

WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 25 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT



Kia ora koutou,

A huge shout-out to our Year 7 and 8 students competing at the AIMS Games! We have loved seeing the fabulous photos showcasing outstanding sportsmanship, team camaraderie and wonderful displays of our school values—Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga, Kotahitanga and Kaitiakitanga. Thank you for representing Waihi College and your whānau with such pride. We are incredibly proud of you!

Congratulations also to our students sitting the Common Assessment Activities (CAAs) this week and next. We have been impressed by the calm, focused and mindful way you are applying yourselves. My sincere thanks to our staff for the reassurance, preparation and practice they have provided to help our young people approach this opportunity with confidence.

Our property beautification projects continue, helping to create a welcoming environment in which our students and community can take pride.

Our students involved in the farm programme are doing a fantastic job caring for our calves, which are flourishing with all the attention. We have also welcomed ducks to the farm, alongside Ernie the alpaca. These are wonderful opportunities for our young people to develop new skills, take responsibility and enjoy meaningful, hands-on learning.

We wish our students departing for Japan in the coming weeks an amazing and safe journey. Make lasting memories, embrace every opportunity and return ready to share your stories. Our sincere thanks to the staff accompanying our students to Kyoritsu and Seibu Colleges.

Spirit Days are also approaching, bringing plenty of opportunities for students to join in the fun, energy and organised chaos!

Looking ahead, our Term 4 calendar is filled to the brim with prizegivings and celebrations, recognising the achievements of our young people. Please keep an eye on SchoolBridge, our newsletter and social media for dates and updates. We warmly welcome you to join us as we celebrate our students and their successes.

Ngā mihi nui,
Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Waihi College leavers are taking a wide range of pathways into their futures? Around **40% of our recent school leavers continued into tertiary education and training**, with students progressing into **university and degree-level study, diplomas, certificates and other tertiary pathways**.

For many others, the next step is **straight into the workforce**, an apprenticeship, workplace learning or other opportunities – gaining valuable skills and experience while earning.

At Waihi College, we know there is **no single measure of success after school**. We are proud to see our rangatahi moving forward in ways that suit their strengths, interests and aspirations.

🎓 Studying • 🧩 Training • 💼 Working • 🌱 Building their future
Different pathways. Different goals. Every pathway matters.

Literacy and Numeracy Common Assessment Activities

TIMETABLE Week ONE (7th - 11th September) START TIME 9.30am in the HALL				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 9 READING	Year 9 NUMERACY	Year 10 READING	Year 9 WRITING	Year 10 NUMERACY
TIMETABLE Week TWO (14th - 18th September) START TIME 9.30am in the HALL				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 10 WRITING	Senior R/W/N	Senior R/W/N	Senior R/W/N	Senior R/W/N Catchups

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.

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 caregivers directly.

Please contact Jo Howell ASAP (joh@waihicol.school.nz) if you have any questions.



COMING UP

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
31	1	2	3	4
Tournament Week				
UNISS				
	L2 OUT MTB		8:15a HPC Chess Comp	
7	8	9	10	11
CAA Event 2				
AIMS Games				
AIMS Netball				
			Toi Ohomai Visit	Kurangaituku Senior Dev Netball
14	15	16	17	18
CAA Event 2				
		Japan (Girls) Kyritsu		
		3p Waka - Open Afternoon 5:15p Information Evening		
		Volunteers Evening		
21	22	23	24	25
Japan (Girls) Kyritsu				
L1 OUT - Overnight Tramp/Camp		TV Senior Volleyball	Spirit Days	
Subject Selection for 2027			Otago University Planning	
9a 2027 Subject Selection 6:30p Spring Concert & Hea				
28	29	30	1	2

With so many sports fixtures, trips, events, assessments and activities happening throughout the term, our calendar is updated regularly. This snapshot is a great guide, but SchoolBridge is always the most up-to-date place to check what's happening at Waihi 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.

