

HPC e-Bulletin



Thursday, 2 April, 2026



Kia ora koutou and welcome to the last week of Term One!

Celebrating Our Students: Recognising Values in Action

It has been a fantastic week of recognition here at school! We are thrilled to announce that 38 students were awarded certificates and badges this week for their consistent commitment to our school values.

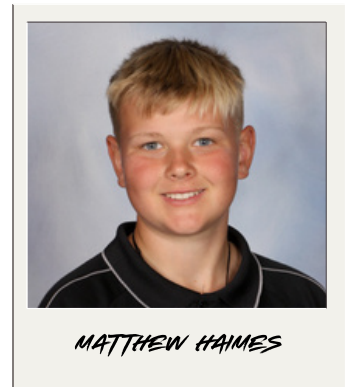
Our badge system is designed to celebrate students who live and breathe our core values: Manaakitanga (Respect and Care), Rangatiratanga (Leadership and Self-Determination), and Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship). Students earn these prestigious badges as they hit the following milestones:

- 20 Points
- 40 Points
- 60 Points
- 80 Points
- 100 Points
- 120 Points

A Standout Achievement

We want to give a special shout-out to [Matthew Haimes](#) (10NI) for an incredible accomplishment this term. Matthew has earned 80 recognition points in a single term!

Congratulations, Matthew, on setting such a high standard for your peers. We know how much our families value seeing their children succeed. We hope you are enjoying the Friday email updates, which allow you to track these recognition points as they accumulate. It's a great way to start a conversation at home about the positive impact our students are making every day. Thank you for your continued support in fostering a culture of excellence and kindness.



Supporting Our Community Through the Fuel Crisis

As we are all aware, the current fuel crisis is placing significant pressure on household budgets across our community. We recognise that for many of our families, the rising cost of fuel is not just a headline; it is a daily challenge that may be impacting your ability to get your children to school.

We Are Here to Help

If fuel costs are becoming a barrier to your child's attendance, please reach out to us. We want to ensure that every student remains connected to their learning, and we are committed to working with families to find solutions wherever possible.

Maintaining Our Learning Environment

Please be assured that we are also looking ahead. We are currently developing contingency plans for our staff to ensure there is no disruption to teaching and learning should the situation fluctuate further. Our priority remains providing a stable and supportive environment for our students.

Community Solutions: Carpooling

For families who do not have access to school bus routes, we strongly encourage you to explore carpooling and cost-sharing with neighbours or friends.

- Connect: Reach out to other parents in your neighbourhood.
- Share: Even sharing the school run a few days a week can significantly reduce costs and ease the morning rush.
- Support: Small community connections can make a big difference during these times. We Are In This Together

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ANZAC Day Dawn Service

On the 25th of April we hold a dawn service at HPC for all members of our community. There will be student speakers from the Head Student group, Services Academy, and a guest speaker. We would love you to come along. We ask everyone to assemble at 5.55am outside the Dog Box at our main street entrance.

Uniform Update: New Guidelines for Piercings

As we continue through the term, we have noticed an increasing number of students with various facial and ear piercings, including nose rings and helix piercings. To balance our uniform standards with the needs of our students, the HPC Board has recently updated our jewellery policy.

New Policy: Piercing Retainers (clear spacers)

We are pleased to announce that students with piercings beyond the standard earlobe studs now have the option to wear piercing retainers. These allow students to maintain their piercings without compromising the school's uniform aesthetic.

According to the updated policy on our website:

"The only visible jewellery permitted is one plain silver or gold stud in each ear lobe. For all other piercings, students may wear a piercing retainer that is flat-surfaced and transparent. Coloured or decorative plastic jewellery of any kind is not permitted."

What is a Piercing Retainer?

Retainers are clear, medical-grade plastic or acrylic pieces designed to be discreet and sit flat against the skin.

- Must be: Clear/transparent and flat-surfaced.
- Must not be: Coloured, spiked, or decorative.

Why the Change?

This update ensures that our uniform remains professional and consistent while providing a practical solution for students. We ask that all families review these changes to ensure students are prepared for the coming weeks. You can find the full updated uniform code on our school website under the Uniform section. Thank you for your cooperation in helping our students look their best and represent our school with pride.

