

Hauraki Plains College

Community Newsletter



Sunrise over the Plains on a foggy morning

Community Newsletter

Our Community Newsletter combines news from Hauraki Plains College, The Haurakians (past pupils and teachers) and the Haurakian Charitable Trust. If you would like to sponsor our newsletter email: amandaf@haurakiplains.school.nz

Key Dates

- Mon 26 July - Start of Term 3
- Tues 10 Aug - Co-curricular Photos
- Wed 11 Aug - Te Kuiti Exchange (home)
- Thurs 12 Aug - MOE Teacher only Day
- Thurs 19 Aug - Whānau Curriculum Consultation Meeting 6pm
- Tues 24 Aug - Out of Zone Info Evening 7pm
- Wed 1 Sept - Out of Zone ballot closes at Midday
- Tues 21 Sept - Cultural Awards Evening 7pm
- Thurs 23 Sept - Senior Subject Selection Evening 7pm
- Tues 28 - Thurs 30 Sept - Practice Exams

**More
Than
A School**



Hauraki Plains College

Got a Trade. Got it Made.

It's about giving back, according to two ex-HPC students, Trent Watters and Trent Jackson. The young builders were recently given a day off by their employer, Loveridge Enterprise Builders, and decided to spend the day helping with the school's house project.

Trent Watters left HPC ten years ago, and was part of the first group to build a house on-site for removal. "I wanted to give back to my school which got me ready for the outside world. Mr Carpenter, our building teacher, taught me a lot about the real world and ran our class as if we were in a building gang. I found at HPC that I had to do the hard work to achieve. Mrs Benns (Academic Dean) kept me on track and made sure that I got my Level 3 qualification before leaving school."

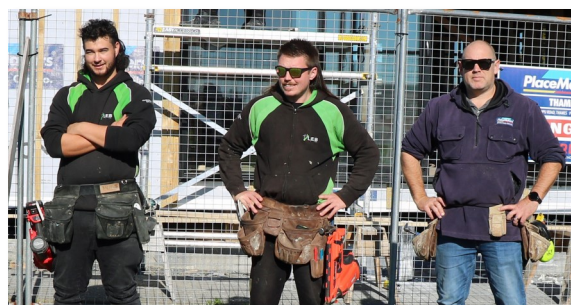
Trent says that he always wanted to be a 'tradee' and liked the fact that school wasn't just about heading off to university. The building and agriculture programmes in particular are great for the hands on kids." Trent is now in an on-site foreman position, working on three houses concurrently.

As a keen MotoX rider, Trent has kept in touch with teacher-in-charge of MotoX, Amanda Fitzpatrick. So, when eighteen months ago, Loveridge Enterprises Builders were looking for more builders, Trent got in touch with Mrs Fitzpatrick who then suggested Trent Jackson who was in her River Group (form class).

The part time work experience for Trent Jackson then developed into a summer job and slowly progressed into full time work. "School was pretty simple really. I ate my lunch, played sport and found a job that was right for me. One thing that really helped me in the workplace was the school's no cell phone rule," commented Trent on his school days. Learning to work without constantly checking your phone is really important for the work place. If you pull out your phone at a toolbox meeting, the boss will soon holler at you."

Building and Construction teacher Pete Carpenter also enjoyed catching up with his two past pupils. 'It is always a pleasure to see ex-students becoming successful in industry and fantastic for Year 13 students to interact with the guys, talk about experiences and see what is possible when they leave the school gates.'

So far, nearly twenty students from HPC have been given apprenticeships in a trade this year, ranging from building to plumbing to electrical work.



