WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 23 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora whānau,
We are pleased to welcome the Education Review Office (ERO), who are spending a few days with us this week. They are unpacking the rich story of Waihi College and hearing from our staff, students and communitty.

On Monday afternoon, we welcomed the ERO team with a mihi whakatau, providing a meaningful start to their time with us. We look forward to sharing our successes, challenges and aspirations for the future.

Our value of Kaitiakitanga is a particular focus for us this term. Kaitiakitanga is about showing care and responsibility for ourselves, one another, our school and our wider community.

You may have noticed that our college grounds are looking sharp, with the new plantings beginning to take off. It is also wonderful to see our students showing greater pride in their surroundings. Our grounds are cleaner and tidier, with far less rubbish being dropped. This is kaitiakitanga in action, and we thank our students for helping to care for our shared environment.

A reminder that this Friday is a Teacher Only Day. Please keep your young people at home while our teachers explore the changes to the junior curriculum and consider what these will mean for Waihi College as we move into 2027 and beyond.

We are also excited to support Daffodil Day this Thursday. Students are encouraged to wear daffodil colours and bring a few coins for the bake sale. This is another opportunity to demonstrate kaitiakitanga by supporting those in our community affected by cancer. A big thank you to our Leo Club and Year 8 Council students for leading this important initiative.

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the term! There are plenty of bugs, illnesses and winter chills going around. If you are well, we want to see you at school and keeping your attendance strong. If you are unwell, please snuggle up, rest and get better—we look forward to welcoming you back when you have recovered.

Ngā mihi nui,
Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you can donate your **good-quality, unwanted Waihī College uniform** back to the school?

As we head towards the end of the year, if you have uniform items that won't be needed next year, rather than leaving them tucked away in a drawer, **drop them off at school**. We'll add them to our second-hand uniform collection to support students and whānau who need them.

If you're **joining Waihī College next year**, or need uniform items now, you're also welcome to check out our second-hand options. Just pop in and see **Susan at the Student Centre**.

Every donated item helps another student and gives your old uniform a new home.
Thank you for supporting our Waihī College community!

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

SERVICE

RECOGNITIONS

LET US KNOW OF ANY STUDENTS WHO NEED TO BE CELEBRATED!

EMAIL: WENDYS@WAIHICOL.SCHOOL.NZ

Do you have an ākonga in your whānau who deserves to be recognised for their service?

We'd love to hear about students who voluntarily give their time to support our school or wider community. This could be in all sorts of ways – reffing or coaching sport, helping at events, volunteering for a community organisation, supporting others, or simply regularly lending a hand where it's needed.

We want to make sure these awesome young people are recognised at our Service and Endeavour Prizegivings at the end of the year. If you know someone who deserves recognition, please get in touch and let us know what they've been doing.

Email at: wendys@waihicol.school.nz

Literacy and Numeracy Common Assessment Activities

The second assessment window for Literacy and Numeracy will start on the 7th September through to the 18th September for students in Year 10 through to 13.

For students in Year 11-13 who do not have Literacy or Numeracy, this testing is compulsory. For students in Year 10, the testing is strongly encouraged.

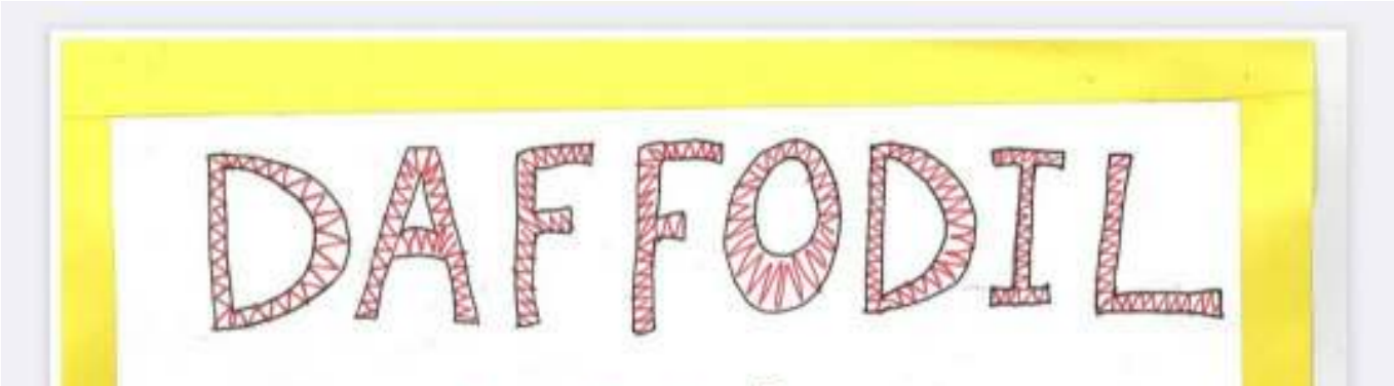
Please keep a lookout in your emails for the assessment timetable over the next few days. If you know in advance that students will not be able to attend on the timetabled day, please contact Jo Howell ASAP (joh@waihicol.school.nz)

