



# Whangārei Girls' High School

8th March 2023

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## Important Dates:

9th March 2023  
Whānau Hui 4-7pm (online)

10th March 2023  
Whānau Hui 8:30am -  
3:30pm (online or face to  
face) School closed for  
instruction on this day

16th March 2023  
PPTA Strike Day

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Whangarei 0112  
Phone: 09 430 4460  
Email:  
[office@wghs.school.nz](mailto:office@wghs.school.nz)

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

[https://www.facebook.com/  
WhangareiGirlsHigh/](https://www.facebook.com/WhangareiGirlsHigh/)

## Word from the Principal



Tēnā koutou katoa

Now that the school year is well underway, we are looking forward to meeting many of you at the whānau hui on Friday, either in person or through Google Meet. It is helpful to be able to share information as to how your student is settling into our kura or to their new whānau class. If you haven't already, please book online – the instructions have all been emailed out. If you are experiencing any difficulty with the booking system, please contact us and our helpful staff will be able to assist.

As the change of seasons is starting to occur, we are noticing that a few more non regulation uniform items are appearing. Please assist us in maintaining high standards by ensuring your student has the correct uniform or by writing her a note which will give her a pass until she is able to obtain the correct uniform. If there is a bigger problem with your student's uniform, please contact us as we may be able to help.

We also ask you to follow your student's attendance through the parents' portal – ask them about any lateness or intermittent absences. Please use the app or phone or email to let us know if your student is absent and the reason why, so we can code the attendance accurately. If your student becomes ill during the day, they must go to Student Support and you will then be contacted to come and pick them up, rather than your student ringing you directly and then we do not always know they have gone home sick.

Policies to be reviewed this term are available for you on the School Docs site. Just go in to [www.schooldocs.co.nz](http://www.schooldocs.co.nz), type in the first few letters of the name of our kura, enter the user name as wghs and the password - aspirations. You will then see the tab for policies under review and you can go in and start your review.

Policies being reviewed this term are:  
Legislation and Administration, student attendance, enrolment, privacy, official information requests, uniform / dress code and boarding / hostel policies.

We have confirmed our strategy planning with the main goal over the next three years being for all leavers to leave with NCEA Level 2.

To achieve this goal we are aiming to live our values of: Whanaungatanga, Turangawaewae and Kotahitanga; to use evidence based teaching to better meet student learning needs and maintain a focus on the wellbeing of students and staff.

The immediate aims for 2023 are to have engaged, attending successful students who are progressing along their pathways towards agreed goals and

to develop a shared understanding of our values across students, staff and whānau.

The measures will include strong relationships between teachers, students and whānau; 100% of students will have ten literacy and ten numeracy credits by the end of Year 12; improved attendance and retention and a high level of student engagement in learning.

We are working on building a restorative culture across the school but there are still some students who have inappropriate ways of responding to things which upset them. It is important that students seek support if there are still things from last year they cannot let go of and if they need support to develop appropriate strategies to deal with conflict.

We had our first whole school (virtual) assembly last week and it was fantastic that some of you were able to be present to celebrate your student's achievements. The Pou Ārahi and Kaiārahi were presented with their badges, academic and sports colours were presented as well as Principal's Awards for outstanding achievements.

Special congratulations to students who received Elite Colours:

#### WGHS Sailing Team

Ellie Petty	Apikera Baker	Ella Beever
Tessa Hayward	Kiani Christie	Phoebe Buckland
Aria Young	Caitlin Thompson	

This team competed in the Secondary Schools Team Sailing National Competition in Algies Bay last October. The team started off in the Silver Fleet and after winning their first round, they were moved up to the Gold Fleet. From there they made the Inter Dominion Championship between NZ and Australia. The team placed 2nd, winning Silver medals.

Bella Earl - Bella competed in a number of running events over the school holidays. She competed in the NZ Secondary Schools Athletics Association Track and Field in Inglewood and placed 1st in the Senior Girls 3000m and 3rd in the Senior Girls 1500m. She currently holds the Whangārei Parkrun ladies course record with a time of 17:14. Bella also competed in the Night 5's and placed 8th in the Elite Women's 5000m and got a personal best of 17:15. This qualified her for the World Cross Country Championships in Bathurst.

Jamie Rapana - Jamie was named in the New Zealand Māori Senior Women's Hockey Team.

Amy Sampson - Amy was named in the Under 21 New Zealand Māori National Hockey Team and the New Zealand Māori National Senior Women's Hockey Team.

Kyah Young - Kyah competed at the National 2W Enduro Mountain Bike Event in the Under 21 division in Rotorua last year. She placed 1st in the 5 hour race.