16 SEPTEMBER 2026

NGĀ WAKA

Open Afternoon



WAIHĪ COLLEGE
KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA
HERE WE STAND

From **3 pm to 6 pm**, all Year 6, 7 & 8 ākonga and their whānau are welcome to come and explore our Waka.

Followed by
INFORMATION EVENING
5.15 pm – opportunity for Year 6 whānau and whānau of any new Year 7&8 students to our kura to learn more about Waihi College

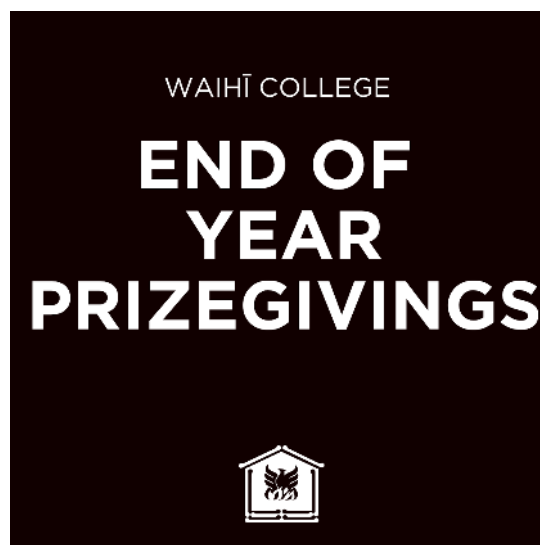
Term 4: COLLEGE TOUR
More information to follow



PRIZEGIVINGS

Our end-of-year prizegivings are always an exciting time at Waihi College! With our students shining in so many different ways, we hold a number of prizegivings to make sure their achievements, talents, service and hard work are recognised and celebrated. Here are the dates confirmed so far:

- Sports (Teams & School Champs)
Prizegiving: 15th October
- Cultural Prizegiving & Art Exhibition:
27th October
- Sports (Top Awards) Prizegiving:
29th October
- Senior Service & Endeavour
Prizegiving: 3rd November
- Senior Academic Prizegiving: 5th
November
- Junior Service & Endeavour
Prizegiving: 7th December
- Junior Academic Prizegiving: 8th
December



Please keep an eye on the SchoolBridge calendar for further details, including times, as they are confirmed. We look forward to celebrating our ākonga and all they have achieved throughout the year!

SHAVE FOR A CURE & SPRING CONCERT

Tuesday 22 September | 6.30pm | Waihi College Hall

Join us for a fantastic evening of bravery, music, fun and fundraising as our Shave for a Cure event comes together with our Spring Concert!

Shave for a Cure

A huge well done to everyone who has already signed up for this year's Shave or Chop! There's still time to join them – are you brave enough? Sign up here:
<https://www.shaveforcure.co.nz/fundraisers/WaihiCollege471>

Spring Concert

Our Music students will take to the stage to showcase what they've been working on throughout the year. These performances form part of their music assessment requirements, so it's a wonderful opportunity for whānau and our community to come along, enjoy some great music and support our talented students.

