



Whangarei Girls' High School

26 February 2020

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Important Dates

18 March 2020
Girls Working for Girls

19 March 2020
Subject Teacher Interviews

25 March 2020
Subject Teacher Interviews

27 March 2020
School Social

9 April 2020
Last day of Term 1

28 April 2020
First day of Term 2

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Word from the Principal

Tēna koutou katoa

Update on Coronavirus / COVID - 19

We are receiving regular updates from Ministry of Health and Education.

At this stage we are in a preventative stage. The Ministry of Health has advised that with continued vigilance, the chance of widespread community outbreak is low, so we all have a role here to minimize the spread of COVID - 19. Anyone who is ill should not be attending school.

If we were to have a case that impacted in our school, we are confident we can put our plans in place and know we will be supported by regional health authorities and the Ministry of Education.

We encourage you to keep up to date with latest information through the Ministry of Health website as this is the prime source for NZ.

We reiterate that the best preventative steps are:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry thoroughly
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid sharing anything that has come in contact with saliva, whether in your living or social environments
- Stay home when you are sick and seek medical attention
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the rubbish
- Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system

The COVID-19 symptoms are a fever, coughing and difficulty breathing. If anyone has these symptoms and has recently been to a country or area of concern, or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19, they should phone the dedicated Healthline number on 0800 358 5453 or their doctor immediately.

As a notifiable infectious disease, treatment for people who have, or who are suspected of having, COVID-19 is publicly funded under the infectious disease exception. This includes treatment for international students.

You may be aware of inappropriate messages being posted online, particularly on Facebook or other social media platforms. If this is brought to your attention or you experience online abuse, Netsafe have a free and confidential service to help. Fear and anxiety can lead to social stigma, in particular towards Chinese or other Asian NZ people. Stigma hurts everyone by creating more fear or anger towards ordinary people. It can:

- Drive people to hide illness to avoid discrimination
- Prevent people from seeking health care
- Discourage them from adopting healthy behaviours

None of these outcomes are desirable and can put everyone else at risk. This abuse is unacceptable.

Whānau Hui

Thank you to those of you who with daughters who are new to our school who came to the whānau hui last week. We were thrilled to meet so many of our new whānau and hope that you also found it helpful to meet your daughter's whānau teacher so we can work together, as school and whānau, for the duration of her secondary school education and learnt more about systems and resources at high school.

House Day

Congratulations to the prefects who organised an amazing day with a variety of activities. They showed their flexibility and resourcefulness when they needed to take out the popular water activities due to the water shortage. We have received positive feedback on the way whānau classes worked together and it gave new students a chance to know the members of their whānau class more. Congratulations to Bell House who started the day with the best chant and continued on to become the Champion House.

Attendance / Lateness

We are still concerned at the number of students who dawdle into school late each morning. All students are expected to be in their whānau class by 8.45am each morning and to be present in each class during the day unless they are unwell or there is an extenuating circumstance preventing them from attending school. There is a strong correlation between attendance and achievement and we would like to see a positive correlation for every student.

Athletic Championships

These were held last week and congratulations to champions: Monique Gray – Junior; Brooklyn Prescott and Amy Alderton – Intermediate; Emilia Ruddell – senior. Thank you to the Sports Department, Year 11 Sports Management class and all those who helped to make it such a successful day.

Kāhui Ako

We had the first of our four wellbeing hui last week, facilitated by Denise Quinlan from NZ Institute of Wellbeing and Resilience and Chris and Greg Jansen from Leadership Lab. We had representation from all 40 schools across the five Kāhui Ako, with each school being able to send up to four staff. We have come back to our respective schools with many ideas on the next steps for improving wellbeing in our schools and ECEs. We recognize that we have the ability to make a very real difference in our community – it is unprecedented to have nearly all our schools working together in this way and can only be of benefit for our students, staff, whanau and wider community. The next days are planned for the end of May.

Our Kāhui Ako is also working with the team from 'Write that Essay' to improve writing across the kāhui ako.

Anne Cooper
Principal

Te Manawa Tahī

The Ministry of Education and RTLB service have launched a new Learning Support delivery model called Te Manawa Tahī. Staff from both groups will be hosting community hubs where whānau and community members can come and talk to education specialists about their child's learning needs. If you have a concern about your child's learning progress, social and emotional wellbeing or behaviour, you are able to discuss your concerns directly with them and through that discussion they will determine what help may be required and identify next steps.

Anyone can phone 0800 5248 4256 to make an appointment or just drop in. This is a free service.

The timetable for Term 1 is:

11 March	Clark Road Chapel
18 March	Plunket Kensington
18 March	Mangakahia Community Room
19 March	Tikipunga Baptist Church
25 March	Clark Road Chapel
26 March	Ngunguru Sports Club
26 March	Onerahi Hall
1 April	Clark Road Chapel
2 April	Plunket Kensington
9 April	Plunket Kensington

The times are from 8.30am – 12.30pm

Head Girls

Kia Ora from the Head Girl team,

We hope you all are enjoying the term so far.

