

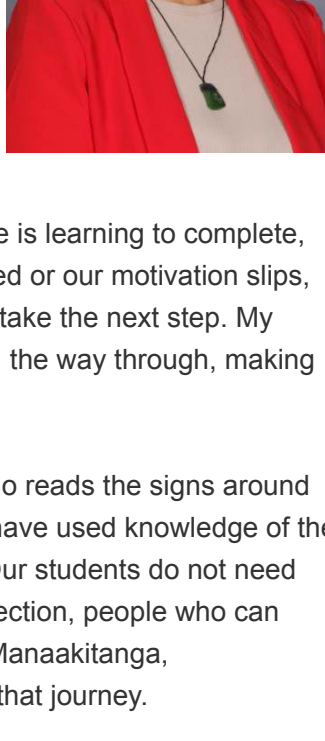
WAIHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 29 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora koutou katoa,

At today's assembly, I shared a message with our students: **leadership starts with you**. You do not need a badge, a title or a captain's role to lead. It begins with everyday choices—turning up, having another go, taking responsibility, showing kindness and asking for help when you need it.



As we move through our final term, those choices matter. There is learning to complete, assessments to finish and much to celebrate. When we feel tired or our motivation slips, we sometimes need to dig deep, reconnect with our goals and take the next step. My challenge to our young people is to finish the academic year all the way through, making choices today that their future selves will thank them for.

We also explored the idea of being a *wayfinder*: a navigator who reads the signs around them to guide a journey. Across the Pacific, skilled navigators have used knowledge of the stars, winds and ocean to guide waka across vast distances. Our students do not need their whole future mapped out, but they do need a sense of direction, people who can support them and the courage to begin. Our College values—Manakaitanga, Whanaungatanga, Kotahitanga and Kaitiakitanga—help guide that journey.

Last week's Winter Sports celebrations showed these values in action. We celebrated achievement alongside the commitment behind it: cold mornings, wet practices, listening to feedback, recovering from mistakes and continuing to show up for a team.

Some of the season's most meaningful successes happened quietly—a student growing in confidence, mastering a skill, encouraging a teammate or responding respectfully after a disappointing result. These are lessons our young people can carry into their classrooms, relationships and future pathways. Leadership is there whenever someone takes responsibility for their contribution and helps others succeed.

Congratulations to our award recipients and to every student who represented Waihi College this winter. Thank you to our coaches, managers, staff, officials, volunteers and whānau. Your time, encouragement, transport, fundraising and sideline support make these opportunities possible. We deeply appreciate the people who keep showing up for our young people.

Please join us to acknowledge the creativity, dedication, talent and perseverance of our young people, and the people who support them. Keep an eye on school communications for event details.

Let's keep turning up for ourselves and for one another, bringing encouragement, care and determination to these final weeks.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.

Ngā mihi nui,

Brian Principal | Tumukai Waihi College

DID YOU KNOW?

COMING UP

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

12	13	14	15	16
Japan (Soyuz) to Selbu				
• Ba Uniform Shop	• Ba Uniform Shop		• Ba Winter Sports Prize Giv	• 23tp Uniform Shop
19	20	21	22	23
General Service Event				
• 23tp Uniform Shop	• Ba Uniform Shop		• 23tp Uniform Shop	
26	27	28	29	30
Arts & Cultural Prize Giving	• Ba Uniform Shop		• 23tp Uniform Shop	
• Ba Year 6 Visit				

2	3	4	5	6
• Ba Uniform Shop	• Ba Uniform Shop		Senior Academic Prizegiving	
9	10	11	12	13
• Ba Uniform Shop	• Ba Year 7-8 Athletics Chai		• 23tp Uniform Shop	
	• Ba Uniform Shop			
16	17	18	19	20
• Ba Uniform Shop	• Ba Uniform Shop		• 23tp Uniform Shop	
23	24	25	26	27
• Ba Uniform Shop	• Ba Uniform Shop		• 23tp Uniform Shop	
30	1	2	3	4
• Ba Uniform Shop	• Ba Uniform Shop		• 23tp 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.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS

Please check your emails for the Whānau Survey from our Board of Trustees. Your answers will help us focus on the priorities that matter most to our school community.

