

# HPC e-Bulletin

Friday 31 January 2025



## Kia ora koutou and welcome to Week One of Term One!

I hope you have had a happy and restful break. We are excited to be back at school this week and ready to crack into 2025. It has been a fantastic week, welcoming our new staff and students on Tuesday, followed by our Year 10–12 students on Wednesday—a big week of welcomes!

### Welcome staff and students

On Thursday, we welcomed 210 new Year 9 students and their families to our school. Thank you to Matua Frank, Whaea Carrie, and our new Curriculum Leader of Science, John Aloï, for bringing across our manuhiri. It was wonderful to have Matua Te Waiheruata Rāwiri speaking on behalf of mana whenua and Whaea Nikki leading our karanga.

Our Year 9 students then met their River Guides and moved straight into their timetabled classes. Our Year 13 students have spent time training to support Year 9 students through River and have developed a strong peer support programme to help our new students settle in:

A warm welcome to our new staff:

- William Marks - Physics
- John Aloï - Curriculum Leader Science
- Dianne Dunchie-Coley - English
- Yotam Kay - Horticulture/Social Science
- Melanie Turner - Dance/Drama
- Alesha Ridealgh - Humanities
- Paul Dodds - Services Academy Director
- Ana Van Eyk - Student Services/Reception
- Tracey Barker - Wellbeing team

### Trialling a new location for Student Services

At the end of last year we relocated the Student Services office over to the main administration block. Students are to enter the administration area through the doors nearest the Tech Block to access student services. Parents, caregivers, whānau and any visitors to the school are to enter the school through the main foyer doors on Kaihere Road. Students are to go to the student service desk for signing in and out of school, dropping off their phones, sickbay, and any other student related matters.

### Year 11 NCEA Information Evening – Thursday, 13th February, 6:00–7:30 PM

This event is for Year 11 students, parents, and anyone

wanting to upskill their knowledge of NCEA. The session will also cover some of the recent changes introduced last year. Students from our Academic Council will be supporting this event and will be available to answer your questions from a student perspective.

### Year 9 Meet the River Guide Evening – Tuesday, 18th February, 6:00–7:30 PM

River Guides are your students' champions—they will be their advocates, mentors, supporters, and biggest cheerleaders over the next five years. Each morning, River Guides meet with their River groups to take the roll, check uniforms, read the notices, and check in with students. On Mondays, this time is extended to include assembly and learning activities.

River Guides are your first point of contact if you need help or have questions. It is important to connect with your student's River Guide and get to know them—we warmly encourage all Year 9 students and their families to attend this evening. The Year 13 Peer Support leaders are also intending to be present so you can meet our leaders who are supporting our Year 9 students

All parents will hear from their student's River Guide via email by Wednesday next week. Please keep an eye out for this message.

### Invoices, Subject Fees, and Timetables

By Wednesday, 5th February, we aim to have our timetable finalised. After this date, we will not be changing students into other classes unless parents arrange a meeting.

Invoices will be sent to parents next week and will include subject fees based on the subjects your student has chosen. If you are not happy with their subject choices, please ensure any changes are made by Wednesday, 5th February. For support with subject changes, please contact the year-level Dean or Deputy Principal: [Staff Contact Emails](#).

### Frequently asked questions at this time of year!

*I haven't quite got the right uniform yet* – Please don't panic. We can write a uniform pass for you until you get it sorted. Before river time, students should bring a note to the front office and write their name on a clipboard. A uniform pass will be sent to students during the



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first block. We do not accept birks or crocs even with a note from home.

***I am missing some stationery items*** – Teachers will have extra gear to help get students started.

***I have financial hardship and can't pay for key things to get my student started*** – Please email [principal@aurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:principal@aurakiplains.school.nz) or call the main office and ask to speak with Sharon.

***I don't know who to contact about things*** – You will be receiving a welcome email/phone call from your River guide within the next week. Here is a list of staff contacts from our website: <https://aurakiplains.school.nz/our-people/staff-contact-emails/> or alternatively our school App has everyone's staff contacts too.

