

HPC e-Bulletin

Friday 2 May 2025



Kia ora koutou and welcome to Week ONE of Term two. A shorter nine week term with two long weekends - time will fly and we have lots to pack in.

Anzac Day Dawn Service

Thank you to our students, families, and community for supporting our ANZAC Day dawn service. It was a wonderful event, led in partnership by our Head Students and Services Academy. A huge thank you to our guest speaker, Academy Director Paul Dodds, who captivated our audience through his messages of courage, unity, and taking action to live our best lives.

We would love to hear from ex-HPC students who are currently in the Armed Forces. It was great to have ex-student, Jack Pallister, attending the dawn service in his navy uniform. We would love to build a database of ex-HPC students who are currently serving - they could be called upon to inspire our services academy and perhaps be future guest speakers at our Dawn service. Please email pauld@aurakiplains.school.nz or principal@aurakiplains.school.nz to register any names or interest!

Do Days

Our 'Do Days' week has been a great success with teachers bringing in a diverse range of guests to extend our students' skills and knowledge and create connections within career pathways. Here are a few highlights:

- Year 12 and 13 Drama students experienced an inspiring and physical three-hour 'Massive Theatre Company' devising workshop with professional actors and tutors.
- Year 11 Textiles students worked with local fibre artists Meike Schmidt and Joanne Akroyd, making felt pieces using wet felting methods.
- In collaboration with the University of Waikato's Science and Engineering Department, the HPC Science department has had an electron microscope onsite all week. This has been a great opportunity to experience cutting-edge science up close.
- Our Year 13 PE students recently had the opportunity to hear from Ryan and Ben, postgraduate students from the University of Waikato's Sport and Human Performance Department. Both are currently completing their Master's degrees and shared valuable insights into their areas of study and professional roles. They are part of a research team developing innovative technologies in sports science, including a performance-enhancing shoe projected to improve athletic output by up to 4% and a wristband designed to monitor an athlete's mental state in real time. In addition to their academic work, Ryan and Ben collaborate with elite sporting organisations such as the Waikato Bay of Plenty Magic Netball team and the Chiefs Rugby franchise.
- The Year 12 AgHort Science class and Year 10 Digital Technology students were visited by Nick Pickering from the Engineering department, Waikato University. Nick's team and students design robots for the horticulture and agriculture industry. His robotic team are able to go into orchards and other agriculture industries and learn about how they can help growers with issues. In particular with lack of labour. The students then create projects to help to fix these issues while also improving the environmental footprint of the property.
- Our Year 13 English students were incredibly fortunate to enjoy a private screening at the Leftbank Cinema in Thames. As part of their focus on real-world writing contexts this term, students are learning how to craft insightful film reviews. They watched the powerful New Zealand film *Tinā*, and the experience did not disappoint! There was learning, laughter, a few tears, and, of course, the essential cinema treats—ice cream and cups of tea. A heartfelt thank you to the Leftbank team for hosting us. What a memorable way to blend education and entertainment!



Yr12 & 13 Drama



Yr11 Textiles



Electron Microscope



Yr13 ENG at Leftbank Cinema



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Junior Maths Easter Break Holiday Competition

The results for this competition is as follows:

- 1st Fergus Tate
- 2nd James van Eyk
- 3rd Riley Green

Get ready for the next competition during the Term two break!

Transition to Winter Uniform

We are currently in a transition period from summer to winter uniform. During this time students may wear either summer or winter uniform, but not a combination of both, e.g. no scarf with sandals. By Monday, 12th May all students are expected to be in the correct winter uniform.

Acceptable Winter School Shoes: Going into winter uniform it is appropriate for whānau/parents to know what our expectations are. The only acceptable winter school shoes, as indicated in our uniform requirements in the HPC prospectus, are black leather lace up school shoes with a heel of no more than 5 cm (as shown in the image). There are often a number of students wearing incorrect school shoes – they may be advertised in the shoe store as school shoes, but they are not acceptable under our policy. Please make sure your children are in the correct footwear.



Attendance

At the end of Term one, we identified students whose attendance was causing concern, and our River Guides, Deans, and Deputy Principals reached out to offer support. Even when absences happen for good reasons – like illness, family trips, or appointments – time away from school can still impact students. They might come back feeling a bit behind, out of the loop, or disconnected from their learning and peers.

As we started this term, students with attendance below 80% had a one-on-one check-in with their River Guide. These conversations are a gentle and supportive way of helping students feel reconnected and confident in their classes. It's all part of making sure every student feels seen, valued, and on track.

If regular attendance is feeling hard to manage at the moment, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's River Guide as your first port of call. Our Deans are also here to help, and we're always keen to work together to find solutions that work best for your whānau.

Below is a quick reminder of HPC's attendance expectations and the supports we have in place to help students stay engaged and thriving.