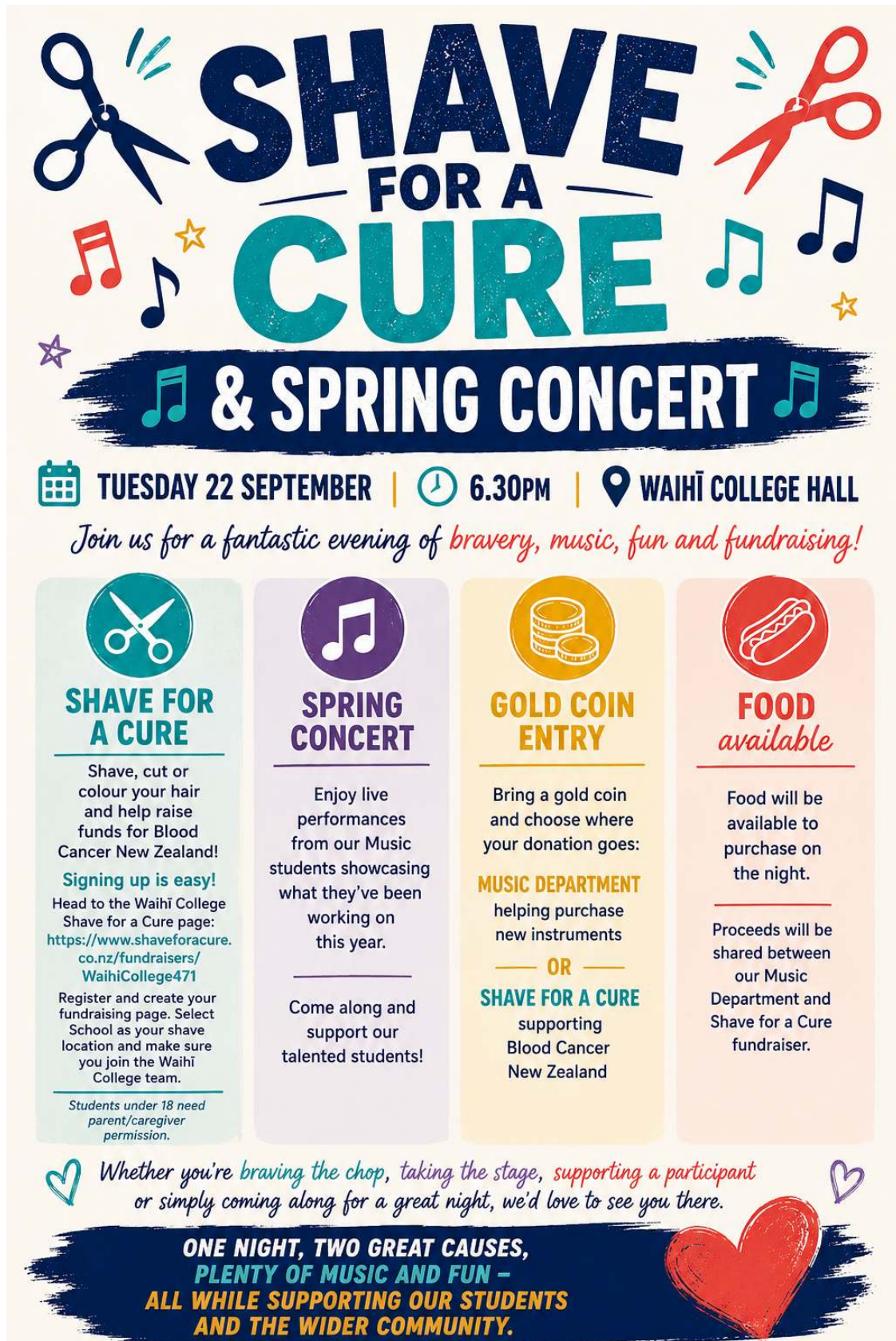
Gold coin entry

Bring a gold coin at the door and you choose where it goes – either to our Music Department, helping support students through the purchase of new musical instruments, or to our Shave for a Cure fundraiser supporting Blood Cancer New Zealand.

Food

Food will also be available to purchase on the night, with proceeds split between the two causes. Whether you're braving the chop, taking the stage, supporting a participant or simply coming along for a great night, we'd love to see you there. One night, two great

causes, plenty of music and fun – all while supporting our students and the wider community.



The poster features a central title 'SHAVE FOR A CURE' in large, bold, blue and teal letters, with 'FOR A' in smaller blue letters between 'SHAVE' and 'CURE'. Below this, '& SPRING CONCERT' is written in white on a dark blue brushstroke background. The top corners are decorated with scissors and musical notes. The event details are listed below the title: 'TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER | 6.30PM | WAIHĪ COLLEGE HALL'. A tagline reads: 'Join us for a fantastic evening of *bravery, music, fun and fundraising!*'. The poster is divided into four columns, each with an icon and text: 1. 'SHAVE FOR A CURE' with a scissors icon, explaining the fundraising activity and providing a sign-up link. 2. 'SPRING CONCERT' with a musical note icon, mentioning live performances by students. 3. 'GOLD COIN ENTRY' with a gold coin icon, detailing the donation process and the purpose of the funds. 4. 'FOOD available' with a hot dog icon, stating that food will be available for purchase and that proceeds will be shared. At the bottom, a heart icon is followed by the text: 'Whether you're *braving the chop, taking the stage, supporting a participant or simply coming along for a great night, we'd love to see you there.*' Below this, a dark blue brushstroke contains the text: 'ONE NIGHT, TWO GREAT CAUSES, PLENTY OF MUSIC AND FUN – ALL WHILE SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY.' A large red heart is on the right side of this section.