***I have some bus questions, who do I talk to?*** – Josh Thom is overseeing buses while Michelle Isbister is on leave. He can be reached at [joshth@aurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:joshth@aurakiplains.school.nz). He will be able to answer most of your queries. Our Facebook page is updated with any changes to routes.

## Facebook

Facebook continues to be a fast and effective way to reach many people. While we will always email important information, including bulletins, much of our day-to-day news is shared on Facebook. Please follow "Hauraki Plains College: What's happening at HPC" for updates.

Our Facebook Messenger and [media@aurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:media@aurakiplains.school.nz) email are monitored during school hours if you have news to share with us.

We also have a dedicated HPC Sports Facebook page: [HPC Sports](#).

For general queries, please contact the Student Centre: [studentservices@aurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:studentservices@aurakiplains.school.nz).

## Chromebook Success

Well done to our Year 9 and 10 students who have started the year strong by bringing their Chromebooks to school. This is a major change in 2025, as all junior students are now required to bring a device.

If junior students do not have their own device, they are

welcome to borrow one each day from the Hub. They will need to check it out in the morning (like a book) and return it to Student Services in the afternoon. Please note: We only have enough Chromebooks in classrooms for our senior students.

## Google Classroom

Every class at HPC has a Google Classroom where teachers post activities and work for students. Parents/caregivers of Year 9 students and other new students will receive an email in Week 3 inviting them to subscribe to summaries of activity from their child's Google Classroom subject sites. These summaries, sent daily or weekly (depending on preference), provide a snapshot of each week's learning focus and upcoming assignments.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Jonathan O'Neill: [jonathano@aurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:jonathano@aurakiplains.school.nz).

## School App and Parent Portal

If you have not yet installed the school app on your phone, please follow these instructions:

1. On your phone or tablet, open the Play Store app (Android) or the App Store (Apple).
2. Search for 'school apps nz' and download the SchoolAppsNZ app.
3. Open the SchoolAppsNZ app and search for 'Hauraki Plains College' to connect to our school.

When we send out a message via the app, all users will instantly receive a pop-up 'push notification' on their device. Many parents enjoy the convenience of using the app to notify the school of their child's absence, as well as accessing the daily notices, school map, and staff contact details.

The 'Parent Portal' section of the app allows parents/guardians to access their child's attendance and academic results. Email [studentservices@aurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:studentservices@aurakiplains.school.nz) to request your caregiver login details if you did not receive them, or if you are having issues logging in.

## Bus Bay

With the start of the year, we would like to remind parents that cars are prohibited to park in or drive through the bus bay between the times of 8am-



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8.45am and 3pm-3.25pm on a school day. It is a safety issue. We thank you for your cooperation.

## Learning Support

Thank you to the many parents and teachers who have made the transition from Primary/Intermediate to College successful. The Learner Profiles have been a great addition to getting to know your children.

We look forward to previous teachers and learning support coordinators visiting our Hauraki Plains College over the coming weeks checking in with students and staff as we continue to strengthen our transition to College plan. *“A number of studies conducted in New Zealand and internationally highlight that ill-prepared transitions can impact negatively on both student wellbeing and academic achievement. There is also evidence that the likelihood of students staying in school*

*can be heavily dependent on the success of their transition into secondary school” (Education Hub, 2019).*

If you have any queries or would like further information on how we can support your student please feel free to contact our Learning Support Coordinator Naomi Fisher [naomif@aurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:naomif@aurakiplains.school.nz) who will be happy to support you and/or direct your enquiry to another member of the team.

## Community -

### Kerepehi Brass Band

Learners lessons, come and join in with us! More information [here](#).

Ngā mihi  
Sharon Moller (Principal)

## HPC Upcoming Dates

Day/Wk	Week 2 - Week commencing 5th Feb		Week 3 - Week commencing 12th Feb	
Monday	3		10	
Tuesday	4		11	
Wednesday	5		12	Health and Safety Module A course
Thursday	6	Waitangi Day - no school	13	Yr 11 NCEA Evening 6pm Health and Safety Module A course
Friday	7	School closed	14	