



NUA NEWS

Kia ora koutou, Talofa lava, Greetings everyone

Term 1 2026

And we reached the end of term one! This term seems to have flown by. It doesn't seem that long ago we were welcoming our new Year 9 students with a pōwhiri. This term has been full of activities and events, and there has been a lot happening over the past 9 weeks.

All of these activities and events require time and effort for organising and management. I am therefore very grateful for the investment provided by our staff and parents to provide these opportunities for our students. Lifelong memories are generated by participating in these activities, as well as connections that often become lifelong friendships.

I hope you enjoy reading this end of term newsletter. It is just a snapshot of what we have been up to this term, and we look forward to next term where we have more activities and events planned as we continue to grow successful young adults.

Nga mihi, Tofa soifua, Kind regards
Grant Congdon
Principal



Word from the Board

Tēnā koutou katoa

As we near the end of Term 1, we are looking forward to the upcoming Easter break. Much of the board's work this term has focused on strategic planning. We have developed academic goals for 2026, along with an annual implementation plan that outlines how these goals will be achieved.

Our 2026 goals focus on improving student attendance, lifting literacy and numeracy outcomes, and strengthening the use of tools to analyse and track student achievement data. These priorities were identified by the board and senior management in 2025 and are reflected in our 2026 ERO report. At each board meeting, Mr Congdon provides updates on progress towards these goals.

The Ministry of Education enrolment scheme, which we were required to implement for 2026, has helped bring student numbers to more sustainable levels. We continue to develop the college site, and it is pleasing to see the Maths Department now settled into their new workrooms and office spaces.

It has also been a busy and vibrant term for the wider life of the school. I recently attended the Dare to Dream show, which was a wonderful fast-moving and energetic performance. The students and staff involved are to be congratulated for the time, effort, and talent they put into the production. As always, I remain in awe of our students' abilities. Thank you to everyone who supported and managed the show, and to all our college staff for their continued hard work this term.

That's all from me. I hope you all enjoy a relaxing and refreshing Easter break.

Ngā mihi nui

Juliana Mansvelt
Horowhenua College Board Chair



New Staff 2026



**Hinemihi Scott-Baker
Selwyn-Kea
Teacher of English &
Maori**



Toni Mitchell



**Kylie Lowe
Teacher of Te Toka**

Also joining us for 2026

**Amanda Kerr-Weldon
Teacher Aide**

**Kauwiti Scott-Baker Selwyn-Kea
Reliever**

**Tracey Millard
Catering Assistant**

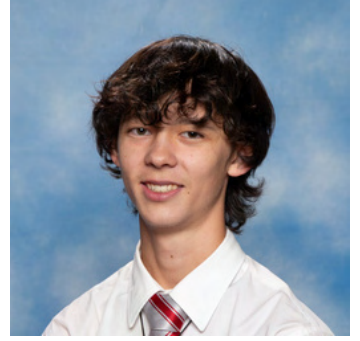
**Mohamed Ansar
Reliever**



**Katrina Miller
Teacher of English**



Student Leadership Team 2026



Head Students

Imogen Williamson & Te Hokotuku Gardiner-Hokianga

Deputy Head Students

Tiana Fryer & Kāhu Newton



Academic Prefects

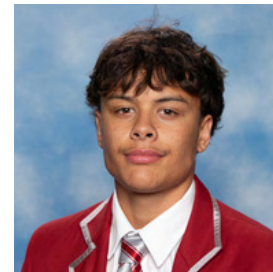
Ava Martin & Caitlin Hoy

Arts Prefects

Imogen Williamson & Tiana Fryer

Board of Trustee Rep

Harrison McQuillan



Cultural Prefects

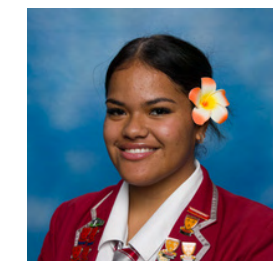
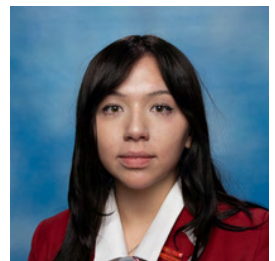
Rasela Fonoti & Tiebane Toniki

