



WHANGAPARAOA COLLEGE

Together □ Believe □ Achieve □ Ngātahi whakapono tutuki

Newsletter

Term 1 Issue 1

Ka tīmata ngā akona i te takune pai.

Learners start with good intentions

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From the Principal's Desk

I started drafting this newsletter piece on Friday 12 February after returning to my office from a walk around our school. I had just visited classrooms, staffrooms, and spoken with lots of learners and staff. I like to ask people how they are, how things are going, etc.

Actual responses were:

"I've just had such a good lesson with my Year 10 learners. They were so involved and really got into it. Can I tell you about it?"

"It's hard to actually say what it is – it's the whole 'vibe', it feels good."

"I missed my friends. I like being back."

"Starting my second year of teaching is so good! I've got a pretty good idea of how things work. My classes are keen."

"People are so friendly and helpful."

It was great to see how positive people are about the start of the year and how optimistic they are about the year ahead.

Now it's the morning of Thursday 18 February, and we've just returned from a three-day lockdown. Once again, we took this in our stride; focusing on well-being, connection and engagement with learning. I know it must be very challenging for parents to switch to supervising 'home schooling'. Well done!

Year 11

During 2020 we changed how we do assessments in Year 11, and we will continue with our new practice. There is a bit more about this later in the newsletter and we encourage you to talk about what Year 11 looks like with your child.

Online behaviour

Technology is amazing. With it comes increased speed, incredible access, greater efficiency, connection with family and friends, and lots of interest and fun. And with all these positives comes great responsibility! When things go wrong, they can go very wrong. Our Deans and Counsellors are increasingly dealing with the aftermath of digital disasters. For this reason, we are making 'online behaviour' a key focus this year. The aim is that all our learners feel safe when interacting with each other online. To this end, we will be delivering age appropriate online safety programmes across the school.

Interviews

It seems ages ago now, but you'll remember that in the first few days after Auckland Anniversary Weekend every one of our learners had a face-to-face, one-on-one interview with their Kaiārahi. The feedback from those involved has been very positive. We all agree that we want our tamariki (children) to make good progress, to achieve well, to thrive and to grow. I believe strongly that this will only happen if we know where our learners are at, and have a positive learning-focussed relationship with them. The interviews were an important part of this process.

Board Chair

Last December our Board Chair, Heidi Parlance, told the Board she would be stepping down from that role at the start of the new year. Heidi has been the Chair for the last three years and has given her time and experience freely. Her excellent contribution and support has been very much appreciated. Thank you Heidi. We are pleased that she will be remaining on the Board. As a school we are fortunate with the calibre and commitment of our Board Members. Ian MacLeod has been elected by the Board as the new Chair, with Craig Caminos as the Deputy. We are grateful that these Board Members have made themselves available and we look forward to working closely with them in their new roles.

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It is a pleasure to partner with you for the good of all our young ones.
Nga mihi nui, ka kite ano (thank you, see you again)

James Thomas, Principal



Scholarship Exams 2020

Congratulations to the following learners who passed Scholarship exams in 2020:

Jade Maloyd, Photography; **Zara Weissenstein**, Technology; **Alex Lu**, Calculus. Particular congratulations goes to Alex who passed this while in Year 12. Learners usually sit Scholarship in Year 13.

Year 7 Meet the Teachers

On **Thursday 25 February**, there is a Meet the Teachers evening for parents of Year 7 learners. This is an opportunity to meet their child's teachers and discuss any concerns/issues as well as gain some feedback on how their child has begun their first year at Whangaparaoa College. The evening will start at 7.00 pm and parents should go straight to their child's classroom. We ask that whanau restrict the number of attendees where possible. The evening is expected to be finished between 8 and 8.30 pm.

There will be an opportunity for Year 8-13 parents to meet teachers on Tuesday 9 March. Further information will be provided closer to the time.

Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh Award – this 3 level award is aimed at encouraging young people to make good use of their time by being physically active, learning new skills and helping out in our community. There are also 2 overnight expeditions or explorations, which are a chance to hang out with your friends in beautiful places around Auckland and NZ. This is a great addition to your school testimonial and CV for future jobs and study.

