



# Whangarei Girls' High School

12 February 2020

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## Important Dates

### 21 February 2020

Big Splash (Swimming Sports)

### 28 February 2020

House Day

### 5 March 2020

Whānau/Family Hui  
Early Finish (2.40pm)

### 6 March 2020

Whānau/Family Hui  
No classes

### 18 March 2020

Girls Working for Girls

### 9 April 2020

Last day of Term 1

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

## Word from the Principal



A big welcome to our **new and returning staff** this year. We are thrilled to have such high calibre staff and are excited about the richness they bring with them. They are:

- › Elizabeth Bearne – Long Bay College – English Department
- › Kathy Boswell – Whangaroa College – Science Department
- › Lauren Clark – returning part time to English Department
- › Amber Fairweather – Excellere College – Psychology
- › Sophie Frew – London – Social Sciences
- › Aaron Haines – Otamatea High School – Mathematics Department
- › Kristin Heap – Macleans College – Art Department
- › Rhiannon Jones – Howick College – Art Department
- › Adrienne Kyd – Tauraroa Area School – Technology Department
- › Sonya Lockyer – Kamo High School – DP and SWITCH programme
- › Tony Lowe – caretaker
- › Sherrall May – Kamo High School – Food and Hospitality
- › Georgia Miller – Hamilton Girls' High School – Health (Asst HOD) and Physical Education
- › Zoe Miller – Mount Albert Grammar – English Department
- › Alison Palmer – London – English Department
- › Tamara Phillips – returning from maternity leave – Science Department
- › Robin Robertson – RTL B – Learning Support Co-ordinator
- › Ralph Ruka – Te Kapua Whetu – HOD Māori
- › Rea Taree – Guidance Counsellor
- › Kate Simeonides – Kamo High School – Food and Hospitality and Technology Departments
- › Rochelle Telfer – Tikipunga High School – HOD Mathematics
- › Jamie Tooke – New Era IT Support

**New students and their whānau** are warmly welcomed to Whangarei Girls' High School. We have a record number of Year Nine students, international students from Germany, Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong and Japan and new students at every level. We hope you settle in quickly and feel a valued member of our school community as you focus on your learning and finding out more about all the opportunities available to you.

**Head Girl team and prefects** Congratulations to Head Girls Sophie Saweirs and Mathilda Gritt and Deputies Amelie Tuato'o and Paea Slade who have started their year strongly with superb running of the whole school assembly and exciting projects planned for this year.

The prefect team worked hard at their training camp last week and we look forward to a busy and exciting year as their plans come to fruition. Congratulations to all the prefects – we are proud to have them as our senior leaders.

**NCEA** results were down on previous years, although still in line with national medians. We will put them out along with an analysis once they are finalized by NZQA.

**Goals** for 2020 are to develop and implement strategies to enhance staff wellbeing – the oxygen mask in the plane principle – staff wellbeing means a higher level of student wellbeing; enhance and strengthen tikanga Māori in the school; curriculum development – developing growth mindsets, coherent pathways and effective pedagogy, review of timetable structure; safe and inclusive environment and to accelerate the learning of every student.

**Swimming Sports and House Day** are coming up very soon and we strongly encourage you not to make a doctor's appointment for that day. A lot of work goes into the planning and they are important days for building whānau, House and school spirit. Please support each other and come and have fun. They are official school days and we expect all students to attend for the whole day.

**Whānau hui** are also coming up very soon for all new students and their whānau. Working with whānau for the benefit of your daughter's education is very important to us. We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to meet your daughter's whānau teacher, share information and learn more about her education at WGHS.

**Kāhui Ako** - all five in the Whangarei district have combined to focus on wellbeing this year. We are working with the NZ Institute of Wellbeing and Resilience and the Leadership Lab and are excited at the prospect of making a positive difference across the 40 schools and 50 ECEs involved in the programme.

**Payments by parents** will be greatly reduced this year as we have opted in to the \$150 per student grant from the Government. This means you will no longer pay any fees associated with the curriculum. There may be charges for take home components, optional extras and contributions towards the cost of food and travel for overnight trips. Stationery and uniform will still be at parents' expense. Please check on the Ministry of Education website if you would like to know more detail.

**PUM (paid union meeting)** will take place on Monday 24th February. There will be no classes after 1.15pm. Buses will run at the usual time and supervision will be provided for students needing to remain at school.

**Newsletter and Facebook** page have changed. We are attempting to have more frequent, streamlined newsletters to cut down on the amount of reading for you and to make more use of our Facebook page to keep you up to date with events and activities around the school. Feedback on either of these is most welcome at any time.

**Anne Cooper**  
*Principal*

### 2020 Prefects and Head Girls



### Head Girls

Kia Ora Koutou, welcome back to school and the beginning of a new decade. We hope you've had an awesome summer and have made the most of the very hot weather! This year we have the biggest school roll we've ever had, so we feel it is so important to reinforce our school motto 'empowering tomorrow's women.' With this in mind, our vision for this year is to equip girls within our school with the right mindset and resilience for life. Tuakana Teina is another initiative we want to take on in 2020. Tuakana Teina is about creating strong relationships between students within our school in order to enhance the unity between all year levels.

