HPC e-Bulletin

More Than A School
Hauraki Plains College

Friday 13 Nov 2026



Kia ora koutou and welcome to Week Five of Term Four!

Inspiring words by Selwin de Haast

At Senior Prizegiving last week, the 2026 Head Students were each asked to share a quote and why it was meaningful to them. We were blown away by the incredible reflection of Head Student Selwin de Haast, who has agreed to let us publish his speech:

Quote: "...From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." - Excerpt from Luke 12:48

Reason for choosing: "I have been fortunate all my life. I was born into a good family with a mum and dad who cared about me and gave me the tools, both physical and emotional, to excel in everything I did. I come from Namibia. I remember driving from my gated suburb to school in the city through the desert every day. One of the sights on that trip was a shantytown, little tin huts boiling in the sun, the smell of sewage filtering through the AC. People probably far better than me were born there, in that nameless spot of hell, and they died there, no chance, no hope. They won no prizes, no badges, no one clapped for them a day in their lives. I can't fix that; the billion before me maybe could have, but they didn't, and nothing I do will ever change what has already happened. I can only change, in my small way, what happens next, to be a better part in the next billion. No matter how much weight is on my shoulders, I'm grateful. Expectation to me is not a burden. It's an opportunity my brothers and sisters in Africa and all around the world never got to have. If there is a God, and I think there is, He gave me this life, and I don't intend to waste it.

Teacher Only Day: Thank you

We understand how disruptive teacher-only days are, and thank you for your support. This is the third year we have attended the Thames Valley Jumbo Day (last year we hosted). We are working at Morrinsville College today with 400 other teachers. It is an incredible opportunity to get together with people in the same department across different schools to share ideas, resources and positive solutions.

NCEA Level 1 English Exam on Tuesday

We would like to make whānau/families aware that the Level 1 English Exam on Tuesday 17 November is a very large exam with 161 entries. We ask that whānau/families ensure their children are at school by the start of River Time on Tuesday (8.40-8.45am). This is also a digital exam and it takes a lot of time to get this large number of students into the hall and logged into NZQA. Students are advised to bring their own charged devices to school for this exam - we have some Chromebooks on site, but won't be able to cover everyone with a device.

Apology from NZQA for yesterday's English Exam

"We know the issue with the digital assessment platform during the Level 2 English exam caused disruption and stress for some students. NZQA has asked us to express how sorry they are that this happened. NZQA has decided that students who attended the Level 2 English exam at schools that had digital entries for the exam will be eligible for a derived grade. Schools provide practice exam results to NZQA for this purpose. All work completed in the exam will still be marked. Students will receive the better of their exam grade or their derived grade. NZQA will also work with us to consider any individual cases where students were particularly affected. NZQA is working to understand what happened and how to make sure it does not happen again. The priority for both us and NZQA is to ensure students are treated fairly, recognising the impact the disruption may have had on their exam."

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NCEA Exam Tutorials
Although regular classes for senior students will finish for the year at the end of Week 4, our teachers will be offering NCEA exam tutorials during their usual timetabled periods. The exam tutorial schedule can be accessed **here**.

The Tooth Group - Dental Van
The Tooth Group are back at HPC for a few days to see students. If you haven't already enrolled your child with The Tooth Group, click **here**. If you have enrolled, but your child wasn't seen this year - please email: studentservices@haurakiplains.school.nz

Junior Prize Giving
Tue 8 December - Year 9 at 9.30am, and Year 10 at 12pm

Senior Academic Prizegiving
Along with sharing in the celebration of our Academic awards with students, whanau and staff, we were also given the opportunity to see the first performance of HPC Harps. We are very lucky to have accomplished harpist Anna Dunwoodie tutor two of our students, Carly Loader and Levina Chuon, in harp. For the processional on the day, Anna composed a piece of music to not only fit the occasion but highlight each of her players' strengths. How lucky we are to have such a beautiful piece of music gifted to the school.

CAA results and how to check
Both the Numeracy and Writing CAA exam results have been published. Students can check their results by going to their Learner **login** page.

Bring Your Own Device 2027
Next year, all students in every year level will need a laptop for their classes. School-owned Chromebooks will be removed from classrooms. We recommend families choose a Chromebook due to their comparatively lower pricing and durability, and they hold their charge for long periods of time. Students who don't bring their own laptop can borrow one from the HUB each morning and return each afternoon.