Student Attendance at Hauraki Plains College

We expect all students to be at school every day, unless there's a justified reason like illness or bereavement. This also includes attending school-related activities outside the classroom, like EOTC or trips. If a student needs to leave during the day, they must sign out through the office, with prior permission from home.

Parents and caregivers play a huge role in supporting regular attendance. Letting us know by 8.30am if your child will be away and

trying to schedule appointments outside school time really helps us support students effectively and identify any issues early on.

If a student has repeated absences, we follow a supportive, step-by-step process that may include:

- Contact from their River Guide (letters, phone calls, or meetings)
- Involvement from Deans or senior leaders if concerns continue
- Tailored support, like access to wellbeing services, flexible timetables, or help transitioning back into learning
- Sometimes, support from outside agencies such as CAPS Hauraki

Our goal is simple: we want every student to feel supported, connected, and successful at school. If you have any concerns about attendance or just want to talk something through, please reach out – we're here to help.

Additional Security Cameras - last notice

We have installed an additional four cameras around our school, adding to the 10 existing cameras. Currently, there is a camera facing the entrance to the exterior doors of the male bathroom. This has helped us identify students who have broken school rules, such as vandalism and misbehaviour. In the past four years, we have spent over \$70,000 in fixing vandalised toilets.

The female bathrooms are more challenging to monitor. There is a communal space in the girls' bathroom near the sinks, as well as multiple individual cubicles. We have encountered issues with students vaping, doing damage, multiple students entering a single cubicle, and other misbehaviour inside the girls' bathroom. There is an increasing number of female students who do not feel comfortable using the bathroom, and we have a responsibility to put measures in place to ensure they feel safe.

We are looking to install a camera that will cover the communal area of the bathroom (not individual cubicles)

Key points:

- The camera would only view the communal area, not the individual cubicles.
- Only five female staff members would have access to the footage: the Principal, two female Deputy Principals, and two female Deans.
- The footage would be deleted after two weeks.
- No audio would be recorded.
- Signage would be installed to inform students that there is a camera operating and that cubicles should be used for getting changed - students will be discouraged from using the communal area for changing
- The footage would not be regularly monitored.
- The footage would only be reviewed if there were concerns about students breaking school rules inside the bathroom or if there were safety concerns.

We welcome any questions or feedback via email. The camera in the girls' bathroom has not been installed. We want to give our community time to ask questions and to share their feedback. Please get in touch before the 9th of May. Feel free to email your questions or feedback to principal@haurakiplains.school.nz



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Volunteers for Restricted Ready Program

We are on the lookout for volunteers to help our students gain driving skills to pass their restricted licence. Please email Amanda Sayer amandas@haurakiplains.school.nz

Common Assessment Activities

Many of our students from Years 10-12 will be sitting the CAAs from 19th-21st May. These are the Reading, Writing and Numeracy exams that provide the Literacy and Numeracy co-requisite credits for the NCEA qualification. Students will be provided with their exam timetables shortly.

Learning Support

As term two fast approaches we are once again in need of volunteers to support the increasing needs of our students requiring Special Assessment Conditions (SAC). If you or someone you know would be interested in reading to, writing for, or even supervising assessments, we would love to hear from you. Please contact jacqui-maya@haurakiplains.school.nz or laurad@haurakiplains.school.nz for more information.

Sport Waikato Survey

What motivates you or stops you being active? Tell us and be in to WIN 1 of 5 \$100 grocery gift cards!

Sport Waikato is running a survey aimed at finding out about how active we are – or aren't! They need to hear from everyone aged 18+ or those who have left school, whether you spend your days running marathons or chilling on the couch. The information you provide will help build a picture of our region and help Sport Waikato and their partners (like us) to ensure play, active recreation and sport is more accessible, exciting and inclusive!

Take the 5 minute short survey and be in to WIN <https://shorturl.at/ba5eq>

- The survey and prize draw is open to residents of the Waikato region – from Thames-Coromandel to Taupo and everywhere in between.
- The survey is completely anonymous – any contact details will only be used for the purposes of the prize draw.
- Prizes will be drawn every month, from February-December throughout 2025. Winners can choose vouchers from their local grocery store/supermarket.

Hauraki Rowing Club presents... BEATS BY BINGO!

Huge fundraiser event for our HPC rowers. Saturday 7th June - \$25 per ticket at the Ngatea War Memorial Hall. More info [here](#).

