

HPC e-Bulletin



Friday 7 August 2026



Kia ora koutou and welcome to Week Three of Term Three!

Senior Subject Selection and Pathways Evening

On Tuesday the 25th of August HPC will be hosting a senior subject selection and future pathways evening. Each subject area will have interactive presentations to give you and your children a taste of what they can experience in those classes, as well as sessions explaining the ins-and-outs of NCEA. We will also have numerous outside providers present on-site to give insights into their industries and potential future pathways, providers such as: Wintec, BCITO, Major Oaks, the NZ Police, as well as Massey, Auckland and Waikato Universities, with many more present. A full schedule will be provided in next Friday's e-bulletin.

Doors open at 4pm; all students and whanau are welcome. 2027 Senior (Years 11-13) subject selection booklets will be provided to students on 24th August. Students will have until the 17th of September to select their subjects for 2027.

Year 9 Deans

We would like to thank Victoria Dickey for all of her work in the Year 9 Deaning area over the past 3 years. Victoria is now working more alongside staff in a new specialist teacher role.

We would like to welcome Amanda Sayer to the Anchor Year 9 Dean role for the remainder of the year. Amanda comes with years of Deaning experience and we are fortunate to have her expertise within this space again. If you are needing to contact the Year 9 Deans please contact both Amanda Sayer (amandas@haurakiplains.school.nz) and Gemma Fisher (gemmaf@haurakiplains.school.nz).

Farewell to Our Korean Exchange Students!

As we bid farewell to our visiting Korean exchange students, we reflect on a deeply enriching experience for our entire school community. Over the past few weeks, our students loved sharing Kiwi traditions, building lasting international friendships, and learning about Korean language, dance, and culture.

A huge thank you to our teaching and support staff for welcoming our guests into their classrooms and organizing fantastic Kiwi experiences—from baking and farm tours to local outings around Thames, Miranda, and the Ngatea Water Gardens, along with classic Kiwi sports.

Special thanks to Mike Dwight and Jonathon O'Neill for representing our school so brilliantly and ensuring our visiting students felt welcomed and supported throughout their stay.

Finally, our heartfelt gratitude goes to our wonderful host families for opening their homes and hearts. Thank you to everyone who helped make this exchange such a resounding success!

Year 10 Camps

A list of Year 10 camps and pricing will be included in next week's e-bulletin. The camps will run from Monday 30 November to Wednesday 2 December.



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CAA Literacy and Numeracy Exams

Students now have the ability to login to the NZQA portal and access their previous exam papers and responses. This will allow parents to view exactly what answers your child provided in those exams and view a summary of the areas in which your child needs to improve. Watch the video on [this website](#) to learn how to access the exam papers.

Winter Co-curricular Photos – Tues 11th August

Uniform requirements for each sports team will be communicated by HPC Sports. Long hair needs to be tied back and boys need to be clean shaven. Please note the importance of punctuality, arriving at your photo 10min before. (Schedule [here](#))

Outstanding Fees

We would like to remind families that some accounts currently show outstanding fees from previous years. We ask that these balances be cleared as soon as possible.

Important Information Regarding Sports Fees

- **Payment Requirement:** If your child participates in school sports, all sports fees must be paid in full before the end of the current season.
- **Future Participation:** Please be aware that unpaid sports fees may impact your child's eligibility for future sporting events and teams.
- **Tournament Week:** Students who have not paid their tournament fees in full before the tournament begins will not be eligible to participate.

Our school relies on sports fees being paid in full to cover operational costs and ensure we can continue offering the best possible opportunities for all of our sporting teams.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties or wish to set up a flexible payment plan, please contact our office directly so we can support you.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and for your continued support of our school community.

Autopay with Kindo

You can now set up recurring payments directly in Kindo, making it easier to stay on top of school costs. Autopay is a simple set-and-forget way to keep regular payments ticking along, so there's one less thing to remember during the school term.

When you access your Kindo app, click on your wallet at the top of the screen and follow the autopay directions. Need a hand getting set up? Email helpdesk@kindo.co.nz Call 0508 4 KINDO (0508 454 636)

Out of Zone Enrolments

A reminder for families/whanau that live out of our school zone that have siblings currently at HPC, still need to apply through the ballot. Email: anav@haurakiplains.school.nz. The OoZ ballot closes on Wednesday 19th August 2026 (12pm).