Whānau Survey

The Waihi College Board of Trustees invites all Waihi College whānau to complete our annual survey.

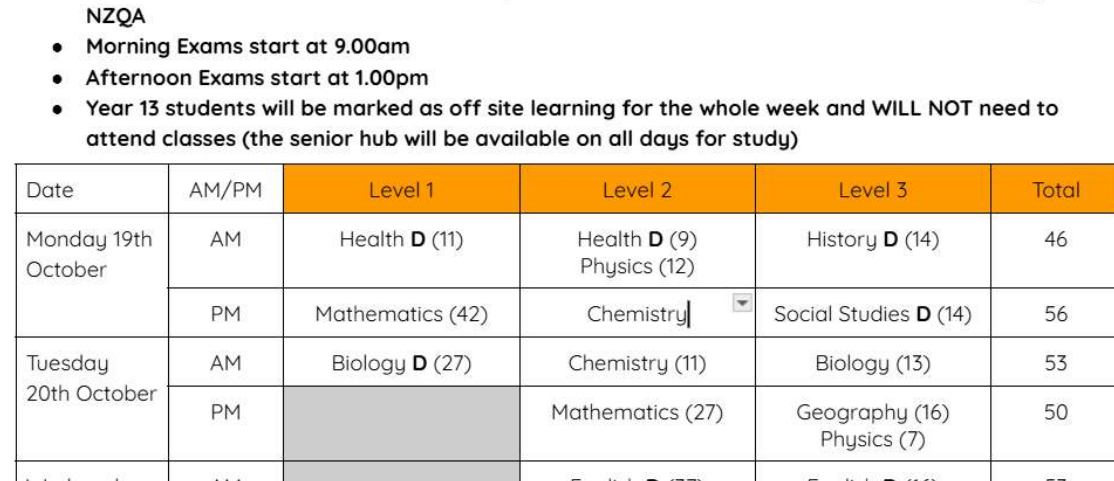
Your feedback is valuable and helps us shape our annual work plan and strategic plan, ensuring we focus on the priorities that matter most to our school community.

To do this effectively, we need to hear from you. We encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the survey, which has been emailed to you.

If you have any questions, please contact Gemma Barnden, Board Member, at "gemma@waihicol.school.nz".

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and contribute to the future direction of Waihi College.

Waihi College BOT



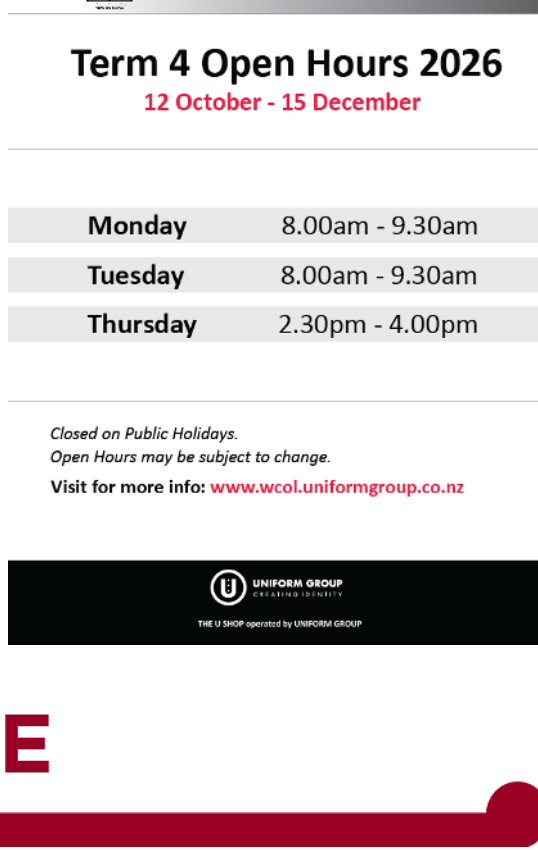
2026 CULTURAL EVENING
TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER
Senior Art Exhibition:
See our 2026 senior artwork from Level 1 Visual Art, Senior Painting and Senior Photography.
HUB SPACE - 3.30 - 5.45pm
Cultural Prizegiving:
Following the art exhibition, join us in a celebration of Arts and Culture in the hall. This prizegiving recognises students across Music, Drama, Kapa Haka, Culinary Arts, Digital Media and Visual Arts.
Waihi College Hall - 6pm onwards
Artwork by Zoe-Beth Walsby



