HPC e-Bulletin

More Than A School
Hauraki Plains College

Friday 27 Nov 2026


Farewell Koko and Camellia


Students at Future Me 26


Students at Pirongia

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

Year 9 and 10 At-School Camps Monday, 30 November to Wednesday, 2 December.

Year 9
Teachers will be running a range of different activities for Year 9 students. Students will have the opportunity to have a swim at the Ngatea Pool on each of those days. The cost per swim is $3 per person and students will need to pay this at the pool. Cash only. Students not wanting to swim will be involved in other sports activities at school.

Year 10
This is for Year 10's who are not participating in either the Tairua, Hiking or Sports camps. 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. Food truck will not be open; there will be a supervised walking school bus to 4Square and the NT Bakery at each break.

All students attending school-based camp must be in correct school uniform, and PE gear will be needed for some activities. Normal school rules apply.

School Activity, Sports and Take-home Curriculum Costs
To help us manage school costs at Hauraki Plains College, **students will only be able to sign up for optional subjects with a 'take-home fee' or sports teams with an additional cost in 2027, once any outstanding 2026 fees are settled.**

So your child doesn't miss out, please log in to your **Kindo** account to check your statement and settle any owing balance, or set up **Autopay** using the quick setup steps. Once an active payment plan is in place, your child will be eligible to sign up.

If your whānau is experiencing financial hardship, please contact the school office in strict confidence to discuss support options.

2027 Coach and Manager Applications
Coach and Manager applications are now open for the 2027 sports season. If you're interested in coaching or managing an HPC sports team next year, we'd love to hear from you. To register your interest and request an application form, please email **sport@haurakiplains.school.nz**

Farewell International Students
This week we farewelled Koko Kojima and Camellia Nakashima, who returned to Nagoya. They were our first long-term international students that we have hosted since the beginning of Covid. Both integrated well into life at the school with Camellia being our Jazz Band pianist and Koko painting a picture that hung in our staffroom. Camellia and Koko particularly loved the Outdoor Education and Fabric classes too.

We are always on the lookout for families interested in becoming a homestay - short or long termers. Besides the cultural benefits, remuneration is good. Anyone can apply on our HPC Homestay online facility linked **here** or ask further questions by emailing:
international@haurakiplains.school.nz

Future Me 2026
On Tuesday Matua Frank took the 10KUA class to Auckland University to participate in the Future Me 2026.

This kaupapa invited 500 Pasifika and Māori Year 10 students to come together to network and start to make lifelong connections and friendships with like-minded students, explore the field options available to them, and participate in interactive workshops with external parties like the Auckland Museum, the National Maritime Museum and many others.

The students really enjoyed it, integrated well into their respective working groups, made friends, and were engaged and participating in the workshops. They have started conversations and are contemplating the future. We hope to send another group of year 10s to the next scheduled event.

Trip to Pirongia
Today 10KUA explored proactive kaitiakitanga in practice. They have checked out the Mātakitaki Pā exhibition at Te Awamutu Museum. Then they visited the Mātakitaki Pā to see the waharoa, pou whakairo, and signboards erected to recognise the origin of the pā, and the 200 year commemoration since it was attacked with muskets in 1822. They then went up to the bushline of Pirongia Mountain to walk the Mangakarā Bushwalk to hear the origin stories, and the efforts being made to ensure the ongoing kaitiakitanga of Mātakitaki and Pirongia. Today's exploration is all about understanding the significance of place, traditional stories, whakapapa, identity, and history to inspire a new generation of sustainable kaitiakitanga.