Rowing

17 Hauraki Plains College Rowers have just competed at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Rowing Championships in Twizel. The team had 6 days of competition with outstanding results.

The team made 1x A Finals, 2x B Finals and medaled in 3 events.

- Vaughn Stanton and Frankie Neal won Bronze in the Boys Novice U18 Double.
- Blake Leach won Silver in the U17 Boys Single
- Cameron Churchill and Blake Leach Won Silver in the U18 Boys Double

We would like to thank the community and sponsors for their amazing support over the season and a special shout out to our coaches and support crew of Martin Simoncelli, Mark and Mel Dowty, Jeremy Cryer and Amanda Sayer. The team had a massive 11 days away and we are incredibly proud of them.



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Volleyball

What began as a dream, taking a team to the national stage, became a reality. Not only did we get there, we made our mark, finishing top of Division 2. To rise from last place in Division 3 last year to Division 2 champions is an outstanding achievement. Our official ranking opens up to new tournaments and new challenges in the future, very exciting times! This success is built on loyalty, determination, and trust. These students didn't just play; they committed to one another, grew together, and showed incredible spirit and resilience every step of the way. I couldn't be prouder to be their coach. You have shown what's possible when passion meets perseverance. Your success is already inspiring the next generation, with 30 junior girls eager to take the court in the second half of the year. Angels, you are champions, on the court and beyond. Matua John - Coach



Waiuku Exchange

Thank you to all the parents, coaches, students and volunteers who supported our annual exchange with Waiuku College. And better still, we came away with the cup! Results were:

Rugby

Girls 1st XV (W)
Boys 1st XV (L)

Basketball

Boys (W)
Girls (W)

Hockey Mixed (W)

Golf

HPC Golf Team 1 (W)
HPC Golf Team 2 (W)
HPC Golf Team 3 (W)

Netball

Team 1 (L)
Team 2 (W)



South and Korea Trip - update

We have had the most amazing start to our trip! The hospitality has been incredible, we are arriving home with more gifts than we left with! The food has been on another level altogether, with our students enjoying trying all sorts of different dishes. Our students have spent the past three nights in homestays in Incheon City and are having some amazing experiences in schools too. Today we will go to Seoul for three nights to start the next phase of our journey.

Excellence Breakfasts in Term 2

We are committed to fostering a culture of high achievement and recognising the dedication our students pour into their NCEA mahi. This year, we are proud to announce the launch of a new tradition: The Excellence Breakfasts. Any student who earns Excellence credits in their NCEA Level 1, 2, or 3 internal assessments during Term 1 will receive an invitation to this special event, alongside their family.

- Dates: Year 12/13 Monday 4th May 9-10.15am, Yr 11 Monday 11th May 9-10.15am
- The Experience: A fully catered breakfast shared with peers and whānau.
- Inspiration: We are excited to host an inspiring guest speaker at each event to share insights on leadership, perseverance, and success beyond the classroom.

We encourage all our seniors to keep pushing for those Excellence grades over the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing many of you there to celebrate your success!

LockDown Training

Every term we run either a fire evacuation or a lock down drill. We have been sharing our processes with students at assembly, and these posters are in all our class rooms. During a lockdown practice or real event, we ask that parents do not call on the phone (we won't be able to answer) or physically come on site (our building will be locked). Thank you for your support and understanding.

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ATTENDANCE CORNER: CELEBRATING ATTENDANCE SUCCESS

Attendance is the foundation of student success, and this week we are incredibly proud to share some inspiring news from our community.

From Red to Green: A Remarkable Shift

Last week, we celebrated 11 students who have made a massive turnaround in their school attendance. These students moved from RED attendance in Term 4 last year to GREEN attendance for Term 1. To honour this commitment, each of these students was gifted a \$20 Foodtruck voucher.

We know that improving attendance is a team effort. We want to extend a massive thank you to the families involved; we recognise the hard work, early mornings, and determination it takes to shift these habits. It is not easy, and your efforts are truly paying off for your child's future.

