WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 31 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora e te whānau,
Congratulations to all students recognised at our **Senior Endeavour and Service Prizegiving**. These awards celebrate perseverance, commitment and the contribution our young people make to our kura. We are proud of the way you support others, embrace opportunities and keep striving to do your best.

We also farewell our international students who are preparing to return home. Thank you for sharing your cultures, friendships and experiences with us—you have enriched our Waihi College whānau. We wish you safe travels and every success in your next chapter. A special thank you to our homestay families, staff and students for helping our international visitors feel welcome and connected.

Our **Senior Academic Prizegiving takes place this Thursday evening, 5 November**. We look forward to welcoming many of our community to celebrate the achievements of our rangatahi. Your presence means a great deal to our students and acknowledges the hard work behind their success.

As our senior students begin study leave on Friday, we wish them well for their examinations and final assessments.

Make a study plan, use your time wisely and attend the workshops offered by your teachers. Ask for help when you need it, look after your wellbeing and keep working towards your goals. There is still much to achieve—finish your academic year with pride.

For our **Year 7–10 students**, our learning journey continues for a few more weeks, with plenty of opportunities ahead. As our seniors leave for study, this is your chance to step forward: lead by example, include others, take responsibility and be of service to our kura. Show our values of **Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga, Kotahitanga and Kaitiakitanga** through your everyday actions, in the classroom and around our grounds.

To our staff, parents, caregivers, whānau and community supporters, thank you for your continued care and encouragement. Every practice, rehearsal, conversation, ride and word of support helps our young people thrive.

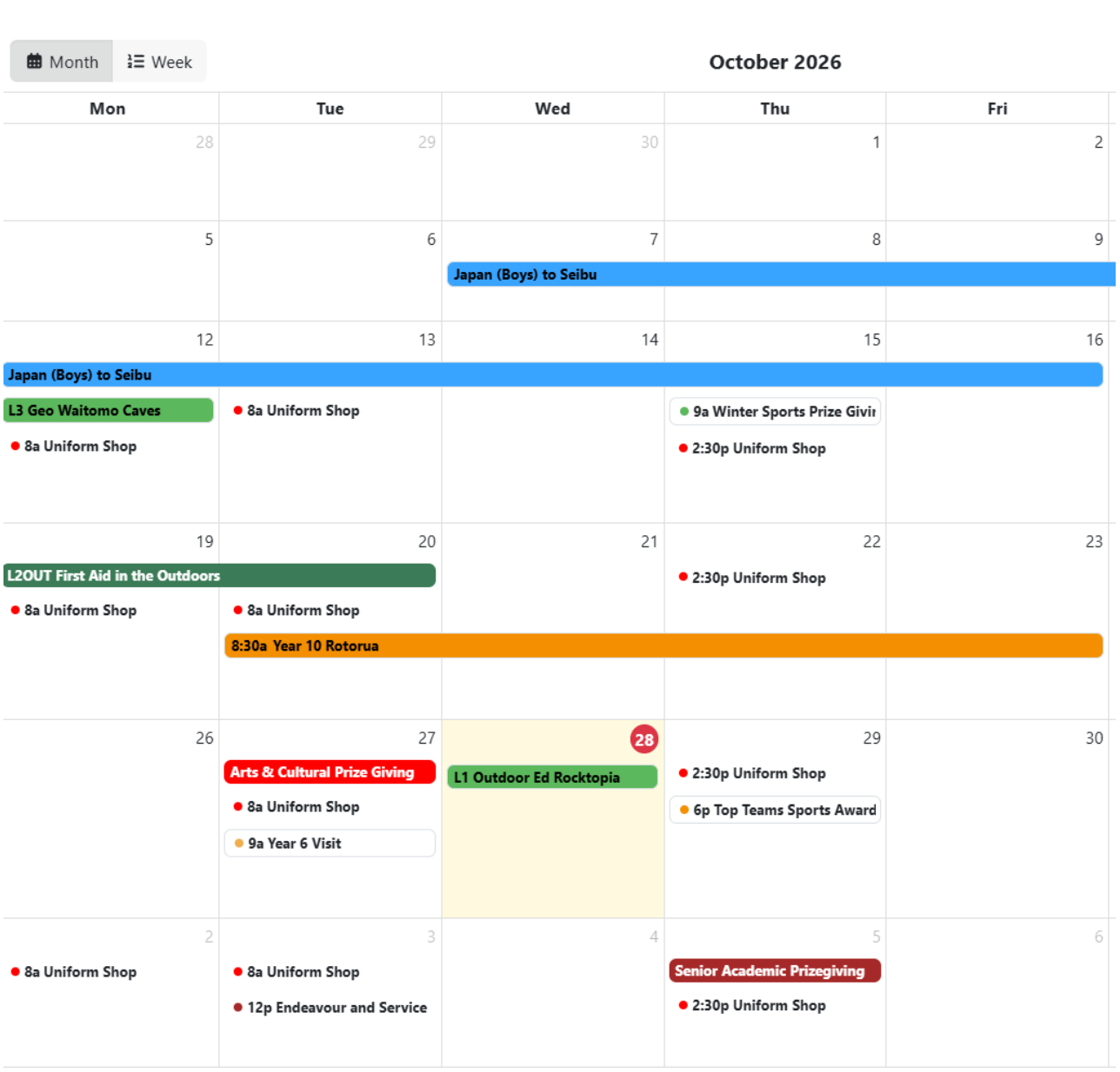
Ngā mihi nui,
Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College

DID YOU KNOW?