There is a small group of Year 9 students who have opted in to one or more of the Reading, Writing or Numeracy assessments. Jo Howell will contact whanau/caregivers over the next few days to inform.

COMING UP

Here's a snapshot of our upcoming fortnight from the SchoolBridge calendar.

With so many sports fixtures, trips, events, assessments and activities happening throughout the term, our calendar is updated regularly. This fortnightly snapshot is a great guide, but SchoolBridge is always the most up-to-date place to check what's happening at Waihī College. We encourage all whānau to check the SchoolBridge calendar regularly and download the SchoolBridge app to stay informed wherever you are. You can download the SchoolBridge app easily. Check out the instructions in the Parent Corner section of this newsletter, or head to the Keeping Informed section on our website.



On the Thursday 27th of August we will be celebrating Daffodil Day at Waihi College.

We will have a gold coin mufti day where we encourage you to wear yellow as well as a bake sale, sausage sizzle and daffodil pins for sale on the quad at first break. This will be cash only.

We would love baking donations from students and community members, these can be dropped off at the front office.

Thanks for all the entries for our Daffodil Day Poster making comp and congrats to our 3 winners! This poster was designed by Stef our lovely teacher aid.

GOOD LUCK TO OUR TOURNAMENT STUDENTS!

Next week is a big one for many of our students as they head away to compete and represent Waihī College! A huge GOOD LUCK to everyone taking part in: College A Equestrian AIMS Games Senior Development Netball We’re incredibly proud of you all and wish you the very best for your competitions.

Give it your all, support your teammates, enjoy the experience and represent Waihī College with pride. Go well, everyone – we'll be cheering you on

SCHOOL WIDE

EXCEL SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

Our junior students were treated to an incredible performance from EXCEL School of Performing Arts today – and they absolutely blew the roof off! Through an energetic showcase of music, dance and drama, the talented EXCEL performers gave our students a taste of what life as a performing arts student could look like, and where a passion for performing could take them. EXCEL offers practical, performance-based tertiary study in Music, Dance and Drama, with students able to work towards a Level 4 New Zealand Certificate, followed by a Level 5 New Zealand Diploma. A fantastic opportunity for our students to see some very talented performers in action and discover another pathway they could pursue beyond school.

A huge thank you to the EXCEL crew for visiting Waihī College and sharing your talent, energy and enthusiasm with us!

EXCEL
MUSIC

🚗 LAST DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE FOR 2026 – THAMES 🚗

Do you have your **Restricted Licence** and want to move on to your **Full Licence sooner?** The upcoming Defensive Driving Course in Thames will be the **last course for 2026**, so eligible students are encouraged to book now.

⭐ **Particularly important if you gained your Restricted Licence from August 2025 onwards** and want the opportunity to progress to your Full Licence before the end of this year.
⭐ It's also worthwhile for students who gained their Restricted Licence from **February 2026 onwards**. Completing the course can reduce the amount of time you need to hold your Restricted before progressing to your Full Licence.