Year 10 Camps - Update
Year 10 camps will run from Monday, 30 November to Wednesday, 2 December. Camp fees have been loaded in KINDO for all students attending the Tairua Watersports Camp, the Hiking Camp, and Sports Camp.

Families with unpaid fees will be contacted next week. Year 10 students who are not participating in one of those camps must attend the school-based camp. There will be a range of activities on offer that students can choose from.

Some activities, such as cooking and arts and crafts, will have a small cost to cover resources. More information will be provided to students soon about the different activities.

Uniform Policy Update
Following a Board decision, we are pleased to announce an update to our school uniform expectations, effective from this term.

Students are now permitted to wear either the full summer uniform **OR** the full winter uniform at any time throughout the school year. However, items from the two seasonal uniforms may not be mixed (for example, a winter scarf cannot be worn with summer sandals).

Additionally, we would like to remind families of a few key uniform standards (*as stated in our General Information Guide*):

- **Footwear:** Socks must not be worn with sandals. Sandals are to be worn with bare feet only.
- **Jewellery & Nail Polish:** Please ensure your child refrains from wearing jewellery (aside from permitted plain studs) and nail polish, as both fall outside our uniform guidelines.
- **Hair colour:** Student's hair must be of natural hair colouring. Bright, unnatural dyes or highlights are not permitted—natural is the key standard here.

We appreciate your support in helping your child ensure they arrive each day in full, correct uniform.

Parents of prize winners will receive additional reminders about meeting these expectations at our upcoming prize givings.

Strategic Plan Consultation
The Board and principal would really like to hear your ideas for our next 2-year strategic plan. Your ideas will help shape our direction and will determine what we focus on, measure, and report back to you on. Here is the **link** to a short Google Form. There is also a QR code below if easier. This is the same code that is on the opening slides of our prize givings, so you will have opportunities to fill it in while you wait for these events to start. We are aiming for 500 responses - so far we are at 137.

Nga mihi,
SHARON MOLLER
(PRINCIPAL)

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Careers Corner

Junior students - Hope you are enjoying the **Advent Calendar of Christmas Careers!** There's a new question dropping into the Junior Careers Google Classroom every day. There are prizes for each day, prizes for getting 5 correct answers each week and an overall prize for the whole calendar. Check the answers and prizewinners for Week 1 in the school notices next week.

Gateway Applications
Mrs Scott would be delighted to have **current Year 11 and 12 students** drop in their Gateway forms, whenever you are in school for exams, if convenient.

Current Year 10 students, we are asking all students to complete their Tahatū profile and Career Central profiles as part of the enrolment process. Please make sure you follow the instructions on how to do this in the **link.** If you need help, or want to chat about options, Mrs Scott or Mrs Lawlor will be pleased to assist! Email Mrs Scott: Laurens@haurakiplains.school.nz

New for you in Tahatū
There's a great new feature in Tahatū (the NZ national careers data base and website) called Path Finder/Tiro Whetū.
https://tahatu.govt.nz/plan-your-future/path-finder

It's designed to help you find the steps into a career pathway, looking at what school subjects and training you might need. You might want to check this against your subject selections for 2027 to ensure you are keeping your options open or have picked the right mix of subjects for your career ideas.

Questions? Problems? Undecided?
Book 10-minute Careers Chat.

- Subject Selection: Make sure you've chosen the right subjects for NCEA.
- Future Pathways: Discover jobs that fit your interests.
- No Stress: Get a clear plan, step-by-step.

Email: Mrs Lawlor pippal@haurakiplains.school.nz

Upcoming Dates

Term 4	Week 6: Commencing 16 Nov		Week 7: Commencing 23 Nov	
Mon	**16**	• NCEA Exams	**23**	• NCEA Exams
Tues	**17**	• NCEA Exams	**24**	• NCEA Exams
Wed	**18**	• NCEA Exams	**25**	• NCEA Exams
Thur	**19**	• NCEA Exams	**26**	• NCEA Exams
Fri	**20**	• NCEA Exams • TVSS Junior Ultimate Frisbee	**27**	• NCEA Exams