At Waihī College, we love bringing our school and wider community together! Throughout the year, we create plenty of opportunities for our whānau and community to get involved. From our informal **Kai & Kōrero** evenings (including another coming up on 26 November!), to Open Days, beginning-of-year pōwhiri, community concerts and Big Day Out events – there's always something happening!
We also warmly welcome whānau to visit, have a chat, ask questions and connect with us.
Our school is your community too, and we'd love you to be part of it!

COMING UP

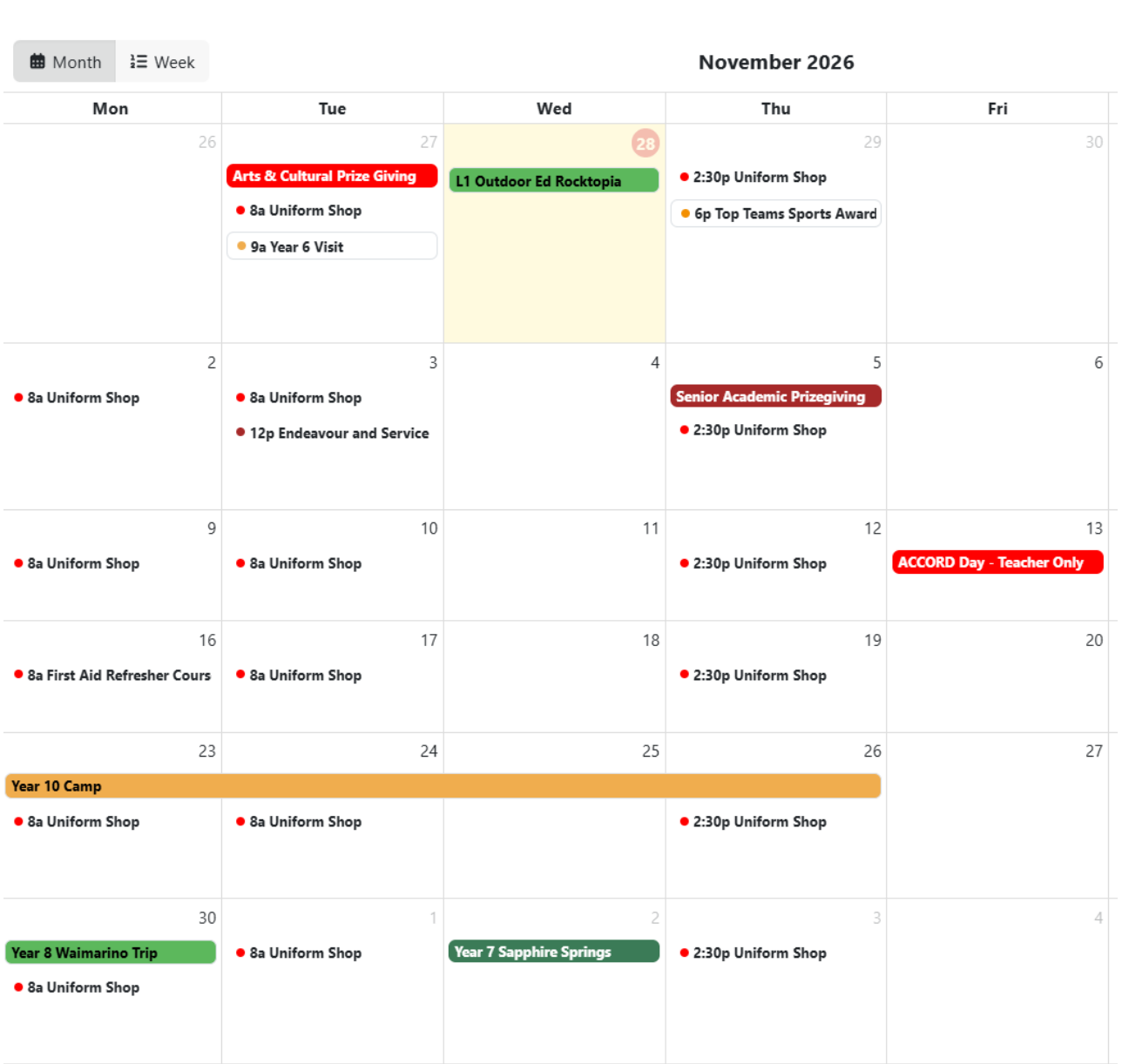
Here's a snapshot of our upcoming months from the SchoolBridge calendar.



Month | Week

October 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
28	29	30	1	2
5	6	7 Japan (Boys) to Seibu	8	9
12 Japan (Boys) to Seibu L3 Geo Waitomo Caves 8a Uniform Shop	13 8a Uniform Shop	14	15 9a Winter Sports Prize Givir 2:30p Uniform Shop	16
19 L2OUT First Aid in the Outdoors 8a Uniform Shop	20 8a Uniform Shop 8:30a Year 10 Rotorua	21	22 2:30p Uniform Shop	23
26	27 Arts & Cultural Prize Giving 8a Uniform Shop 9a Year 6 Visit	28 L1 Outdoor Ed Rocktopia	29 2:30p Uniform Shop 6p Top Teams Sports Award	30
2 8a Uniform Shop	3 8a Uniform Shop 12p Endeavour and Service	4	5 Senior Academic Prizegiving 2:30p Uniform Shop	6