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:

- Cultural Prizegiving: 27th October (following the Senior Art Exhibition in the Hub) at 6pm in the Hall
- 29th October at 6pm in the Hall **BY INVITATION ONLY**
- 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) TBC in the Hall
- Junior Academic Prizegiving: 8th December (day time) TBC in the Hall



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!

Derived Grade Examinations 2026 (HALL)

- Monday 19th October through to Friday 23rd October
- All exams in this timetable will take place in the hall
- All Derived Grade Exams will be a maximum of 3 hours long (students must remain in the assessment for the first 45 minutes and the last 15 minutes)
- Special Assessment Conditions will be in place for students who have this entitlement through NZQA
- Morning Exams start at 9.00am
- Afternoon Exams start at 1.00pm
- Year 13 students will be marked as off site learning for the whole week and WILL NOT need to attend classes (the senior hub will be available on all days for study)

Date	AM/PM	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Monday 19th October	AM	Mathematics D (11)	Health D (9) Physics (12)	History D (14)	46
	PM	Mathematics D (22)	Chemistry (11)	Social Studies D (14)	56
Tuesday 20th October	AM	Biology D (47)	Chemistry (11)	Biology (13)	53
	PM		Mathematics (27)	Geography (16) Physics (7)	50
Wednesday 21st October	AM		English D (37)	English D (16)	53
	PM	Digital Technology (12)	Digital Technology (6)	Digital Technology (6)	24
Thursday 22nd October	AM		Geography (19)	Statistics (27)	48
	PM	Geography D (42)	Social Studies D (9)	Calculus (15)	49
Friday 23rd October	AM	English D (25)			43
	PM	Physics (27)	Music (4)		31

ART WAIKINO

This term our International students in Painting have been working on artworks inspired by New Zealand landscapes and artist models. Their work will be on show at Art Waikino over Labour weekend! Erona will also be exhibiting her tropical sea painting she has been working on this year. Be sure to pop in and see!



Exhibition Details:
Waikino Hall Friday 23 - Monday 26th Oct.
10am-4pm Gold coin entry

Year 7 Trip to Sapphire Springs

Our Year 7 students are looking forward to a fun day out at Sapphire Springs on **Wednesday 2 December (Week 8)**! The cost is **\$10 per student**, with payment due by **Friday 20 November (Week 6)**. We are also looking for some parent helpers to join us for the day. If you are available and would like to come along, please contact Ange Edwards at ange@waihicol.school.nz.

We're looking forward to a great day!

ART COMPETITION

Theme:
One Earth, Our Future
Express your dreams, creativity, & hopes for a better world

Criteria:
A3
Any medium is welcome
At least artwork is accepted.