L-R: Trent Jackson, Trent Watters and Teacher Pete Carpenter

Principal's Comment

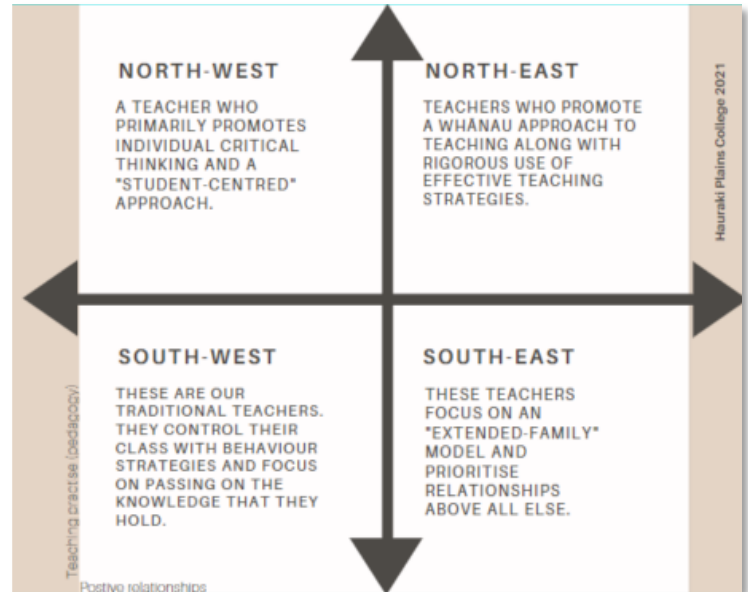


It is now more than six years since HPC has been reviewed by the Education Review Office. ERO currently works in a very different way with each school according to its context, culture and needs. One of the key changes is that the school is assigned an Evaluation Partner who works in an ongoing high-trust relationship to evaluate how well things are going and then support the school to use the findings for improvement plans and actions, and develop internal evaluation practice and report progress.

Over the last few months, we have met with Neil Harray, our Evaluation Partner and previous principal of Katikati College to consider our own focus, largely based on the Board's strategic goals and plans. *Engaging students in work that matters* is one of three goals set by the Board and, from there, we have now settled on teaching practice in the classroom as the focus for our work with ERO.

The ERO focus has arisen from Russell Bishop's recent research *Teaching to the North East* (NZCER, 2019) which is based on the premise that when teachers demonstrate both a high level of relationships skills (East) and the capacity to implement high impact teaching strategies (North) that students thrive in the classroom. Teachers will be at various places on the grid; our aim is to shift all teachers' practice closer to the North East ie where high relationships and high teaching skills work together to make for a positive and demanding learning environment. We will be using student voice, teacher to teacher coaching, leadership observations and parent / whānau voice in evaluating progress.

From next term, we will be working with *Cognition Education* to support the work of this project, following a professional development award from the Ministry of Education. Even though we are in the early stages of this process, we are already seeing the benefits of the



partnership concept with ERO as we do a deep dive, so to speak, in terms of high quality teaching practices.

ERO will work alongside the school developing ways of evaluating the progress of this focus and helping build our evaluation capability across the school. "We are excited by the challenge that the team at Hauraki Plains College have set themselves. In our new way of working, we will be able to see the changes over a longer period of time and collaboratively, with the school, report the progress to the community", commented Neil Harray, Evaluation Partner.

Ngaire Harris
Principal

Board of Trustees Update

**Haurakian Charitable Trust**

Members of The Haurakian Charitable Trust met with the board at our June meeting. They updated us on the purchase of the neighbouring farm at Waitakaruru which will now allow them to milk 550 cows. The Trust continue to be supportive of HPC with physical assets and financial assistance on specific projects. Thank you to the Trustees for their continuing effort to make this happen.



project which could provide some wonderful hands-on learning for our students.

Cell Phones

Currently the school is looking into how the students' use of their cell phones is affecting their experiences and learning during the school day. There are many reasons put forward as to why it is essential for our kids to carry their phones on them, but there is plenty of evidence that misuse of cell phones, whether it be texts sent during class, right through to online bullying requiring police intervention, is happening regularly. The Board has been asked to consider following the lead of some other NZ schools and putting in a partial or full cell phone ban. More work is being done on this issue.

Piako Green Corridor Restoration Project

Roger Hunter and Ngaire Harris recently represented HPC at a river blessing to kick off a 'shovel ready' project along the eastern side of the Piako River. The \$3.2 million dollar project is to develop over the next 5 years, a continuous green corridor along the River from the rested peat bog of the Kopuatai wetland, through the mangrove forest and the salt marshes, to the Firth of Thames foreshore. Environment Waikato are managing the 5 year project and local iwi Ngāti Hako are vitally involved. There is an opportunity for HPC to grow plants for the

Update on Taonga

After several workshops with a cultural confidence advisor, the Board is now developing a Statement of Intent, based on a Ministry model, which will establish guiding principles for our school in terms of kawa. Once this is approved by the Board, we will establish for consultation more clearly defined guidelines regarding the wearing of taonga.