Learners who are interested in starting the award this year (at any of the 3 levels) are encouraged to come to a meeting in S2 on **Wednesday 24 February**. There will also be an **Information Evening** for whanau from 7.00 pm on **Tuesday 2 March** in the Auditorium Foyer.

If you have any queries, please email Maria Sinclair
mariasi@wgpcollege.school.nz

Online Safety

Whangaparaoa College recognizes the increasing role that the internet is playing in our learners' lives. We believe that education is the best policy when it comes to helping our learners stay safe, comfortable, mindful, and empowered in their online dealings with each other and the wider world. As such, as part of our active improvement plan, Kaiarahi will be taking their Ropu Whanau through an Online Behaviour and Safety programme this year. The programme will cover expectations for learner online interaction and strategies to help learners navigate the digital world with confidence and assurance.

Topics will include: Sending or posting sexual images and texts; watching, viewing, and/or sharing inappropriate content; conducting safe online relationships and online bullying.

If you are concerned about your child engaging in this learning please contact Dawn Sullivan dawnsu@wgpcollege.school.nz

Lockers

stowaway Lockers



Lockers are available again this year, \$50.00 per year plus a refundable \$10.00 bond. If you would like a locker for 2021, you will need to fill in an online order form at <http://www.stowawaylockers.co.nz/order-form/>

GET IN QUICK as they are going fast!

NCEA 2021 at Whangaparaoa College

NCEA Level 1:

Last year we were reminded by NZQA of the flexibility inherent in the NCEA qualification, and that it is not necessary for learners to gain NCEA Level 1 before doing Level 2. Historically, more than 96% of Whangaparaoa College learners gain Level 2. So, for them, Level 1 is not important as a qualification, but serves as a foundation for Level 2. We provide alternative pathways for the few learners for whom NCEA Level 2 is not a realistic goal. So, for 2021, Year 11 learners at Whangaparaoa College will be expected to achieve:

- 20 credits at Level 1 (including literacy and numeracy)
- Examination experience – during Term 1, we will consider how best to give learners the opportunity to experience internal and external exams

NCEA Level 2:

- Learners will gain 80 credits (20 from Level 1 the previous year, plus an additional 60 from Level 2)
- Learners will gain University Entrance (UE) Literacy

NCEA Level 3:

- Learners will gain 80 credits (20 from Level 2, plus an additional 60 from Level 3)
- Learners capable of gaining their UE will be strongly encouraged to gain this and guided to a suitable programme to enable this. For UE, learners will need 14 credits in each of three university approved subjects, plus their UE Literacy and Level 1 Numeracy; and their NCEA Level 3.

Resubmissions:

If a teacher deems it appropriate, learners resubmit work. However, from 2021, learners can only resubmit an assessment to go from Not Achieved to Achieved. They are unable to resub for Merit or Excellence.

Year 11-13 learners will have the above information outlined to them in their next assembly. Kaiarahi and subject teachers will be ensuring that learners know that they need to achieve and are progressing well.

Upcoming Events

February	23	Year 7 Wetlands Workshop Year 9-13 Athletics
	24	Year 9-13 Lypsync sign-up Year 9 House Dodgeball (tbc)
	25	Photo catch-up Year 7 Wetlands Workshop Year 8 Te Hana Trip, 8REA/DLY (tbc) Year 7 Meet the Teacher, 7.00 pm L2OUED Dome Valley Tramp, DFT/BRJ
	26	L2OUED Dome Valley Tramp, HOL/CTN L3GEOG Orewa Trip
	1-3	Year 7 Camp Adair, 7JAR/TURK/SHH/PAR/LDR
March	1	Year 8 Te Hana Trip, 8WRD/DAVM/ANS
	2	Year 8 Te Hana Trip, 8SWA/DVS/ACH Duke of Edinburgh Info Evening, 7.00 pm Boys Softball Zone Day
	3	Girls Softball Zone Day L3OUED Sea Kayaking, Puhoi
	3-5	L2PHED Muriwai Camp
	5	Staff Only Day

