



# Whangarei Girls' High School

24 September 2021

## Word from the Principal



Tēna koutou katoa

As we approach the end of another term, we can reflect on the situation we all suddenly found ourselves in with the lockdown on 17th August. A big thank you for all your support. A specially big thank you to those who completed the survey as that was invaluable in helping us to plan for the return to school and also forward plan in case we have to go into lockdown again. I think one of you summed it up perfectly in the survey, with the comment "it is the uncertainty that creates the anxiety."

We spent time focusing on ascertaining students' level of wellbeing and where they were at with their learning, so together with each of their teachers they could determine their next steps. We acknowledge that lockdown was different for everyone.

Although we are now working in a higher level of normality, we are not holding big meetings, having audiences for shows or having any meetings or activity onsite after school hours. This enables us to be sure the school is thoroughly cleaned and sanitised each day and contact is kept to a minimum.

Although wearing masks has not been made mandatory in schools, wearing of them is strongly recommended. I am sure you have all heard that they are now mandatory in secondary schools in Alert Level 3. Most of our students do have a mask but few are wearing them at school. We will be doing a big push to try and encourage everyone onsite to wear their mask and would appreciate if you could also have a conversation with your student to also encourage them to wear it. We know that this strain of COVID is highly contagious and we all need to do what we can to keep ourselves and each other safe.

Along the same lines, just a reminder that if your daughter is unwell, she must not be at school. Anyone who is unwell at school will have parents/caregivers contacted to come and collect them.'

Senior students are sitting their school examinations this week and we wish them well in what has been an unsettling time for them. However, the exams are only one week later than originally scheduled and will be over before the holidays begin.

Senior students taking portfolio subjects were more disadvantaged than most other subjects during lockdown, as not only did they not have access to specialist facilities and equipment, but their deadlines were not extended as much as other subjects. Therefore we have made the last Thursday and Friday of next week available for them to work on their portfolios. This will help them to get back on track and feel confident in meeting the deadline with work of the standard they are capable of achieving.

As I am sure you are all well aware, our school roll has been growing steadily over the last few years and so next year we are introducing changes to our Senior Leadership structure and systems so we can continue to meet the needs of our students. We will be appointing an Associate Principal and an extra Deputy Principal so the team will comprise of Principal, Associate Principal and three Deputy Principals. We are also looking at changes to the whānau class system we currently have so we can have smaller classes, redefine the purpose of whānau class and ensure every student receives quality pastoral care.

Last week saw a farewell to our science technician, Nicola Younger, who has taken up another role outside of education. She had been here for sixteen years and was a highly valued member of the Science Department. We thank her for all her excellent work and wish her well in her new position.

Summer Pocklington, Sports Co-ordinator Assistant, also left last Friday to begin her maternity leave. We wish her all the best with the new addition to her family and look forward to her return partway through next year.

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## Important Dates

**21 - 28 September**  
Exam Week

**30 September 2021**  
Mufti Day

**1 October 2021**  
Last Day of Term 3

**18 October 2021**  
First Day of Term 4

**25 October 2021**  
Labour Day Public Holiday

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Whangarei 0112  
Phone: 09 430 4460

Email:  
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[www.wghs.school.nz](http://www.wghs.school.nz)

<https://www.facebook.com/WhangareiGirlsHigh/>

Teacher aide, Naomi White, has resigned her position to take up an opportunity to sail to Fiji. We wish her all the best with this adventure and thank her for the good work she did while she was here.

We will be farewelling Grace Williams at the end of next week as she leaves to take up her new position as Deputy Principal at Onerahi Primary School. Grace has an enormous strength in curriculum design and pedagogy and has been the driver and initiator of new courses and major changes to existing courses during her time with us. She is also a founding co-leader of the SWITCH programme. We thank her sincerely for her wonderful initiative, passion and sheer hard work and wish her all the very best in her new leadership role.

Vinny Ridgway will be taking up a permanent role in Te Puna Mātauranga at the start of next term. He brings with him a wealth of expertise and experience and we look forward to having him on our team.

Also from the beginning of next term, we are delighted to welcome new teacher aides - Aroha Meinata and Natasha Van Engelen who will be joining Vinny in Te Puna Mātauranga.

We also warmly welcome Deborah Leonard as our new science technician and Myra Coley who will be teaching fulltime in the SWITCH programme.

Have a relaxed break these holidays – next term will be extremely busy and the senior students will be with us for an extra two weeks due to the NCEA extended deadlines.

Stay safe, be kind and follow the rules.

He waka eke noa

**Anne Cooper**  
*Principal*

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## Head Girls

Kia Ora everyone,

Welcome back!

We want to begin by acknowledging what a hard time it is for everyone. Students, staff, parents and siblings. This current unpredictable time that we are living in is taking a serious toll on us all.

Before we went into lockdown we were able to have our WGHS 2021 Ball. We would like to send massive thanks to Stella Lassey and Jess Lang and their Ball Committee for all their time and effort to pull off an amazing and successful event. We know the stress and anxiety it caused but we think we speak for all attendees when we say it was an absolute success. Well done!

This lockdown has been extremely different for us all, but one thing in common is that it has been disruptive. Plans changed, trips cancelled, dates moved and on this we would like to say sorry to our sports teams. After hearing the announcement of the cancellation of the 2021 Winter Tournament Week our thoughts went to our schools sports teams. We know you trained so hard, worked a lot, put lots of time and effort in and we are sorry that you were not able to showcase your hard work to the country.