Student Tutorials

Tutorials are going well with over 15 students utilising the service. The Academic Council will be running supportive tutorials next week – everyday 3.15pm in the Hub.

Music lessons for students at HPC

Free music lessons are provided at school by professional tutors who support both NCEA requirements and personal goals.

Student Expectations:

- **Blue Slips:** Collect your blue slip from your River Guide in the morning to show subject teachers when leaving/returning to class.
- **Attendance:** Arrive promptly for your 25-minute lesson. If you cannot attend due to an assessment or conflict, notify your River Guide or Mr. Houghton in advance.
- **Preparation:** Bring your music folder, check emails regularly, and practice at home.

Junior Music Lessons Available

Spaces have opened up in our music program for junior students with instrument experience. If your child would like to take lessons at school, please email markh@haurakiplains.school.nz or visit the Music Department at the start of break.

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Spring Rowing Camp

As the 26/27 Rowing Season comes closer our annual Camp in Mangakino approaches. The camp will be held in the last week of the term from Wednesday the 23rd of September to Saturday the 26th of September at 11am. We will be holding a meeting on Thursday the 13th of August at interval in the hall for any interested students.

This camp is for all existing rowers and any other students who are wanting to give rowing a try and/or row for the 26/27 season. The cost of the camp will be \$300 and there will be some transport available to and from the camp. Please contact Amanda Sayer amandas@haurakiplains.school.nz if you are interested or have any questions.

Workshop Series by Landcare Trust

This term our Year 10 Kura Taiao and Year 10 Environmental Studies classes had the privilege of having Ric Balfour from Landcare Trust host three workshops at the school. Ric shared his passion for the natural environment and inspired students to learn more about the plants and animals native to Hauraki. Students loved learning about the native bat, the Peka Peka, that is likely to be travelling along the Piako at night, and enjoyed practising filling in a bird survey. In the last session this week, students took water samples from the Piako and measured its clarity. Students will continue their investigations on the state of our waterways and what we can do to improve it and create safe and plentiful habitats for our native taonga. A huge thank you to Ric and Landcare Trust for taking the time to enrich our students and for their continued support for our wetland restoration project.



Attendance Corner

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY: UNDERSTANDING THE ORANGE ATTENDANCE STEP



WHAT IS IT?

A structured, supportive email automatically sent when a student is absent for more than 10 cumulative days in a school term.

EMAIL TEMPLATE

Tēna koe,

I'm reaching out to talk about <First> attendance; they've been absent for over 10 days this term.

We know that regular attendance plays a big part in helping students feel connected and succeed in their learning. We are also aware that there are justified reasons for a student's absence, such as medical, bereavement, etc. However, if the attendance is classified as unjustified, the Dean will be reaching out to talk with you about how things are going and see how we can work together to support <First>'s attendance more regularly.

Do not hesitate to reach out if you need further support.

A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT



RECEIVING THIS EMAIL IS AN INITIATION OF SUPPORT. It is not about blame, but connection.



Sent regardless of reason: Medical, Trips, or other legitimate absences. Because any time away has a ripple effect on learning continuity.



Our goal: To partner with you to ensure your student is fully supported, confident, and never feels they are falling behind or disconnected or disconnected. We are here to support every student.

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Careers Corner

Events this term happening at school:

Date	Time	Who and what?	Where?
Thursday 13th August	Block 2	Year 13 Massey University – planning meeting for anyone thinking of going to Massey or who has made an application	Careers Centre
Thursday 13th August	Block 3	Year 13 Victoria University – planning meeting for anyone thinking of going to Victoria University of Wellington or who has made an application	Careers Centre
Tuesday 18th August	Block 4	Wintec liaison visit – for all students in Years 11–13 thinking of studying at Wintec in the future, and especially for Māori & Pasifika students interested in the trades pathways on offer.	Hall
Thursday 20th August	Blocks 1–2	Year 13 University of Waikato – planning meeting for anyone thinking of going to University of Waikato or who has made an application	Careers Centre
Tuesday 25th August	4–8pm	Senior Subject Selection & Pathways Evening for all students in Years 10–12	HALL and throughout school
October date to be confirmed (TBC)	TBC	Applications open for Waikato Trades Academy for 2027 for eligible students in Years 10–12	Careers Centre

Spotlight on Alumni: Eric Gruythuysen

At Hauraki Plains College, Eric balanced subjects like Maths, English, Biology, Business, PE, and Outdoor Education. Though bioengineering was on his radar, he ultimately chose a trade—qualifying as a plumber, gasfitter, and drainlayer, and earning a prestigious Plumbing World scholarship in the process!

