



Principal's Message

Teenaa koutou e te whaanau o Te Kura Tuarua o Raahui Pookeka

As the year draws to a close, I am delighted to share this final newsletter message. This is a time for reflection, gratitude, and looking forward to the exciting future that awaits our students. It has been a year of significant growth, resilience, and remarkable achievements.



I am immensely proud of the mahi that our students and staff have completed this year. I am truly honoured to lead our kura to be better than before - it is my mission to raise attendance and achievement for 2026. The link between consistent attendance and student success cannot be overstated. We have seen a strong commitment from many of our students and families this year, and I want to thank you for ensuring your child is present and punctual. Being in the classroom every day allows students to fully engage with the curriculum, build strong peer and teacher relationships, and avoid gaps in their learning.

- We continue to track attendance closely and encourage every student to aim for 80% or higher attendance next year.
- If your child has struggled with attendance, please know our senior leadership is available to work with you at the start of next term to put a plan in place.

We are incredibly proud of the achievement demonstrated across the school this year. Our students have shown improvement in academic success and we even increased the number of sports teams this year (Basketball, Volleyball, Netball and Waka Ama)

- Academic Success: We have celebrated great NCEA results and acknowledged students' hard work this year at our Celebration of success. We need to do more, so that every student at Huntly College achieves their qualification so they can achieve their dream job or future study. Working together-student, whaanau and school, anything is possible!
- Beyond the Classroom: Recently, our Year 9 students attended a cultural camp in Te Tii, staying at Whitiara Marae for 4 days and 3 nights. It was an amazing experience and wonderful learning experience, visiting the Treaty grounds in Waitangi and exploring Kororareka (Russell). Fun was had by students and staff. Over the last 3 days, our amazing Year 10 students visited Rainbows End, Lake Puketirini and a school based day. It was a fantastic way to end a successful year.

As we head into the holiday break, I want to thank you, our whaanau for your ongoing partnership. Your support at home is vital to our students' success.

I wish you and your whaanau a restful, safe, and happy holiday season. We look forward to welcoming our students back, refreshed and ready for a productive new year, on Thursday 29 January, 2026

Meri Kirihihi, ngaa mihi nui
Rachael Parker

WHAT'S ON AT HUNTLY COLLEGE

Tuesday 16th December 2025

Waitangi Camp

On 7 December, the Year 9 students, along with several teachers, travelled to the beautiful Bay of Islands. We stayed at Whitiora Marae in Te Tii, positioned on the Kerikeri Inlet. Upon arriving in the afternoon, we were welcomed with a beautiful pōhiri from tangata whenua o Te Tii (who are aunties of our Whaea Iwa). That evening, we settled into our accommodation and were greeted with the perfect high tide for an evening swim.

Our first full day in the Bay of Islands was spent in Kororāreka, where students learned about the history of Hone Heke and Te Maiki Hill (Flagstaff Hill). That afternoon we swam in the river, locally known as the First Bridge bath.

On our second day, we were guided through the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, learning about the signing of Te Tiriti, the differences between the Māori and English versions, and the story of the waka Ngārokimatawhaorua. We also had the opportunity to watch a powerful kapa haka performance at Te Whare Rūnanga.

That afternoon we travelled to Kerikeri to see the Waianiwaaniwa waterfall and enjoy the beautiful ngahere walk before finishing our day with another refreshing swim in the river.

Our hope for the Year 9 Waitangi Trip is to give students the opportunity to bring to life what they learn in their history classes—learning about the real history of Aotearoa and experiencing a special part of our country.



Sports Day

It was all smiles, teamwork, and healthy competition as our Year 9 and 10 students attended Ngaruawahia High School Sports Day last week. The event brought together students from across the region for a fun-filled day of physical activity, friendly rivalry, and new connections. Our students eagerly took part in a range of sports, with volleyball, touch rugby, and ki-o-rahi proving to be the biggest hits of the day.

Throughout the day, our Huntly College students represented the school with pride—showing respect, determination, and a willingness to try new challenges. It was also a great chance for them to build friendships and connect with students in a relaxed, active environment. A huge thank you to Ngaaruawaahia High School for hosting such an enjoyable and well-organised event. We look forward to returning next year with even more energy and enthusiasm!