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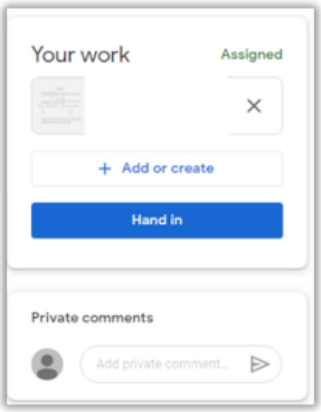
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri		
River	08:45	8.55
Block 1	09:00	10:00
Block 2	10:05	11:05
Interval	11:05	11:45
Block 3	11:45	12:45
Block 4	12:50	13:50
Lunch	13:50	14:10
Block 5	14:10	15:10
Wednesday - No River		
Block 1	08:45	09:45
Assembly	09:50	10:50
Interval	10:50	11:40
Block 3	11:40	12:40
Block 4	12:45	13:45
Lunch	13:45	14:10
Block 5	14:10	15:10

Change to 2027 Timetable
With changes to the knowledge-rich NZ curriculum, we want to see classes 4 times a week, instead of 3 times a week. When a student is on a trip or misses a day of learning, there is less impact when we have 4 classes compared with 3. We are moving back to 60min blocks of learning, with 5 blocks a day. Break 1 is slightly longer to enable more activities, tutorials, and hobby groups to meet. Our start time is the same as this year, but our finish time will be 5 minutes later. Our assembly block has been moved to a Wednesday, and we have an extra-long Break 1 on Wednesday to support groups like Showquest to practice, and for more inter-hapu competitions to take place. Our bell times are pictured right.

Junior Prize-givings Tue 8 December - Year 9 at 9.30am, and Year 10 at 12pm
All junior students will be called up to walk across the stage to collect either their Junior Certificate of Learning (Yr 9) or their Junior Diploma of Learning (Yr 10). There will also be students being acknowledged with special prizes. Parents and students will be notified via email on the 3rd of December if their student is getting an additional special prize. This is also the last day onsite for Juniors.



Upcoming Learning from Home Days - Wednesday 9th December and Thursday 10th December - students will go to the Google Classroom of their Science, English, Math and Humanities classes and complete the assignment. Students must hand in their work as this will determine their "attendance" for both days.

2027 Splash and Dash Days - Advance Notice
We're making a change to the way we run our Swimming and Athletics events in 2027. Instead of having the whole school take part in Athletics on one day, we'll be splitting both events across two days, with boys and girls taking part in separate sessions.

The format will be:
Wednesday 17th February: Boys Splash (Swimming) and Girls Dash (Athletics)
Thursday 18th February: Girls Splash (Swimming) and Boys Dash (Athletics)

Both Splash and Dash Days will include a mix of competitive events and fun activities, giving students plenty of opportunities to get involved. Splash Day events will finish at 2.00pm, with all students then returning to school for the Athletics 100m Finals and Relays. We're looking forward to trying this new format in 2027. Please save these dates!

Bring Your Own Device 2027
Next year, all students in every year level will need a laptop for their classes. Please see separate email sent to all families. We will be holding a BYOD information evening from 6pm on 3 December in The Hub. This session will outline the educational rationale for the BYOD program and provide more specific guidance on device selection. Please contact our I.T. technician Mr Hardeep Singh if you have any questions: **hardeeps@haurakiplains.school.nz**

Homestay / Board Needed for 2027 Senior Student
One of our current male students, who will be entering Year 11 in 2027, is looking to board with a local family to help reduce daily travel costs. Ideally, they would love to stay in Ngatea with a family who has a son of a similar age. If you have a spare room, please get in touch with Sarah at **sarah@wattnext.nz**

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On the lookout for Quality Outdoor Equipment
Our Outdoor Education department is looking for pre-loved outdoor gear in good, usable condition to support our 150+ senior students. If you have quality items tucked away in the garage or wardrobe—such as tramping packs, tramping boots, sleeping mats, waterproof jackets, or head torches—we would love to give them a new lease of life. Your donations will directly help students develop practical skills, confidence, and a love for the outdoors. If you have gear you'd like to donate, please contact Dean Wedlake at **deanw@haurakiplains.school.nz** .

Photography Competition for students
Stills is RQP's nationwide photography competition, open to all school students. This is an opportunity for young photographers to get creative, explore their perspectives and capture the world around them.

Any camera, any phone, all photos are welcome! Students don't need anything fancy to enter.

