



NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Tēnā kotou katoa

We have completed just over a week now of full student attendance at school for the 2019 school year. I am pleased to write that our LIFE (Learning, Integrity, Fellowship, Excellence) school values have been demonstrated consistently throughout our daily school activity by our entire student body.

We welcome the following new staff members to Whanganui High School:

- Roz Armstrong – Teacher-in-charge of Drama
- Gina Edmonds – Science teacher
- Claire Libeau – Social Studies and Accounting teacher
- Amanda Meade – Social Studies and English teacher
- Tim Pauro – Physical Education and Te Reo Māori teacher
- Tim Sutherland – Digital Technologies teacher
- Lisa Tahuaroa – English and Drama teacher
- Terry Tubman – Guidance Counsellor
- Anna van de Vyver – International teacher-aide
- Leah Viles – Dance and English teacher
- Minnie Young-Wilson – Social Studies and Chinese teacher

IMPORTANT TERM 1 DATES:

Thursday 14 February	Level 1 NCEA Information evening 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm in the School Hall. <i>This is an excellent opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn about NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement). Any questions you have will be answered.</i>
Friday 15 February	Whanganui High School Swimming Champs <i>11.00am to 3.00pm at the Splash Centre</i>
Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 February	Class Photographs
Thursday 21 February	Whanganui High School Athletics Day – Whole School <i>9.00am start (approx.) at Cooks Gardens. House Competition. More in-depth information about the day's organisation will be sent prior to the event.</i> <i>Parents are welcome to attend.</i>
Friday 8 March	Teacher only day <i>Our school staff will be having professional development at school.</i>
Friday 15 March	Interim Reports will be issued for all students <i>These reports will be emailed.</i>
Monday 25 March	Summer tournament week begins
Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 April	Student Achievement Conferences <i>Details will be advised in the interim report</i>
Friday 12 April	Term 1 ends
Monday 29 April	Term 2 begins

RELATIONAL APPROACH TO LEARNING AND BEHAVIOUR AT WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL - 2019

One of our major areas of focus for the whole school this year is 'to effectively utilise digital technology in all curriculum areas to enhance future-focused teaching and learning.'

There is currently much widespread discussion and research throughout New Zealand and overseas about the value and place of digital technology in schools. At Whanganui High School our objective is to encourage students to self-regulate their behaviour regarding appropriate digital technology use. It is expected that students use technology during lessons to enhance their learning as clearly as guided by their teachers.

All teachers will respond to inappropriate use of technology by firstly encouraging students to make positive choices. If inappropriate use continues, the teacher will ask the student to put their cell phone into a designated container safely located in each classroom, for the remainder of the lesson. This will minimise student distraction and optimise student learning. The cell phone will be returned to the student at the end of the lesson and the teacher will contact home.

COMMUNICATION

We place considerable sustained emphasis on developing effective three-way relationships between teachers, students and parents. The strength of this relationship is a crucial factor in establishing student success at school. Many staff contact parents regularly by telephone or email and we welcome your contact the same way. To help us maintain this relationship please ensure that we always have your most up-to-date contact details. Phone the **Student Centre (349 0177)** if your contact details change.

One or two newsletters will be sent by email each term. The newsletters will also be available on the school's website (www.whanganuihigh.school.nz) with paper copies always available at the Main Office and the Student Centre. Special Newsletters will also be emailed home from time to time.

There is also a monthly newsletter in the 'River City Press' on the last Thursday of each month. If you do not receive the River City Press, copies of the newsletter are available from the Main Office, or a copy can be posted to you. Please phone the **School Office (06 349 0178)** to arrange this.

You may be interested to know that we communicate directly by email with the families of around 1500 students. According to our most up-to-date information supplied by caregivers/parents, 83 families do not have email addresses. If we do not have an email address all relevant information is posted to the residential address supplied.

PICK UP / DROP OFF

Please do not park across any of the school gateways, the bus bay or drive onto school grounds when dropping off/picking up your son or daughter. This seriously obstructs entry/exit into the school and can hinder access for our parents who have children with special educational needs and/or special mobility requirements. Please note that we recommend that students are dropped off and picked up near the covered walkway and Springvale Stadium car park area on London Street to reduce the heavy traffic congestion on Purnell street at the beginning and end of the school day.

If you have any questions about any matters regarding your daughter or son's education please feel very welcome to make contact with me at your earliest convenience.

Ngā mihi nui



Martin McAllen

PRINCIPAL