Month | Week

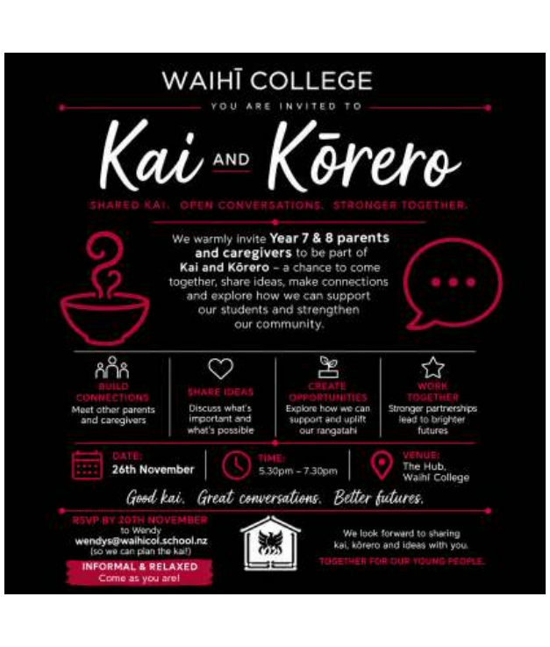
November 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
26	27 Arts & Cultural Prize Giving 8a Uniform Shop 9a Year 6 Visit	28 L1 Outdoor Ed Rocktopia	29 2:30p Uniform Shop 6p Top Teams Sports Award	30
2 8a Uniform Shop	3 8a Uniform Shop 12p Endeavour and Service	4	5 Senior Academic Prizegiving 2:30p Uniform Shop	6
9 8a Uniform Shop	10 8a Uniform Shop	11	12 2:30p Uniform Shop	13 ACCORD Day - Teacher Only
16 8a First Aid Refresher Cours	17 8a Uniform Shop	18	19 2:30p Uniform Shop	20
23 Year 10 Camp 8a Uniform Shop	24 8a Uniform Shop	25	26 2:30p Uniform Shop	27
30 Year 8 Waimarino Trip 8a Uniform Shop	1 8a Uniform Shop	2 Year 7 Sapphire Springs	3 2:30p Uniform Shop	4

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 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.

Kai & Kōrero – Year 7 & 8 Whānau, You're Invited!

Following the success of our first Kai & Kōrero evening with our Year 9–13 whānau and community members, we're excited to do it all again – this time inviting our Year 7 & 8 parents and caregivers! Kai & Kōrero is all about bringing people together in a relaxed, informal setting to share some kai, make connections, exchange ideas and have open conversations about how we can best support our young people. There's no formal agenda – just good food, great conversations and an opportunity to strengthen our school community.


WAIHĪ COLLEGE
YOU ARE INVITED TO
Kai and Kōrero
We warmly invite Year 7 & 8 parents and caregivers to be part of Kai and Kōrero
24th November
5.30pm – 7.30pm
The Hub, Waihī College
Good kai. Great conversations. Better futures.

- Thursday 26th November
- 5.30pm – 7.30pm The Hub, Waihī College

Please RSVP to Wendy at wendys@waihicol.school.nz by 20th November so we can make sure there's plenty of kai for everyone! We'd love to see you there!

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

ACCORD DAY

REMEMBER THERE IS AN ACCORD DAY ON FRIDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER

THERE ARE NO CLASSES OR EXAMS AND SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS FOR THE DAY

PRIZEGIVINGS

Our end-of-year prizegivings are always an exciting time at Waihī 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:

- 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

WAIHĪ COLLEGE
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!

Year 10 Camp!

Planning and preparation is well underway for this year's camp at Opoutere Coastal Camp for 23rd November till 26th November. Parents & Caregivers, please check your emails for the permission slip from Chantelle Archer. Any questions, please feel free to contact her on chantellea@waihicol.school.nz

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 **angelae@waihicol.school.nz**. We're looking forward to a great day!

YOUR EDUCATION
High School Exchanges
...is giving a talk at your school about student exchanges!
when? THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER
what time? 12:00PM
where? C2
who is it for? Y9-13 & LANGUAGE CLASS STUDENTS
Come along, bring your friends and learn more about our short-term, semester, and full year exchanges to USA, Canada, Europe, South America, South Korea and Japan
www.youreducation.co.nz
www.youreducation.co.nz

🌏 **Ever thought about going on a student exchange?**

'Your Education' is coming to Waihī College to talk about exciting exchange opportunities around the world!
📅 **Thursday 12 November**
🕛 **12:00pm**
📍 **C2**
👥 **Year 9–13 & Language Class students**

Come along and find out how you could experience life and school in another country, whether for a short stay, a semester or a full year!

Waihi Veg Fest
FREE ENTRY
Creative activities, hands-on workshops, tasty food, live performances & family fun!
Sunday 8 November 2026, 10am - 3pm
132 Landlyst Road, Waihi
waihivegetarian
waihivegfest
waihivegfest.co.nz

Waihī Veg Festival: Sunday!

Head along to the **Waihī Vegetarian Festival** on Sunday 8 November for a FREE day out filled with delicious food, live entertainment, creative activities and plenty of family-friendly fun!

🎵 **Our Waihī College music groups will be performing from 12–12.30pm**, so come along and show them your support!

📅 Sunday 8 November
⏰ 10am–3pm
📍 132 Landlyst Road, Waihī
🎟 FREE entry!

Back to School Stationery – 2027!

Our 2027 stationery lists will be ready soon! They will be uploaded to our school website and shared with Paper Plus Waihī and the Back to School Store. As always, we encourage our Waihī College whānau to shop local and support our local Paper Plus Toyworld store when purchasing stationery for the new school year. Shopping locally not only helps keep money circulating within our community, but also helps our local businesses continue to support Waihī College and our students.