Sports Prefects

Te Hokotuku Gardiner-Hokianga & Ezra Masoe

International Prefect

Kāhu Newton



**Social Action Prefect
Stella Obers**

**Social Prefects
Danica Rowan & Anelisabeth Faavale**

**Wellbeing Prefects
Buxton Sone & Tiaria Gray**



Year 9 Powhiri





Year 9 Sports Day





Year 9 Sports Day





Athletics Day

Athletics day, held on the 20th of February, was a vibrant and energetic event that brought everyone together for a day of competition, teamwork, and school spirit. The field was filled with colour as students proudly represented their houses, cheering each other on and giving their all in a wide range of events. From events such as sprints, relays, shot put, long jump, high jump, nerf throw and gumboot throw, there was no shortage of excitement and determination on display.

Beyond the competition, the day was filled with laughter, encouragement, and a strong sense of community. Whether participating or supporting from the sidelines, everyone played a part in making the event a memorable success. Teachers and staff also joined in the enthusiasm, helping to organise events and motivate students throughout the day.

Standout performances and personal bests were celebrated, with many students pushing themselves beyond their limits and demonstrating incredible resilience. The cheering from the sidelines created an uplifting atmosphere that kept energy levels high from start to finish. Athletics day not only showcased athletic ability but also highlighted perseverance, sportsmanship, and house pride, leaving lasting memories for all involved.





Athletics Day





Athletics Day





Waka Ama

Our Waka Ama students represented our kura at the National Secondary School Waka Ama Championships, held at the beautiful Lake Tikitapu in Rotorua.

Our taura showed determination, resilience and strong whanaungatanga across all their events, competing against 140 other schools from across the motu. Despite challenging conditions and the unfortunate cancellation of all 500m semi-finals and finals due to severe weather warnings, our crews still achieved some outstanding results.

Highlights:

- J16 Girls W6 “Kurahaupō Kōhine” - 250m Te Takere Final: 2nd place
- J19 Girls W6 “Punahau Puha” - 250m Te Kei Final: 3rd place
- J16 Mixed W12 “Horowhenua Teina” - 250m Te Takere Final: 5th place

There were lots of strong performances across heats and semi-finals with each crew improving their race times and gaining valuable experience. They all represented our kura with pride, mana and lots of heart.

A huge mihi to our paddlers for their commitment and effort, our parents and whānau for their support and encouragement, and Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Inc. who continue to provide opportunities such as Waka Ama as a way of promoting hauora among our rangatahi.





Waka Ama





MISSA

A huge well done and thank you to the following students and staff who represented Horowhenua College at last weeks Manawatu Inter Secondary School Athletics;

Daniel Chidharn, Bridget Close, Gian Compacion, Carlos Fonoti, Scarlett Fonoti, Thomas Harimate, Abigail Harrington, Niyah Henare-Pearson, Jack Kennett, Feinga Kilioni, Ronan Kjestrup, Poasa Leitupo, Charlie McQuillan, Azaria Ngobi, Tahlia Parata, Kalani Ranish, Zavier Robertson, Nate Rofe, Tangikina Tafa, A-Jay Toleafoa-Nau, Lily Van Wyk, Kyra Walsh, Elissa Westerby, Harry White and Teachers Tash Simpson, Jonique Smith, Matthew Good and Jess Foster.

Our athletes performed really well and had a fantastic day.





Scrum Clinic

On Wednesday 18 March, some of our 1st XV forwards took the opportunity to attend the Scrum Clinic held by Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union in Paraparaumu.

New Zealand Rugby and Petone Coach Cameron Prouting, alongside HKRFU stalwart Ryan Shelford and former All Black great Dane Coles, took them through correct techniques and appropriate ways to train and prepare for the scrum.

Thank you to Cameron, Ryan and Dane for this fantastic opportunity.





Motocross

Year 9 student Trent Frecklington competed in the final round of the North King Country Motocross Club Summer Series, racing in the Under 17 years 85cc class. He achieved an impressive 3rd overall. A fantastic result!