Andrew Gordon
Board Chair

A WYLD day for Young Leaders

Fourteen HPC Year 9 students recently took part in the Waikato Young Leaders Day (WYLD) alongside other students from the Waikato / Bay of Plenty area. The day was organised by the Waikato Institute for Leadership and Sport Studies with a programme around developing leadership within the school and wider community. The day focused on three themes:

- Knowing who you are - knowing yourself and your strengths
- I choose - making those positive choices, taking up challenges and encouraging others
- Walking the talk - believing in yourself and taking little steps to bigger places

Students were offered different leadership perspectives from some of Waikato's great role models, including Honey Hirem-Smiler, one of NZ's most talented cross-code female athletes and Maioro Barton, a representative in the NZ wheelchair basketball team. From these speakers and an interactive workshop, students learned that leadership is situational and that they all have the skills to be leaders.

Some of the key messages for the day were believe in yourself, don't be invisible and stand tall.

"I learnt that it is important to find your 'why' and don't let anything get in the way of it, to find my way and follow it," said Allison Godkin about the experience. "A leader is someone who helps, not necessarily someone in charge," adds fellow student Isaac Smith.



Year 9 Dean, Jenny Tawa also enjoyed the day. "The students represented the school admirably and have come away from the day with their own ideas of what they, as Year 9 leaders, can contribute to the school. These ideas will be discussed next term, and a plan will be put in place to grow these leadership ideas and start to put some of them into action."

Mahia te mahi, hei painga mo te iwi

Do the work for the betterment of the people.

Te Kapa Haka o Te Roopu Wao Kahika

Kia kawea tātou e te rēhia
Let us be taken by the spirit of joy, of entertainment.

With the end of the term coming up, the focus for our kapa haka next term will be completing our whakaeke, plus starting on our mōtea-tea whakawātea and hopefully a poi.

We are also looking at showcasing our items at our school assemblies, Arts Festival and possibly the Hauraki Festival. I would like to thank our kapa haka leaders **Juane Finau, Ethan Finau, Te Wai Howie, Eleanor Clarkin** and **Charlotte Nepia** for their contribution to supporting and running of our items.

Waiho ma te tangata e mihi "Leave your praises for someone else."

Matua Normie Anderson

Leaving our Legacy



Until 1990, HPC had two houses - Aotea and Tainui. To increase participation and reflect a steadily growing roll, the previous Principal Norman Pratt implemented the four Hapu based on local waters.

"The Hapu Scoreboard was made as part of our "leaving our legacy" project and as interhapu student leaders, we wanted to encourage more school and Hapu spirit, but to also drive our fellow students to enjoy their schooling years.

We thought that this would be a great idea to show the points from the inter-hapu competitions and encourage students to get more involved. It is important for students to know where the points stand and which Hapu is winning.

In the years that we've been at HPC, we didn't really have an idea going through each year, about the points and which Hapu was leading so we thought that this would let students become more aware".

Interhapu Leaders -

Rachel Hill (left) and Brooke Samuels (right)

Correction - Support for Vaini Write Up (June Edition)

There was a typo in the email address supplied. If you would like to donate goods please email: miriamc@haurakiplains.school.nz

Year 12 and 13 Artwork



Artist: Nadine Merz
Medium: Acrylic pens and paints
Description: People enjoying watersport



Artist: Tiree McCullough Anderson
Title: Frida
Medium: Acrylic paints and spray paint
Description: About feminism



Artist: Ava Heaven
Title: State of mind
Medium: Acrylic paints and spray paint on canvas
Description: An attempt to explore and illustrate the mind, mental state and the emotions of a human



Artist: Lara Forsyth
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Description: Exploitation of our oceans