All the best for the year ahead; Sophie, Mathilda, Paea and Amelie

### BYOD

It has been pleasing to welcome our Year 9 and new students to WGHS, 90% of whom have their own Chromebook/laptop. A small number have still to purchase one, and we cannot emphasise how important it is for students to be equipped with a device to develop 21st century skills and be ready for digital exams in 2022. This is also important for students in Years 10 and 11.

If financial hardship is stopping you providing your daughter with a device, please contact Kevin Dean to discuss options. For example, we may have an older laptop available that could be converted to a chromebook and which would then make it suitable and fast enough for school use. We could assist with this process. Also there are "Girls working for Girls' scholarships which could be applied for (up to \$250) to go towards buying a laptop.

Assistance for any student with device problems is available in room 16B at lunchtimes with Mr Major, or via our tech company NewEraIT on site.

**Kevin Dean**  
*Deputy Principal*

### School Property Update

An upgrade of the "Lamb" Block (English rooms 1-3, 7-11, and Drama Room) which has weather tightness issues began over the Christmas holidays and continues over much of 2020. The programme is slow due to phasing to only take a couple of classrooms out at a time.

Students will be pleased that 2 more toilet upgrades have just been completed top and bottom of the main block. These spaces are now much more hygienic and pleasant for our students. Meanwhile Lamb block toilets are being upgraded now and will be finished by end of Term 1. This will complete a modernisation of most of the toilets in the school.

### The Big Splash

**Where:** WGHS Pool      **When:** 12pm, Friday 21 February

- Championship and participation based events
- Sausage sizzle at the pool - \$2 each

The Big Splash is a chance for the school to get together, have some fun and compete for their houses. It will be made up of both competitive and fun races.

Whānau/family are welcome to come along and support.

## Maths Department News

Kia ora

Welcome to 2020 and a warm welcome to our new students in Year 9. I am pleased to join the team in Mathematics at Whangarei Girls' High School as Head of Department. This is my 5th position as an HOD. Most recently I have been at Tikipunga High School since 2003.

Research shows students thrive in maths when they have opportunities to work collaboratively, in mixed ability groups to solve interesting and engaging problems and this is particularly what we are planning for students in Year 9 and 10. All Year 9 and 10 students will have e-asttle tests in Week 4 to help us best meet the learning needs of students and to monitor students' progress. Results will be available at the whānau hui in March.

Please feel free to contact me if you have feedback, accolades or concerns [rochelle.telfer@wghs.school.nz](mailto:rochelle.telfer@wghs.school.nz)

Ngā mihi

**Rochelle Telfer**  
HOD Mathematics

### Free Event

WGHS are delighted to host a Public lecture by Professor Geoff Whittle of Victoria University to celebrate 25 years of the Marsden Fund Te Pūtea Rangahau a Marsden

Mathematical magic and the digital revolution

Mathematicians understand the magic that made the digital revolution possible. So can you. Geoff Whittle is firmly established as a world leader in discrete mathematics, particularly in the theory of matroids - a type of finite geometry - and graph theory. Geoff is also known as an incredible communicator about the passion and beauty of doing Maths research.

Thursday 27th February 6pm to 7pm

Hall theatre Whangarei Girls' High School

Light refreshments provided by the Northland Maths Association

More information and registration can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/mathematical-magic-and-the-digital-revolution-whangarei-tickets-86873100783?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Naumai, Haere mai. We hope to see you there

### LOCKERS

Be in quick - limited lockers available.

Lockers are available again this year, \$50 per year plus a refundable \$10 bond. If you would like a locker for 2020 you will need to fill in an online order form at <http://www.stowawaylockers.co.nz/order-form/> as soon as possible.

## International Studies

Welcome to WGHS International Students!

We have had the pleasure this of welcoming a wonderful group of new International Students into our school.

Our new students come from Germany, Japan, Thailand, Switzerland and Hong Kong!

If you see any of the students around school make sure you say Kia Ora to them!

They would love to make some long term Kiwi friends :)

If you and your whānau are interested in hosting an International Student for WGHS please pop into the International office (room 12).

For more details email [toni.richardson@wghs.school.nz](mailto:toni.richardson@wghs.school.nz)



### WGHS School App

This free app is useful for whānau to download onto their phones (search wghs on app store) or use the web browser version on computer. It allows you to receive notifications from the school and has many useful links including sending in a student absence from school.

### Parent Portal

The parent portal allows students and whānau to access student assessment results and comments, timetable, attendance, calendar etc. You should have received your log on and password for this tool. If not please contact the school. Use the link on the school app or the school website to access this - [wghs.school.nz](http://wghs.school.nz).