SHAVE FOR A CURE

& SPRING CONCERT

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER | 6.30PM | WAIHĪ COLLEGE HALL

*Join us for a fantastic evening of **bravery, music, fun and fundraising!***



SHAVE FOR A CURE

Shave, cut or colour your hair and help raise funds for Blood Cancer New Zealand!

Signing up is easy!

Head to the Waihi College Shave for a Cure page:
<https://www.shaveforcure.co.nz/fundraisers/WaihiCollege471>

Register and create your fundraising page. Select School as your shave location and make sure you join the Waihi College team.

Students under 18 need parent/caregiver permission.



SPRING CONCERT

Enjoy live performances from our Music students showcasing what they've been working on this year.

Come along and support our talented students!



GOLD COIN ENTRY

Bring a gold coin and choose where your donation goes:

MUSIC DEPARTMENT helping purchase new instruments

— OR —

SHAVE FOR A CURE supporting Blood Cancer New Zealand



FOOD available

Food will be available to purchase on the night.

Proceeds will be shared between our Music Department and Shave for a Cure fundraiser.

*Whether you're **braving the chop, taking the stage, supporting a participant or simply coming along for a great night, we'd love to see you there.***

ONE NIGHT, TWO GREAT CAUSES, PLENTY OF MUSIC AND FUN – ALL WHILE SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

ARE YOU READY TO ROCK?

We're starting to look ahead to **next year's school musical** and want to see who might be keen to get involved in **The Buddy Holly Story!**

This is a fantastic show packed with iconic rock 'n' roll music, energy and plenty of opportunities to perform.

We're looking to see what interest there is from students who would love to be involved, including:

🎵 **Around 15 musicians** – a great opportunity for instrumentalists to perform live

🗣️ **Around 5 actors** – for key acting and character roles

💃 **Dancers** – to bring the music and era to life on stage

Whether you love playing music, acting, dancing – or just want to be part of an awesome school production – **we'd love to hear from you!**

Interested? Let Mr Randell or Wendy know! 🎵🗣️💃



ART COMPETITION

Theme:
One Earth, Our Future

Express your dreams, creativity, & hopes for a better world

Criteria:

A3

Any medium is welcome

AI-generated artwork is not accepted.

Prize:
Winning art showcased in Taiwan

Deadline: October 30th, 2026

Entries to Mrs Cook

SCHOOL WIDE

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 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.

IGNITE ENGINEERING CAMP – SUMMER 2027

Are you in Year 11–13 and curious about engineering, STEM, or what university life could look like? Ignite Engineering Camp is a FREE five-day summer camp held in January at Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland. Run by Youth Without Borders, Ignite gives students the chance to explore the world of engineering, experience university life and discover where a future in STEM could take them.



The camp is particularly suited to students who are still figuring out what they might like to do after secondary school and want the opportunity to explore engineering, STEM and tertiary study. Five-day camp in January Fully funded – no cost to attend Open to Year 11–13 students Explore engineering and STEM pathways Experience life at the University of Auckland Applications close 25th September 2026. Find out more and access application information via the Ignite Engineering Camp Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1EhKnAp5L5/>

Interested or want to know more? Have a chat with Ms Clare. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore what your future could look like!

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – TRAIL TRILOGY 2026!

 **Sunday 11 October 2026**

The **2026 Trail Trilogy** is all systems go, and organisers are looking for **student volunteers to help as course marshals** on the day!