📍 **Thames High School**
🕓 **4.00pm–6.00pm**

📅 **Starts Tuesday 7 September**
The course runs over four sessions – Tuesday and Thursday, followed by Tuesday and Thursday the following week.
💰 **Cost: $245 per person**
👉 **Bookings are made directly through the AA website.** When booking, select **"THAMES"** as the location:
https://www.aa.co.nz/drivers/driving-school/defensive-driving-course/

⚠️ **Licence rule changes are coming:** The new 12-month Restricted Licence period will only apply to people who gain their Restricted Licence **after 27 January 2027**. If getting your Full Licence sooner is important to you, **don't miss this final 2026 course.**

Spirit Days 2026 – Let the Shenanigans Begin!

Get ready, Waihī College – Spirit Days 2026 are coming, and this year the word is SHENANIGANS! Expect all the usual amazing activities, crazy dress-ups, challenges, competitions and plenty of opportunities to get involved, have a laugh and show your school spirit. There's lots more to be revealed, so keep an eye on our socials and an ear on the notices – you won't want to miss what's coming!

KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA
HERE WE STAND

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 learn new skills, be able to have your say on important issues and make a positive contribution to your school and community.

For more information, go to www.trustee-election.co.nz.

KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA
HERE WE STAND

WAIHĪ
COLLEGE

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.

Kia Ora All!

We are raising awareness for the removal of Fees Free and would love it if you could scan this QR code and sign the petition:)

It only takes a minute!

Thanks,
Asha, Zara and Malea
- Level 3 Social Studies

SIGN OUR PETITION TO GET FEES FREE BACK!

"The Luxon Government is callously saddling more students with more debt to pay for tax cuts for the super-rich"
-The Green Party

-Help our young people by scanning the QR code above-

CALLING ALL YOUNG CREATORS!

Are you a maker, baker, artist or creator?

Waihi Arts in Town is coming up, and we're looking for students who might like to get involved! Maybe you make pottery, jewellery, art, crafts, baking, clothing, decorations – or something completely different. If you have a creative skill or talent you could show and teach to others, we'd love to hear from you.

STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THEIR OWN STALL AND EARN SOME MONEY

COME AND HAVE A CHAT WITH WENDY TO FIND OUT MORE.

CREATE IT. SHARE IT. TEACH IT. EARN FROM IT.

Students will have the opportunity to have their own stall at the Arts Day, showcase what they create and offer a small workshop or hands-on activity that people can sign up for - earning you money! You don't need to have everything figured out yet – if you have an idea, or even think "I could probably teach someone how to make that!", come and have a chat with Wendy to find out more.

Create it. Share it. Teach it. Earn from it.

FUTURE PATHWAYS WITH MRS GRAVESON

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

Scholarship Applications

Make sure you know when applications close for scholarships you intend to apply for. Get your applications in early to avoid panic later!

School Leaver Scholarship application closing dates are as below:

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHEN APPLICATIONS CLOSE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN EARLY TO AVOID PANIC LATER!

SCHOOL LEAVER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CLOSING DATES:

- UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY - THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST
- UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND - WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST
- UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO - SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST
- LINCOLN UNIVERSITY - SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST
- UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO - MONDAY 31ST AUGUST
- MASSEY UNIVERSITY - TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER
- AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY - TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER
- TE HERENGA WAKA, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY - TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

FOR ALL SUBJECT SPECIFIC, COMMUNITY OR INDUSTRY BASED SCHOLARSHIPS, KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON INDIVIDUAL CLOSING DATES AND GET APPLICATIONS IN EARLY.

- University of Waikato - Monday 31st August
- Massey University - Tuesday 1st September
- Auckland University of Technology - Tuesday 1st

September

- Te Herenga Waka, Victoria University - Tuesday 1 September

For all subject specific, community or industry based scholarships, keep a close eye on individual closing dates and get applications in early.

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.

Combat Specialist Virtual Information Event

Are you ready to challenge yourself, develop leadership skills, and be part of something bigger than yourself?
Join Defence Recruiting for a Virtual Information Event focused on Combat Specialist careers, where you'll learn about some of the New Zealand Army's most dynamic and rewarding career pathways.
During this online session, Defence Careers Recruiters will provide insights into opportunities within the Artillery, Armoured, and Infantry trades. You'll learn about the roles, training, career progression opportunities, and what life is really like as a Combat Specialist in the New Zealand Army.
Whether you're interested in operating advanced military equipment, working as part of a close-knit team, or pursuing an exciting and meaningful career, this event will provide valuable information and the opportunity to have your questions answered.

