



Principal's Newsletter 4 – Term 1 2026

2 April 2026

Kia ora koutou

Maadi Regatta (Lake Ruataniwha, Twizel, South Island)

This year's Maadi Regatta resulted in the greatest achievements ever for a Whanganui High School rowing squad (three Gold medals; two Silver medals; two Bronze medals).

Out of 2200 competitors and 127 secondary schools throughout New Zealand, Whanganui High School placed 5th overall in New Zealand (only Waikato Diocesan School for Girls – Hamilton, Kings College – Auckland, Rangi Ruru Girls' School – Christchurch, and Wakatipu High School – Queenstown, placed ahead of our students). Whanganui High School placed 2nd in New Zealand for sculling and Morgan Wood was named top coxswain of the regatta.

Gold Medal – Boys U17 Double – Nicky Maxim and Joseph Dudson

Gold Medal – Girls U16 coxed quad – DJ Paikea, Sophia Su'a, Bailey Barnett, Millie Richardson, Morgan Wood (coxswain).

Gold Medal – Boys U17 coxed quad – Ross Llaneta, Nicky Maxim, Joseph Dudson, Logan Joubert, Lily Newton (coxswain)

Silver Medal – Girls U17 coxed quad – Addison Jenkins, Caralie Hanna, Bailey Barnett, Ruby Bullock Morgan Wood (coxswain)

Silver Medal – Boys U18 Novice coxed quad – Milo Weber, David Strobel, Jake Buxton, Callum Morgan, Morgan Wood (coxswain)

Bronze Medal – Boys U18 coxed quad – Ross Llaneta, Archilles Paikea, Quin Vivian, Jordan Hallett, Lily Newton (coxswain)

Bronze Medal – Girls U18 coxed quad – Adela Slanarova, Lilee Lambe, Rylee Earles, Sophia Kerwin, Morgan Wood (coxswain)

Well done and huge congratulations to all of our students and the coaching and management team of Axel Dickinson, Alan Luff, Lisa Murphy, Jessie Madams, Ava McDonough, Mae Emmett and our parental and staff member support teams.

Amendment to our school uniform regarding shoes and sandals

Please note that at our Board meeting on Monday 30 March, our Health & Safety Committee submitted a request (with unanimous agreement) to remove sandals from the school uniform in favour of only covered plain black leather traditional style school shoes being worn.

The repeated non-wearing of covered shoes by a significant minority of students has become a safety concern in Science lessons and in all Technology subject lessons. This has resulted in lost learning time for students who have needed to be sent to the Deans' House to put on school-supplied covered shoes at the beginning of relevant lessons and then return the shoes at the end of the lesson.

It is the resolution of the Board that the school uniform will be changed to remove sandals completely from our Uniform Sets and that students will be required to wear covered plain black leather traditional style school shoes all year round.

There will be a transition period during Terms 2 and 3, with all students required to wear covered plain black leather traditional style school shoes by the beginning of Term 4.

The Whanganui High School Uniform & Personal Presentation booklet will be updated accordingly towards the end of Term 3 with the removal of sandals from the booklet and the addition of any updated prices for other uniform items well before the beginning of the 2027 school year.

Year 12 and Year 13 Academic Tie Winners and Centurion Award Winners

On Monday and Tuesday, we held Academic assemblies for our Year 12 and Year 13 students.

Academic Ties are awarded to students who have achieved 50 or more Excellence credits in NCEA Level 1 or NCEA Level 2. Excellence Ties are awarded to students who have achieved 50 or more Excellence credits in both NCEA Level 1 and NCEA Level 2.

Centurion Certificates are awarded to students who have achieved at least 100 credits at NCEA Level 1 or NCEA Level 2 without any 'Not Achieved' grades. Centurion Endorsed Certificates are awarded to students who have achieved at least 100 credits at both NCEA Level 1 and NCEA Level 2 without any 'Not Achieved' grades.

Congratulations to the following Year 12 students:

Academic Tie Winners

Conor Brodie, Annabelle Brown, Carrie Bullmore, Grace Eastabrook, Ava Higgins, Caitlin Lambert, Caleb Loader, Sam Penwarden, Micah Taunton

Centurion Award Winners

Janella Ayban, Abraham Beer, Annabelle Brown, Indie Chiles, Caleb Christison, Djembe Davy, Leith Dorricott, Lulu Dufty, Grace Estabrook, Josie Herrick, Merlin Heymann, Ava Higgins, Cooper Hiscox, Aaria Joseph, Jeila Katene-Fata, Caleb Loader, Salvador Mazzieri, DJ Paidea, Sam Penwarden, Millie Richardson, Becky Roy, Hollie Smith, Hunter Standen, Micah Taunton, Aimee Tetzlaff, Nisha Verma, Connor Welch.

Congratulations to the following Year 13 students:

Academic Tie Winners

Tyson Barclay, Ella Campbell, Eric Craig, Lucy Hartley, William Hird, James McGregor, Abigail McLeay, Liam Meijer, Lucas Munn, Hannah O'Hara, Elicia Thompson

Excellence Tie Winners

Ethan Clark, Coco Guy, Teri-Ellen Karipa, Monique Smith

Centurion Certificates

Sienna Castellanos, Lincoln Hobbs, Devika Madhu, Bailey Mathews, Hannah O'Hara, Baylen Wilson, Olivia Wilson

Centurion Endorsed Certificates

Tyson Barclay, Xavier Booth, Ella Campbell, Ethan Clark, Eric Craig, Coco Guy, Logan Heap, Ivy Lilley, Callum Sheard, Matt Smith, Monique Smith, Elicia Thompson

Wishing everybody a very happy Easter and term break over the next few days.

Ngā mihi nui

Martin McAllen

Principal

Whanganui High School