



Whangarei Girls' High School

10 September 2020

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Important Dates

14 September 2020
Assessment Week Starts

25 September 2020
Last day of Term 3

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Word from the Principal

Tēna koutou katoa

As the weeks of Term 3 race by, the impact of COVID continues to take its toll as we have had to cancel the 'meet-the-candidates' event, the Year 12 Drama production and most recently the difficult decision to cancel the Ball has been made by the Ball Committee. We are hoping that our careers and NCEA evenings for whanau are delayed rather than cancelled but will wait for the next announcements regarding changes to alert levels.

As we continue to live in these times of uncertainty, surrounded by so much negativity in the media, it is important that we also focus on the many good things that are happening too. Although not everyone shows kindness to others, there are many who do - we do not have to look very far to see we live in a community where so much good work is being done to look after those who are struggling. Our students are no exception and I am proud of their generosity in bringing goods for donations week which the senior leaders sorted, packaged and delivered to grateful charities, the way they seek to acknowledge the good things others quietly do and the use of their "Girls Working for Girls" fund.

Our students never cease to amaze me. As GirlBoss, Alexia Hilbertou, said of this generation - "they have the inspiration to change the world and the grit to do it." Although they are fearful of their future, they are constantly showing us that they are solution focused. The example of Year 13 students asking for an independent study day to manage their workload is an excellent example of this. The challenge for us is to continue to build their confidence and skills so they can face their futures with less anxiety and the ability to seek out or create and make the most of new

opportunities. COVID has changed our world, closing some doors but opening others for our young people. We must help them to adapt, believing that if they see a problem that they can stand up and be part of the solution - we must support them to do that.

It is important that you monitor what is coming across the screens on your daughter's digital devices and also how much time she is spending on social networks. They are addictive and time spent on these is often a reason for falling behind in other things such as work and exercise. Netsafe has an excellent parent toolkit resource and if you have any concerns at what your daughter is viewing or receiving, you are able to contact them by:

Email: help@netsafe.org.nz

0508NETSAFE (0508638723)

Online report at netsafe.org.nz/report

Text 'netsafe- to 4282

Hui were held for Year 11 students this week to give them more information around the 'nuts and bolts' of NCEA, Future Focus (subject selection, self management, wellness) Pathways and resources available eg time management, study skills

Another reminder that assessment week is very close now and I hope your daughter is prepared for her practice examinations. For many this week also gives them valuable time for her to become completely up to date with internals, portfolio subjects, etc.

The sun is shining, Spring has sprung. We need to be grateful for the good things in our lives and remind ourselves of them every day.

Ngā manaakitanga

Anne Cooper
Principal

Head Girls

Kia Ora everyone,

Last week, with the help of the Student Council, we were able to successfully carry out our 'Donations Week.' This is an initiative that we have carried on from previous years and is a way for our students to give back to our community and help local charities. The Student Council collectively decided on the charities we would donate to this year which included the SPCA, Salvation Army, Women's Refuge, and Soul Food. It was incredible to see a large number of donations at the end of the week ranging from tinned food to clothing and children's toys.



We would like to thank all of the whanau classes and students that contributed to this amazing project throughout the past few weeks as it has allowed us to truly make a difference! Every charity was so grateful for the donations, especially during these unprecedented times, and would like us to pass on their thanks to all the students.

Faafetai tele lava.

Sophie, Mathilda, Paea and Amelie.

Music Department

First I would like to say a massive thank you to all our Music students for staying positive and productive in such a turbulent uncertain time. It has been an interesting and challenging year for WGHS Music Department, as it has for all of us. Though we have not been able to organise as many performances due to Covid 19, each of our music classes have been very active creating music of all styles and genres.

Our Year 9 programme is working closely with two local primary schools, Whau Valley and Ngunguru schools, to deliver music workshops to their Year 4 & 5 students. We train our Year 9 Music students to play violins and cellos, run by Sistema Whangarei's Sam Winterton. Whilst learning to play these instruments, Year 9 students also learn how to support the primary school children to learn the same instruments. Normally, this is done with some face-to-face sessions both in the WGHS Music block and at the host school but since lockdown, we decided to deliver the programme remotely by running zoom sessions with our Year 9 tuakana and the host primary schools (teina). The Year 9s have also been creating instructional videos which were posted on a site for the primary school children to learn from in their own classrooms. This has proven to be a very successful programme and teaches our Year 9 Music students both instrumental, musical skills as well as develop leadership, support and empathy skills.

Our Year 10 students worked very hard during our

shortened 6 week Term 2, after lockdown. We decided to focus entirely on practical music making, which seemed to help students deal with any post-lockdown blues and anxiety. Students performed a very well received concert in our Music Block at the end of Term 2 featuring all songs by Six60. This was a very positive experience for our students who were excited to share what they had been working on so hard with their whanau. Because of this experience, a number of our Year 10 students have now gone on to form a band and they rehearse every Friday lunchtime. You will hopefully see them perform at events and whole school assemblies later this year.

Our senior Music students have also been busy songwriting, recording, arranging and performing a wide variety of music. On Tuesday September 22nd our Year 12 & 13 students will perform a concert called Covid Covers featuring NZ classics and a selection of music from the 60s and 70s. We hope the concert will take place in our Hall Theatre at 6pm but if Level 2 continues we hope to relocate the concert to 116 Bank Street. We'll let you know the location of the concert closer to the time.