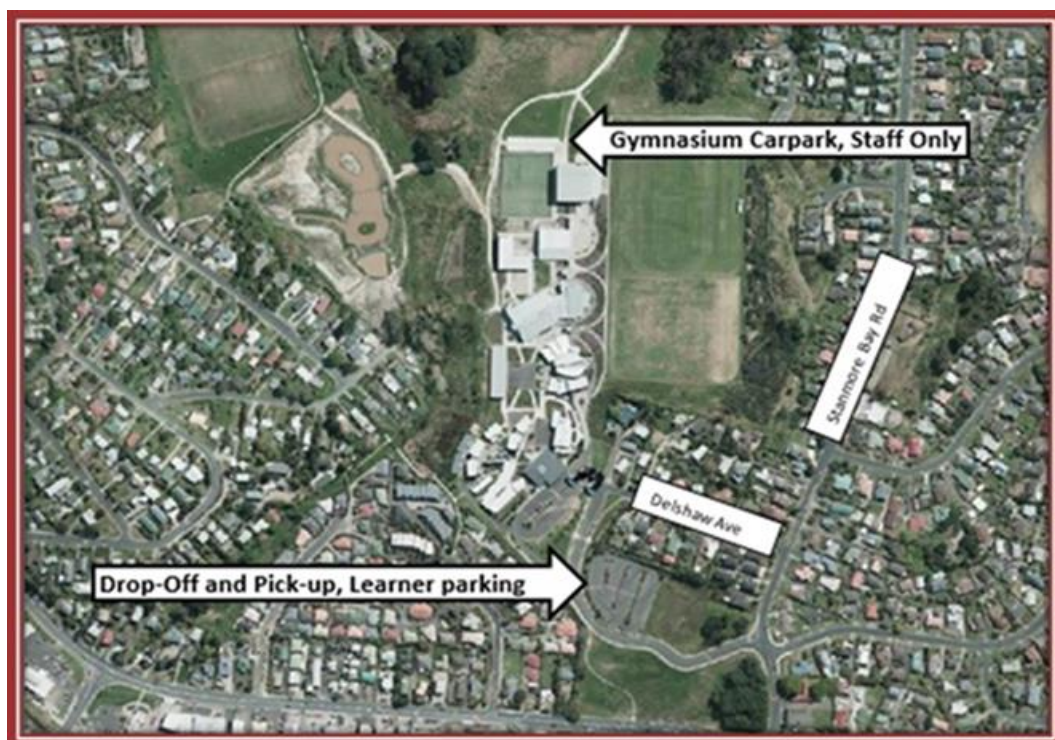
For more information from our school calendar please see [Quick Links](#)

Carparks, Drop-off and Pick-up Zones

For the safety of our staff and learners, the gymnasium carpark is designated a staff-only carpark and Disabled drop-off/pick-up zone, Monday to Friday, 8.00 am to 4.00 pm. Only permit holders will be able to use this carpark. Permits are issued by Ginny Catterall, ginnyca@wgpcollege.school.nz

We have a spacious carpark near the front of the school (indicated below) for all drop-off and pick-ups, as well as learner parking. Entry is at 8 Stanmore Bay Road.

Please do not park on or across our neighbours' driveways on Delshaw Ave. Thank you for your co-operation.



BYOD Deals

Whangaparaoa College have teamed up with suppliers of BYOD devices and accessories to offer our community access to online deals.

To access the deals at:

Cyclone please click [here](#) and enter the password: **wgpcbyod**

PB Tech please click [here](#)

Noel Leeming please click [here](#) select mynoelleeming on the top bar, setup BYOD membership, choose school.

Community Notices



AGES 9 TO 18

CODING LESSONS



CODING**NZ**

Coding NZ Lessons

- Learn coding languages to create technology.
- An expert tutor is online to help during lessons.
- 1 hour per week at 4pm, 5pm or 6pm weekdays.
- Try a free trial lesson at codingnz.com