Year 12 and 13 Artwork



Artist: Hayley Gibbons

Medium: Acrylic and spray paint

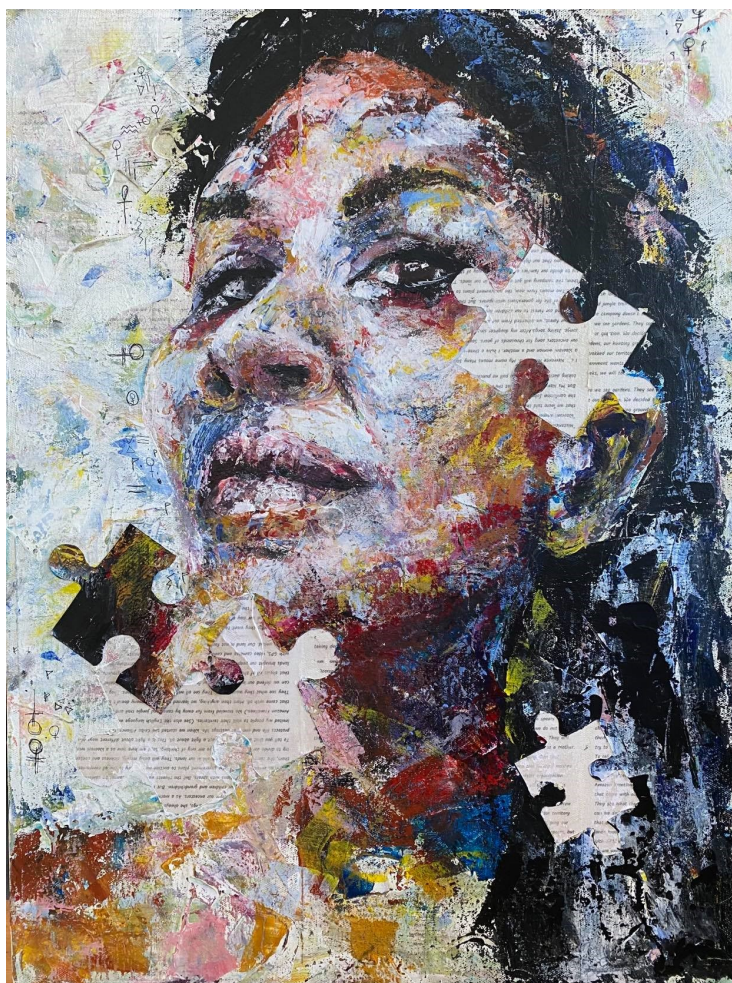
Description: To make people aware of pollution in our oceans and the endangered Galápagos penguin and Hawksbill turtle



Artist: Nikita Ward-Nicol

Medium: Collage, charcoal and acrylic paint on canvas

Description: pollution



Artist: Sophie Scott

Title: Nequimo

Medium: Acrylic and collage on canvas

Description: Nequimo became the first female leader in her tribe and she is a representation of a strong female leader who's story I find empowering.

The Big Sing

The HPC Choir performing at the Big Sing recently in the Waikato / Bay of Plenty Competition.



Sports @ HPC



Sports Leaders:
Alec Doddrell and Emma Gordon

Connecting with Character

Hauraki Plains College Sports Leaders, Emma Gordon and Alec Doddrell, were amongst a group of students who recently attended an iSPORT Connecting with Character leadership day in Rotorua. The goal of the iSPORT Foundation is to teach positive character attributes such as self-respect, self-responsibility,

self-discipline, self-belief and self-confidence using sport as the vehicle.

Students listened to a number of high profile leaders who addressed students on the importance of character. Emma Gordon reflected on the experience: "The most inspiring speaker for me was Willie Apiata, who is a former corporal in the New Zealand Special Air service and served in the Afghanistan war. With a tough upbringing, Willie's story inspired me, showing his resilience, courage and strong character which has built him up to where he is today. His main focus was on staying true to your values and for sticking up for what you believe is right.

"Another speaker who stood out to me was Honey Hireme-Smiler, who plays for the NZ Women's Rugby League team. Also with a

tough upbringing along with dealing with the passing of her mother, Honey was a strong woman who believed that showing courage and taking responsibility was the most important factor in building character. She also believed that front footing problems were the best way to deal with something that you are not happy with in order to get to where you want to go."

For Alec Doddrell, he particularly enjoyed listening to Daniel Carter, "He was such an inspiring speaker. Daniel talked about all of his struggles and how he needed resilience and courage to deal with these. I found Daniel inspiring because although he had struggles and did not have an easy road, he still became a really successful person.

"Personally the day was really exposing to successful people's stories; these stories highlighted the extensive amount of hard work and determination that is required to achieve. More than anything it was valuable to my character development from the exposure that I got to strong character traits to aspire to."

Overall the students returned with a greater appreciation of the values that sit behind being a person of character and to determine how this could be applied to their own personal growth in school, sport and life.



Alec Doddrell and Michael Ellis with
Richie McCaw

Congratulations to the following students:

Waikato BOP SS Cross Country Champs

Well done to Zack Conroy, Cullen Crowe & Jamie Kennedy who placed 2nd in the U16 Boys 3 Person Team.

Zack was also selected for the Waikato BOP U16 Boys' Relay Team which placed 4th at the NZSS Cross Country Champs

Thames Valley SS Badminton Teams Champs

Congratulations to Elle Moore, Jemma Sloane, Mitchell Williams & Patrick List who were the winners of the Senior Competition

Thames Valley SS 3x3 Basketball Champs

Well done to the following teams:

Junior Girls - 3rd place

Junior Boys - 2nd place

Senior Girls - 3rd place

Congratulations to our **Girls 1st XV Rugby Team** who finished Runner Up in the Thames Valley Secondary School Girls' Rugby Competition.