When: 27 August, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Where: Microsoft Teams (online via phone, computer, or tablet)

Who: Anyone interested in Combat Specialist careers within the New Zealand Army

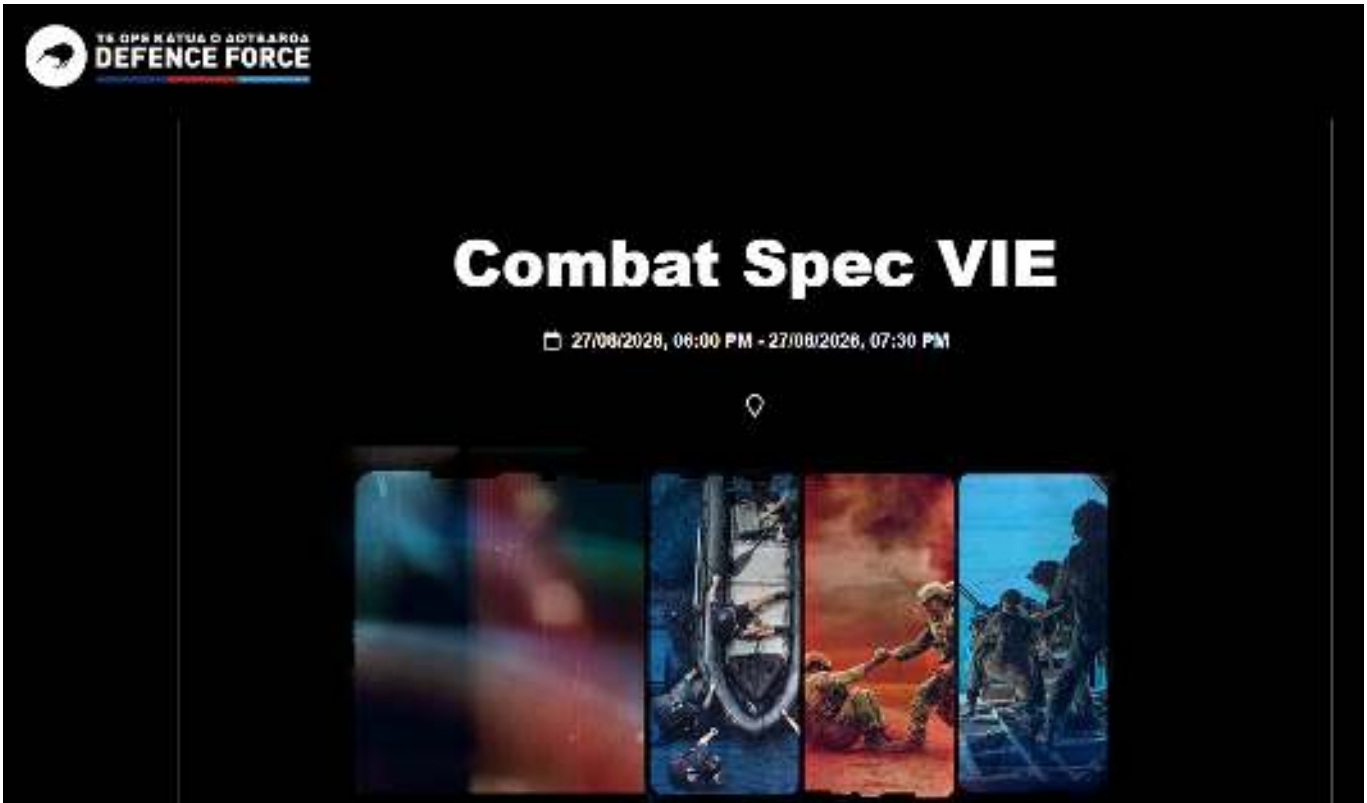
Register: https://cloud.info.defencecareers.mil.nz/Events?EventID=701VR00000mHMbeYAG (not compulsory, allows us to open up lines of communication)

