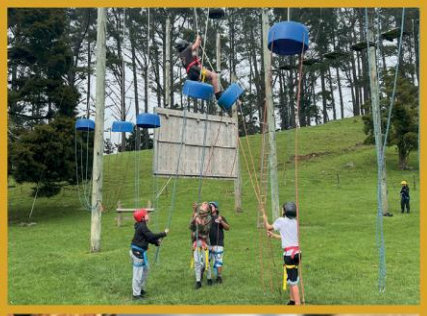
Devon Intermediate

Sailing towards an Attitude of Excellence











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Devon Intermediate School Newsletter

25th November 2026

Kia ora whānau, and welcome to Week 7 of Term 4! With only a few short weeks remaining until the end of the school year, it is hard to believe how quickly 2026 has flown by. Our teachers have been busy writing end-of-year student reports, which will be coming home soon alongside class placements for 2027.

There is so much to look forward to at Devon Intermediate in 2027, starting with how we structure our learning spaces. Next year, we will have a mix of composite Year 7 and 8 classes alongside straight Year 7 and straight Year 8 classes—a model used successfully by other intermediates across Aotearoa. Composite classes offer benefits around tuakana-teina, where our Year 8 tuakana naturally support and guide our Year 7 teina as they settle in and learn. Beyond the classroom, 2027 will feature an EOTC Week that includes a camp in Rotorua. We are also likely to host Chinese exchange students next year while continuing to work behind the scenes on a potential student trip to China in 2028.

Next year some of our classes will be heading back to Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) at Goat Island. This will be our third time running this fantastic snorkelling trip, and alongside the excursion itself, these students will be taking part in plenty of in class learning focused on protecting and understanding our marine environment.

We are thrilled to share a reminder about our new Tech rotation addition for 2027: **Innovation Technology**. Led by Miss Shaquille Titter (currently in Room 9), this will blend STEM learning with practical skills such as textiles, traditional sewing, and hands-on modules. Our staff have been visiting schools across Taranaki to gather inspiration as we design an engaging curriculum for our students.

In 2027, Devon Intermediate will also align its daily schedule with Spotswood College's early finish day:

- **Start Time:** 8:40 AM (Monday – Friday, unchanged)
- **Finish Time (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri):** 3:00 PM
- **Finish Time (Wednesdays):** 2:00 PM
- **Wednesday After-School Supervision (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM):** For families relying on bus schedules or needing to coordinate sibling pickups, our school library will remain open every Wednesday from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM under staff supervision, by prior arrangement only. Students are strictly not permitted to leave school grounds to wait outside or enter neighbouring school grounds during this hour. To register your child for Wednesday supervision, please email Marissa at office@devonint.school.nz.

At this week's assembly, we celebrated an impressive number of students for their positive behaviour and active engagement in school life. Congratulations to all of our MANA Badge recipients:

- **Bronze MANA Badge** *(earning 50 MANA Tickets and a MANA Drink Bottle)*: Scarlett Leishman (Room 8), Amaya Vaillant (Room 9), Ben Gallie (Room 10), Kingston Graham (Room 10), Fergus Bruce (Room 10), Harris Bowman (Room 14), Jess Martin (Room 14), Jeriko Pickering (Room 14), and Karisma Armstrong-Marino (Room 19.

Devon Intermediate School
Te Kura Takawaenga o Ngāmotu

DATES TO NOTE

27th November
Spotswood College Transition Day
+
House Sports

6th December
Year 7/8 Taranaki Beach Volleyball Tournament

7th December
Head Student speeches and voting

10th December
Graduation Ball

11th December
MANA rewards day

15th December
Class Awards Prizegiving

16th December
School Awards Prizegiving
+
Last Day of School

- **Silver MANA Badge** *(earning 100 MANA Tickets and lunch at Burger King)*: Ethan Medlin (Room 9), Nailah Molan (Room 9), Savana Webster (Room 12), Theo Ridout — *Bronze and Silver* (Room 12), Maria Taha-Ransley (Room 13), Olyvia Berry (Room 13), Shaan Kana (Room 17), Le'Shae Harrison-Mumby (Room 17), Savannah Parkinson (Room 21), Kalani Stinson-Shute (Room 22), and Mitchell Sim (Room 22).
- **Platinum MANA Badge** *(earning 200 MANA Tickets and lunch with Mrs Thorburn)*: Ella Waterman (Room 12), Mieka Beeslaar (Room 12), Nova Owen (Room 17), Clay Toms (Room 22), and Grace Anderson (Room 22).