During the lockdown we tried to keep in contact with our fellow students via our WGHSconnect instagram account. Both the Head Girl Team and the rest of the Prefects ran daily takeovers/challenges to enable students to stay in contact and interact with us over the few weeks. Thank you to all that participated and interacted with us, it was great to hear from you all.

Our School Assessment Week has now been moved from week 8 to week 9/10. We hope that all of our students are studying hard to get the results that we know you are all capable of. We know grades are important but we want to vocalize the importance of looking after your well-being first before your school work. You are your top priority, look after yourself.

We have also had to move our annual donations week. This will now be taking place in Term 4 in week 3. We will be supporting 4-5 charities, and ask for the whānau classes to supply at least one of each requested item. The charities that we have chosen to support are extremely grateful and desperate during these times so our contributions are greatly appreciated.

Our drama department's Year 13 production Mousetrap has also now been postponed to Term 4 week 2. Two of the head girls (Chloe and Aimee) will be in the show and we cannot wait to see them as well as the rest of the Year 13 who have worked so hard. You will all be amazing and we can't wait to watch!

We hope everyone has a good rest of term 3. Good luck for your practice exams and we will see you all back in term 4!

WGHS Head Girl Team 2021  
Aimee, Chloe, Kiahna and Lucy



## September

- 23 Exam Week  
L2 Tourism Course  
Online Science Fair  
Y11OED Waipu Trip
- 24 Exam Week  
L2 Tourism Course
- 27 Exam Week  
13YES Directors Review
- 28 Exam Week  
13PAD Workshop Day  
Y10 Switch Games Night
- 29 13OED 2 day adventure  
Prefect/Head Girl  
Applications open
- 30 13OED 2 day adventure  
*Mufti Day*

## October

- 1 *Last Day of Term 3*
- 18 *First Day of Term 4*
- 19 10PAM Shop Trip
- 20 13PRI Farm Trip
- 21 12OED Surf Performance
- 22 12OED Surf Performance  
Y12 Gen Sci Trip
- 25 Labour Day Public Holiday
- 26 10 SST Waitangi Trip  
12ATP Primary Academy  
Drama Production  
11HLTM Sexual Health  
visit  
Prefect/Head Girl  
applications close
- 27 10 SST Waitangi Trip  
12ATP Primary Academy  
Drama Production  
*WGHS Sports Awards*

### Health Science First Year at Otago – an important note for parents:

There are some external commercial organisations which offer workshops, study sessions, advice and other tutoring activities for students intending to apply for Health Science Professional Programmes at Otago University. We are aware that an external organisation has made claims about a connection with our Admissions team that is incorrect. Please be aware that the University does not endorse any of these commercial tutoring organisations, and cannot give any assurance about the accuracy, currency or quality of material and information available from these sources. Success in Health Sciences is not dependent on accessing external commercial support.

### University Entrance

Year 13 students who have received offers of place for degrees at universities and polytechs: please bear in mind that this offer of place is conditional on still needing to achieve University Entrance (14 credits in each of 3 UE approved subjects), in addition to any other specific criteria required for the programme of study.

### Careers News & Events

Parents / Caregivers who are keen to keep in the loop with careers information, news and events, we recommend subscribing on the Career Wise site. You can find the SUBSCRIBE link under the "Contact Us" tab.

### Becky Steel

*Careers Advisor*

### Process for when students are sick at school

We are having a few of our new students contact their parents directly when they feel unwell at school.

The correct process for your student in this situation is:

- Student should ask their teacher for a note to go to the Student Support Centre; or, go directly to Student Support if it is in break time.
- The Student Support Centre will contact caregivers to pick up students if necessary and ensure they are signed out of school correctly.

Please make sure your student understands this process.

### A Request from the PTA

We are after uniforms for the annual uniform sale in January 2022.

Do you have any uniforms you wish to donate – all profits go back to the school.

Shirts, Skirts, Trousers, Jumpers, Prefect Uniforms

Please drop off at the school office.

Any queries please contact Fiona on 027 376 6463.

Many thanks from the committee of the PTA.



LEARN WHAT RESILIENCE  
"LOOKS LIKE"

REAL 'TAKE HOME'  
STRATEGIES

EASY TO UNDERSTAND  
EXAMPLES

## Raising Resilient Children

What we can do – as parents and community – to help!

We use the word *resilience* all the time, we want it for ourselves and for our children. But what does it actually look like? And how do we develop it?

Understanding the neuroscience of how resilience develops, will help us recognise what we can do in our everyday lives and interactions, to increase resilience in our communities. This session will help you understand, in a simple yet sufficient way, how we can build resilience.

The beauty of this session is that you can take the information and immediately apply it to your world. Reports of 'you have changed our household' and 'I get it now' are very common feedbacks from those who attend this session. Come along and hear how it can help you too.

Kathryn is a mother of two adolescents, with a Masters in Educational Psychology. Kathryn has been learning and working in this area for over twenty years, training national and international audiences, including Police, Teachers, Parents, Social Workers, NZ Rugby and many more.

Come along to this unique, local opportunity to hear what might be the most useful information of your life!

*This event is sponsored by* **Ngā Kura mo te ako o Whangārei Kahui Ako Hub**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>  
October  
7.00pm to 9.00pm

Whangārei Boys High  
School Hall  
Kent Road  
Whāngarei

*Excellent presentation, loved the examples, easy to understand. Have heard some of the info many times before however the way you explained things CLICKED for me! – Parent (Whangarei)*