Marshals will be positioned at various locations from **Waihi**, through the **Karangahake Gorge** and on to **Paeroa**, helping to support participants and keep the event running smoothly.



This is a great opportunity to get involved in a fantastic local event, give back to our community and gain some volunteering experience.

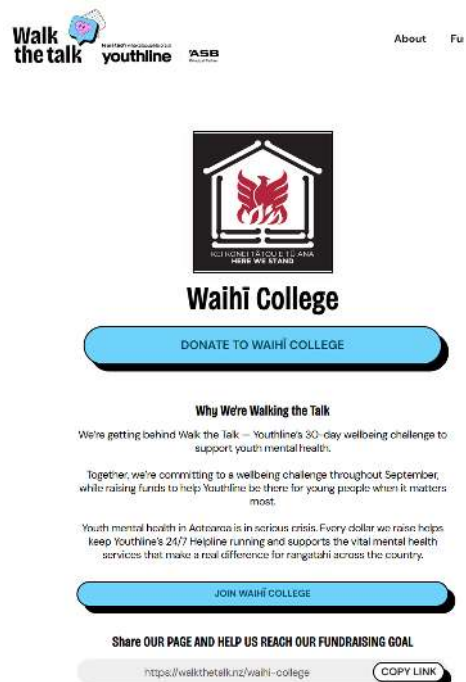
💚 The Trail Trilogy also supports our local community, with donations from the event going to **Waihi & Paeroa Lions and Sport'n'Action Waihi**.

👤 **Keen to be a marshal?**

Please contact **Jo** at Jo.Heath@hauraki-dc.govt.nz to put your name down or find out more. **Save the date and get involved!**

WALK THE TALK – WAIHĪ COLLEGE IS GETTING INVOLVED!

This September, Waihi College is proud to be taking part in Walk the Talk 2026, Youthline's 30-day movement and fundraising challenge supporting the wellbeing and mental health of young people across Aotearoa. The challenge is simple – get moving every day throughout September! You can walk, run, swim, bike, paddle, dance or choose whatever movement works for you. At the same time, we'll be raising funds to help keep Youthline's free 24/7 Helpline available for rangatahi who need someone to talk to.





Walk the talk
youthline

Back our team to walk the talk for youth mental health this September.

Our team is moving every day this September for youth mental health. Every dollar you give helps keep Youthline's free call and text line open, 24/7, for any young person who needs it. Get behind us and donate today.

DONATE TODAY

SCAN ABOVE TO DONATE

Walkthetalk.nz

Every dollar raised through Walk the Talk goes directly towards supporting the Helpline, which is available to young people by phone, text, webchat and WhatsApp. We'd love our students, staff, whānau and wider Waihi College community to get behind us. You can join in, share our page or make a donation – every bit of support makes a difference. Support Waihi College here: <https://walkthetalk.nz/o/waihi-college> Get moving. Start conversations. Support our rangatahi.

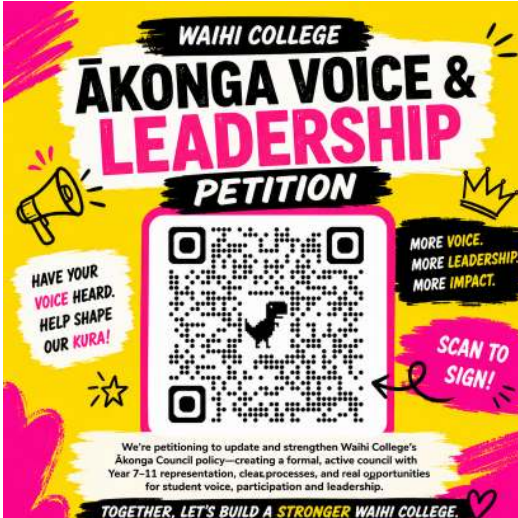
Let's Walk the Talk, Waihi College!

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sign this petition to support stronger student leadership and help create more formal leadership opportunities for Years 7–11 at Waihi College. It will only take a minute!