Of course, the choice is yours as to where you purchase your stationery, and the items on our lists are available from most stationery retailers. By supporting local businesses, you're also supporting our school and wider community! Thank you for shopping local where you can!

SCHOOL WIDE

Senior Endeavour & Service Prizegiving 2026

Today we came together to celebrate the achievements, hard work and contributions of our senior students at our Endeavour and Service Prizegiving assembly. Congratulations to all students who received **second or third in class placings**, along with those recognised with **Endeavour Awards** for their effort, determination and perseverance throughout the year.

We also proudly presented our **Service Awards**, recognising students who generously give their time and energy to support our kura or wider community. At Waihī College, we place great value on service to others, and it's important that we acknowledge these students and the positive difference they make.

A special thank you to **Waihī 100% Electrical**, who generously donates our **Recognitions Draw prizes year after year**. Students who receive recognitions from their teachers throughout the year go into a draw to win one of these wonderful prizes. A big congratulations to **Kendra Wills and Kate Goodwin**, our lucky winners for 2026!

We also celebrated our House competition, with **Amaranth House taking out the Spirit Days Trophy for 2026!** 🏆 Congratulations to everyone who got involved and showed their house spirit throughout the year!

The assembly was also an opportunity to farewell our international students as they prepare for their next adventures. We wish them all the very best and thank them for being part of our Waihī College whānau.

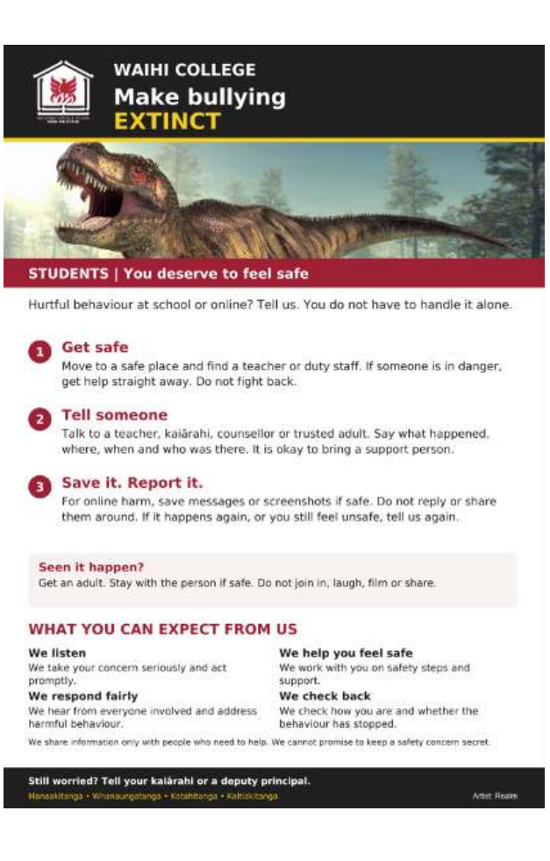
A huge congratulations to all our award recipients! We look forward to celebrating further achievements at our Senior Academic Prizegiving this Thursday at 6pm, where our First in Class awards and special prizes will be presented.

Head to the School Photos section of our website, under Keeping Informed, to see all the photos

HOST FAMILIES WANTED FOR 2027!

Would you love to welcome an international student into your home? Waihī College is looking for friendly, welcoming host families for the 2027 school year! Hosting an international student is a wonderful opportunity to share our Kiwi way of life, learn about another culture, and make lasting connections.
Interested in finding out more? Rochelle and Magdeleen would love to hear from you and can tell you all about what's involved! Email on **rochellek@waihicol.school.nz** or **magdeleeng@waihicol.school.nz.** You can also find more information on our school website: https://www.waihicol.school.nz/international/hosting-%c2%b7-manaakitanga/
Help us give our international students a warm Waihī welcome!

A huge thank you to **Valder, One Foundation and The Lion Foundation** for their generous grants, which have helped us purchase our new snazzy school van!
We're absolutely thrilled with our new wheels, which will make a real difference in helping our students get out and about. We're so grateful for the support of these fantastic organisations!



WAIHI COLLEGE
Make bullying EXTINCT

STUDENTS | You deserve to feel safe

Hurtful behaviour at school or online? Tell us. You do not have to handle it alone.

1. **Get safe** Move to a safe place and find a teacher or duty staff. If someone is in danger, get help straight away. Do not fight back.
2. **Tell someone** Talk to a teacher, kaiārahi, counsellor or trusted adult. Say what happened, where, when and who was there. It is okay to bring a support person.
3. **Save it. Report it.** For online harm, save messages or screenshots if safe. Do not reply or share them around. If it happens again, or you still feel unsafe, tell us again.