Please stay tuned for further exciting developments, concerts and projects as we roll on towards the end of 2020 and let's hope 2021 will be a less disruptive year!

Nick Grew
HOD Music



Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington Graduates

It is with pleasure that I enclose a list of your former pupils who have graduated from Victoria University between June 2019 and May 2020. We join with you in acknowledging and celebrating the students' wonderful success.

2020 has turned out to be a challenging year for all of us. Due to lockdown we were unable to hold our usual graduation ceremonies in May. However, all those due to graduate at that time had their degrees conferred in absentia.

Name	Qualification	Institutional Honours	Major 1	Major 2
Aisha Atherton	GDip Teaching (Secondary)			
Ashleigh Yates	GDip Teaching (Secondary)			
Brooke Magill	Bachelor of Arts		International Relations	Sociology
Brooke Magill	Bachelor of Laws			
Brooke Soulsby	Bachelor of Arts		English Literature	Theatre
Caitlin Phillips	Bachelor of Arts		Film	Media Studies
Caitlin Wallace	PGDip in Landscape Arch			
Ella-Rose Kini	Bachelor of Arts		Criminology	Education & Psychology
Fiona Jameson	Master of Strategic Studies			
Hannah Gwillim	Bachelor of Arts		International Relations	
Hannah Gwillim	Bachelor of Laws			
Jasmine Massey	GDip Teaching (Primary)			
Jessica Meadows	Bachelor of Design Innovation		Industrial Design	
Kaea Robinson	Bachelor of Commerce		Economics	Finance
Katie Gell	Master of Clinical Immunology	Passed with Distinction		
Kendra Scott	Bachelor of Arts		Criminology	Psychology
Melodie Pene	PGDip in Geog Info Science			
Nicole Basher	Bachelor of Science		Environmental Science	Physical Geography
Rachel Evans	Bachelor of Arts		Cultural Anthropology	
Sara Adam	Bachelor of Arch Studies		Architecture	
Sophie Duckmanton	Bachelor of Arts with Honours	Second Class Hons (Div1)	Criminology	

Victoria University is very proud of the achievements of these students and we are looking forward to welcoming a new group of your students to Victoria in 2021.

Cathy Powley
Associate Director
Victoria University of Wellington

School Calendar

Items in the calendar after 16 September are subject to change, depending on the Covid Alert Level status.

September

- 10** Y9 Drama
- 11** Student BOT nominations close
NSSSA Ki o Rahi
- 14** **Assessment Week**
NSSSA volleyball officiating
Y11 First Aid
- 15** **Assessment Week**
10OED Duke of Ed
- 16** **Assessment Week**
10OED Duke of Ed
11PEDSM Northland wheelchair Turbo Touch
- 17** **Assessment Week**
10OED Duke of Ed
ICAS Maths
NSSSA Open Rugby 7s
Y11 Music concert
- 18** **Assessment Week**
10OED Duke of Ed
Y9 & Y10 Orienteering
11PE Sports Science NorthTec
Y10 Music Production

Assessment Week

Practice Exams for Year 12 and 13 students start on Monday 14 September and go through till Monday 21 September. These exams are important for students to practise examination skills in an environment that mimics external exams; it also provides the opportunity to build up results if students should require derived grades through sickness, bereavement or accident during the external examinations.

Students have been sent the exam timetable and an information sheet detailing the procedures and covering frequently asked questions.

When students come into school, they need to check the whiteboard (outside the Payments Office entrance) to see where they need to go. Exams vary from 1.5 to 3 hours and students should check with their individual teachers about this.

Students who finish early are not permitted to leave. Students doing afternoon exams may need to make alternative arrangements for transport home at the end of the day.

Please bear in mind that this can be a potentially stressful time for senior students and your support and understanding will help them be better prepared for the external exams in November.

Noelene Martin

Deputy Principal

Girls Working for Girls Scholarship

We still have funding available for Girls Working for Girls Scholarships.

Students can apply for this through the online application form. The link to the application form can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GzZ4vge69sOF2Cb4mjhNjgD-X2xQ7UIJC3HCACe1uXg/view?usp=sharing) <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GzZ4vge69sOF2Cb4mjhNjgD-X2xQ7UIJC3HCACe1uXg/view?usp=sharing> or:

- On our School App; or
- By emailing office@wghs.school.nz

Applications for this year will be closed from 5 November.

Processes to follow when a student needs to leave school before the end of the day

If a student feels sick when she is at school she needs to ask her 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.

If a student has an appointment during school time she needs to take a note to the Deans' Office before school or get her whānau to email absences@wghs.school.nz.

The student needs to collect her leave pass at the Deans' Office. During Alert Level 2, students who are needing to be signed out during school time must be collected and returned by a caregiver.

If you need to collect your student from school during the day, please phone the attendance number 09 4304405 or email absences@wghs.school.nz to let the school know. Your student can be collected from the Deans' Office and will need to sign out at the Deans' Office.

You must be a registered caregiver or contact on our records to be able to pick a student up from school.

Donations of Second Hand Uniform Items

We are in desperate need for second hand donated uniform items to have in the Deans' Room to loan to students. If you have spare school jumpers, shirts, skirts, trousers, black shoes or black sandals in the back of a cupboard we would really appreciate these being donated to WGHS. Items may be dropped off at the Deans' room or the front office.

Sonya Lockyer

Deputy Principal

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

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