At the above time, follow the link: Microsoft Teams meeting:

Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/496533236211540?p=trSHIWrq5E7bbwFcYI

Meeting ID: 496 533 236 211 540

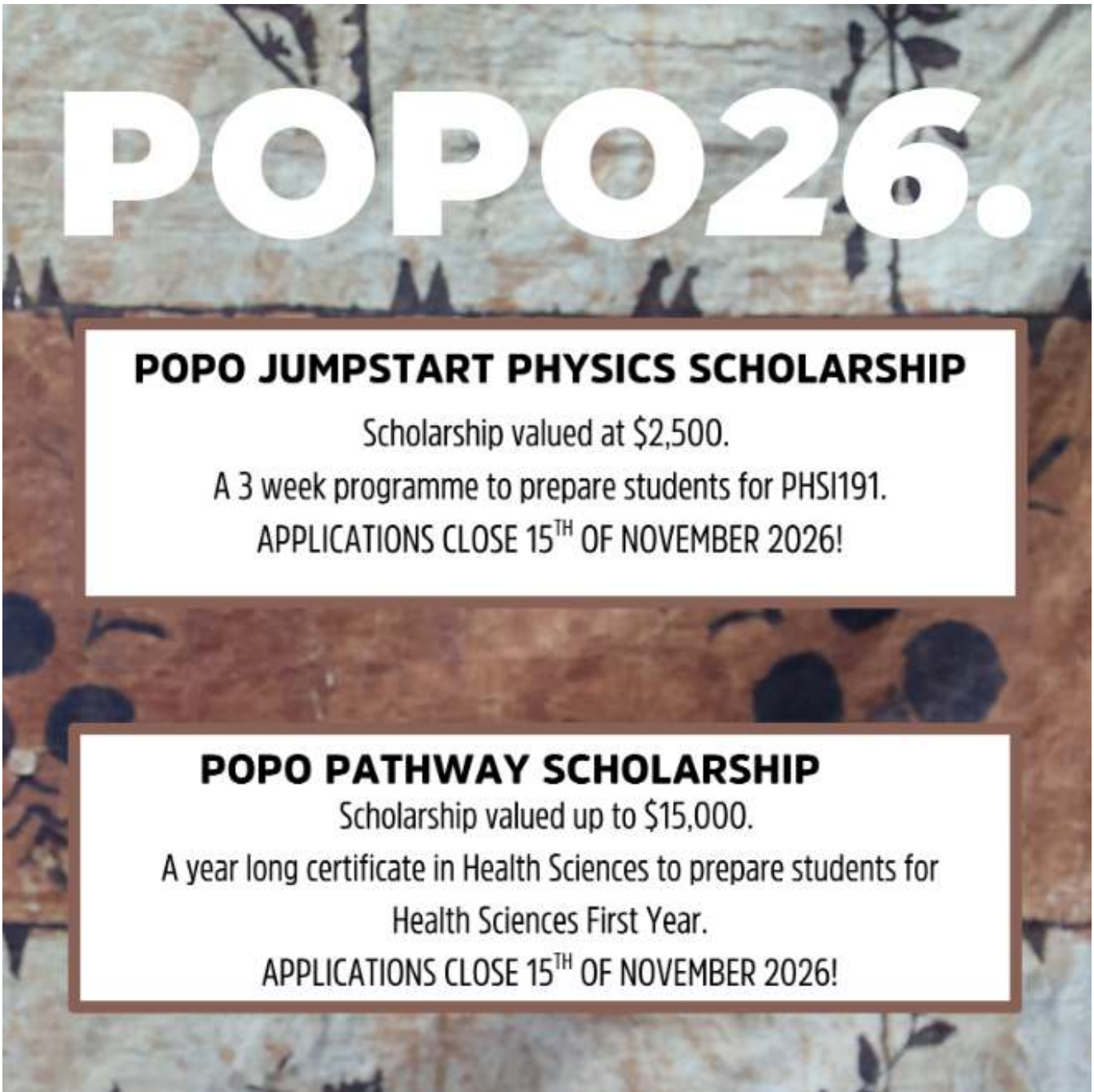
Passcode: Vi2yK682



Build a career like no other and make mates for life!