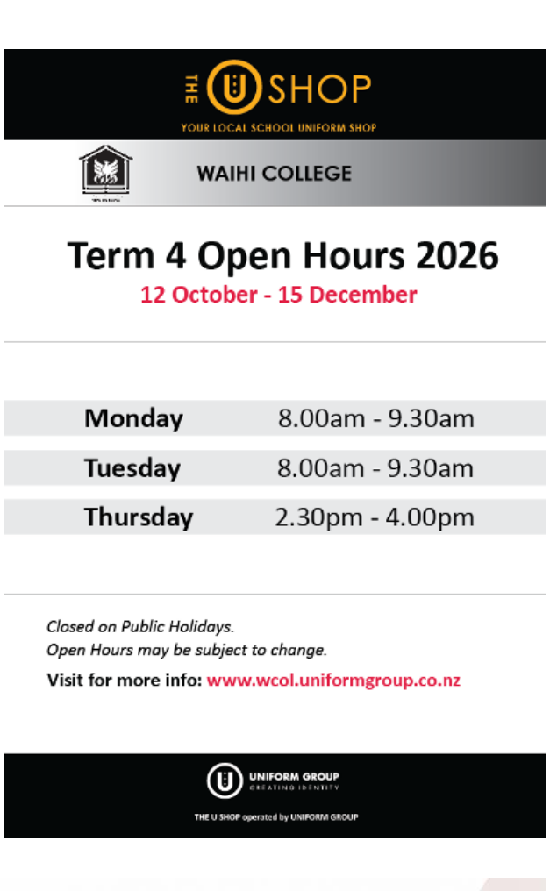
Seen it happen? Get an adult. Stay with the person if safe. Do not join in, laugh, film or share.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

We listen We take your concern seriously and act promptly.
We respond fairly We hear from everyone involved and address harmful behaviour.
We help you feel safe We work with you on safety steps and support.
We check back We check how you are and whether the behaviour has stopped.

We share information only with people who need to help. We cannot promise to keep a safety concern secret.

Still worried? Tell your kaiārahi or a deputy principal.
Manaakitanga • Whanaungatanga • Kotahitanga • Kaitiakitanga

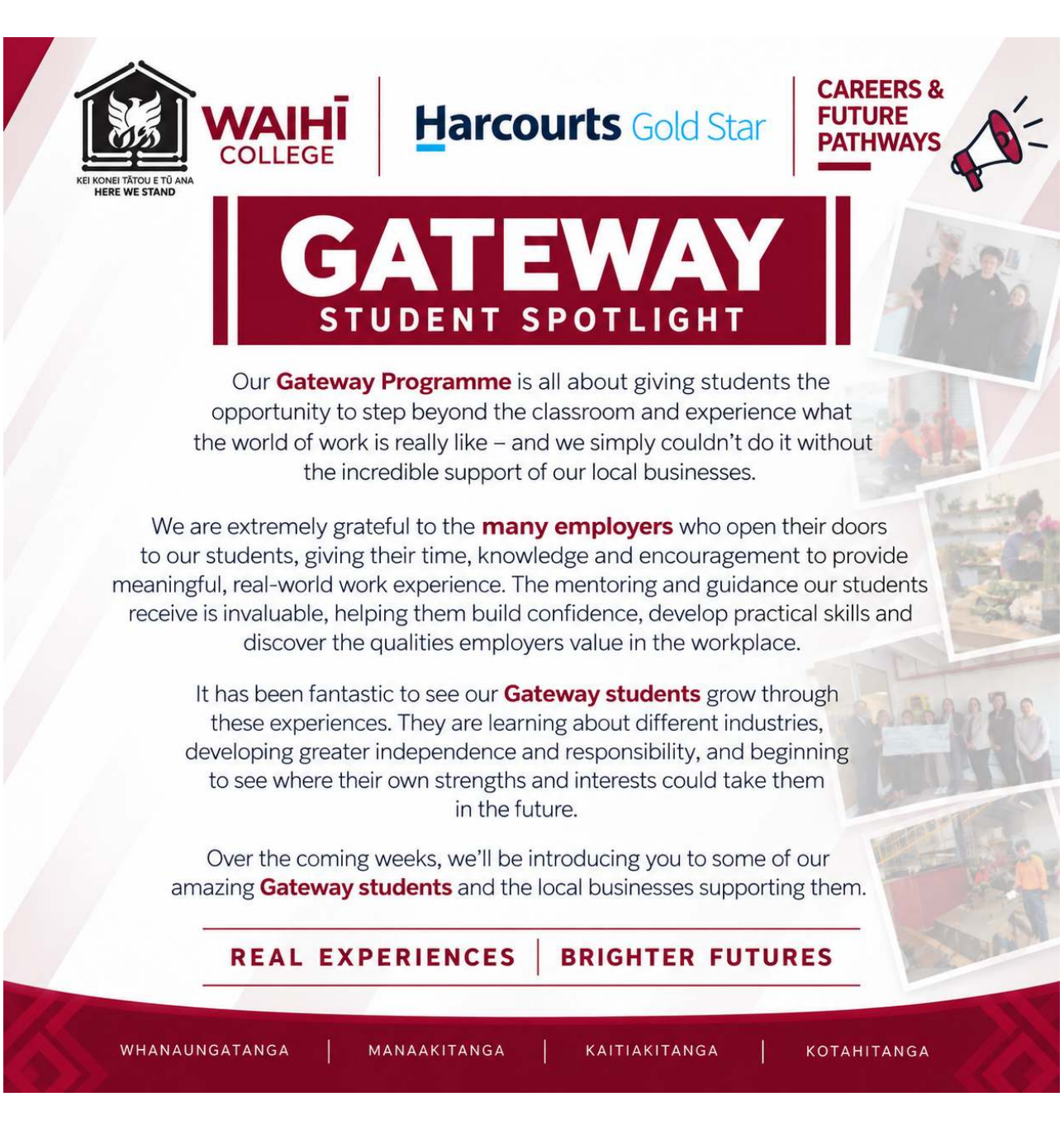


THE U SHOP
YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP
WAIHI COLLEGE

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.wcol.uniformgroup.co.nz



WAIHĪ COLLEGE
KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA
HERE WE STAND
Harcourts Gold Star
CAREERS & FUTURE PATHWAYS

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.

