



Special Newsletter – August 2025

15 August

Kia ora koutou

PPTA Full Strike Action – Wednesday 20 August

PPTA members covered by the Secondary Teachers' Collective Agreement are taking full nationwide strike action on Wednesday 20 August. All union members at our school will be taking part in the full strike action.

As a result, we will be unable to provide normal teaching instruction during the strike so our school will officially be closed for instruction during Wednesday 20 August.

If making alternative arrangements for care is difficult, a small number of non-union teaching staff will be able to supervise students in our school library during normal school hours for students (8.45 am to 3.05 pm).

Future Focus Week and Timetable Changes for 2026

We have our very important Future focus Week all of next week. This is the week when students currently in Year 10, Year 11, and Year 12 (as well as their parents and caregivers) make student subject choices for next year. Please note that due to the full strike action we have needed to move our Parent Information Evening from Wednesday 20 August to Tuesday 19 August (5.00 pm to 6.30 pm – school library).

With reference to Timetable changes for 2026, I would like to highlight areas of significance heading into Future Focus Week after our robust year-long timetable review process involving all staff members, Board members, student feedback, and parental feedback. Key points of change for 2026:

- We will be moving to a 7-line Timetable Grid (Week A and Week B) over each two-week period. I think the most straight forward explanation I can give you is that each student will now be studying seven subjects over seven lines over the Week A and Week B two-week period. This means that students and parents/caregivers will need to choose seven subjects (with an eighth subject as a back-up) during Future Focus Week.
- With 7 x 7 equalling 49, it means that there is now only the need for one earlier finish day for students over the Week A and Week B two-week period of 5 periods per day. We have decided to abandon the current early 2.05 pm finish for students every Friday afternoon; all classes for students will now finish at 3.05 pm every day of the week, except for on Wednesday Week B only when students will finish at 2.05 pm (end of Period 4). This time will be used for Wednesday sports practices and competition, tutorial sessions, Department, Faculty, and Staff meetings, moderation meetings, preparation and planning time.

- With the new 7-line timetable over Week A and Week B we are now able to abandon our three-year trial of semester and trimester courses in Year 9 and Year 10. All Junior Core subjects will now run for the full length of the year and all option subjects will have slightly longer teaching and learning time than previously.
- After a one-year trial, Form Time and Assembly time will now move back to the beginning of the school day to be followed by Period 1, Period 2 and so on. The placement of Form Time/Assembly time after Period 1 has been abandoned.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions and I wish you all the very best as we head into the second half of this very busy term, including: Future Focus Week; Winter Tournament Week; Senior School Examinations; Literacy and Numeracy Common Assessment Activities (CAA) Examinations; Whanganui-Taranaki Pae Rangatahi Regionals; Ngā Manu Kōrero Nationals.

Ngā mihi nui

Martin McAllen
Principal
Whanganui High School