Prize:
Winning art showcased in Taiwan

Deadline: October 30th, 2026
Entries to Mrs Cook

Term 4 Open Hours 2026

12 October - 15 December

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

Closed on Public Holidays
Open Hours may be subject to change
Visit for more info: www.ushorpgroup.co.nz

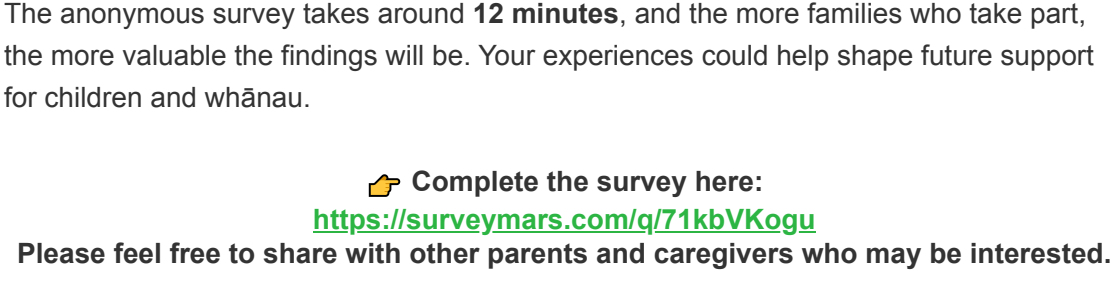
SCHOOL WIDE

JAPAN EXCHANGES – EXPERIENCES OF A LIFETIME!

What an incredible experience for our Waihi College students who recently returned from their overseas exchanges! Our girls had an amazing time visiting Kyoritsu High School, while our boys enjoyed an equally memorable experience at Seibu Bunri High School.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make these opportunities possible, whether through sponsorship, fundraising, support or encouragement. We are also incredibly grateful to the host families at both ends of the exchanges who welcomed our students into their homes, and to the staff and teachers who accompanied and supported them along the way.

And finally, a massive thank you to our students for representing Waihi College so well. We've received such wonderful feedback, and we couldn't be prouder of you all! From everything we've seen and heard, it looks like you've had the experiences of a lifetime, made some amazing memories and formed friendships that will last well beyond these trips. What fantastic opportunities for our young people!



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 their 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

WHANAUNGATANGA | MANAKAITANGA | KAITIAKITANGA | KOTAHITANGA

Kingston Courtney

GATEWAY PLACEMENT: ALTON DRILLING, WAIHI

Year 12 student Kingston Courtney has been getting a real taste of working life through his Gateway placement with Alton Drilling – and he has made an excellent impression on the team.

During his placement, Kingston has been developing new drilling skills as well as his communication, teamwork, thinking and literacy skills. Ralph has also encouraged Kingston to keep a journal documenting his work experience activities, with plans to introduce practical maths involving calculations for hole volumes and measurements.

Kingston has embraced the experience, even completing a full 12-hour shift at a rig site alongside the Driller and Drill Assistant.

Senior Training Manager Ralph Keenan says Kingston consistently arrives early, brings a positive attitude and shows respect for the workplace and those around him. "I am very pleased with Kingston's overall performance to date."

– Ralph Keenan, Senior Training Manager

Gateway isn't only about learning practical skills – it's about experiencing the expectations, routines and responsibilities of a real workplace. Kingston is certainly making the most of that opportunity.

A huge thank you to Ralph and the team at Alton Drilling for the time, support and hands-on training they are providing Kingston. It is partnerships like these that make our Gateway Programme possible – our local businesses helping our rangatahi take their first steps into the world of work.

WHANAUNGATANGA | MANAKAITANGA | KAITIAKITANGA | KOTAHITANGA

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://olivelee.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 2026** 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.

Whānau Online Safety Webinar

The Digital Sexual Landscape and Online Harm

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.

It is a **FREE** online webinar. Join us for a kōrero exploring online safety, digital wellbeing and supporting rangatahi.

Link for Webinar: <https://www.lightproject.org.nz/webinars>

tūturu.

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:
- 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 an explanation and accepted it as a valid reason for missing class. Common examples include:
- Health
- Bereavement
- Family
- Representation
- Disciplinary

THE BOTTOM LINE
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.

For more information about why attendance matters, please check out the handy PDF, shared by Amanda Cook, and also 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 susan@waihicol.school.nz.

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

This newsletter can also be found on our website: www.waihicol.school.nz