



SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

February 2022

Tēnā kotou katoa

Welcome to Whanganui High School for 2022. A special welcome to all families new to the school, and welcome back to all our returning families.

The School runs a House system with four houses - Awa, Maunga, Moana or Whenua – and each House has an Associate Principal/ Deputy Principal and two Deans. Mr Sean Brown is our Māori Dean and Mrs Cherie Cowan-Puru is our Kaiawhina. The form class structure is vertical which means that each form class has students from Year 9 to 13 in it.

House	Deputy Principal	Deans
Awa	Mrs Elizabeth Spooner (Associate Principal) spooner.e@whs.ac.nz	Mrs Natalie Campbell campbell.n@whs.ac.nz Mr Matt Metcalfe metcalfe.m@whs.ac.nz
Maunga	Mrs Jenny Langrish(DP) langrish.j@whs.ac.nz	Mr Warren Marr marr.w@whs.ac.nz Mr Jimmy Leonard leonard.l@whs.ac.nz
Moana	Mrs Jemma de Smidt deSmidt.j@whs.ac.nz Mrs Rebecca Hardy hardy.r@whs.ac.nz Both standing in for Mrs Nola Todd	Mr Phil Chiet chiet.p@whs.ac.nz Mr Hunter Wilson wilson.h@whs.ac.nz
Whenua	Mr Paul Turner(DP) turner.p@whs.ac.nz	Mrs Rebecca Kennedy kennedy.r@whs.ac.nz Ms Lisa Martin martin.l@whs.ac.nz
	Maori Dean	Mr Sean Brown brown.s@whs.ac.nz

Please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate Deputy Principal or Dean at the earliest possible stage if you have any concerns regarding your son or daughter. The relevant Deputy Principal or Dean will then ensure that your concern is resolved as quickly as possible.

At Whanganui High School, we place considerable sustained emphasis on developing an effective three-way relationship between the Form Teacher, the student and the parents/caregivers. We believe that 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 have changed.

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 available at the Main Office and the Student Centre.

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

IMPORTANT TERM 1 DATES

Friday 18 February	Whanganui High School Swimming Champs <i>Starting at 12.30pm at the Splash Centre. No spectators.</i>
Thursday 24 February	Class Photographs
Friday 25 February	Paid Union Meeting Students will be released at 11.20am – end of period 2.
Wednesday 2 March	Whanganui High School Athletics Day <i>At Cooks Gardens. Restricted to competitors only due to Covid requirements. No spectators.</i>
Monday 28 March	Summer tournament week begins
Friday 1 April	Interim Reports will be issued for all students <i>These reports will be emailed and posted to those without email.</i>
Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 April	Student Achievement Conferences (Parent Teacher Interviews) <i>Details will be advised in the interim report</i>
Thursday 14 April	Term 1 ends
Monday 2 May	Term 2 begins

Please note that the Easter break is Friday 15 April to Monday 18 April inclusive and this year is at the start of the Term 1 holidays.

We would like to remind parents that they are not to use the staff car parks as pick up and drop off areas. These areas are for deliveries and staff access and also access for our parents who have children with special educational needs and/or special mobility requirements. To reduce traffic congestion on Purnell Street we recommend that students are dropped off and picked up near the walkway and car-park area on London Street.

New WHS Timetable

2022 brings a new style of timetable to Whanganui High School for junior students, which we feel will enhance student experiences. During Year 9 and 10, students will experience a wide range of topics in the Arts, Technologies, Languages along with the more traditional subjects such as Mathematics, English, Science, Social Studies and Physical/Health Education. All of the junior school subjects will have an element of semesters over the two years of junior school.

Year 9 students will have a full year of English, Physical/Health Education and Science. They will also have two thirteen week semesters of Social Studies and Mathematics, one thirteen week semester of Digital Technologies along with six week semesters of the Arts, Technologies and Languages.

Similarly, in **Year 10**, students will have a full year of Mathematics and Social Studies. They will have two thirteen week semesters of English, Physical/Health Education and Science along with a number of thirteen week semesters in Digital Technologies, Arts, Technologies and Languages.

Over a two year period the hours of study for Mathematics, English, Science, Social Studies and Physical Education will be more than in previous timetable structures.

Bring Your Own Device school

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and students for being so prompt with WHS **Bring Your Own Device** requirements. We feel that getting our students off to a good start with using a device to support their learning is vital. We are also aware that lots of our Whanau have felt the same way, so thank you. We can see a real benefit in ensuring students are able to keep up with modern day learning, ultimately preparing our students for device use in the future. What many of our students have found is that having their own device, right from day one, enables them to transition into our modern learning environment easily. If you do have any questions relating to BYOD requirements please do not hesitate to contact the school or visit one of the local retailers, where places like Noel Leeming and Warehouse Stationery are fully equipped to supply and are aware of the our schools' requirements.

Attendance Procedures

Research shows clearly that regular attendance (over 90% attendance), engagement and success at school are very closely linked. The more often a student is in class learning productively, the better that student's academic success.

Truancy patterns often start with being late to school, then missing the odd Form time and Assembly, then the odd class, then more frequent absences. It is very important that we work in partnership with families to ensure this does not happen.

You can help us by having high expectations around attendance, rigorously monitoring your son/daughter's absences, and informing the school when your child will be absent.

We will let you know by text message when your daughter/son is absent from Form time or Period 1, and any other absence by email at the end of each week. This email will tell you about any unexplained absences during the week. Details can be viewed on the KAMAR portal, and you will be advised to contact either the Student Centre or relevant House Dean.

At school, the House Deaning team will follow up unexplained absences, which may result in your daughter/son having to complete a school service as a consequence for unexplained absences.

We know that student educational outcomes are best when students are at school and learning.

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

We also remind you about the Representative Policy which requires the unjustified attendance to be less than 5% in order for the student to represent the school or attend functions such as the School Ball.

Masks

Thank you for your support in relation to the mandatory mask wearing. Please take time to ensure that your son or daughter has their mask when they leave for school every day.

Ngā mihi nui

Martin McAllen
PRINCIPAL

Elizabeth Spooner
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL