



10 February 2017

Kia ora Katou

**SOS:** Thanks to Year 13s who gave their time to support Year 9 students transitioning to secondary school. Our new students are settling well into college life.

**NCEA Review and Reconsideration:** Applications for reconsiderations for NCEA externally assessed standards close on Friday 17 February and for scholarships on Friday 3 March.

**Parent forum:** Our first parent forum for this year will take place on Thursday 16 February in the Hub. The focus of our first meeting will be to explain the school's strategic direction for the coming year. It is an opportunity for parents / whanau to find out more about how we do things, give feedback and raise concerns in an informal setting.

**Year 9 Meet and Greet Evening:** This is taking place on Tuesday 21 February and is an opportunity for Year 9 parents / caregivers to meet your child's River Guide. The evening will begin with an informal BBQ at 6:30pm, followed by an information session in the hall and then breaking up into small groups with River Guides. The River Guide is the key person who has responsibility for each student's academic progress and sense of wellbeing at school and is therefore often the first port of call for parents. The evening will finish at around 8:30pm.

**HPC Swimming Sports:** For a number of reasons, we are trialling the annual swimming sports as an after-school event this year. These will be held on Monday 20 February at the Ngatea pool, 3:30 - 7pm. Students have received entry forms today; these are due back by Tuesday 14 February. Any parents / caregivers who are able to help with timekeeping please contact Sports Co-ordinator Cindy Berridge 027 4655 289. All parents and families welcome to watch.

**Gateway:** Senior students have an opportunity to experience work-based learning through our Gateway programme. This is a great opportunity to try different employment possibilities and many of our students gain jobs and apprenticeships through Gateway. See Careers Co-ordinator Mr Keith in the Careers Centre or email [peterk@haurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:peterk@haurakiplains.school.nz).

**Homework Diaries:** These are an important component of managing learning and students are encouraged to make full use of these. They are also used extensively at River Time with a focus on a range of learning and life skills.

**School App:** This is available for downloading for Apple and Android smartphones and tablets. The app can be found by searching for Hauraki Plains College in the Apple App store or the Google Play store. The app provides invaluable information such as daily notices, a school events calendar, newsletters, contact details of staff and the parent portal.

**School Facebook page:** This is a wealth of information about what's happening at HPC. You do not have to have a Facebook login. Simply google Hauraki Plains College Facebook. Last week alone we have had 25,000 hits on this site. We also like to celebrate the different activities and achievements of our students so if you have any news as a parent, contact Amanda Fitzpatrick ([amandaf@haurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:amandaf@haurakiplains.school.nz)).

Ngairé Harris

PRINCIPAL

From an American judge Clarence Thomas:  
"Good manners open doors that the best education cannot."