We also presented a huge number of **Attitude for Excellence** awards this week—and it is especially awesome to see so many of our Year 7s receiving these!

Student	Room	Attitude for Excellence Award(s)
Judah Tokalauvere	Room 8	Sports Merit
Mackenzie Corlett	Room 11	Academic Honours
Krishiv Chetty	Room 11	Academic Merit
Ella Waterman	Room 12	Overall Attitude for Excellence
Mieke Beeslaar	Room 12	Overall Attitude for Excellence
Cyrus Cooper	Room 12	Arts and Culture Merit
Kanami Edwards	Room 12	Academic Merit and Honours, Sports Honours, Service Honours, Arts and Culture Merit and Honours, Overall Attitude for Excellence and Honours
Fine Nau	Room 13	Sports Merit and Honours, Arts and Culture Merit and Honours
Maddison Lister	Room 14	Sports Honours
Amani-Rose Phillips	Room 17	Arts and Culture Merit and Honours
Aria Newsome	Room 17	Arts and Culture Merit
Lucan Johnson	Room 17	Academic Merit, Service Honours
Jaxyn Fox	Room 17	Sports Merit
Ryan Wai	Room 19	Academic Merit
Mitchell Sim	Room 22	Sports Merit and Honours
Clay Toms	Room 22	Academic Merit, Service Honours

Congratulations to Macy (Room 15) and Lineja (Room 12), who won this week's attendance draw prizes—a $40 Warehouse gift card and a $100 BP gift card! Regular attendance has a direct impact on student engagement, wellbeing, and academic outcomes, and we are working hard to reach the government's national target of having 80% of students attending school at least 90% of the time. While Term 3 was challenging across the country due to widespread illness—leaving only 44% of our student body at 90% attendance or higher—we are aiming to significantly improve that figure in Term 4.

As we head into the final stretch of the term, please keep two daily expectations in mind:
Cell Phones: By both Ministry regulations and school policy, students are not permitted to have cell phones in their possession during the school day. All phones must be handed in at the Student Office every morning—please discuss this with your child to ensure they follow this process daily.
Sun Hats: During Terms 1 and 4, all students must wear a hat when outdoors. Hats must be plain navy blue or black (bucket hats or caps), and plain hats are available for purchase from the school office if your child needs one.

Thank you for your continued support as we finish 2026 on a high note!

Ngā mihi nui

Jenn Thorburn
Tumuaki/Acting Principal











Staff Vs Students Volleyball Match

"Kia ora whānau, last Friday we had our Staff Vs Students Volleyball match and boy was it a good one. Going in to the match the students were feeling very confident, but they ended up caving under the immense early pressure from the staff. Staff getting the W with a 25 - 16 point win. Our next challenge is Badminton, which the students are looking very strong for.
Ngā mihi, Mr Pahi"





Taranaki Primary and Intermediate Schools Athletics Championships

Well done to the Devon students who competed at the 2026 Taranaki Primary and Intermediate Schools Athletics Championships.
Congratulations to Condrake Cassidy-Nuku who dominated in the year 8 boys grade in all of the event's he competed in.

Official results for students who finished top 10 in their events: (No official results for 800m)

Condrake Cassidy Nuku - year 8 boys
1st - Discus 23.03m
1st - Long Jump 5.84m
1st - 200m 26.42

Lucan Johnson - year 8 boys
4th - 1500m 5.24.48

Theo Ridout - year 8 boys
8th - 400m 1.10.30

Ella Waterman - year 8 girls
5th - Shot Put 7.64m

Merenia Mathews-Taipari - year 8 girls
5th - 100m 13.97
4th - 200m 28.77

Leiah Eling - year 7 girls
3rd - 400m 1.13.39
7th - 1500m 6.14.66

Khobe-jaae Vano-Waiwiri - year 7 boys
8th - High Jump 1.20m
5th - Discus 17.74m
10th - 100m 14.42m

Red Marzan - year 7 boys
8th - 200m 29.86

Kaius Johnson - year 7 boys
8th - 400m 1.14.11
4th - 1500m 5.42.59
9th - Discus 14.56m

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