Principal's Newsletter 11 – Term 4 2026

4 November 2026

Kia ora koutou

Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015 – inappropriate video circulation

You may be aware that there is currently a video circulating that relates to matters directly concerning two teenagers who presently attend Whanganui High School.

I must remind all students and all adults that under the Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015 posting and sharing videos to cause serious harm can be a criminal offence, with penalties of up to two years' imprisonment or a fine of up to $50,000.

After speaking with a Whanganui Police detective yesterday morning (Tuesday) I know that the police are following up on all aspects of this allegation. Speculation, rumour, and identifying details can cause real harm to individuals and families, and can interfere with police processes. If you have any information, please give it directly to the police.

Our priority is the full well-being of everybody involved. Anyone who is concerned or upset can contact our two full-time counsellors Wendy Stanaway and Jacqui McKenzie, or make contact with me directly on mcallen.m@whs.ac.nz.

Netsafe also offers free confidential help: netsafe.org.nz, or phone 0508 638 723, or text "Netsafe" to 4282.

Serious incident at school yesterday afternoon

An outsider teenager – who has never attended Whanganui High School – enlisted the help of a student at our school to cause disruption outside Room L2 (L Block, Languages area). The doors into L2 were locked by our staff members, windows closed, and curtains closed, but the two female teenagers repeatedly screamed obscenities, kicked doors, and hit windows with fists and water bottles. Police were phoned on 111 and the outsider teenager smashed a corner window in L2 by putting her foot through the window. Multiple staff members were present the whole time keeping the situation completely safe for students. Police officers arrived very promptly to deal with the teenagers. The outsider teenager has been formally trespassed from our school grounds and I have formally Suspended our school student to the Board Disciplinary Committee.

Prizegivings

We had a wonderful Year 13 Prizegiving last night with tremendous parental attendance – the entire Hall was packed, including the dance studio, our Hall lobby entrance, and the senior music room. It was a great evening celebrating the achievements and successes of all our Year 13 students. Proxime Accessit was awarded to James McGregor and the supreme academic achievement – Dux of Whanganui High School – was awarded to Monique Smith.

This afternoon we have a similar process with the Year 12 prizegiving and we also have the additional celebration of announcing the Head Students and Prefects for 2027.

Then tomorrow afternoon, we conclude our round of senior Prizegivings with the celebration of Year 11 student achievement and successes at the Year 11 Prizegiving.

Examinations

A quick reminder that Junior Examinations will be held for our Year 9 and Year 10 students on Friday 6 November and Monday 9 November.

NCEA and Scholarship external examinations for our senior students begin on Tuesday 10 November and finish on Friday 4 December.

Ngā mihi nui

Martin McAllen
Principal
Whanganui High School