Ka mau te wehi, Huntly College!

WHAT'S ON AT HUNTLY COLLEGE

Tuesday 16th December 2025

2026 Senior Student Module Selections

2026 Module selections for Advanced (Level 2 & 3) courses are currently in progress via a Google survey sent to the students' school Gmail account. Several students are yet to choose their subjects. Could you please remind your young person to refer to their school email to access the survey.

Special Year 10 Programme

Rainbows End

On Monday, 8th December, 32 year 10 students travelled to Auckland to spend the day at Rainbows End. After we walked through the gates, we took a scenic route through the theme park, trying to find our check-in and lunch spot. The most memorable part of the day was feeling sick after hanging upside down very high in the sky, AKA, riding the extreme version of the stratosphere. It was awesome to see our fellow students explore the park grounds with their peers and enjoy the many rides together.

Lake Puketirini

The following day, the majority of the same students walked to the other side of Lake Puketirini for some activities in the sun. Shortly after we arrived at our destination, we sprinted under the gazebo to get out of the blistering 28-degree heat. Once we were settled, the first group started pumping up their paddleboards and got their life jackets on, ready to go out onto the lake. Group 2 spent this time relaxing and playing a variety of summer games on the lawn. After 45min we swapped over so we could all try everything. Our favourite moment was definitely being out on the water. Most of us managed to stand up on the paddleboards, but some tried and (purposely) fell in and had a refreshing swim.

On behalf of all the year 10s, we would like to say a really big thank you to all the teachers and staff for organising and allowing us to go on these exhilarating trips. We will always share these memories, because it was a chance for everyone to unwind and have fun after a busy school year.

Written by Dante Davis, Gauge Joyce and Lawrenz Pallan.



WHAT'S ON AT HUNTLY COLLEGE

Tuesday 16th December 2025

Raahui Pookeka Community Christmas Festival: A Day of Joy!

Get ready to feel the festive cheer! The recent Raahui Pookeka Christmas Festival was an absolutely fabulous celebration, truly uniting our community in a spectacular way. A massive thank you to Waahi Whaanui, Creative Huntly, and Huntly College for making this joyful vision come alive.

The event kicked off with a dazzling parade, sparkling its way from the town centre, along Tumate Mahuta Drive, and over the Tainui Bridge to Huntly College—a sight that brought smiles to every face! The excitement continued with bustling stalls, delicious food trucks, a super-fun foam tent, games, and non-stop entertainment. The most grateful shout out to our student volunteers who enabled our event to be the success that it was.

This amazing day was made possible by the incredible generosity of our major sponsors: Wel Energy, Genesis, Bathurst, Huntly Community Board, Gleeson Cox, and Green Gorilla. And a heartfelt thank you to every community business/member who contributed a donation, koha, giveaways, or resources. Your spirit made it the most wonderful time of the year! May you have a very Merry Christmas to you and your whaanau surrounding by love and cheer!.



Key Dates:

Term 1 Start and End Date - Thursday 29th January - Thursday 2nd April

2026 Enrolment Week - Tuesday 20th January - Thursday 22nd January from 2:30pm - 5pm

Auckland Anniversary (Public holiday) - Monday 26th January

First day of 2026 / Powhiri - Thursday 29th January

Waitangi Day (Public Holiday) Friday 6th February

Overnight Year 13 Camp - Wednesday 11th February - Thursday 12th February

First Aid Course - Tuesday 17th February - Wednesday 17th February

Big Day Out - Tuesday 24th February and Thursday 26th February

Service Academy Induction Camp - Monday 2nd March - Friday 13th March

Athletics Day - Friday 20th March



WHAT'S ON AT HUNTLY COLLEGE

Tuesday 16th December 2025

Huntly College brings Christmas cheer to Kimihia Home

Over the last few weeks, the hospitality pathway has been making Christmas cookies and cakes. These were presented to the Kimihia Home and Hospital on Wednesday 10 December, by a few of the staff and hospitality students.

The residents of Kimihia Home and Hospital were delighted to receive the baked goods, and just as delighted to meet the students who made them. The students were humbled by the experience of being able to meet the residents, and this will no doubt result in further inspiration for further community involvement.

