



Principal's Message

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

Attendance

One of our key focuses for our kura this year is Attendance. Congratulations whaanau for helping us reach our Term 1 attendance goal of 45% of our students at Huntly College are attending 90% of the time. That equals 94 students out of 211 students who are meeting the expected attendance rate this year. Please read the following termly attendance targets for this year below:



2026 Term by Term Attendance Goals

Term	Regular (90%+)	Irregular (80–90%)	Moderate (70–80%)	Chronic (<70%)
Term 1	45%	30%	15%	10%
Term 2	50%	25%	15%	10%
Term 3	60%	25%	10%	5%
Term 4	65%	20%	10%	5%

We've all heard the phrase "showing up is half the battle," but in reality, good attendance is usually the foundation for the whole battle—whether we're talking about school, work, or personal commitments. Here is a breakdown of why attendance matters so much:

Success rarely happens in a single effort; it's built on daily habits. When you show up consistently, you stay in the loop, and you build a sense of belonging. In school, you don't miss the learning that makes understanding your mahi easier.

People notice who they can count on. Good attendance builds your "reputation capital."

- **At work:** It shows employers you respect their time, your colleagues' time, and the job itself. It makes you a prime candidate for promotions and leadership roles.
- **In life:** Being the person who actually shows up builds deeper, more reliable relationships.

Knowledge is cumulative. If you miss Day 3 of a topic in class, Days 4 and 5 become twice as hard to understand. Poor attendance forces you into a stressful, reactive cycle of constantly trying to "catch up" instead of smoothly moving forward.

Showing up when you don't feel like it builds discipline, time management, and resilience. These traits are like muscles—the more you practice them by simply getting out of bed and going, the stronger they get.

Attendance isn't just about compliance or ticking a box; it's about respect for your own academic and personal goals and the people relying on you.

Achievement

Our second focus for our kura (and for every school in Aotearoa) is Student Achievement. High-performing schools set targets that are tangible and measurable. We know that when students attend school regularly, they are highly likely to succeed and gain their qualification, whether that be NCEA Level 1, 2, or 3, University Entrance, getting their driver's licence, or improving their learning and results using the SMART tool for our Year 9 and 10 students.

WHAT'S ON AT HUNTLY COLLEGE

Monday 25th May, 2026

Please find the Annual Targets for student achievement for 2026:

Focus	Target
Literacy and Numeracy	80% of students entered in the CAA's exam will achieve
NCEA Level 1	80%+ <input type="checkbox"/>
NCEA Level 2	60%+
NCEA Level 3	56%+
University Entrance	15%+

The percentage is based on the number of students working towards achieving their NCEA level, and we expect to gain their qualification

Property

You may have noticed a significant change near the front of the kura. Our 'P Block'—which was home to our Rangimarie Whare for almost 35 years—has now been demolished as part of the Ministry of Education's building removal programme.

There was an immense amount of history in that whare. The building was originally opened in September 1991 by Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu, and the adjacent building proudly housed our Services Academy for over a decade. Sadly, both buildings were eventually deemed leaky and tested positive for asbestos, which is why classes have not operated in this area for the past five years.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Matua Harley Raihe, who came into the kura to perform a karakia for our whare and our carvings. These precious carvings have now been safely removed and 'put to sleep' while we determine where their new home within the kura will be.

I recently had two ex-teachers of Huntly College visit me to reminisce and share memories of the whare. Thank you, Whaea Pawa Hetet Raihe and Whaea Parehiwa Totorewa, for your insights and support, and wonderings about our whare. I look forward to working alongside you both to create a journal of the history of Rangimarie.

The school gym has a new ceiling, and it has been a huge success according to our students, who have given me feedback on how the gym looks 'flash' and 'way better' than the old ceiling. When you are in kura next whaanau, pop into the gym and check it out for yourselves.

Common Assessment Activities

Congratulations to all our students who have completed their digital exams in Reading and Writing last week. We finish with our Numeracy digital exams on Tuesday, 26th & Wednesday, 27th May. Text messages have been sent to whaanau reminding our students of the date and time of their exam. Students need to ensure they arrive at school 8.55 am ready for their exam. Good luck with your final exams. Results for these exams will be released at the end of Term 2, beginning of Term 3.

WHAT'S ON AT HUNTLY COLLEGE

Monday 25th May, 2026

School Cross Country-2026

Our Huntly College 2026 Cross Country took place on Friday, May 15th, for the third year in a row as part of our Sports, Culture, and Leadership. Participating in Cross Country builds our school's sporting culture, improves health and wellbeing, and builds a connection to the environment. After three weeks of preparation, the students were ready to tackle the Lake Puketirini track. We had a beautiful, not too warm, sunny autumn day as we made our way to the lake. Our Juniors and walking participants completed the 2.7km track, while the Intermediate and Senior Competitors took on the 5.4km challenge. There was a positive upbeat atmosphere, which contributed to the 100% participation among our akonga. Everyone finished the day with some hydration and cold treats before being dismissed from the lake. Here is a list of the results. Total house points will be tallied for the next school assembly. A big Thank You to the Participants, Supporters, and Teachers for a fantastic event!



Cross Country Results 2026

Senior Boys 1. Diesel Taiatini-Taylor 2. Jhy Tau 3. Maipi Whirihana-Kemp	Intermediate Boys 1. Lachlen Benedict 2. Maui Toka 3. Ollie Marsh	Junior Boys 1. Rasheed Lura 2. Driey Beadoy 3. River Ryder
Senior Girls 1. Chloe Kati 2. Satriani Harpur	Intermediate Girls 1. Sapphire Joyce 2. Cypriss Mar	Junior Girls 1. Bree Rangi 2. Sarah Andersen 3. Jachai-Lee Cobb

Pink Shirt Day

Huntly College Dresses Up in a Sea of Pink to send this important message out for consideration for two days... at kura and at Lake Puketerini during school cross country day.

On Friday, 15 May 2026, schools joined with communities, and we across Aotearoa New Zealand came together to celebrate Pink Shirt Day. We were committed to celebrating this important event. This year's message is "Koorero Mai, Koorero Atu, Mauri Tu, Mauri Ora." Pink Shirt Day is a nationwide campaign that encourages kindness, celebrates diversity, and helps create safe and inclusive schools, workplaces, and communities.

We did some arty relaxing self-soothing messaging in colours in the library with Whaea Elizabeth & chatting with Whaea Mel in the breaks. Master sausage sizzler extraordinaire Whaea Rach kept our tummies full and calm while Whaea Ashna led the dancing pink fashionistas parade across the decks for our outfit winners to be judged. Best dressed winner was Sapphire Joyce!

WHAT'S ON AT HUNTLY COLLEGE

Monday 25th May, 2026



Ben Purua Presentation - School Assembly

We had a magnetic presentation from one of our young, award-winning Maori Farming Leaders in the Waikato, who now leads one of the most effective farms in Aotearoa. Ben talked about being one of 9 children to a single-parent mum, raised in violence, being in gangs, and substance taking at an early age. He had a murder affiliation, which resulted in a criminal conviction and jail for a significant period of his youth at just 14 years old. He talked about how tough it was/is to be in a prison cell emotionally, and being so young. On his release, he made a commitment to his partner, the whenua, his family, and the cows to turn his life around. "It's not easy, it's a mindset, the choices you make", he recounted. Farmers actively mentored him to motivate him to stay out of the repeating crime and prison cycles he defaulted to. Sometimes, he lost his way and returned to jail, and his employers did



not give up on him. His love of the land and the herds always welcomed him back. Now he runs his own clothing line, "Calm the Farm," about staying chill and having fun. He has won multiple national farming awards and was a runner-up for an Australasian award, and now has multiple streams of income. He has bought his own home and is the first in his family to do so. He named how some teachers at one of our local high schools tried to help him. On reflection, he wished that he'd opened up to them more and asked for more help. He has learned to read after being held back by



dyslexia. He wants to do more presentations like this and has set his sights on becoming a millionaire!

Our students and some teachers asked some curious questions about Ben's life journey and choices, which helped us understand him more.

Written by Whaea Elizabeth Murphy

WHAT'S ON AT HUNTLY COLLEGE

Monday 25th May, 2026

Huntly College Sports Update

Basketball

Huntly College has entered three teams into the 2026 Waikato Secondary Schools Basketball Tournament, which runs from April through to August. The teams include the Junior Boys Basketball Team, the Senior Boys Basketball Team, and a combined Senior Girls and Junior Girls Basketball Team.

This year also marks the introduction of a new development group, including the Junior Boys and mixed girls team, allowing more students to participate and represent the school at different levels. This has created pathways for both experienced players and those who are new to the sport.

As a newly formed team, especially at the beginner level, the players have shown strong improvement since the start of the season. Despite limited experience, they have been performing well, building confidence, and achieving several wins as the competition progresses into Week 4 of the tournament.

Netball

Netball is back underway at Huntly College, with training sessions starting this week on Thursday, 14 May, running from 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm. All interested players are encouraged to attend and be ready to develop their skills, fitness, and teamwork as we prepare for the upcoming season.

Throughout the year, we will be organising friendly and competitive games with

other schools to provide players with regular match experience and help build confidence on court.

In addition, Huntly College is excited to be entering a Senior Netball Team into the UNISS Tournament in August 2026. This is a great opportunity for senior players to represent the school at a higher level of competition and showcase their ability on a bigger stage.

We look forward to a strong and positive season of netball at Huntly College!

Badminton

Huntly College is excited to confirm that our badminton programme will be represented by two teams this season. We have entered a Junior team made up of 3 boys and 2 girls, and a Senior team also consisting of 3 boys and 2 girls. Both teams will be competing and representing our school across upcoming events.

Waikato Badminton has been notified and is aware of the proposed date for the North Waikato Badminton Festival, which is scheduled for 24 June 2026. The event will be hosted by Te Kauwhata College and will bring together schools from across the region for a day of competitive play and skill development.



WHAT'S ON AT HUNTLY COLLEGE

Monday 25th May, 2026

Players are encouraged to stay committed to training and preparation as we move toward the festival. This is a great opportunity for students to gain experience, improve their game, and proudly represent Huntly College on the court.

Key messages from our School Board

On behalf of the School Board, we want to be very clear: we do not tolerate any form of physical violence at Huntly College.

The safety and well-being of our students, staff, parents, and whānau is our highest priority. Our school must be a place where everyone feels safe, respected, and able to learn and thrive without fear.

We are asking for the support of our entire school community to uphold these expectations. This means reinforcing positive behaviour, addressing concerns early, and working together to create an environment built on respect, responsibility, and care for one another.

Violence has no place in our kura. Together, we can ensure Huntly College remains a safe and supportive space for all

Ngaa mihi nui,

Amber Tuhakaraina

Presiding Member

Board Secretary Position

We are seeking a reliable and organised individual to join our School Board as a **Board Secretary**.

This role involves supporting the Board with administrative tasks, including preparing agendas, taking accurate meeting minutes, managing correspondence, and maintaining records. Strong communication skills, attention to detail, and confidentiality are essential.

This is a great opportunity to contribute to your local school community and support effective governance.

If you are interested, please email your CV to terriynnc@huntlycollege.school.nz addressed to **The Board of Huntly College** by 5:00 pm, **30 May 2026**.

Key Dates

Week 6 26 and 27 May 25 to 29 May	Numeracy CAA's Assessments SAM Basic Leaders Camp
Week 7 1 June 1 to 5 June	Public Holiday - School closed Samoan Language Week
Week 8 9 June 10 June	School Photos School Assembly - 2.45 pm
Week 9 15 June to 19 June 18 June	SAM Bushcraft Course ERO Visit
Week 11 1 July 3 July	Year 9 Leaders Day - Selected Students Mid Year Reports issued, Assembly at 2.45pm, Last day of Term 2
Week 1, Term 3 20 July	Staff Only Day, school closed