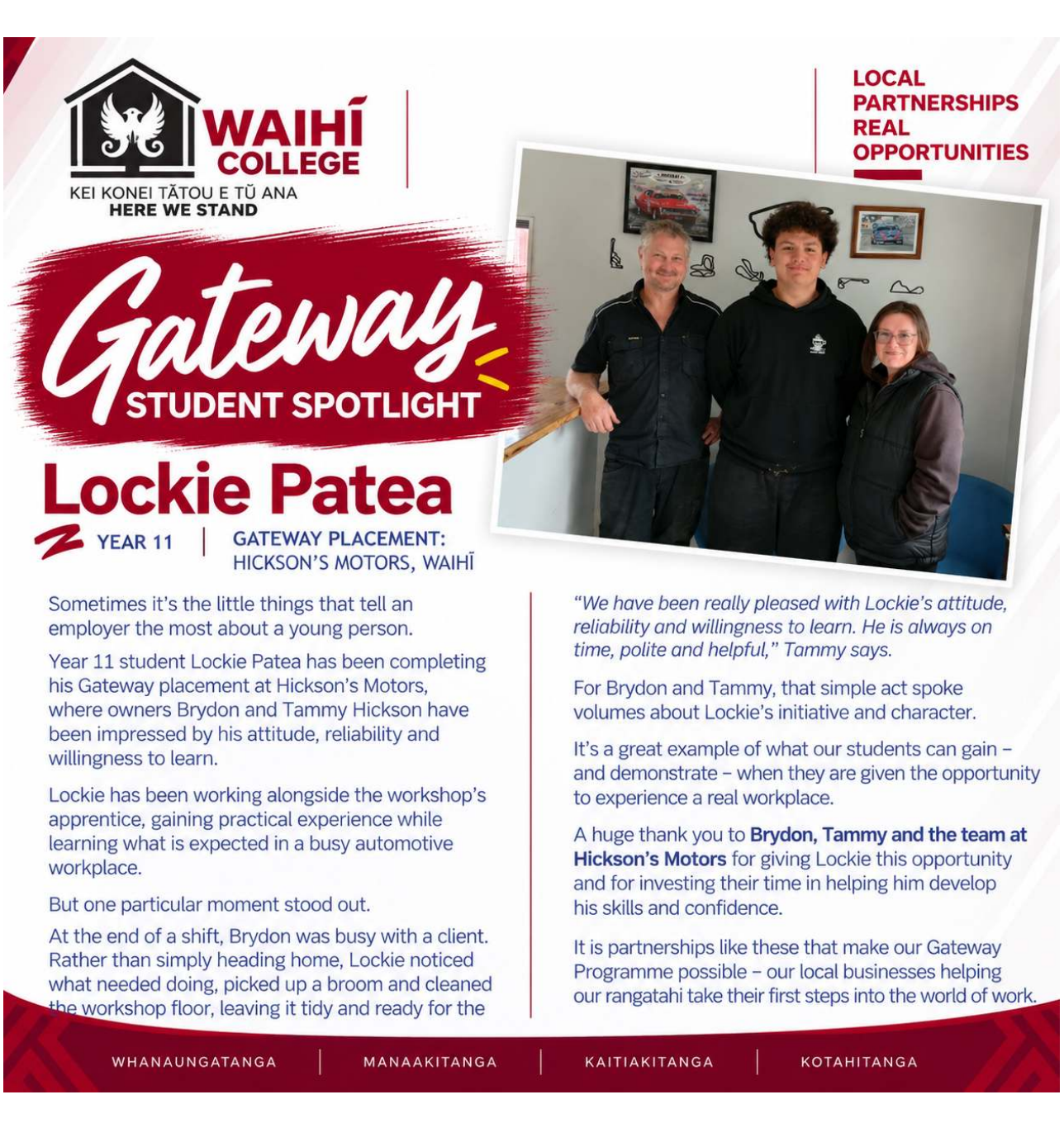
We are extremely grateful to the **many employers** who open their doors to our students, giving their time, knowledge and encouragement to provide meaningful, real-world work experience. The mentoring and guidance our students receive is invaluable, helping them build confidence, develop practical skills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



WAIHĪ COLLEGE
KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA
HERE WE STAND
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS
REAL OPPORTUNITIES

Gateway STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Lockie Patea
YEAR 11 | GATEWAY PLACEMENT: HICKSON'S MOTORS, WAIHĪ

Sometimes it's the little things that tell an employer the most about a young person.

Year 11 student Lockie Patea has been completing his Gateway placement at Hickson's Motors, where owners Brydon and Tammy Hickson have been impressed by his attitude, reliability and willingness to learn.

Lockie has been working alongside the workshop's apprentice, gaining practical experience while learning what is expected in a busy automotive workplace.

But one particular moment stood out.

At the end of a shift, Brydon was busy with a client. Rather than simply heading home, Lockie noticed what needed doing, picked up a broom and cleaned the workshop floor, leaving it tidy and ready for the

"We have been really pleased with Lockie's attitude, reliability and willingness to learn. He is always on time, polite and helpful," Tammy says.

For Brydon and Tammy, that simple act spoke volumes about Lockie's initiative and character.

It's a great example of what our students can gain – and demonstrate – when they are given the opportunity to experience a real workplace.

A huge thank you to **Brydon, Tammy and the team at Hickson's Motors** for giving Lockie this opportunity and for investing their time in helping him develop his skills and confidence.