We'd just like to update everyone on how House Day went.

House Day was a huge success! We've been getting so much amazing feedback. The atmosphere was whanau oriented. I hope you all enjoyed House Day. From what we saw, everyone was participating, having fun and I'm sure you now know each other in your whanau classes. Also a huge congratulations to Bell for winning overall.

That's all we have for you so far.

Mā te wā.

Amelie, Paea, Sophie and Mathilda.



Parents Supporting Parents

Are you a parent struggling with a child with mental illness?
Would you like to connect with other parents who are living with the same awful struggle?

The next meeting for the Parents Supporting Parents group is 5pm on Thursday March 19, at Te Puna Ora.

Join us on Facebook to connect and find out more information
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/651665085170218/>

HPV Immunisation Catch Up Programme

WGHS is holding HPV catch up clinics at school on 24 March. If you would like your daughter to be immunised please ask her to pick up a consent form from the Deans' Office. This is to be completed and returned prior to the catch up dates.

Any queries about the vaccine please see the MOH information page <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation/hpv-immunisation-programme>

Attendance Matters

At Whangarei Girls' High School, we know that your student **being at school matters**. Being part of all the learning, means that your student will be more highly engaged in class and will achieve at a higher level.

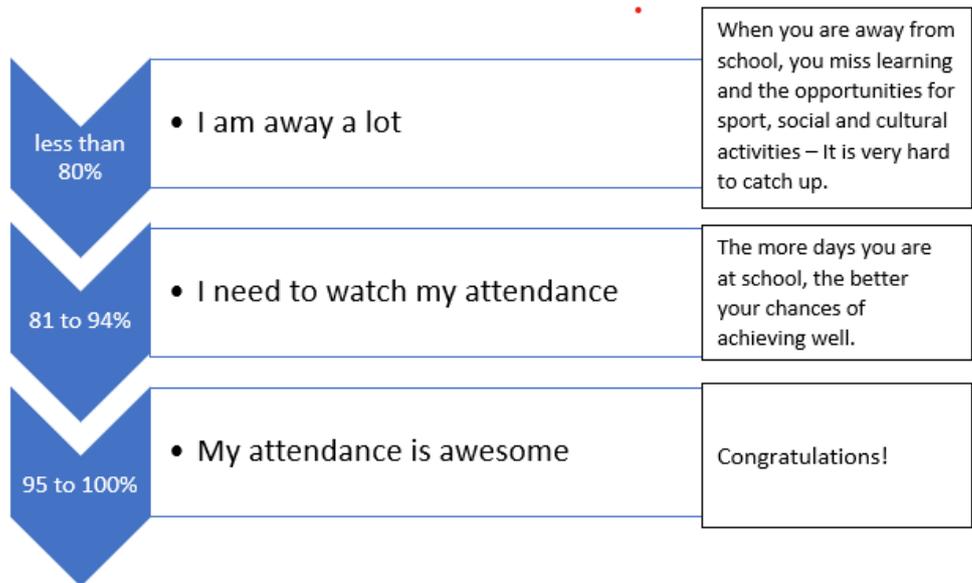
It is also important for your student to **get to class on time** to hear the teacher describe the learning intentions for the lesson and what each student needs to do to achieve these. Being late not only disrupts your students learning but also that of the others in the class.

New Zealand research links good attendance directly to **better achievement** in NCEA and **better student wellbeing**.

Make school attendance a priority in your whānau as it will allow your student to make the most of all the opportunities, friendships, activities and learning available at Whangarei Girls' High School.

If your student struggles to come to school, **ask for help**. Your student's whānau teacher or Dean can work with you to support you and ensure that your student does not fall into bad attendance habits.

WHAT IS YOUR STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE?



Students and whānau can check on the **parent portal** to see their attendance at any time. To do this, you will need to know the logon and password for the portal. You don't have this? Ask your student's whānau teacher – they will be able to give it to you. This information has been emailed out to you. If you have not received it, check your spam folder.

Jenny Reid is the Whangarei Girls' High School Attendance officer. Please let her know when students are going to be away or have appointments. Absences can be sent in on the school app, on absences@wghs.school.nz or phone 09 430 4405. Jenny will issue leave passes and ensure rolls are correct.

We do not allow students off site during the school day (Year 13 are exempt during their study period). Leave passes for lunch will not be issued. Any student with an appointment must carry an official pass, issued from Jenny in the Deans' Centre. Contact from a parent/caregiver is needed to get a pass. When a student is unwell, she will be sent home through the student Support Centre.

Teachers at WGHS mark the roll every period. A text is sent home when a student has not been present in period 1. These processes are designed to ensure we know where our students are throughout the school day.

Below is a summary of the Kamar codes that are used. These are from Ministry of Education guidelines.

P - Present

- Student is present in class, in the sick bay or has a study period.
- Student is in an examination or participating in a school activity.
- Student is on work experience or attending a Secondary Tertiary Programme

L - Late

- Student is present in class, an exam or school activity, but arrived late.
- Student is on work experience, but arrived late.

U - Absent Unjustified

- Student is not in class or has chosen to stay away from class, with no explanation
- Student is not at school, and the reason is not justifiable (e.g went shopping, stayed home to look after a family member etc.)
- Student is on holiday during term time, in New Zealand or overseas.

J - Absent Justified

- Student is not in class and the reason is justifiable (e.g road closure, bereavement, national or local sport or cultural representation)
- Student has a medical appointment (e.g doctor or dentist)
- Student is at home, or in hospital for a medical reason
- Student is away from school on exam or study leave.

School Calendar

March

- 12** 12ECS First Aid
13 Health Workshop
NISS Rowing
11OED Overnight Kayak
11PED Sports Management
13Health Workshop
NSSSA Track & Field
12PRI Waifencing Skills
- 13** NISS Rowing
11OED Overnight Kayak
12/13DRA Owls do Cry
- 16** Gillette Venus Cricket Cup
NSS Golf Croquet
12/13 DVC & 13 PAD
Marae Visit
- 17** Gillette Venus Cricket Cup
13ESS Dargaville
Careers Roadshow
NSSSA Futsal U14
- 18** 11PEDSM Cricket Coaching
11PEDSM Primary
Swimming Champs
Lupton Trip
NSSSA Futsal U16
- Girls Working for Girls**
- 19** 11OED Overnight Kayak
12ECS First Aid
NSSSA Futsal U19
- Subject Teacher Interviews**
- Early Finish
- 20** 11OED Overnight Kayak
12ECS First Aid
NZ Open Swimming
NZSS Aerobics
13ESS Whg Beaches
Futsal mixed Y9 & 10
11GEO trip
- 23** 12BIO External Rocky
Shore Trip
World Vision Youth
Conference
- 24** 11PEDSM Cricket Fest
12ENV Hatea River
Duke of Ed tramp
NSSSA Volleyball Finals
HPV Vaccinations
- 25 Subject Teacher Interviews**
- Early Finish

Uniform Concerns

A number of teachers have spoken to me about their concerns about the short length of some students' skirts. The uniform code says that the skirt is to be no shorter than "5 centimetres above the knee". The students with the short skirts reveal their underwear when they sit at the desks and are climbing the stairs. This does not contribute to a safe working environment for both students and teachers. We will give the students until the 16th of March to make sure their skirts are the appropriate length for a learning/working environment. From the 16th of March we will have discussions with the students who are not meeting the requirements and will contact home.

The uniform code also says that little or no makeup is permitted. If a student's makeup or nail polish is very noticeable they will be asked to remove it.

As the temperatures start to drop please remember that students can wear the blue jersey, a plain black shower proof jacket or a puffer jacket (with no visible hood). The students need to wear the correct uniform from when they leave home to when they return home.

Year 13 students need to wear clothes that are appropriate for the workplace. This means no strapless tops or tops that reveal the student's underwear or cleavage. Short shorts and short skirts do not meet the requirements for Year 13 dress code.

We would appreciate it if you can support us to meet the requirements of the uniform code so we can have an environment where learning can be the key focus. If you have any queries please feel free to email me sonya.lockyer@wghs.school.nz

Sonya Lockyer
Deputy Principal

Whangarei Girls' High School PTA

Next PTA meeting, Wednesday 25 March at 5:30pm in the Staff Room (Upstairs from the Main Office).

Contact Phoebe Curtis on 027 724 6734 for further information. We look forward to meeting you.

WGHS Emails

We have recently discovered that some emails that have been sent to you from the school have been detected by some Spam/Junk filters. This means that some important emails sent to you from us may have been incorrectly sent to your Junk/Spam folder.

Unfortunately there is very little we can do to avoid this from happening, as different email providers have different detection settings.

What we recommend you to do, is check your "Spam" or "Junk" folder in your emails, and search for any emails that have come from WGHS. If you do find any, please add the email to your safe senders list, either by "marking as not junk", or sometimes there is an option to do this directly, depending on what program you use to access your emails.

Student Volunteer Army Achievements

February Badge Recipients for Community Service

Gold Award for 500 hours: **Sophie Baker**

Silver Award for 250 hours: **Lucy Stanley**

Bronze Award for 32 hours: **Manaia Butler, Nicole Noble, Honnea Chan, Palak Badoni, Dana Smith, Maya Juarez and Stacey Chambers.**

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 daughter 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 daughter understands this process.

Check out our Facebook Page for photos and regular updates on news and events around the school

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