<https://forms.gle/PfBy9LDGWcwc3c6>

Thanks, Zoe-Beth Naisby
Level 3 Social Studies



WAIHI COLLEGE
ĀKONGA VOICE & LEADERSHIP
PETITION

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD. HELP SHAPE OUR KURA!

MORE VOICE. MORE LEADERSHIP. MORE IMPACT.

SCAN TO SIGN!

We're petitioning to update and strengthen Waihi College's Akonga Council policy—creating a formal, active council with Year 7–11 representation, clear processes, and real opportunities for student voice, participation and leadership.

TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A STRONGER WAIHI COLLEGE.



WAIHI COLLEGE
SPORTS UNIFORM AMNESTY

AVOID FEES BY RETURNING YOURS NOW

Sports Uniform Amnesty

A friendly reminder that all sports uniforms are now overdue for return (unless you are competing at Aims Games).

If you are wanting to have your uniform bond returned, please ensure your uniform is returned ASAP. This includes First XV boys' Number 1s, which are required back urgently.

Please return all uniforms as soon as possible. Failure to return uniforms may result in fees being charged for a full replacement set. Thank you for helping us get our sports uniforms back and ready for next season!

FUTURE PATHWAYS WITH MRS GRAVESON



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/>



From 2027, eligible students who were enrolled in Years 12 or 13 at any New Zealand secondary school during 2026 will be able to undertake their first year of study at Toi Ohomai's Rotorua (Mokoia) campus with **zero course fees***.

The initiative applies to all qualifications at Level 3 and above offered at the Rotorua campus and is available to students studying either full-time or part-time. At Toi Ohomai, students can choose from qualifications across a broad range of industries, including: Business Construction Engineering Information Technology Nursing and Health Teacher Education Tourism and Hospitality Agriculture Hairdressing and Beauty For more information about eligible programmes and enrolment options, please visit:

<https://www.toiohomai.ac.nz>.

TOI OHOMAI OPEN DAYS

Toi Ohomai Tauranga

Thu 10 September, 11am - 2pm
70 Windermere Drive, Poike, Tauranga

Toi Ohomai Rotorua Campus

Thu 17 September, 11am - 2pm
1 Mokoia Drive, Tihiotonga, Rotorua



COMMUNITY NOTICES



Wednesday 4th November 2026
7-8.30 pm
FREE Online Webinar

Whānau Online Safety Webinar

The Digital Sexual Landscape and Online Harm

Understanding and supporting young people with navigating their online world. I



The online sexual landscape has dramatically changed how young people in Aotearoa learn, explore, and engage sexually.

The Light Project provides evidence-based presentations for parents and communities to help equip them with the knowledge, confidence and skills to understand and support young people in today's online world.

Tūturu in conversation with
The Light Project

Join us for a kōrero exploring online
safety, digital wellbeing and
supporting rangatahi.

Link for Webinar



THE LIGHT PROJECT

tūturu.



FREE ONLINE SAFETY WEBINAR

Parents, caregivers and whānau are invited to tune in to a **FREE online webinar on Wednesday 4 November from 7.00–8.30pm.**

The Digital Sexual Landscape and Online Harm, presented by Tūturu in conversation with **The Light Project**, will explore the online world our young people are navigating today.

The webinar will offer practical, evidence-based information to help whānau better understand **online safety, digital wellbeing and the challenges young people may encounter online**, as well as how we can support them with confidence.



Wednesday 4 November 2026



7.00–8.30pm



FREE online webinar

We encourage parents, caregivers and whānau to take advantage of this valuable opportunity. **Grab a cuppa, tune in from home and join the kōrero!**

👉 Scan the QR code on the flyer to access the webinar.

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

Next week, Waihi College will proudly join kura, workplaces, whānau and communities across Aotearoa in celebrating **Te Wiki o te Reo Māori — Māori Language Week, 14–20 Hepetema 2026**.

It's a chance for all of us to celebrate, learn and use te reo Māori a little more in our everyday lives — at school, at home and in our wider community. Every kupu spoken helps strengthen te reo Māori for future generations.

Ake Ake Ake — A Forever Language. Kia kaha te reo Māori!



PARENT CORNER

Parents & Caregivers – We'd love your feedback!

Know My Child is gathering feedback from parents and caregivers whose child may learn, think, process or experience the world a little differently — whether or not they have a diagnosis or formal assessment.



The anonymous survey takes around **12 minutes**, and the more families who take part, the more valuable the findings will be. Your experiences could help shape future support for children and whānau.

👉 Complete the survey here:

<https://survey.mars.com/q/71kbVKogu>

Please feel free to share with other parents and caregivers who may be interested.

**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

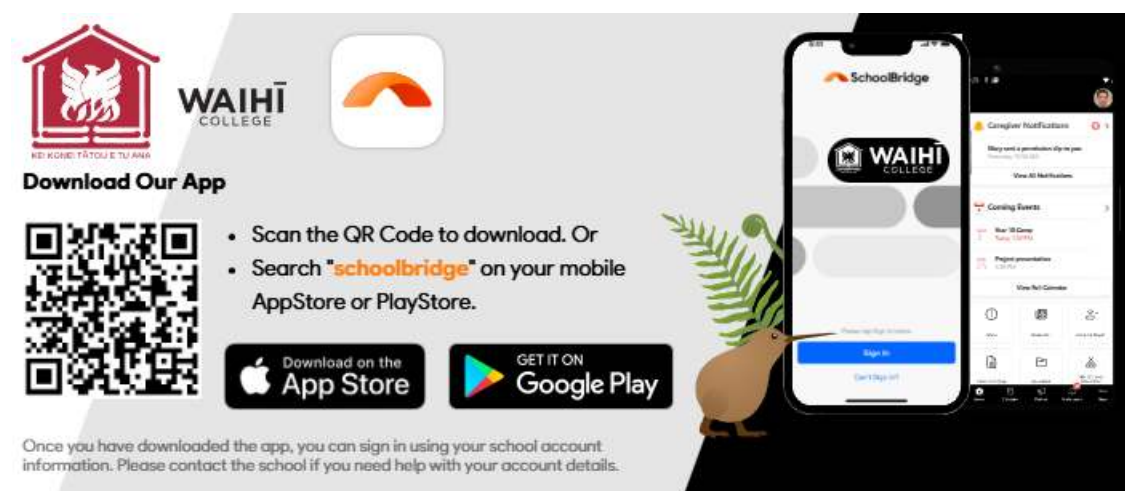
Getting started is easy:

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.

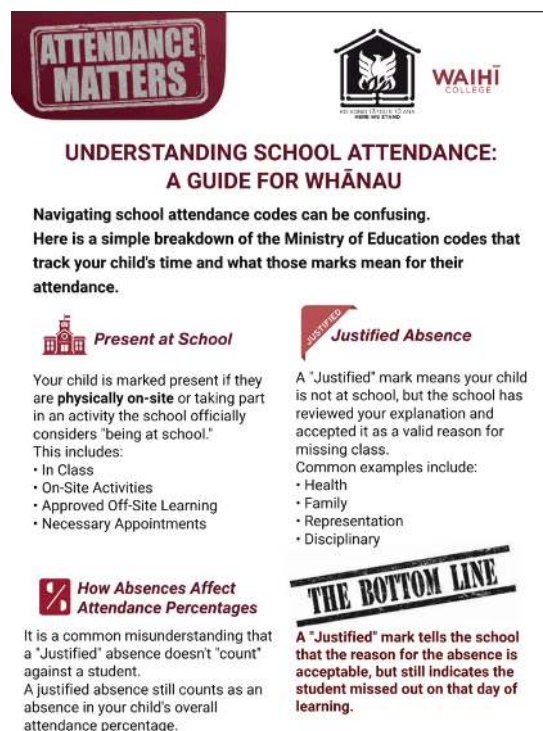


Download Our App

- Scan the QR Code to download. Or
- Search "schoolbridge" on your mobile AppStore or PlayStore.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Once you have downloaded the app, you can sign in using your 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:

- 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 Waihi 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



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**