Well done, Trent. What an awesome achievement and a great example of dedication and perseverance.



Open Water Championships

On 10th Jan 2026, Jack competed at the New Zealand Open Water Championships at a choppy lake Taupo, swimming 2.5k. He was at the bottom of his age group (15-17yrs) had a close group fight to the finish and came in 8th, with a great time of 35.31.

Over the weekend of 31st Jan & 1st Feb Jack competed at Manawatu Age Group Swimming Championships at the Lido. He had 5 swims and won 5 Golds, with 2 National Age Group qualifying times in 50 Butterfly and 200 freestyle.





Rural Games Clash of the Colleges

This term we took two teams to attend the Clash of the Colleges at the Ford Ranger Rural Games. This is a fun, fast-paced, amazing-style competition that sees students go head-to-head in teams of four, fighting it out to be crowned Champions! Teams are given 6 minutes to attempt each of the 16-18 hands-on modules, moving in a circuit until all are complete. Modules cover everything from on-farm health and safety to wool classing and body condition scoring, as well as paper-based modules that cover seeds, weeds and pest identification

There were over 300 students there from secondary schools and a few primary schools as well. Aside from being a fun competition it was also fantastic learning for our students. Silvia won 2 prizes, for the top score in a Horticulture quiz and senior girl gumboot thrower. Our boys team of Tate Burns, Ollie Graves, Hunter Bilton and Kade Watson were the top team in the Gallagher electric and virtual fence module and won a smart fence kit.

The teams and support crew were great. We look forward to attending again next year.





Nga Tawa Equestrian Interschool

Horowhenua College students Jorja Shaw and Ruby Knight attended the Nga Tawa Equestrian Interschool Championship over the weekend which saw over 50 competitors from schools coming from Wellington all the way to Taupo, making it a pretty big event!

Jorja on Smoochie got 1st in the accumulator and Ruby finished 2nd in the accumulator and 2nd in the two-phases. Ruby went on to claim Champion overall with her rides so a huge congratulations to both Jorja and Ruby on your wins!

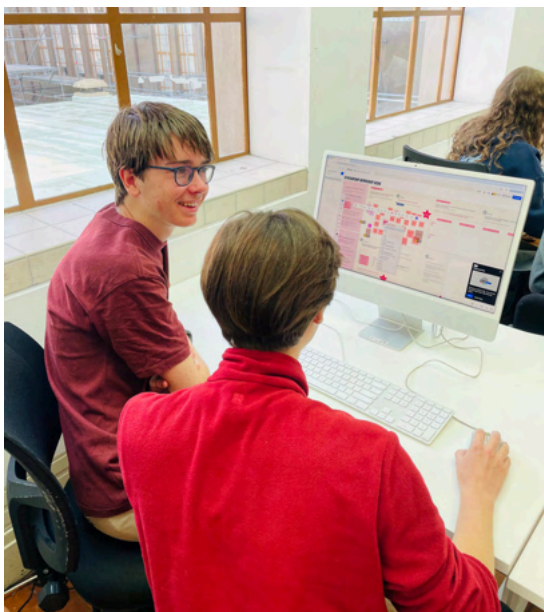


Polapex



Massey School of Design

Massey University School of Design, in cooperation with the Graphics and Technology Teachers Association (GTTA), ran 'Design Camp' Day 1 (of what will be 3 days over the course of the year), at their Wellington campus for Year 13 and scholarship students. 5 Level 3 Architecture students attended the full day session, learning Design Process, conceptualising and brainstorming skills with students from several other colleges in the Wellington region. The idea was to help bolster student learning for their full-year University Entrance design project. Lecturers from the Massey spatial design degree, as well as an NZQA representative, helped put the students into the picture for the year ahead and future opportunities. It was also nice to have a campus tour and hear about some Horowhenua College alumni who have succeeded through these degree programmes.





Cricket

Cricket is back in the Horowhenua!

What a great sight it was to have both Horowhenua College and Waiopahu College with 1st XI cricket teams out playing in organised weekly competition! This is the first time both colleges have had stand alone cricket teams in well over a decade.

The game was played in fantastic spirit with the majority of players playing their junior cricket with each other. Horowhenua College won the toss and batted first with the standout, Bostyn O'Brien scoring his first ever century (102*) before retiring. Captain Taylor Grimstone notched up his first half century for the college (62*) before retiring himself with 7 overs to go to give a few others a chance to bat. A few late lusty blows from Phoenix and Xavier saw Horowhenua College score 232-2 off their 20 overs.

Waiopahu came out to bat but Horowhenua put them under pressure straight away with Phoenix picking up a wicket 4th ball before 2 run outs in the following over. The ball was then shared around the entire Horowhenua attack with every bowler contributing which saw Pehu bowled out for 62. The pick of our bowlers were Philip Spies and Xavier Grimstone who both took 3 wickets each.

Huge thank you to Mr Kelly (Coach), Mr O'Brien (Manager, Umpire and Ass Coach) and Ms Bryant (Teacher in Charge) for getting our boys ready for the 2026 season.



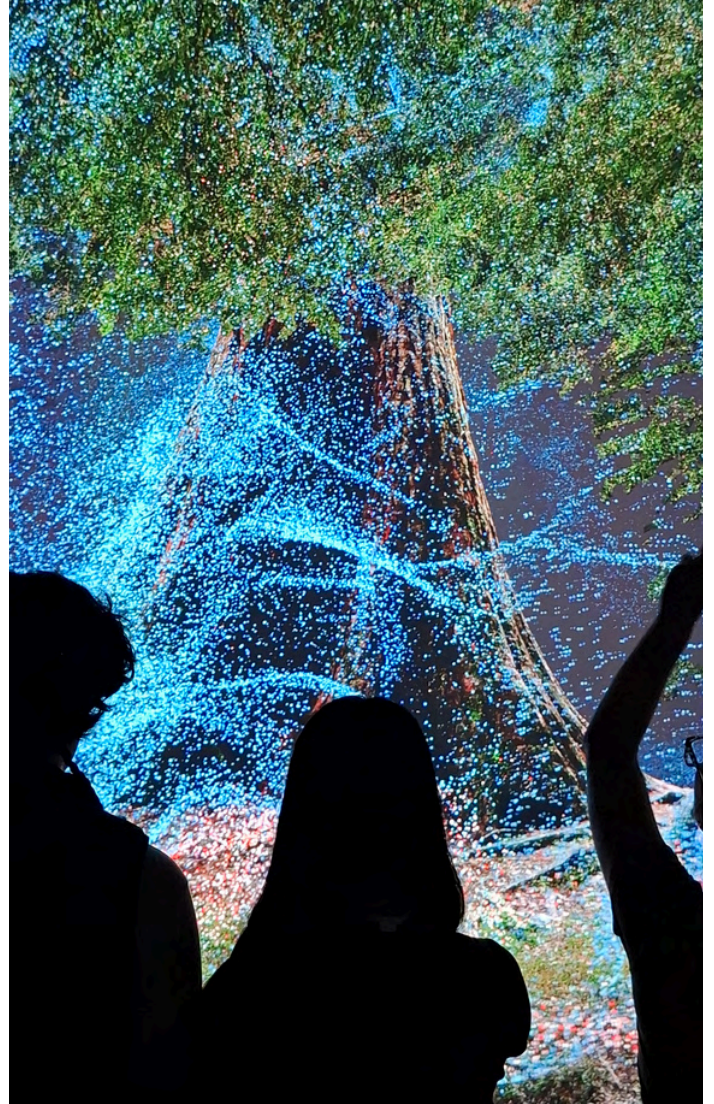


Art Trip

This term 75 senior art students had an opportunity to travel by luxury coach to Wellington.

The day was sunny and mild, a happy surprise, and our first stop was Massey University to see the top art exhibition of art folios of level 3. The students had a closeup view of how they generated and regenerated pictorial ideas to complete 3 boards. Themes ranged from burn out, to cowboys, fishing and Asian beauty...lots to learn. We then popped into the lecture room to learn about creative degree courses on offer. Charlotte Montgomery, a 3rd year painting student, and ex Nua pupil talked about how she was finding her degree, and life in Wellington.

We then drove to Te Papa, had a fab lunch all together, then onto Breathe, an emersive digital art show, that blew our minds as it was so clever, and so gorgeous. Thanks to our lovely seniors and staff, who made this a day to remember.





Outdoor Education






Dare to Dream

That's a wrap on the 2026 production season of Dare to Dream Jr. The cast and crew have worked hard over the past four months to present a show that was engaging, fun and full of energy. We performed six shows to the community with great audience participation. It was awesome to see everyone leaving with a smile on their face, songs in their heart, and a lightness in their spirit, in what is a heavy time in the world at the moment. Thank you to everyone who came to support our students and staff.

Theatre has the power to change, add belief, and enhance confidence; these are all things we saw our cast and crew achieve. Congratulations on an incredible season. We are all very proud of you all.

Remember, "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them"- Walt Disney

 **HOROWHENUA COLLEGE'S**
PRODUCTION OF

DARE TO DREAM
JR.

A **Disney** MUSICAL REVUE

MARCH 13 - 15 & 19 - 21, 2026
HOROWHENUA COLLEGE HALL

Music Adapted and Arranged by
PATRICK SULKEN

Orchestrations by
PATRICK SULKEN

Additional Vocal Arrangements by
BRITT BONNEY

With Songs by (in alphabetical order):
Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Howard Ashman, Frank Churchill, Phil Collins, Mack David,
Mikkel Eriksen, Sia Furler, Terry Gilkyson, Leigh Harline, Tor Hermansen, Al Homan,
Elton John, Phillip Lawrence, Jerry Livingston, Robert Lopez, Alan Menken,
Lin-Manuel Miranda, Larry Morey, Davy Nathan, Randy Newman, Tim Rice,
Stephen Schwartz, Richard M. Sherman, Robert B. Sherman, Glenn Slater,
Ned Washington, David Zippel

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia)



Dare to Dream





Dare to Dream





Dare to Dream





Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs

Tyrell Ogunnupe (Year 11) attended the Horowhenua Enterprise Workshop run by King's Trust Aotearoa and HDC Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs.

This was a two day workshop for 15-30 year olds who are keen on entrepreneurship. Tyrell's experience is shared below.

"I wanted to share some of the key things I learnt from the King's Trust workshop. It is important to make sure that a business is addressing a real need or desire for customers. I also found the section on understanding your customer very valuable. Knowing who you're trying to reach can help shape everything from product to your marketing.

We also discussed fixed and variable cost, which was eye-opening. It's important to know the difference between costs that stay the same and costs that can change with production. This will really help me with financial planning. The concept of value proposition and your "secret sauce" was interesting. It's all about what really makes your business unique and why customers should choose you over others. This has given me a lot to think about for the business I'm working on".

Well done Tyrell for taking up opportunities offered and investing in your future career and passions.





Food Science Competition

Last year Year 13 student Zara Catipay entered the University of Otago Food Science High School Students competition.

The competition is to create a video on an idea/innovation that could help New Zealand's food system become more sustainable. The video needs to show how the idea is good for people's health, how it will help New Zealand's economy and the environment/planet we live in.

Zara recieved 3rd place for her video submission.

Zara: “I was both happy and surprised to place third in the competition because my main goal when I entered was to try to participate or have a participation in it. It was a great experience since one of the challenges for me was deciding to enter because it was during the NCEA exam period, but I decided to take the opportunity to participate”.





Year 13 Camp

On the 4th of March, our Year 13 camp took place at Kawiu Marae. This year's camp was an unforgettable experience that gave us an opportunity to reflect on memories from our previous years at college as we celebrated the start of our final year at school. Following tradition, two house challenges took place, the karaoke competition and the sand sculpture competition held at Waiterere beach. Both competitions brought out creativity and friendly rivalry between our houses.

We are especially grateful to Kawiu Marae for welcoming us into such a meaningful space. A big thank you also goes to our Level 2 Waharoa class, with the support of our Rangatahi Ora Year 9 Teina, for the care and support they showed us Year 13s throughout the camp. Thank you to Whaea Vicky for organising camp, as well as all the teachers who gave up their days and nights to help camp run smoothly.





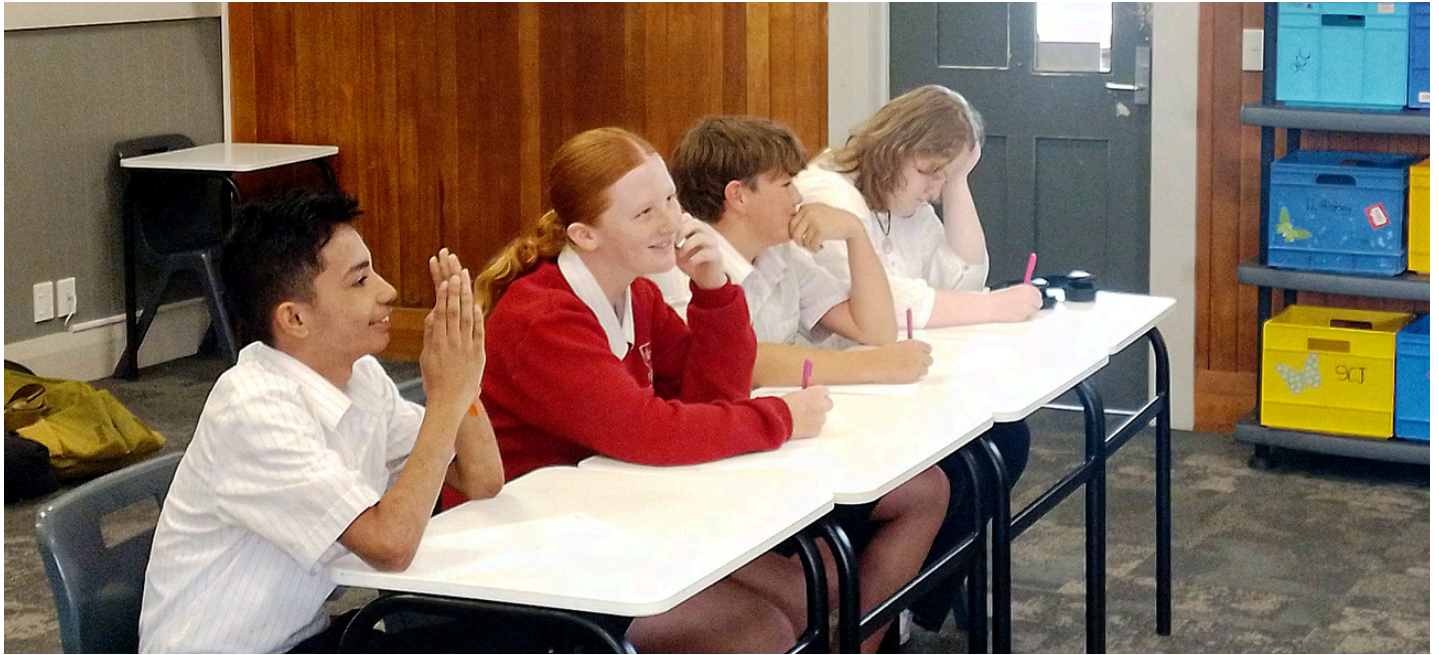
Year 13 Camp





Spelling Bee

During Week 5, a group of Juniors from each house participated in the Junior Spelling Bee. We reintroduced it for 2026 after it did not happen last year, and we saw a great effort from everyone who participated. The Juniors connected and bonded as a team to spell words to earn House Points. It was great to see people getting involved and showing support for their house. Congratulations to Ngaio who beat the other houses with 44 points - a 7 point lead!





GRIP Leadership

Our prefect team had the privilege to attend the GRIP leadership conference this term.

GRIP Leadership is a one day conference and interactive training event designed for student leaders. GRIP Leadership was an eye opening experience that helped us to consolidate our ideas, leadership styles and goals.

It allowed us to connect and bond as a leadership team while receiving inspiration and ideas from other student leaders around the motu.