We Are Here to Support You

Our goal is to see every student thriving in the "Green" zone. If your student's attendance is currently sitting in the ORANGE or RED categories and you would like help creating a plan for improvement, please reach out to your child's Dean. Whether the barriers are logistical, social, or personal, we are here to listen and help you navigate a way forward.

Looking Ahead

Because of your collective efforts, we have officially met our attendance goals for this term. This puts us in a fantastic position as we head toward Term 2.

Thank you for making school attendance a priority. When our students are here, they are learning, growing, and building the connections that matter most.

CAREERS CORNER

Gateway

Training courses will recommence in Week 2 of Term 2 for chainsaw operations.

University Visits

The liaison visits are when staff from the universities come into school to speak with students. Sign ups for liaison visits are via the Google classrooms. Email pippal@haurakiplains.school.nz with any questions.

In Term 2 we will also have external visits, where students have the opportunity to travel to Auckland and Hamilton to visit university and tertiary colleges. There are sign up sheets in the Senior Google classrooms. Most visits have a 2 stage sign up: 1. Signing up with the institution gets you a place at the event, 2. Signing up on the Google form means that you can be considered for a place on the transport to the event. Of course, you also have the option to drive yourself. University of Waikato Open Day is on Friday May 22nd and sign up links are now live.

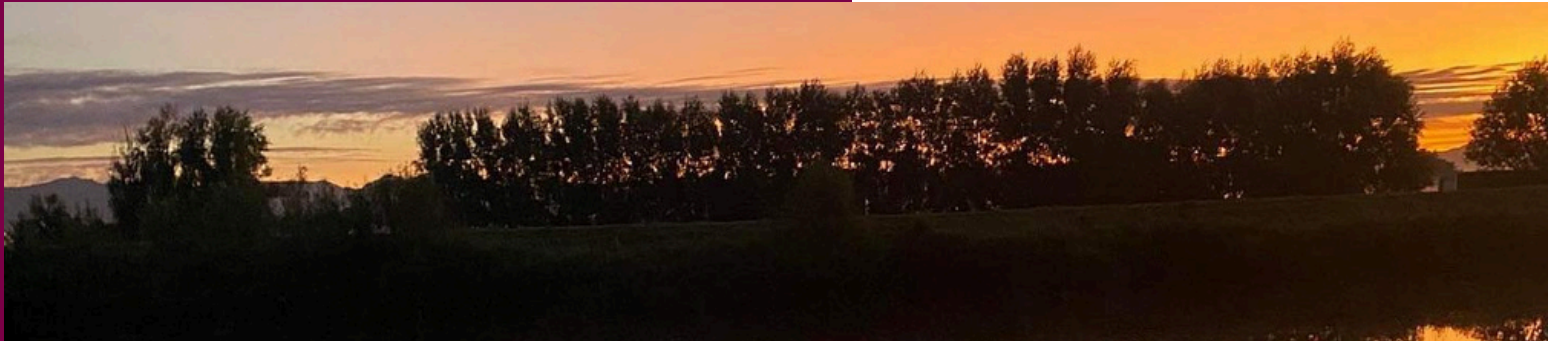
Important Notices

- Driver Licensing: offered in Term 2.
- Google Classrooms: There are dedicated classrooms for Gateway, Junior/Senior Careers, Year 13 Pathways, and the Student Volunteer Army. Students: Please ensure you have signed up and have notifications turned on to stay updated on all upcoming opportunities.

Please email Mrs Lawlor pippal@haurakiplains.school.nz for further information.

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UPCOMING DATES

Day/ Week	Week 1: Commencing 20th April		Week 2: Commencing 27th April	
Mon	20		27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANZAC Day observed - public holiday
Tues	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIHMS liaison visit • Lincoln University liaison visit 	28	
Wed	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria University liaison visit 	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chainsaw Course • Enviro Schools Climate Summit • One Autumn's Night (6pm)
Thur	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hayward Farm Autumn Celebration (Jnr Block1, Snr Block2) 	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chainsaw Course • Enviro Schools Climate Summit • Otago Uni Liaison visit 1.50 - 3pm
Fri	24		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11OTE MTB Skills (Line 2)