Well done to our **Shooting Team** which competed at the Matamata Shoot. Results are:

Junior Girls 1st place - Kate Bond, 2nd - Amelia Sanson

Overall Boys: 2nd place - Nathan Everett

Overall Girls Team: 1st place - Katrina Bond and Ashling Welch

Congratulations to the **College A Netball Team** who finished Runner Up in the Thames Valley SS 'Boulton Cup' Netball Competition



Cross Country



Badminton

Volunteers Matter

Currently there are more than 500 students involved in winter sports with the following teams entered in competitions: 13 Netball teams, 6 Hockey teams, 4 Rugby teams, 6 Football teams, 5 Basketball teams along with 30 students in MotoX 15 in the Shooting and a similar number in the Equestrian team. None of this would happen without the voluntary efforts of students, staff and members of the wider community who coach, manage, umpire and take on teacher-in-charge roles. A huge thank you to the many volunteers who make it happen for our young people.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

1. These are Kids
2. This is a Game
3. The Coaches are Volunteers
4. The Referees are Human
5. This is not the World Cup

Sports @ HPC



Girls 1st XV Rugby Team



College A Netball

Congratulations to members of the Waitakaruru **Taekwondo** Club who came home with a huge medal haul.

- Jemma Sloane - Gold in Specialty, Bronze for Patterns and Bronze for Team Patterns
- Cooper Green - Silver in Patterns and Bronze in Specialty
- Aidan Craggs - Gold in Specialty and Gold in Team Patterns
- Cayden Reed - Gold in Team Patterns, Silver in Power
- Ataahua Beckham - Silver in Patterns (absent from the photo)
- Kiana Tavakoli - Gold in Sparring, Gold in Patterns, Silver in Pre-arranged Sparring and Bronze in Team Patterns.
- Arian Tavakoli - Silver in Sparring, Silver in Pre-arranged Sparring and Bronze in Specialty
- Naketa-rose Tauatevalu - Gold in Specialty and Silver in Patterns



Taekwondo

Class of 1961



Ngatea District High School Class of 1961 3rd Form Reunion (60 years) was held on Saturday 19 June at the Centennial Centre Hauraki Plains College. A great day and catch up for all who attended. Ian Irvine & Raewyn Goble cut the cake.



The Kumar Family

Narendra and Reena Kumar have been part of the Hauraki Plains community for many years with all four children attending Hauraki Plains College. Their business, Ngatea Lotto and Foodmart, has allowed Naren and Reena to meet teachers and students throughout the year from providing them ice blocks for end of year school to hot chips on a cold and rainy day at sports.

Narendra and Reena tell their story: "Growing up in Fiji we knew this was not the right environment due to the political situation that was ongoing. We knew we didn't want to raise our kids there, so we decided to move to New Zealand as we had other family living here. This gave us the opportunity to be near our family and give our kids a better education and life.

We had our family business in Te Aroha, and we were presented with a business opportunity in Paeroa. Our kids were attending primary

school and high school in Te Aroha, but we felt we needed to be closer to the new business. From word of mouth around town we heard that Hauraki Plains College had a great reputation for sports and academics, so we enrolled our eldest daughter Himisha to begin her schooling as a Year 11 student and then the rest of our kids soon followed. We are grateful to the school for giving us the opportunity to enrol our kids at Hauraki Plains College. From attending parent teacher meetings, we could see that the teachers were really interested in seeing their students excel. And the awards they received at both sporting and academic prizegiving meant we knew we made the right choice as we could see how well they did throughout the year.

We told our kids again and again to put in the hard work in the early stages of their lives, even though you may struggle and find it hard and fail from time to time but that it would allow them to have more

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The Kumar Family

opportunities in their life ahead.”