Flag Assembly

Flag assembly is a school-wide event with the goal of celebrating whakapapa and manaakitanga through our heritage and culture. This year we had over 40 countries flags represented and celebrated by students and staff.

Every year, the students who participate in flag assembly take pride in representing their country by wearing cultural wear, playing music that holds value to them, and hanging their flag up amongst the many flags that represent the cultural appreciation we share at Horowhenua College. It's an opportunity to appreciate the strength we share in ourselves through our whakapapa, and to acknowledge and appreciate the diversity which makes us who we are.

Currently, we also have a numerous number of exchange students joining us at kura, coming from Korea, Japan, Brazil, France, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden, who were all excited to represent where they come from at the flag assembly alongside our students.

Flag assembly is one of the most exciting events of the year at NUA.

Kāhu Newton, International Prefect





Badge Assembly





Outdoor Ed

Throughout Term 1 the Level 1 Outdoor Ed students have been learning about water safety and developing kayaking skills.

Most students can now comfortably wet exit and complete rescues of their peers. They have had a heap of fun learning how to surf waves, how to identify natural hazards and experiencing swimming in small rapids.





Pūhoro STEMM

On Wednesday 18 March, a group of our ākonga attended the Pūhoro Wānanga Māpūrau at Te Wānanga o Raukawa alongside other kura from across the Horowhenua - Kāpiti rohe as part of the Pūhoro STEMM Academy.

Students took part in hands-on workshops that combined Mātauranga Māori and science. Highlights included exploring the pūrākau of Hineahuone to learn how the body creates energy, and using light to send binary-coded messages as part of a Te Whānau Mārama session.

Alongside the learning, ākonga enjoyed waiata, shared kai, and connecting with others across the rohe. We are proud of the way they represented our kura with enthusiasm and respect.





Year 13 Camp - Rangatahi Ora

Each year, our Rangatahi Ora students step up as ringawera for the Year 13 Camp, bringing manaakitanga to life through their mahi. As part of their Waharoa learning, they prepare, serve, and present kai for our manuhiri, working together with purpose and pride.

From setting up the marae alongside our Year 9 students, to planning the menu, shopping, cooking and serving, our rangatahi showed commitment and aroha in every task. Their efforts ensured all manuhiri were well cared for, reflecting the values we hold strong as a kura.

All students embraced the experience, gaining a meaningful introduction to marae life through pōwhiri, tikanga and hands-on learning in the wharekai. We are incredibly proud of the way they carried themselves with mana.





Hāngī - Rangatahi Ora

Rangatahi Ora continues to bring learning to life through our hāngī fundraisers - an experience that goes far beyond just preparing food. Each term, our rangatahi are fully involved in the process, gaining hands-on skills while deepening their understanding of tikanga Māori.

From the early stages of preparing the kai and carefully packing the trays, to the physical mahi of digging the hāngī pit, lighting the fire and heating the stones, students play an active role in every step. They learn the importance of mahi tahi and whanaungatanga as they clear the hole, lay down the hāngī, and ensure everything is done with lots of aroha and respect.

This experience provides a meaningful opportunity for our rangatahi to connect with traditional practices, strengthen their cultural identity, and work collaboratively towards a shared goal. We are incredibly proud of the commitment and enthusiasm our rangatahi show by giving up their weekend to be part of this kaupapa.





WHAKAIRO - Rangatahi Ora

This term, our students have had the exciting opportunity to begin a carving programme working alongside skilled tutor Jared MacDonald. Through weekly workshops, students are learning carving techniques while exploring the meaning behind traditional designs.

It has been great to see the focus, creativity and pride students are bringing to their mahi. Alongside developing practical skills, they are also strengthening their connection to culture, identity and tikanga Māori.

We look forward to seeing their skills develop and their finished pieces later in the year.





Careers

Kia Ora Koutou,

And that's a wrap, end of Term One.

A reminder to Year 13 students to book your Career Pathway appointments via the CareerWise website. You can click the tab 'Book an Appointment' at the top of the home page, follow the simple steps and select a time for Term 2.

Thinking of work experience in the school holidays, Tahatu are offering guidance in making this become a success for you.