OTAGO UNIVERSITY

Chat to Mrs G if you'd like to know more about any of these scholarships.



Scholarships and their respective value are subject to change.
Please email popo@otago.ac.nz for further information.

University of Otago
OTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WĀNANGA

VA'A O TAUTAI
CENTRE FOR PACIFIC HEALTH

POPO26.

POPO JUMPSTART PHYSICS SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship valued at $2,500.
A 3 week programme to prepare students for PHSI191.
Applications close 15th of November 2026

POPO PATHWAY SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship valued up to $15,000.
A year long certificate in Health Sciences to prepare students for Health Sciences First Year.
Applications close 15th of November 2026

POPO PACIFIC CHEMISTRY SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship valued up to $2,500.
A 6 week programme to prepare students for CHEM191.
Applications close 15th of November 2026

Scholarships and their respective value are subject to change. Please email popo@otago.ac.nz for further information.

For more information on any of these programme please visit the University of Otago website.

University of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

VA'A O TAUTAI

University of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

2027
POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship

CHEM150 Concepts in Chemistry

Support through CHEM150 and The Chemical Basis of Biology and Human Health

VA'A O TAUTAI

About this scholarship

The POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship is run through the Pacific Islands Research and Student Support Unit (PIRSSU) at the University of Otago. The scholarship supports Pacific students to prepare for the CHEM191 Chemical Basis of Biology and Human Health paper, as part of Health Sciences First Year (HSFY). Designed to support Pacific students interested in a career in health, the Pacific Opportunities Programmes at Otago (POPO) CHEM150 Scholarship provides access to the CHEM150 programme, as well as continuous support through the CHEM191 paper and HSFY.

POPO Pacific CHEM150 Scholarship covers:

- Tuition fees for the University of Otago CHEM150 programme.
- Residential college accommodation for the duration of the CHEM150 course (two weeks). The initial four weeks are completed via distance learning.
- Additional resources, tutorials and academic support throughout enrolment in CHEM191.

POPO Pacific CHEM150 Scholarship staff will meet with individual recipients at key points throughout the semester to provide support where needed. Recipients are expected to engage in additional CHEM191 academic support available as part of the scholarship.

About the CHEM150 course

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the background knowledge and study skills necessary to confidently undertake the CHEM191 Chemical Basis of Biology and Human Health paper at Otago. It is designed for students whose learning in secondary school chemistry is incomplete, having not taken Year 13 (NCEA Level 3) chemistry. Students undertaking this course will still need to meet the University's admission and entrance criteria in order to proceed to full credit study.

Criteria for the POPO Pacific Scholarship

Successful applicants must:

- Have Pacific Indigeneity.
- Show a commitment to pursue Health Sciences study and a career in health.
- Have met the entry requirements for the University of Otago CHEM150 course.

Application process

Students must enrol into the CHEM150 paper at Summer School and Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) to be considered for the scholarship.

Apply to enrol at the University of Otago

Contacts

POPO Pacific CHEM150 Scholarship | POPO Team
For any queries about this application or application process, please contact the scholarship co-ordinator.

Email: popo@otago.ac.nz

CHEM150 Concepts in Chemistry
For information about the CHEM150 course, contact the course co-ordinator.
Email: davidm@chemistry.otago.ac.nz

Accommodation
Accommodation for scholarship recipients will be provided at a designated residential college for the duration of the in-person portion of the CHEM150 course. Recipients will be notified of accommodation arrangements once the selection process is complete.

POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship – CHEM150 application form

Deadline: Sunday the 15th of November 2026. Submit your completed application to popo@otago.ac.nz

Personal details

Name

Address

Mobile

Email

Gender

Optional: To which ethnic group(s) do you belong?

Ethnicity

What background in chemistry do you have?