Nga mihi
Sharon Moller (PRINCIPAL)

HPC Upcoming Dates

Day/Wk	Week 2 - Week commencing 5th May		Week 3 - Week commencing 12th May	
Monday	5	Day 5 - Do Days 13GEO Rotorua Trip	12	Service Academy - Bushcraft
Tuesday	6	Day 6 - Do Days 11OTE (Line 6) MTB Skills Trip 1	13	Service Academy - Bushcraft Summer Code Photos
Wednesday	7	H&S A Module Course	14	Service Academy - Bushcraft
Thursday	8	H&S A Module Course 11OTE (Line 1WD) MTB Skills Trip 1	15	Service Academy - Bushcraft Auckland Writers Festival trip Yr 13 overnight camp (at school!)
Friday	9	TVSS Golf - Round 1 MotoX - Awakaponga	16	Service Academy - Bushcraft Mufti Day (yr 13 fundraiser)

Careers Corner

University liaison and career visits

Sign up via the links in your year group's Google Classroom or direct email to Mrs Lawlor. New opportunities are posted every week, so please keep checking on a regular basis. **There is no cost to students to attend any of the visits shown in the table over the page.**

The **Careers Expo** is the national show at Hamilton, which provides our students with opportunities to connect face to face with employers, industry representatives and training providers in order to support our young people looking to make key decisions about their future career choices. [Hamilton 2025](#)

Girls in Infrastructure is a hands-on day of activities showcasing the diverse Infrastructure industry to young female high school students and raising awareness of all the career possibilities. (You must be 16 by June 12th 2026 to attend) [Girls in Infrastructure](#)

The **Wintec visit** is for students in Years 10 and 11 (you must be 16 by March 1st 2026) who are interested in studying a trade pathway via the Wintec Trades Academy. Pathways that are available are:

- Hair and Beauty
- Construction and Infrastructure
- Manufacturing and Technology.

These courses offer students the ability to study trade



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pathways off-site one day a week and gain credits at Level 2. More information via the link: [Waikato Trades Academy Programmes](https://www.waikato.ac.nz/education/trades-academy-programmes)

Please contact Mrs Lawlor pippal@haurakiplains.school.nz for any queries for career events.

Careers interviews

Appointments for Term two can be requested via email. Please contact pippal@haurakiplains.school.nz We look forward to welcoming Year 10 River Groups with their River Guides for Tahatū orientation visits in Term two. You can visit the website <https://tahatu.govt.nz/> to create your own account and take the inspiration quiz as a starting point.

Work Shadowin

The dental van is confirmed for week six and seven in Term two. Mrs Lawlor will be emailing students who have an expression of interest to confirm dates with you.

Gateway - new applications welcome for Term three start

Please come and speak to Mrs Scott if you want to join any of the Gateway programmes in term three. Your commitment as a student is that you will attend health & safety training and participate in a work placement. You will gain 20 credits by completing your Gateway programme. However, you also need to be able to manage your

subject workload and assessments, as you will be spending between 8 and 11 days out of timetabled classes.

Learner's Driver Licence

We are pleased to announce that following the 100% success rate of our last course, we will be offering a further opportunity for students to study with Thames Driving School tutor Gavin Buchanan and take their Learner Licence test onsite at HPC. The course will run from Tuesday 17th June - Friday 19th June (testing day). E-mail pippal@haurakiplains.school.nz if you are interested in being part of this course.

Mr Harris has posted a very informative presentation in the Year 11 Google Classroom: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NTg2NzA5Njl1Mzg3/p/NzU5NDA2OTQ3NjE3/details>

You must be 16 years' old by 19th June to take your test on this date. There will be another course in term three also.

Pathways Graduation Breakfast

This will be a special event held on Thursday June 26th for all students who have completed Gateway and Vocational Pathways certification. Parents of students and employers who have hosted students are also warmly invited. If you will have been involved in Gateway, Work Experience or Wintec in Terms one or two this year, please put the date in your diary. Further details to follow.

CAREERS DATES TERM 2

Day	Date	Who	Time	Where
Wednesday	21st May	University of Waikato Scholarship meeting	9:00am Block 1	Hall
Thursday	22nd May	University of Otago	1:50pm Block 4	Hall
Friday	23rd May	Visit to University of Waikato Open Day - Year 12 & 13 students	9:00am - 2:30 pm	Hamilton - full Now waitlisting
Monday	26th May	New Zealand Defence Force Liaison Visit Year 11, 12 & 13 students	11:00am-12:00pm	Gym
Thursday	29th May	New Zealand Institute of Sport - Year 12 & 13 students	9:00am-2:30pm	Auckland - full Now waitlisting
Thursday	5th June	AUT online presentation	11:00am-12:00pm	Hall
Monday	9th June	Careers Expo Visit - Year 11, 12 & 13 students	9:00am - 2:30pm	Hamilton - a few places available
Thursday	12th June	Girls in Infrastructure - Year 11, 12 & 13 students - Must be 16 years old to attend. Free! Transport provided from HPC	9:00am - 2:45pm	Hamilton

CAREERS DATES TERM 3

Monday	28th July	Wintec Pre-Trade visit - Year 10 & 11 students	11:00am - 1:30pm	Kopu Campus
Thurs-Fri	31st July - 1st August	Gateway Health & Safety course	8:45am - 3:00pm	Centennial Centre
Wed-Thurs	6th-7th August	Flight attending course	9:00am - 3:00pm both days	HPC- please email Mrs Lawlor