With $5,000+ in cash prizes up for grabs, there's plenty of reason to get involved. We'd love your help spreading the word and encouraging your students to take part.

Entries close on 31 January 2027. Find out more and enter at www.rqp.co.nz/stills

Community: Hauraki Christmas Table Event
An enthusiastic committee of local volunteers has been busy behind the scenes organising the event and putting together what we hope will be a fantastic Christmas celebration for our community.

This is a free, community-funded family Christmas event, and everyone is warmly invited. The aim is to bring our local community together to celebrate Christmas, enjoy a meal, and spend time with family, friends and neighbours.

Tickets are free, but numbers are limited and tickets must be reserved online. **Book your free tickets – Hauraki Christmas Table**

We're hoping to make this a special evening for our whole community and would love to see families from across the Hauraki Plains coming along and enjoying the Christmas spirit together.

Everyone is welcome, so please feel free to share the invitation.



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Careers Corner

University bound?
it is the last week of applications for our Rural School Leavers Scholarships from Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network | NZMedJobs & NZLocums . If you know students who might be interested please encourage them to apply **here**.

Similarly, any year 13s who might be interested in the mentorship program, can register **here** to be paired up.

Senior students - Check it twice! Your Waikato Trades Academy letters have been sent out.
Congratulations to all students who have secured a confirmed enrolment. Still waiting on a spot? We've kept your name on the "nice" list – waitlists remain active and will be updated when Term 1 kicks off in 2027. Enjoy the festive season!

Junior Students – It's the final countdown! There's still 5 more chances for daily wins with the Advent Calendar of Christmas Careers on the Junior Careers Google Classroom! And remember - there's the weekly wins and overall grand prize.

- Daily wins: Nail the question of the day
- Weekly streak: Get all 5 right in a week
- Grand prize: Top the leaderboard for the whole calendar

Keep an eye on the school notices over the next two weeks for the answers and winners. Someone has to eat all the candy canes and chocolate goodies! All winners should head to the Careers Centre on Monday 7th December at morning interval to grab your stash—anything left behind gets fed to the teachers!

Final Call Before Santa Packs His Bags: Gateway Forms Due! Get your Gateway forms back to Mrs Scott before the holidays roll in. Early returns mean your programme is all wrapped up and ready for a flying start in 2027!

Make sure you lock in your spot by setting up your Tahatū profile—it's a must-do step to get enrolled. Follow the quick step-by-step guide in the **link** to get yours sorted. Not sure what direction you want to take, or got questions about how Gateway works? Drop in and have a chat with Mrs Scott—she's keen to help you get set up.
Laurens@haurakiplains.school.nz

From School Subjects to Dream Jobs: Try Path Finder / Tiro Whetū
Not sure what you want to do after school? The Path Finder/Tiro Whetū tool breaks down the exact school subjects and training you need to land different jobs. Use it to double-check your 2027 subject choices so you know you're picking the right mix—and keeping your future options wide open!

https://tahatu.govt.nz/plan-your-future/path-finder

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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

Course Confirmation Days
Students will be sent their timetables on 18th of January and are encouraged to attend course confirmation:
Thurs 21st 2-5pm
Fri 22nd 9-12pm
Mon 25th 9-5pm

Term 4	Week 8: Commencing 30 Nov		Week 9: Commencing 7 Dec	
Mon	**30**	• NCEA Exams • Year 9 / 10 Camps	**07**	• Normal school day, prize-giving practice
Tues	**01**	• NCEA Exams • Year 9 / 10 Camps	**08**	• Junior Prize Givings: Year 9 at 9.30 am, Year 10 at 12 pm. All welcome
Wed	**02**	• NCEA Exams • Year 9 / 10 Camps	**09**	• Learning from home day - all Year 9s and 10s • Year 8 Discovery Day
Thur	**03**	• NCEA Exams • Junior prizewinners notified	**10**	• Learning from home day - all Year 9s and 10s • Teachers offsite on training • Last day of Term 4
Fri	**04**	• NCEA Exams	**11**	
	06	• Year 13 Graduation Dinner		