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 | MANAAKITANGA | 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://oliverlee.co.nz/leavingschool-issue36/

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Free Counselling Support Available

Did you know that free counselling support may be available through your local GP? Eligible young people and adults can access funded mental health support, with some services offering up to four free counselling sessions.
Whether you're experiencing anxiety, stress, low mood or other challenges, support is available.
Contact your local GP practice to find out what free counselling services are available in your area and how to access them.

Free Counselling Support
available through your GP
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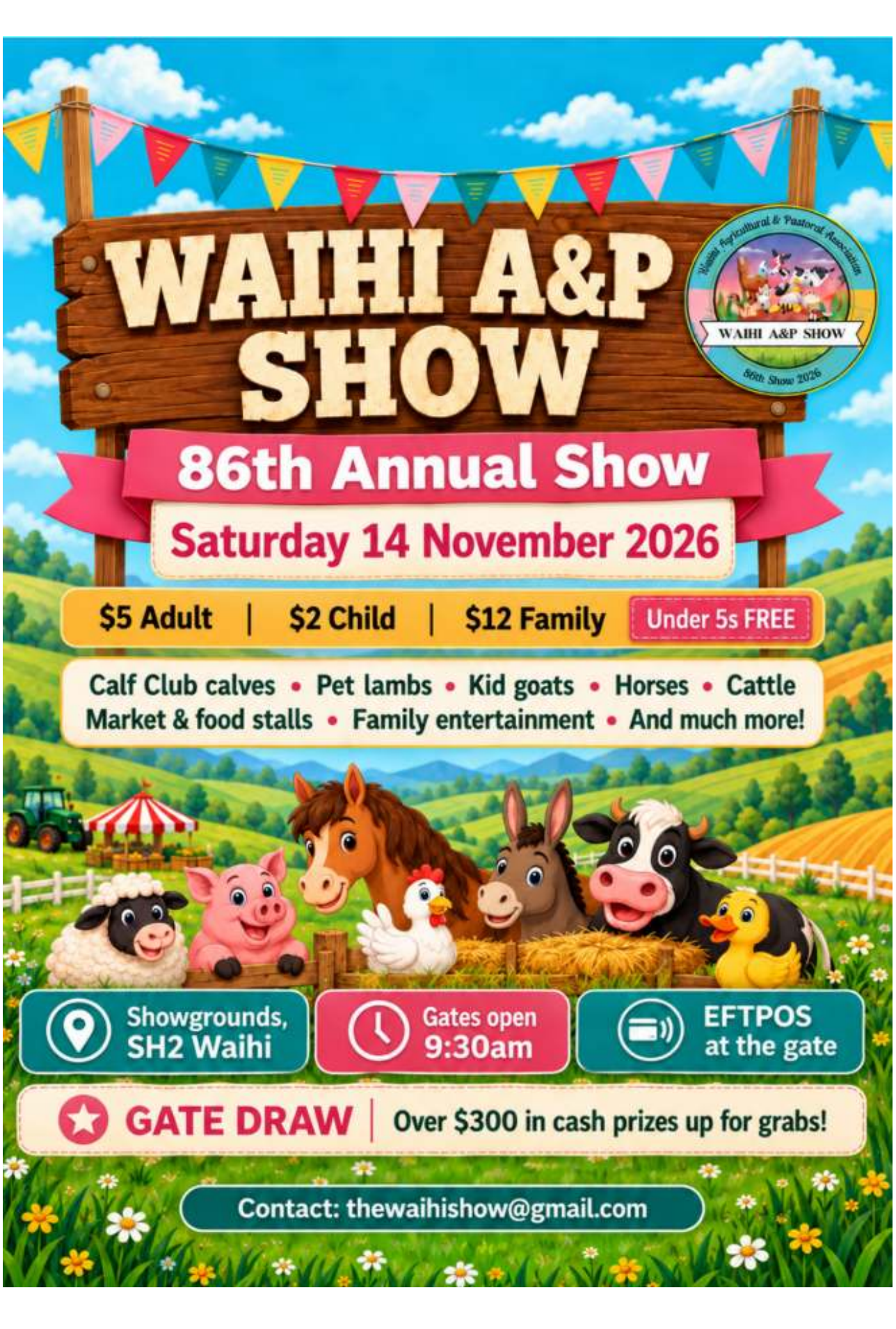
Contact your local GP practice to find out what services are available in your area and how to access them.
TĀTAUTOKO
TŪHONO
WELLBEING
It's okay to ask for support.

For more information, visit: https://www.healthnz.govt.nz/health-topics/mental-health/where-to-get-help/wellbeing-support

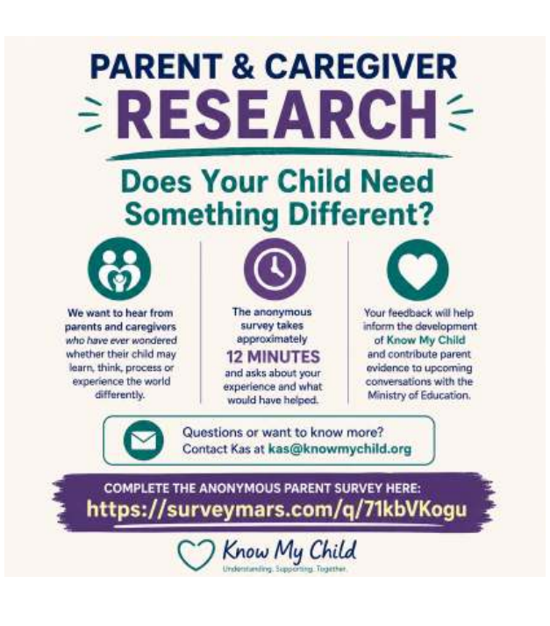

WAIHI A&P SHOW
WAIHI A&P SHOW
86th Show 2026
86th Annual Show
Saturday 14 November 2026
$5 Adult | $2 Child | $12 Family | Under 5s FREE
Calf Club calves • Pet lambs • Kid goats • Horses • Cattle
Market & food stalls • Family entertainment • And much more!
Showgrounds, SH2 Waihi
Gates open 9:30am
EFTPOS at the gate
GATE DRAW | Over $300 in cash prizes up for grabs!
Contact: thewaihishow@gmail.com

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.