Their four children: Hamisha, Himali, Viraj and Vinish heeded that advice throughout their time at HPC and University and are now pursuing careers in very different directions. Each has their own story to tell:

Himisha: “From HPC in 2009, I went to Auckland University and studied a Bachelor of Arts until 2011 where I changed and went to AUT, and I studied a Bachelor of Business Studies majoring in Accounting and Finance. While studying, I was working in a family business from a young age. I learnt how to manage and deal with numbers, thanks to my parents. Going to HPC, the teachers there helped me realise numbers was something I wanted to do at a later stage, so I focused my studies on that. The teachers often asked us about where we wanted to go in life; this kept us focused on the things we were good at and helped us improve at what we were not so good at. I graduated from university in 2014 and luckily found my first job in accounting in Paeroa where I worked for almost two years before moving to Auckland to pursue something more challenging. This is where I started studying towards my Chartered Accountancy at CAANZ. I have found it much more of a challenge than I thought, and I have not yet given up and am up for this continued challenge to get to my end goal of seeing that CA beside my name. With the continued help and support of my parents, peers and teachers who always pushed me to be the best I can be. I have found that these foundations have set me up for life and will continue to be an aid in everyday life, no matter where I am or what I am doing.”

Himali: “After leaving HPC in 2012, I started at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) in 2013 and decided to do a Bachelor of Business as I felt really comfortable and curious about that subject and knew there was so much more of it to offer me. Whilst doing my degree, I decided to major in accounting due the love of the subject I had back at HPC, and that is thanks to Mrs Benns. She really pushed me during high school and even when I was at Uni in my accounting classes and got stuck, I would always think what would Mrs Benns say to me in this situation. I also majored in Business Information Systems as I was always interested in the kinds of computer systems a business would use and the ways they worked.

Towards the end of my degree I had the opportunity to further my education even more and do my honours but at that time I made the mistake of not taking that opportunity and since then I've always told myself never close a door that will lead you somewhere even better. I graduated with my degree a few years later and landed myself a job at one of New Zealand's top tier law firms, Simpson Grierson in Auckland City doing administration and data entry work for a couple of years. I've since left SG back in September 2020 and found a new job with LeasePlan New Zealand as a Senior Accounts Payable Officer and have been loving it here ever since. My next step is to become a Chartered Accountant.”

Viraj: “Since leaving HPC in 2015, I decided to go straight into university. I found out that AUT was offering a double degree program with Business Management and Sport and Recreation which I thought was perfect for me as they were both strong passions of mine. From there I decided to Major in Accounting for my business degree as accounting was something I found very interesting during my senior years at HPC and knew then that I would love to pursue it and learn more about it for later on in life as I knew that one day, I would like to run my own business and accounting is a fundamental part of running any type of business. After completing my business degree and majoring in accounting, I have completed the academic study that is needed to apply for admission into CAANZ which is Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.

On the sport and recreation side of things, I decided to major in Sport and Exercise Science which is something I am very passionate about as it involved studying people's responses to muscular activity and using the knowledge that was gained to help enhance athlete performance and reduce injury risk or improve health and wellbeing of individuals. Ultimately, I would tie this degree in with my business degree and open some sort of sporting facility that would help athletes and just regular people to better their health and fitness. After completing this degree, I have gained qualifications in Personal Training.

Something that HPC taught me and is something that I believe has helped me get through Uni is that you cannot be afraid to fail; failing is a part of life. However, the way you react to failure is what matters. I remember Kobe Bryant saying that “Once you know what failure feels like, your determination will chase success.” This really spoke to me and got me through some of the failures I faced while being at Uni as it helped push me forward and to keep a positive mindset and learn from my mistakes.”

Vinish: “I decided to go into law for a few reasons. Firstly, because I loved to argue and felt being a lawyer was the perfect career to advance my interest. Secondly, I was inspired by the John Grisham series; in particular, the Theodore Boone series which centred around a 13 year old kid lawyer. One of the most challenging things since leaving school would have to be being in control of your own studying. You don't have teachers there to hold your hand and make sure you are doing your work. You have to have the mentality and resilience to sit down and study.

One thing that has stuck with me from HPC to this very day is our saying of “eat that frog”. Whenever I was faced with an assignment, challenge or obstacle, I always tried to tackle the hardest task first. I would work at it, bit my bit, so that I would not get overwhelmed and once I completed the hardest task it was smooth sailing as I could cross it off my to do list.

My advice would be to take every opportunity that is presented to you, whether it is school debating, or any opportunity to practise your public speaking skills. There is nothing worse than looking back and thinking I should have just given it a go. You shouldn't be afraid that you might make a mistake, or get it wrong, that is the whole point and way of learning.”

After graduating with a law degree from Auckland University, Vanish was recently admitted to the bar as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court (photo below).

The Kumar family have generously given back to HPC in the form of a \$1000 scholarship awarded each year for the last 5 years at Senior Academic Prizегiving.



The Kumar family L-R: Himisha, Viraj, Reena, Vinish, Narendra and Himali

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