Please provide details:

	Result	Year
Year 13		
Year 12		
Year 11		

Current Year 13 subjects

Please provide details:

Do you plan to enrol for the HSFY course?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

Personal statement

Please explain your interest in a career in health (150words max)

Please explain how this scholarship will contribute to your academic goals and pursuits (150 words max)

Privacy statement

The information requested in this application form and your academic record will be used for the purposes of assessing your application for the POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship. Information may also be used for statistical purposes. This potential use would aggregate data and not identify individual applicants.

☐ I have read and understood the privacy statement above and agree to its conditions.

Declaration of applicant

Current school attending

Please provide details:

- I have read and understood the entry criteria, purpose, obligations and expectations of the POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship. I agree to abide by these.
- I confirm all the information supplied in this form is true and correct.
- I understand POPO Pacific Chemistry Scholarship applicants must also complete and apply for the University of Otago CHEM150 paper.
- I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions of this application.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

DOORS OPEN
6.30PM

QUIZ STARTS
7.00PM

FISHING CLUB

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

WAIHI INTERSCHOOL AGRICULTURAL DAY

— 22/10/2026 —

CALF, LAMB & GOAT SECTIONS

OPEN TO ALL
WAIHI CHILDREN
PRESCHOOL – YEAR 8

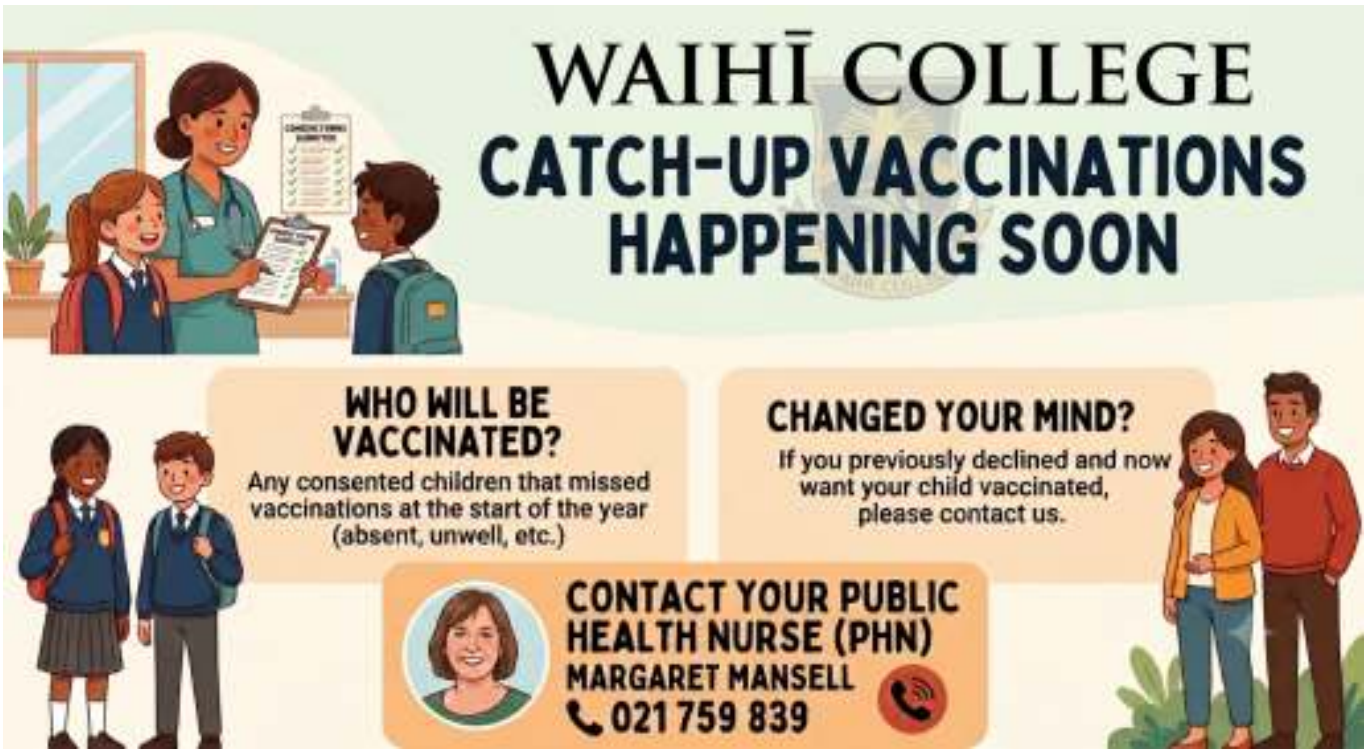
SPECTATORS WELCOME AND THERE WILL BE A FOOD AND DRINK STALL ON SITE.

