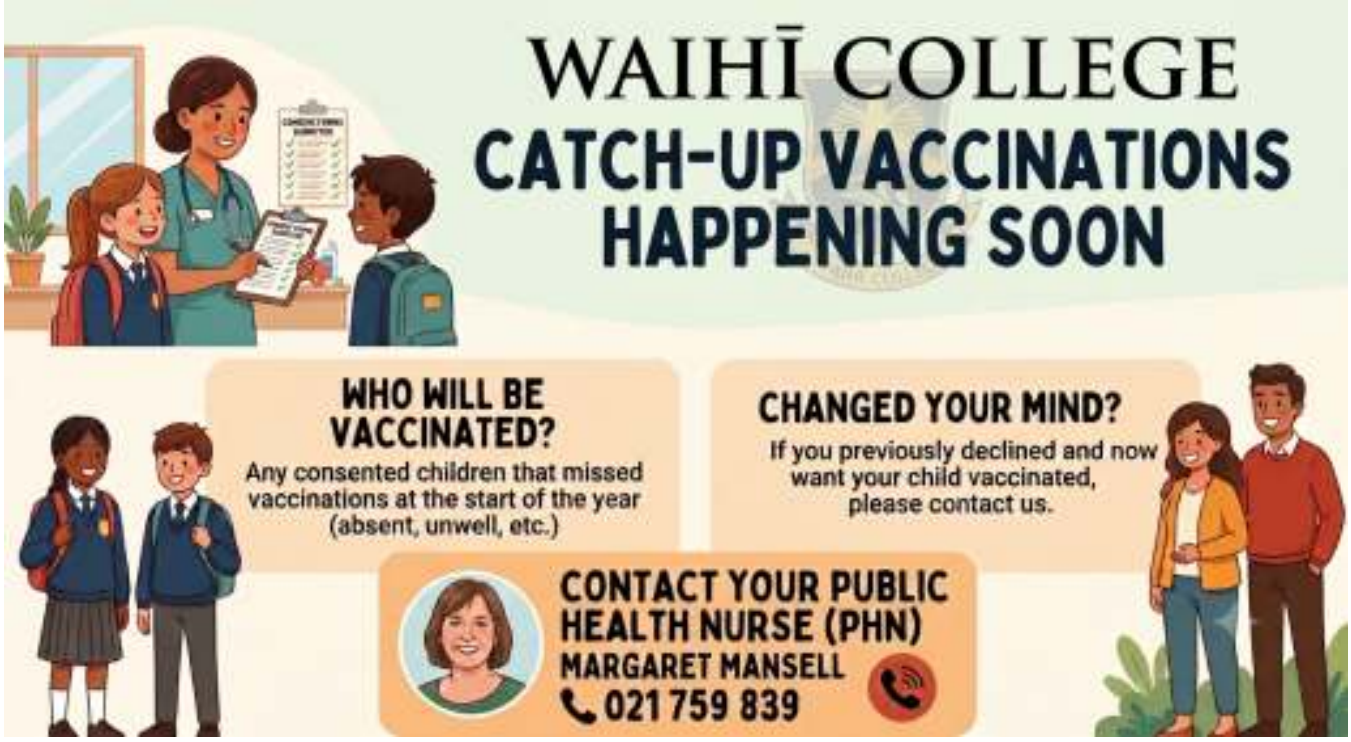
Monday	8.00am - 9.30am
Tuesday	8.00am - 9.30am
Thursday	2.30pm - 4.00pm

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



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.

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.

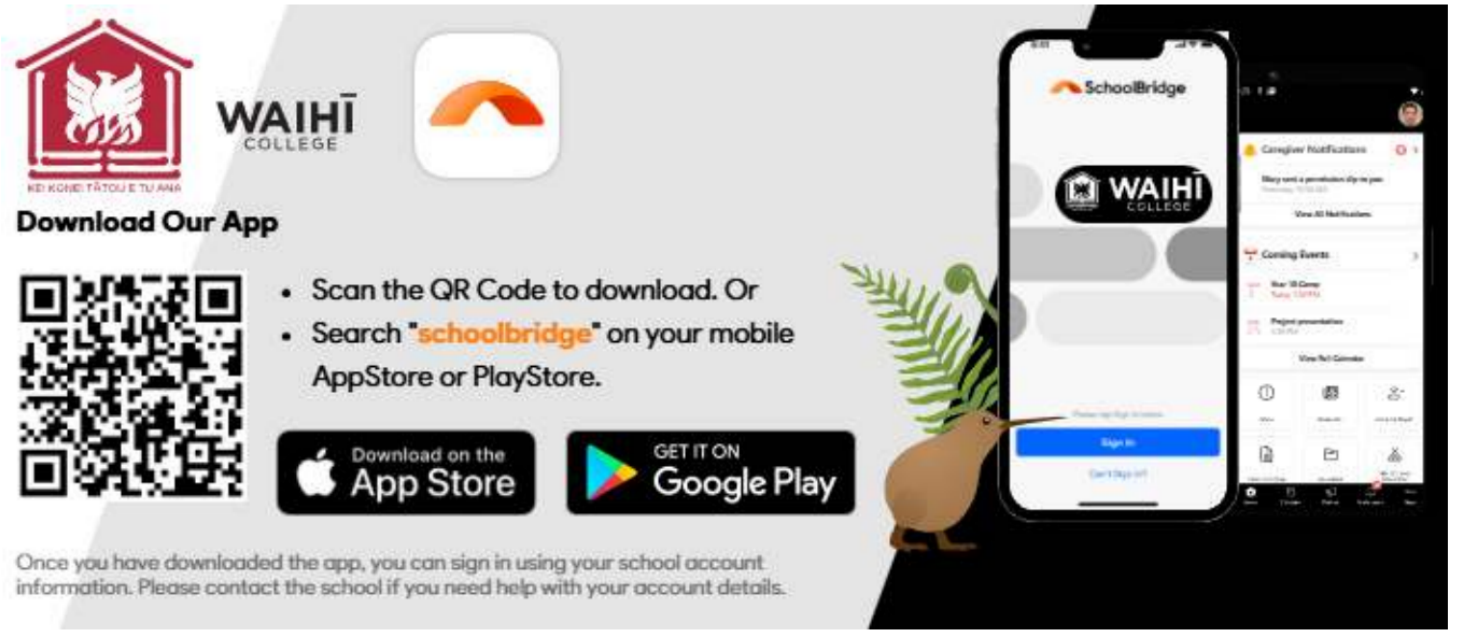
- Mark absences in seconds
- Check notices and updates
- Stay in the loop wherever you are

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.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA
HERE WE STAND

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

JUSTIFIED

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