PARENT & CAREGIVER
RESEARCH
Does Your Child Need Something Different?
We want to hear from parents and caregivers who have ever wondered whether their child may learn, think, process or experience the world differently.
The anonymous survey takes approximately 12 MINUTES and asks about your experience and what would have helped.
Your feedback will help inform the development of Know My Child and contribute parent evidence to upcoming conversations with the Ministry of Education.
Questions or want to know more? Contact Kas at kas@knowmychild.org
COMPLETE THE ANONYMOUS PARENT SURVEY HERE:
https://surveymars.com/q/71kbVKogu
Know My Child

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://surveymars.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

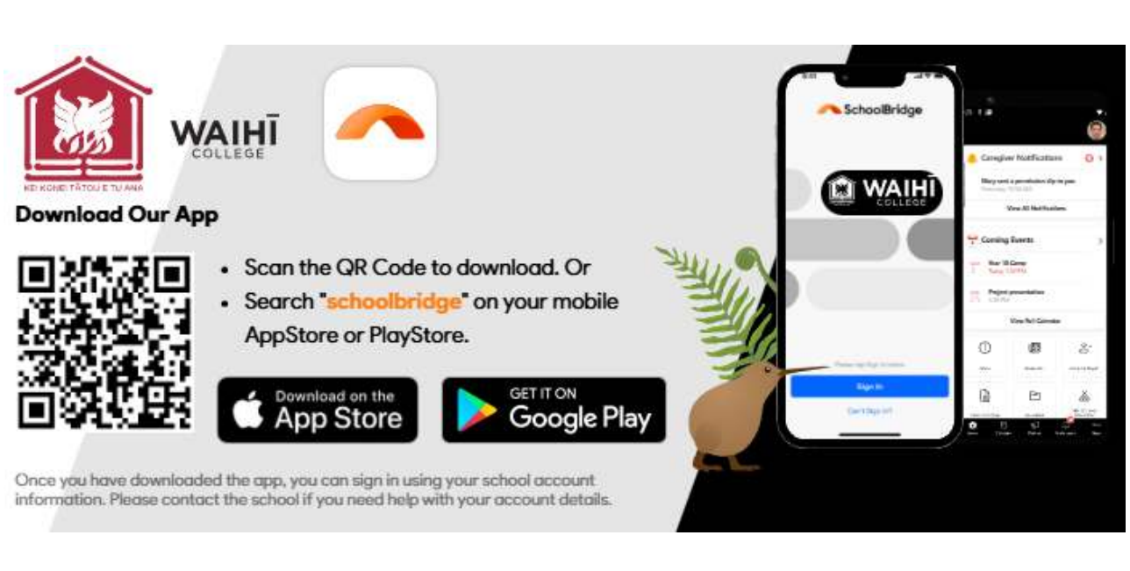
We're encouraging all students and caregivers to download the SchoolBridge app — your new first port of call for all things school-related.

- 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.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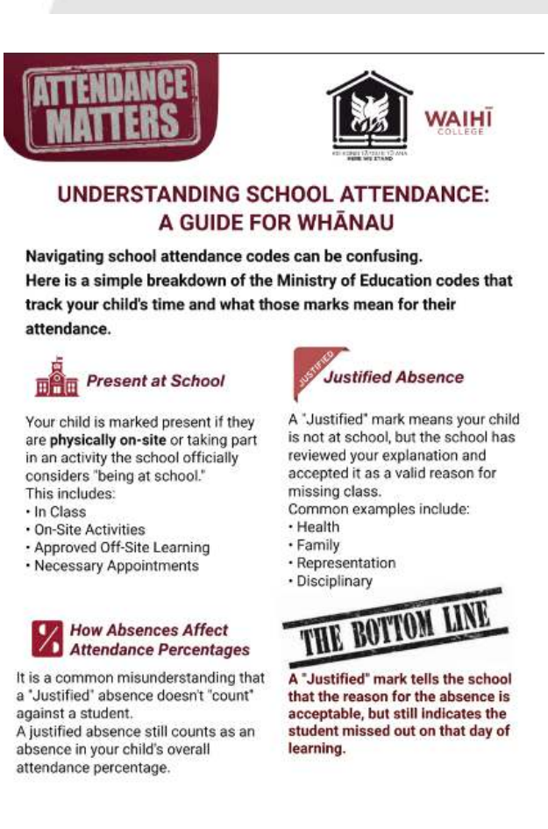
Download Our App
Scan the QR Code to download. Or
Search "schoolbridge" on your mobile AppStore or PlayStore.
Download on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play
Once you have downloaded the app, you can sign in using your school account information. Please contact the school if you need help with your account details.
SchoolBridge



ATTENDANCE MATTERS
WAIHĪ COLLEGE

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, 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 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