



5 February 2025

Kia ora koutou

As we head towards Waitangi Day weekend, I am following on from my previous Newsletters with more key school information, dates, and events. I would also like to give feedback that I have been very impressed with student behaviour, attitude and work ethic, uniform, and attendance and punctuality generally since our Year Levels began returning back to school from Monday 27 January.

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

Leigh-ana Beard (English teacher – part time)
Brooke Chadfield (English teacher)
Rachel McDonald (Food & Nutrition teacher)
Dr Chris Friedel (Vocational & Progressive teacher)
Sophie Harris-Broad (Physical Education & Health)
Bridget Rison (Dance teacher – part time)

House Form Teacher

House Form Teachers are extremely significant people in the education of your children. I have asked all 56 Form Teachers to make email or telephone contact with the parents and caregivers of all students in their House Form Class before Wednesday 19 February to introduce themselves and check how school is going for your children. Please let me know if contact is not made with you by then and I will follow-up with the relevant House Form Teacher and House Deans.

Important Term 1 Events and Dates

Thursday 6 February – Waitangi Day (school closed)
Friday 7 February – School closed (as outlined in my Newsletter on 19 December 2024)
Thursday 13 February – WHS Swimming Championships
Thursday 13 February – Whānau Kai evening
Tuesday 18 February – Year 9 Parents' evening
Wednesday 19 February – Class Photographs
Wednesday 26 February – WHS Athletics Day
Thursday 27 February – NCEA Parents' evening
Thursday 13 March – Whanganui Secondary Schools' Swimming Championships
Tuesday 18 March – Whanganui Secondary Schools' Athletics Championships
Monday 24 March – Summer Tournament Week begins
Thursday 27 March – Interim Reports issued
Tuesday 8 April & Wednesday 9 April – Student Achievement Conferences

Friday 11 April – Term 1 ends

SchoolDocs Policies and Procedures

Over the last few months we have been transitioning over to SchoolDocs. Our SchoolDocs site contains policies and procedures that are specific to Whanganui High School and can be accessed by our whole school community (a 'Quick Guide to SchoolDocs for the School Community' information sheet is attached to this email).

Our SchoolDocs site is now live for our school community to access. You can access our School Docs site in two ways:

1. Go to our school website at whanganuihigh.school.nz; click on the School Information tab; click on School Policies; click on SchoolDocs and enter the Username: whs and the Password: life
2. Refer to the login steps in the attached 'Quick Guide to SchoolDocs for the School Community' information sheet.

Traffic Safety on Purnell Street during peak traffic flow times

Over the last few years I have spoken to and met multiple people with relevant levels of responsibility at the Whanganui District Council on the urgent need for significantly better traffic safety on the heavily congested Purnell Street during peak traffic flow times – including my submission of a written and in-person submission to the Whanganui District Council Strategy and Policy Committee on 10 April 2024 regarding proposed speed limit changes.

Many possibilities and suggestions have been made by the relevant people – but nothing has yet changed to make the traffic situation safer for our students, whānau, staff and our wider community, and this is increasingly concerning as our school roll keeps growing.

I continue to review what we can do to make the traffic situation as safe as possible for our community. Please note the following:

From this afternoon the two gates into our main staff carpark will be locked 20 minutes before the final school bell for the day and up to 15 minutes after the final school bell (many parents have been driving into the main staff car park to pick up children and then causing increased congestion when driving back out onto Purnell Street);

Please do not park in the bus bay area at any time when buses are arriving or departing school;

To avoid traffic congestion on Purnell Street, I strongly recommend that parents collecting their children after school park in the Jubilee Stadium car park. Our students have easy access to Jubilee Stadium by walking along our covered walkway and crossing London Street.

We have asked police officers to monitor the peak traffic flow times on Purnell Street for road safety and the safety of our students. Some are drivers stopping on yellow lines to pick up students or pull out directly in front of students as students try to cross to the other side of Purnell Street.

Thank you very much for your co-operation and understanding.

Up-to-date contact details and changes

Please contact our Student Centre (06 349 0177) or Main Office (06 349 0178) or office@whs.ac.nz as soon as possible if you change your home address, email addresses, mobile or home phone numbers or for any other important information.

Newsletters coming directly from me are always placed onto our Main School Facebook page and onto our Whanganui High School website (under the News and Events heading).

Wishing you and your whānau all the very best for 2025. Please contact me if you would like to meet to discuss any questions or concerns.

Ngā mihi nui

Martin McAllen
Principal
Whanganui High School