



Principal's Newsletter 1 – Term 1 2026

22 January 2026

Kia ora koutou

I extend a very warm greeting and welcome to everybody for the 2026 school year and hope that you have had an enjoyable and restful time with family and friends over the Christmas and New Year period.

Newsletter 1 contains very important information about the first few days of Term 1 as well as essential details about structural changes this year. Please read all details carefully.

MONDAY 26 JANUARY – Year 9 and Year 13 at school as well as new students across all other Year levels. Our pōwhiri will begin promptly at **9.00 am**. Please arrive between **8.30 am and 8.50 am**. We ask that all **WHĀNAU** and **STUDENTS** remain behind the gate on Purnell Street with their bags. Students will be organised into female and male lines along the Purnell Street footpath. You will be guided by Whanganui High School staff members and senior students.

At the conclusion of our pōwhiri, we invite all whānau to our A1 Te Reo Māori classroom for refreshments, kai and conversation. Students will have kai arrangements in place from our school canteen.

10.15 am (approximately) – Year 9 and other new students will go back to the Hall for organisation into form classes. The rest of the day will involve lunch, activities in House groups, and then a student, staff, and whānau sausage sizzle towards the end of the school day. Year 13 students will have their normal Period 4 and Period 5 classes.

TUESDAY 27 JANUARY- Years 9, 12, and 13 at school

8.55 am to 9.20 am – Form class time for Years 9 and 13. Timetables issued and more orientation experience for Year 9 students – Year 12 students go to the Hall.

Normal timetabled classes for the rest of the day.

WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY – Years 9, 11, 12, and 13 at school

8.55 am to 9.10 am – Form class time for Years 9, 12, and 13 – Year 11 students go to the Hall.

Normal timetabled classes for the rest of the day.

THURSDAY 29 JANUARY – Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 at school (ALL STUDENTS ARE AT SCHOOL)

8.55 am to 9.10 am – Form class time for Years 9, 11, 12, and 13 – Year 10 students go to the Hall.

Normal timetabled classes for the rest of the day.

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY – NORMAL TIMETABLED CLASSES ALL DAY

TIMETABLE STRUCTURE AND BELL TIMES

This year we have moved to a two-week WEEK A and WEEK B timetable structure. This means that nearly every student will now study seven different subjects for a total of seven hours for each subject over the two-week time period.

The most important details to note are that: students need to arrive at school no later than 8.45 am every day (unless they have Year 13 Period 1 study time) and that the First Bell for Form Time will ring at 8.50 am; timetabled school will now finish for students at 3.00 pm every day (apart from on **Wednesday Week B only** when timetabled school for students will finish at 2.00 pm).

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS, DEANS AND HOUSE LEADERS' STRUCTURE

Jenny Langrish – Deputy Principal (Teaching & Learning)
Lisa Martin – Deputy Principal (Pastoral)
Elizabeth Spooner – Deputy Principal (Daily Operations)
Nola Todd – Deputy Principal (Assessment & Moderation)
Jemma de Smidt – Academic Dean
Rebecca Easton and Ryan Holden – Year 9 Deans
Warren Marr and Hunter Wilson – Year 10 Deans
Gabby McKenzie and Pamela West – Year 11 Deans
Rebecca Kennedy – Year 12 Dean
Natalie Harris – Year 13 Dean
Devon Adam – Awa House Leader
Jos Berkhout – Maunga House Leader
Kellie Benefield and Jason Dufty – Moana House Leaders
Sophie Harris-Broad and Eve Coltman – Whenua House Leaders

MOBILE PHONES

A quick reminder to everyone that if mobile phones are not **left at home**, then they **must** be turned off and kept in school bags or out of sight during school hours. Mobile phones cannot be used during class time and cannot be used during break times. If a student uses a mobile phone when it is not allowed, the mobile phone will be confiscated by a staff member and taken directly to the Student Centre. The mobile phone can then be collected by the student at the end of the school day for students.

RELEVANT SCHOOL INFORMATION

Please refer to our Whanganui High School website for a wide range of extremely useful information about life at Whanganui High School. I would like to highlight for you at this time of the year that under our School Information heading on our school website you can read about important details such as: uniform and personal presentation information; BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) information; Term dates; Stationery lists for all Year levels; and Bell times. I have also attached our Uniform & Personal Presentation Information booklet and our BYOT information booklet to this email.

All the very best for a great 2026! Please do not hesitate to contact me directly or through the Main Office if you have any concerns or questions you would like to discuss with me.

Ngā mihi nui

Martin McAllen
Principal
Whanganui High School