#### Shinwa High School

We are very excited to be welcoming Shinwa High School from Japan again now that there are no border restrictions. Thank you to all those of you host-

ing the Shinwa students - we look forward to sharing cultures. Thank you to Amelia and Toni from the International Department for all the work they have put in to make their stay a special one.



Anne Cooper  
Principal

### **Dates for early closing and Staff Professional Learning Development Days**

#### **Term 1**

**10 March** - Whānau Hui for Years 9 and 11 and all other new students - No regular classes

**16 March** - Teachers are on strike – supervision will be provided for students who attend

#### **Term 2**

**24th April** - Teacher Only Day to work on the Curriculum Refresh. This is the first of two days given to schools by the Ministry of Education. The date of the second day is yet to be announced

**11 May** - Teacher Whānau hui – regular classes until lunchtime – no classes Period 5

**16 May** - Teacher Whānau hui – regular classes until lunchtime – no classes Period 5

**6 June** - Staff Professional Learning Development – regular classes until lunchtime – no classes Period 5

**7 June** - Staff Professional Learning Development – regular classes until lunchtime – no Classes Period 5

**Terms 3 and 4 - days will be notified next term**

### **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

The teachers in the English Department are rapt with the way our classes have settled into their mahi this term. There is a good focus in our classrooms, and we are now just starting to get into our first senior assessments. For parents of students in Year 11 to 13 classes, please ensure that your student has shown you the letter issued at the start of the year. This letter outlines our department policies around internal assessment. For parents of students in Years 9 and 10, please ensure that your student has an exercise book for English; it is not satisfactory to have a shared exercise book for all core subjects.

There are some essay and speech competitions on offer for senior students currently. These have been advertised through the Daily Notices, and there is further information available on our department notice boards. We encourage students to take up these valuable extra curricular opportunities.

## School Calendar

8th March 2023  
11OED Sea Kayak  
Trades Academy  
YR9/10 BenchMark Testing  
L2/3 PEDSM Futsal-Senior  
YR9-12 Kaupapatia te  
Kōrero

Finally, we always welcome any English Department textbooks that may not have been returned to English teachers last year (or in previous years). If you find any stray English texts at home, please return them to our English teachers' workroom, no questions asked.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Marg Northey  
HOD English

9th March 2023  
AUT Visit  
TROTT Hui  
YR9/10 BenchMark Testing  
L2/3 PEDSM Futsal-Junior  
Trades Academy  
Whānau Hui  
Year 13 Assembly - Hall

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**PTA NEWS**

The PTA AGM was held on 3rd March and all positions have been filled. Our next PTA meeting will be on Wednesday March 29 at 5.30 in the Staff Room. Speakers on the night are to be from the Careers Dept and will talk about University Applications and Scholarships; hints and processes.

Roberta Wilkinson  
Chair  
PTA

10th March 2023  
AUT Visit  
TROTT Hui  
YR9/10 BenchMark Testing  
NSSSA Touch - Senior

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**CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

Our newly formed cultural committee led by our prefect Rebekah Smith is putting together a small group of dedicated students to help run cultural events at WGHS as well as a cultural calendar for the year. This includes music concerts, dance concerts, drama shows, speech competitions, and our radio station WGHR. We are also starting weekly rehearsals of our Vocal Music Group and Wednesday Band on Wednesday lunchtimes. If you can sing or play an instrument at a reasonable level, or if you would like to be involved in our radio station, please contact Mr. Grew on [nicholas.grew@wghs.school.nz](mailto:nicholas.grew@wghs.school.nz).

13th March 2023  
11OED Sea Kayak

The first cultural event this term will be a showcase of talent from our wide variety of cultures within the school, called Culture Quest to be held at lunchtime during the week of March 27th. We hope that some of our international students will take part. Following this there will be a lunchtime concert in the Music Room on Wednesday March 29th.

14th March 2023  
11OED Sea Kayak  
Trades Academy Butchery  
9PRI - Bream Head  
L2/3 PEDSM Volleyball  
NSSSA Volleyball - Senior  
Victoria Uni Visit - Library

Term 2 will be a busy term featuring New Zealand Music Month where we will have a programme of weekly lunchtime music concerts including busking, karaoke open mic and a music trivia gameshow. Also our String Group and bands are already busy rehearsing for the NZ Chamber Music Contest and Smokefree Rockquest competition which both take place in June. We will also have a Matariki celebration at the end of June as well as a series of dance concerts.

15th March 2023  
Shinwa Girls High  
School - Kiwi North  
Trades Academy  
- Butchery  
EPro8 Challenge  
L2/3 PEDSM Volleyball  
NSSSA Volleyball - Senior

Please stay tuned for a variety of cultural events coming up this year, which will be posted on the school website shortly.

Nick Grew  
HOD Music