The takeaway? Keeping core subjects like English, Maths, and Science leaves every door open—whether you head to university or into a trade. You never know where your path might lead!

You can read more about Eric's story on page 25 of this month's Leaving School magazine. Read online using this link, [Leaving School issue 36 | Oliver Lee Publications](#) or pick up your own copy from the Careers Centre.

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Before You Bounce: The 5-Point School Leaver Checklist

Whether you are leaving school to apply for a job, go to university or take your gap year, here's what to check out before you check out.

- **Get an IRD Number & Inland Revenue Account:** You will need an IRD number before starting a job, receiving student allowance, or getting paid to ensure you are taxed correctly. Setting up an online profile via Inland Revenue allows you to manage tax codes, student loan details, and KiwiSaver. <https://www.ird.govt.nz/myir-help/register-account/personal>
- **Apply Early for StudyLink (Student Loan & Allowance):** If heading to university or polytechnic, apply for financial support through StudyLink early. Gather required documentation such as verified ID, proof of bank account, and parent income details. Info leaflets are also available in the Careers Centre.
- **Open an Independent Bank Account:** Having an active bank account in your own name is essential for receiving wages, student payments, or scholarships. Make sure you have account proof (like a bank statement or deposit slip showing your full account details and name) handy for applications.
- **Build an Up-to-Date CV & Refine Online Presence:** Create a clear, updated CV that highlights your work experience, volunteer work, and skills. Additionally, review your social media privacy settings and ensure you have a professional email address for applications. Top tips are in the [Leaving School issue 36 | Oliver Lee Publications](#)
- **Organise Primary Identification & Driver Licence:** Keep essential identity documents together, such as a passport or birth certificate. If possible, start or progress your driver licence steps, as a licence is often required or preferred by employers.

Ready to get your Learner Licence?

This is the LAST course for 2026 – don't miss out!
Everything happens right here at HPC

- **Training:** Wed 23rd & Thu 24th September at school
- **Testing:** Fri 25th September – at school
- **Cost:** The training is 100% FREE! (You only pay the fee to sit your test).
- **Age limit:** You MUST be 16 or older on test day (Fri 25th Sept).
- **Places:** STRICTLY limited to 15 students! Use the link in the Senior Careers Google Classroom to save your spot.

Gateway – Save the date we graduate

To celebrate the achievement of all students who have been involved in the Gateway programme in 2026, we will be holding our Gateway Graduation Breakfast event on Thursday 27th August during Blocks 1 and 2. A warm invitation is extended to all of our 2026 Gateway students and their families. During this event we will be presenting students with the certificates they have achieved over the past 6 months as well as providing refreshments for all attendees.

There's still time to speak with Mrs Scott to find out what you have to do to gain your credits and graduate successfully. Remember to submit your completed assessments for marking.

Mrs Scott's email: laurens@haurakiplains.school.nz

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2026 End of Year Dates

Last day for Seniors - Fri 6th Nov / Juniors - Thurs 10th Dec (online learning from home)

2027 Start Dates

Office reopens - Mon 25th Jan
Year 9 & 13 only - Thurs 28th Jan
Year 10-12 only - Fri 29th Jan
Everyone back - Tues 2nd Feb
Last day 2027 - Tues 14th Dec

Upcoming Dates

	Week 4: Commencing 10th August		Week 5: Commencing 17th August	
Mon	10	TVSS Junior Badminton	17	Te Kuiti Sports Exchange (Away)
Tues	11	- PhotoLife Winter Code Photos 12OTE Bush Survival & Leadership	18	
Wed	12		19	TVSS Girls Football (TBC)
Thur	13	- Open Evening for Y8s - Rotorua SS Shoot	20	TVSS Boys Football
Fri	14	TVSS Golf Round 4	21	TVSS Ripapa Rugby