10AM AT WAIHI EAST SCHOOL

REGISTER ON LINK BELOW,
ENTRIES CLOSE SEPTEMBER 22ND

Join one of our **Hillary Holiday Camps** for an unforgettable week in either the Coromandel or Tongariro.
Your days will be filled with adventure, new friendships, outdoor challenges, and experiences that will push you beyond your comfort zone.
Adventure is calling. Are you ready?
HILLARY
OUTDOORS
Coromandel & Tongariro
hillaryoutdoors.co.nz
hillaryoutdoors

THIS ISN'T
YOUR AVERAGE
HOLIDAY CAMP!



PARENT CORNER

SCHOOL BRIDGE APP:

Stay connected. Stay informed. Keep it simple

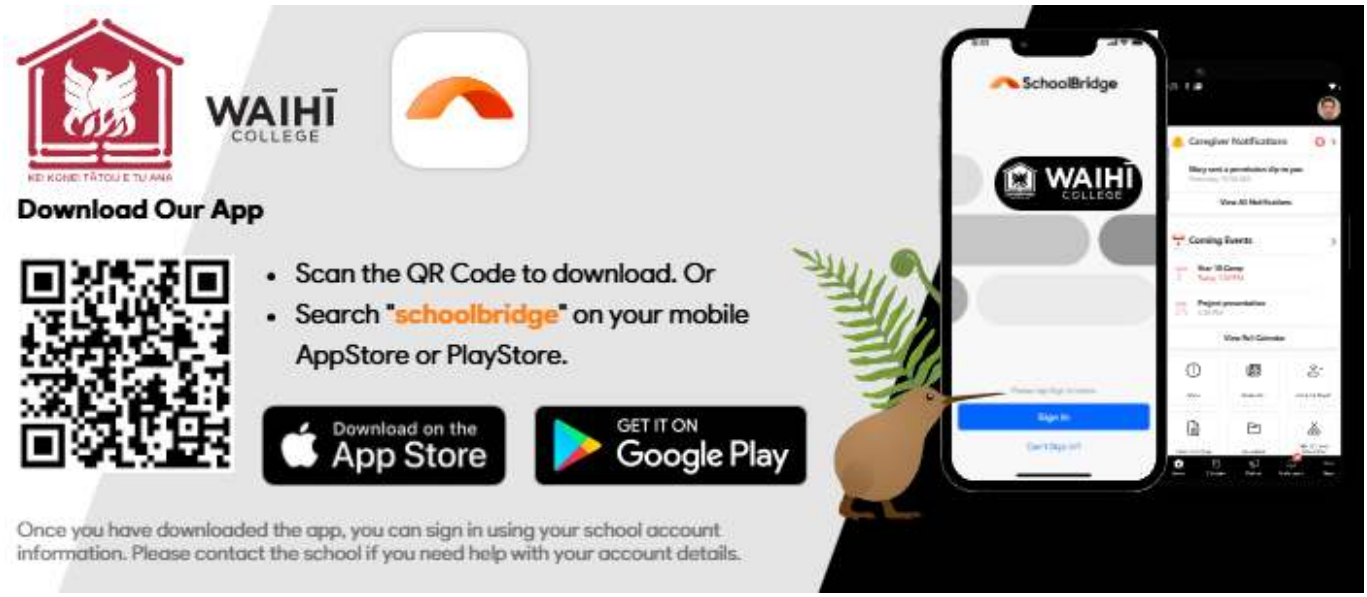
We're encouraging all students and caregivers to download the SchoolBridge app — your new first port of call for all things school-related.

- 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: