

WAIHI COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 28 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora e te whānau,

Thank you to the whānau who joined us for our first Kōrero and Kai last term. This relaxed evening of sharing was a wonderful opportunity to listen, connect and hear what we collectively hope for our young people. Our Board really values your voice and the relationships that help us build a community around our rangatahi.

Here are the main themes we heard in response to each question:

- What strengths does our community already have?** A close-knit, supportive community, generous volunteers and diverse local industries—including farming, mining, tourism and trades—with valuable opportunities for work experience and future employment.
- How do we help every student feel like they belong?** Know each learner well, listen to their interests and aspirations, value their differences and ensure they feel supported, encouraged and believed in.
- What does a successful young person from Waihi look like?** Someone who is happy, healthy and confident in their identity, proud of their progress, and equipped with the skills, independence and direction to take their next step.
- How can our community help our rangatahi thrive?** Through mentoring, practical experiences, volunteering, employment and places to connect—and by involving young people in the conversations and decisions that affect them.
- What opportunities do our young people need?** Diverse learning and career pathways, positive role models, support for different learning needs, and opportunities to develop practical, social and digital skills for a changing world.
- Do you have a concern or question?** Questions about detention and consequences highlighted the need for clear communication about behaviour expectations, accountability and how we work with whānau to support positive change.

We look forward to hosting our second Kai and Kōrero later this term—please watch this space!

A Board survey will also be coming your way soon, asking how we can best meet our students' needs. Please take the time to respond. Your voice matters and helps shape the direction our kura takes. With education facing increasing pressures and change, we need to stay grounded in the needs of our learners and community, with a clear purpose guiding the changes we make.

Term 4 brings many opportunities to celebrate our young people through end-of-year prizegivings and presentations. Please keep an eye on the school website and calendars for dates and details during this busy time. We look forward to sharing these special occasions with you.

A note from the Board of Trustees:

Thank you to the whānau who responded to our recent survey about the current Year 13 uniform. We have also heard from senior students and received questions about expectations for piercings, accessories and hair. The Board will explore these matters further in 2027, with further consultation and guidance to follow. Hearing from students and whānau will help inform this work as we consider expectations that support belonging, reflect our College values and are clear for everyone. In the meantime, our current uniform expectations continue to apply. Thank you for sharing your views and supporting our young people.

DID YOU KNOW?

Waihi College – Sporting Success Beyond the School Gates!

Did you know that Waihi College has a proud history of producing talented sportspeople who have gone on to achieve success on both the **national and international stage**?

From representing their regions and New Zealand to competing against some of the best athletes in the world, our past students have shown just how far determination, dedication and hard work can take you. Some have even come back to work here :)

We are incredibly proud of our former students who have made their mark in the sporting world and continue to inspire the next generation of Waihi College athletes.

Once a Waihi College student, always part of our story!

COMING UP

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

12	13	14	15	16
• 8a Uniform Shop	• 8a Uniform Shop		• 8a Winter Sports Prize Giv	• 230p Uniform Shop
19	20	21	22	23
• 8a Uniform Shop	• 8a Uniform Shop		• 230p Uniform Shop	
26	27	28	29	30
• 8a Uniform Shop	• 8a Year 7&8 Athletics Cha		• 230p Uniform Shop	
2	3	4	5	6
• 8a Uniform Shop	• 8a Endevour and Service		• 230p Uniform Shop	
9	10	11	12	13
• 8a Uniform Shop	• 8a Year 7&8 Athletics Cha		• 230p Uniform Shop	
16	17	18	19	20
• 8a Uniform Shop	• 8a Uniform Shop		• 230p Uniform Shop	
23	24	25	26	27
• 8a Uniform Shop	• 8a Uniform Shop		• 230p Uniform Shop	
30				4
• 8a Uniform Shop	• 8a Uniform Shop		• 230p Uniform Shop	

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.



2026 CULTURAL EVENING

TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER

Senior Art Exhibition:
See our 2026 senior artwork from Level 1 Visual Art, Senior Painting and Senior Photography.

8:30am - 5:45pm

Cultural Prizegiving:
Following the art exhibition, join us in a celebration of Arts and Culture in the hall. This prizegiving recognises students across Music, Drama, Kapa Haka, Culinary Arts, Digital Media and Visual Art.

Waihi College Hall - 6pm onwards

Artwork by Zoe-Beth Naisby

WAIHI COLLEGE
Senior Art Exhibition

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:

- Winter Sports & Champions Prizegiving: 15th October at 9am in the Hall

- Cultural Prizegiving: 27th October (following the Senior Art Exhibition in the Hub) at 6pm in the Hall

- Top Sports Prizegiving: 29th October (evening) time TBC in the Hall

- Senior Service & Endeavour Prizegiving: 3rd November at 12 noon in the Hall

- Senior Academic Prizegiving: 5th November at 6pm in the Hall

- Junior Service & Endeavour Prizegiving: 7th December (day time) time TBC in the Hall

- Junior Academic Prizegiving: 8th December (day time) time TBC in the Hall

END OF YEAR PRIZEGIVINGS

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!

MUFTI DAY – Friday 16 October!

Ditch the uniform, wear your mufti and bring along a gold coin donation!

All money raised will go towards the Hardship Fund, helping support students with sports costs and fees.

Every gold coin helps our students get involved!

Thanks,
Indie, Kayla, Kyllia, Ashleigh

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

THE Yummy FRUIT COMPANY

LAST CALL FOR YUMMY STICKERS!

If you've got a secret stash of Yummy stickers hiding in a drawer, lunchbox or at home, now's the time to hand them in! We've managed to fill a few sheets already, but every sticker counts and helps earn rewards for our school. Have a hunt and send those stickers our way!

SCHOOL WIDE

HEAD SHAVE & SPRING CONCERT

A huge thank you to our amazing community, students, staff and BOT members for coming out and supporting our students. It was fantastic to see such a great crowd enjoying the Head Shave and musical performances.

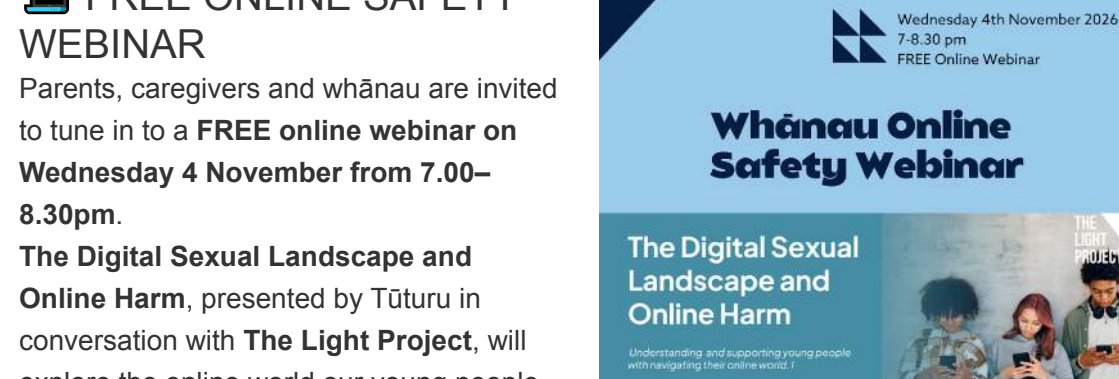
Together, our Shave for a Cure fundraising raised just over \$3,000 for Blood Cancer New Zealand! That is an incredible effort, and we are so proud of every one of them for getting behind such an important cause, fundraising, and being brave enough to follow through on the night.

A very special thank you also to Sharee Samkin from Steines HairMasters, who generously gave her time to be our hairdresser for the evening – she made sure everyone went home looking great!

On top of the fantastic \$3,000+ raised for Blood Cancer New Zealand, our gold coin entry and food stall also raised money for the Waihi College Music Department, helping support our talented young musicians.

Thank you again to everyone who performed, shaved, chopped, organised, cooked, served, donated, helped behind the scenes or simply came along and cheered our students on. It was a brilliant night of courage, talent, community and generosity.

All the photos from the night have been downloaded and shared in the School Photos section of our website – be sure to check them out!



GATEWAY STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

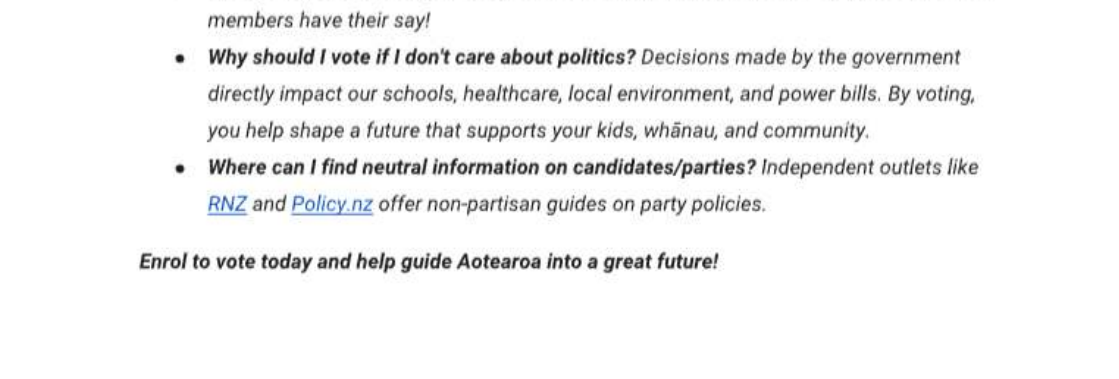
Our Gateway Programme is all about giving students the opportunity to step beyond the classroom and experience what the world of work is really like – and we simply couldn't do it without the incredible support of our local businesses.

We are extremely grateful to the many employers who open their doors to our students, giving them time, knowledge and encouragement to provide meaningful, real-world work experience. The mentoring and guidance our students receive is invaluable, helping them build confidence, develop practical skills and discover the qualities employers value in the workplace.

It has been fantastic to see our Gateway students grow through these experiences. They are learning about different industries, developing greater independence and responsibility, and beginning to see where their own strengths and interests could take them in the future.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be introducing you to some of our amazing Gateway students and the local businesses supporting them.

REAL EXPERIENCES | BRIGHTER FUTURES



Gateway Student Spotlight: Eli Townsend

Year 11 student Eli Townsend has been gaining valuable work experience through his Gateway placement at The Falls Retreat in Wainkino.

Eli has been learning alongside owner Brad King and the team, gaining an insight into the hospitality industry and what it takes to run a busy venue. He has been developing practical skills, building his confidence and getting a real feel for working in a professional kitchen environment.

The experience has given Eli a great opportunity to see what a career in hospitality could look like and to learn from experienced professionals who are passionate about their craft.

Owner Brad King says Eli has made a fantastic impression during his time at The Falls Retreat: "Eli is a good, positive young man, who follows directions well and is a solid team player."

Brad has also been impressed with Eli's enthusiasm for learning new skills and his overall attitude and approach to the work environment.

There is even the possibility of further opportunities, with Brad looking at training Eli in specific areas of the business, with potential for full-time employment over the summer period.

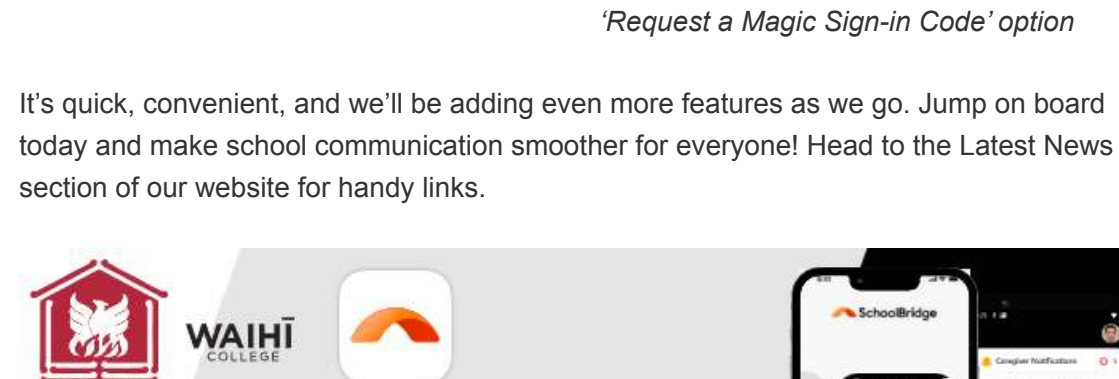
A huge thank you to Brad and the team at The Falls Retreat for supporting our Gateway Programme and giving Eli this valuable opportunity.

SPIRIT DAYS 2026

We finished off Term 3 with two fantastic days of fun, energy and school spirit at Waihi College!

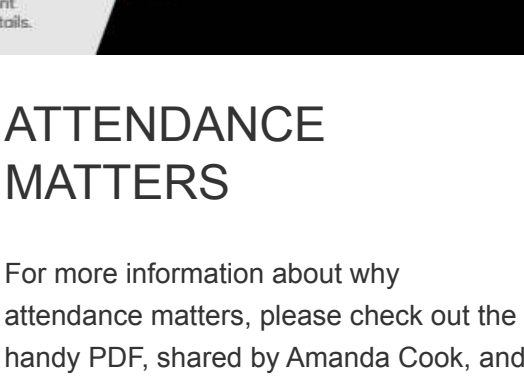
Another brilliant Spirit Days done and dusted for 2026! A massive thank you to everyone who dressed up, got involved, cheered loudly and helped make these two days such a success.

What an awesome way to wrap up Term 3.



All the photos from the night have been downloaded and shared in the School Photos page on our website.

FUTURE PATHWAYS WITH MRS GRAVESON



LEAVING SCHOOL MAGAZINE LINK

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

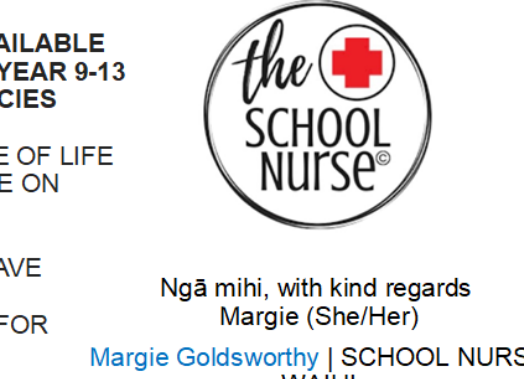
COMMUNITY NOTICES

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.

ENROL TO VOTE - IT'S EASY:
<https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online>

Enrol to vote today – it's easy!

Kia ora koutou and hello to our school whānau,

As you probably know, New Zealand has a general election coming up! What you might not know is that the cut-off date to get enrolled on the roll is **25 October**. To ensure your vote counts smoothly, it's best to be enrolled before this deadline.

Get older teenagers (18+)? If you have rangatahi who have recently turned 18 or will turn 18 before election day, make sure to check if they are enrolled so they can vote in their first election!

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Am I eligible to vote?** If you are 18 or older, currently live in NZ, have lived here for at least one year continuously at some point, and are a NZ citizen or permanent resident, YES, you're eligible!

- Are you trying to tell me who to vote for?** Not at all! This is strictly non-partisan. Who you vote for is entirely your choice – all that matters is that your voice and your family's voice are heard.

- What's the point if nothing changes?** Real change happens when everyday community members have their say!

- Why should I vote if I don't care about politics?** Decisions made by the government directly impact our schools, healthcare, local environment, and power bills. By voting, you help shape a future that supports your kids, whānau, and community.

- Where can I find neutral information on candidates/parties?** Independent outlets like [RNZ](#) and [Polly](#) offer non-partisan guidance on parties/policies.

Enrol to vote today and help guide Aotearoa into a great future!

PARENT CORNER

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/o/73401568303>

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://surveywms.com/q/ZibbVYKogu>

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 WHĀNĀU

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 at school or taking part in an activity the school officially considers 'time at school'. This includes:
- On-Site Activities
- Approved Off-Site Learning
- Necessary Absences

Justified Absence
A 'Justified' mark means your child is not at school but the school has received your request and has accepted it as a valid reason for missing class. Common examples include:
- Family
- Bereavement
- Illness

Unjustified Absence
A 'Justified' mark means your child is not at school but the school has received your request and has accepted it as a valid reason for missing class. Common examples include:
- Family
- Bereavement
- Illness

Not at School
A 'Justified' mark means your child is not at school but the school has received your request and has accepted it as a valid reason for missing class. Common examples include:
- Family
- Bereavement
- Illness

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 027983787

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

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