Does a career in the defence force sound like you? An Information Evening is being held during the school holidays on Thursday 9th April in Palmerston North.

Coming up in Term 2 is the New Zealand Careers Expo held in Palmerston North on the 21st May, which we will travel by bus to.

If you are looking into attending a University in 2026 or 2027, it is important you start creating a RealMe account as this is something they require you to set up. Have a wonderful break and we look forward to welcoming you back refreshed for Term Two.

Whaea Toni & Whaea Anthea

<https://horowhenua.careerwise.school>



Horowhenua College | Career Wise Website

 [careerwise.school](https://horowhenua.careerwise.school)



Service Academy

On the 22nd of February, the day Horowhenua Service Academy had packed their bags, ready to start their 12-day course up in Waiouru at the Waiouru Military Camp, This course is to push you individually and as Academies to your limits and teach self-discipline and URGENCY!

The day of arrival was filled with mixed emotions about what to do and how to do it. Whilst some of us have been to induction before, for many of us this was a new experience.

Horowhenua Service Academy were greeted by Staff Sergeant Moore, and immediately put to the test to see how well we work together to do a simple command. Then, kicking things off with barrack organising, learning how to do fatigues, being sized up for Military Uniforms called DPM's and then dinner

There were many courses we had to push through in the 12 days up in Waiouru, the first course being the RFL (required fitness level), where we had an individual run of 2.4k to complete in under a certain amount of time and also complete as many push-ups as we could. This was then repeated later in the week to see if we could improve.

The next course was one of the biggest ones to beat, which was the 4.4k cross-country run up and around Mt Waitangi, where we all had to beat a certain time.

The academies had rotations of what they were doing. All academies had a relaxation day before the week of competition started, where our directors took us to the Waiouru War museum, where we learned a lot of history of all the fallen soldiers, and then learned what they used to use to cook their food





Service Academy

One of the more challenging activities where we really needed our teamwork to pull through was the assault course which was an army obstacle course designed to push you to your limits. The course consisted of obstacles that we had to jump along with rope swings, big walls we had to climb, a large hill that we had to run all the way up then down ending in a very cold very deep creek that was muddy and freezing. We had to push through the cold and keep moving, it took lots of resilience but with encouragement from one another we pushed together and kept going. This challenge was timed and we came 2nd out of all the academy's.

One of the days during the course was called the longest day, which was when we were woken up by a fire alarm at 4:30 am and had to run down to the car park to begin our day. First thing we had to do was as a platoon to grab a thick heavy rope, and we were off, we ran and walked up Mount Waitangi. It was still dark, so we had to have flag lights and glow sticks on our hats so we could see where we were going.

It was a very challenging mountain climb but we made, along the way we went to the field and had to grab different equipment such as tires, dury cans, and carry it. After that, we did lots of different activities like memory games, beep test, tyre game, RFL, and so on. It was a cold day with the wind, rain and snow up on the hills but together we pushed through. We also had to do the assault course again and unlike the first time it was raining and freezing that day so it was even harder.

On Thursday, the second to last day before the trainees graduated, we had practised nonstop for our time to show what we had learnt out on the sacred parade ground. We did ourselves proud with self discipline and confidence when marching and holding our heads high which showed how proud we were with the results we had received out of all 7 academies.

Lastly was graduation day. During the ceremony, Horowhenua College placed 2nd on the longest Day, assault course and drillcomp.

Overall, this 12-day experience provides a unique opportunity for everyone's personal development, skills and social engagement. It allowed academics to step outside their comfort zones, try new activities, and form lasting memories.





College Contact Details

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Telephone: 063686159 or 0800 467694

Website: www.horowhenua.school.nz

We also use our facebook for updates

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



Term 1 2026 Dates

Monday 20 April

Term 2 Begins

Monday 27 April

Anzac Day Observed - School Closed

Tuesday 28 April

Te Aute College Rugby Exchange

Monday 1 June

Kings Birthday - School Closed

Wednesday 1 & Thursday 2 July

Pasifika Fusion

Friday 3 July

Term 2 Ends