### 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 5:30pm on Thursday February 20, at Te Puna Ora.

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

## School Calendar

### February

- 12 Y13 OED Kayak
- 13 NSSSA Equestrian Showjumping Y12 OED Kayak
- 14 Junior and Intermediate Big Splash Trials NSSSA Lawn Bowls
- 17 Senior Big Splash Trials
- 19 Y10 Switch Waitangi trip Y11 OED Kayak
- 20 Y10 Switch Waitangi trip NSSSA Swimming Dargaville Div 1 & 2 Y11 SCIFM Reotahi Y11 OED Kayak
- 21 **BIG SPLASH**  
NSSSA Triathlon Kai Iwi Lakes
- 24 Paid Union Meeting - (Early finish)
- 25 NSSSA Leaf Cup Girls Cricket
- 27 12ESS Kawiti Caves & Waro Res NSSSA Surfing #1 Y13 OED Kayak
- 28 **HOUSE DAY**

### March

- 2 11OED Reotahi
- 3 WGHS Athletics Champs
- 4 12ESS Whg Beaches In Zone Careers Coach NSSSA Volleyball Snrs
- 5 12PRI Dargaville Fieldays NSSSA Mountain Biking Whānau/Family Hui (Early Finish)
- 6 NSSSA Senior Touch Whānau/Family Hui (No Classes)



## NCEA Results for 2019

Congratulations to the following students who gained an Excellence Endorsement in their NCEA level.

### Level 2

Taylor Adams, Aaliya Dib, Adyn Dudley, Amelie Tuato'o, Ashlee Pram, Bridget Buckthought, Dana Smith, Eila-Rose Jones, Elysse Davis, Freya Doherty, Holly Manley, Iris Metcalfe, Jemma Petty, Emily Magee, Maggie McLeod, Makayla Templeton, Mathilda Gritt, McKenzie Healey, Mia Venmore, Nika Nova, Paige Ihaka, Philippa Croft, Poppy McGlashan, Samantha Poole, Shannon Porter, Sophie Saweirs, Willow Koller and Yara Musa.

### Level 3

Esmee Clemow, Michelle Crawford, Larissa Guest, Georgia Harrold, Natasha Hewson, Min Sun, Kim, Tara Lane, Greta McClean, Tess Mortimer, Grace Moscrip, Olivia Murray, Pippa Saunders, Meegan Soulsby, Jorja Swain, Shannon Titley, Niamh Walton and Ellena Weissmeyer.

### The following students gained Scholarships in English:

Esmee Clemow and Tess Mortimer.

Congratulations to all of you. Keep up the good work.

## 2020 Prefects

Congratulations to the following girls who were presented as our 2020 Prefects at the Term 1 Whole School Assembly.

Gemma Brock, Jesse Brown, Bridget Buckthought, Philippa Croft, Jenna Cederman-Hill, Elysse Davis, Freya Doherty, Alysha Donovan, Adyn Dudley, Bridget Fijma, Mathilda Gritt, Terina Hauraki, McKenzie Healey, Kiara Henry, Trevena Heta, Soraya Hurrell, Paige Ihaka, Emma Illerbrun, Eila-Rose Jones Willow Koller, Maggie McLeod, Yara Musa, Lucy Perrin, Te-Rina Ratima, Jemma Remnant, Sophie Saweirs, Nikki Shields, Paea Slade, Chloe Smith, Dana Smith, Tammy Smith, Nirvana Tapu-Manihera, Makayla Templeton Amelie Tuato'o, Laika Tutu and Paige Witten.

## Colours Recipients

The following students were awarded colours in the Term 1 Whole School Assembly.

### Academic Colours

For work published in the "Re-draft Magazine" -

**Elliott Kippenberger and Emily Taylor**

For participating in the finals of the National Spelling Bee - **Isla Tuato'o**

### Sport Colours

WGHS Senior Touch Team, placing 9th overall at the NZSS Touch Nationals in December 2019 -

**Kiante Beazley, Shacay Hadfield-Kingi, Kiara Henry, Ohawini Kingi, Josephine Manuel, Destinee Mexted, Dionne Niha, Mahoney Pou, Tah'leah Sofala, Alex Timoko, Tara-Leigh Turner, Paige Turner, Mya Turner and Te Awanui Wihongi.**

For placing 8th in the Senior Girls High Jump at the NZSS Track & Field Championships in December 2019 - **Jenna Johnson**

For selection into the Northern Spirit Women's Cricket Team - **Makayla Templeton**

### Service Colours

Receiving the Student Volunteer Army Gold Award - **Ailie Anderson**

### Elite Sports Colours

WGHS Get 2 Go Adventure Racing Team, placing 3rd at the final in December '19.

**Claire Donelley, Samantha Forsyth, Bree Monaghan and Jazmine Murray.**

Winner of the Junior Girls 2000m Steeplechase at the NZSS Track & Field Champs in December 2019 - **Bella Earl**

For placing 2nd at the NZSS Athletics Championship 400m, breaking the U18 and U20 Northland record in the NZSS paper team 400m and being selected in the NZ U20 4x400m relay team - **Holly Rule.**

Northern Lights U16 Football Team, winning the National Age Group Tournament in December **Paige Ihaka and Te Waiariki Read**

For selection into the NZ U19s Womens Beach Volleyball Team - **Terina Hauraki.**

Congratulations to all our Colours recipients for Term 1.

## Whangarei Girls' High School PTA

**Our next meeting is the AGM.** Wednesday 26 February 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.

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

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