

YEAR 9 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to all Year 9 students and their families. We have had an excellent start to the year with students settling extremely well into their new routines. All students have been able to follow their timetables and find their way about the school with ease.

Attendance and Achievement

A focus at Te Awamutu College is on promoting achievement by having excellent attendance. We know that if a student attends all classes every day and completes all school work tasks, then they will do well at school. Students must have at least 85% attendance to be eligible to participate in sport or cultural activities. It is also easier for students to achieve if they have a regular routine to their day, have adequate sleep, eat sensibly and healthily, keep up-to-date with their school work including homework and participate in sports and cultural activities. Please assist by encouraging a positive attitude to school.

Uniform

The students are all wearing their new uniform with pride. Please remember though, that there are to be no canvas shoes to be worn and T-shirts under uniforms are to be white. Black Roman sandals or black leather school shoes are to be worn. Any incorrect uniform items need to be explained by a note from home and this must be signed by the Dean.

Jewellery items allowed are: one pair of **plain** ear studs or sleepers, one ring, one chain/necklace, one bracelet. **NO** facial piercings are to be worn to school. Please support the students to get it right.

Home Learning

All Year 9 students are encouraged to be responsible for recording homework deadlines and meeting these deadlines in all of their subjects. Home learning helps the students to consolidate what they have learnt in class each day.

Appointments

If students have appointments during school time, they must bring a note or appointment card from home explaining the purpose of the visit and the time the student is leaving. Students will then get a pass from the Deans' office during Form Time, sign out in the Student Centre as they leave, and sign in when they return. This is important in case of emergencies in school as we need to be able to account for all students at all times.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Students should listen to and read the Daily Notices for any sports or cultural team meetings and practices. Students at Te Awamutu College are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the wider school community. Good luck to those participating in the **Swimming Sports Wednesday 24 February** and in the **Athletics Day Friday 26 February**.

Year 9 Integrated Curriculum Study

This term all Year 9 students will take part in an integrated curriculum study, "Our Class and O-Tāwhao, Our Marae". In all their subjects, learning will be related to this topic in some way. As part of this study, all Year 9 Form Classes will be attending a marae noho (marae stay over) at O-Tāwhao (our school marae). The purpose of the marae stay over is to practise leadership, organisational and thinking skills, and to foster positive relationships. Also attending will be some of their teachers, Learning Support Assistants, Deans, Senior Leadership and student leaders. The Form Class will be organising the stay over themselves, with support and guidance from their teachers. Activities are likely to include swimming, team building and some formal learning.

There is no cost to parents/caregivers.

The classes will be attending on the following dates:

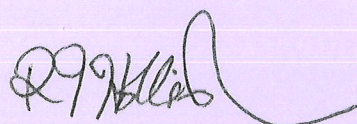
Week 4		Tues 23 Feb – 9NA	Wed 24 Feb – 9BV	Thurs 25 Feb – 9PL
Week 5	Mon 1 Mar – 9CN	Tues 2 Mar – 9KC	Wed 3 Mar – 9KR	Thurs 4 Mar – 9LD
Week 6	Mon 8 Mar – 9MT	Tues 9 Mar – 9MU	Wed 10 Mar – 9PI	Thurs 11 Mar – 9PR
Week 7	Mon 15 Mar – 9WS	Tues 16 Mar – 9MA		

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

We have been pleased with the way in which our students have approached this way of learning. The Year 9's have shown responsibility and perseverance when dealing with their devices and online learning. Teachers have established expectations around the use of these devices and are integrating the online element in engaging and meaningful ways. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and caregivers for their support in providing their students with devices. We have had a positive start to the year and have high hopes for the remainder of the year. It is now expected that all Year 9 students have an appropriate device for use in class.

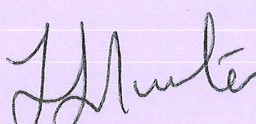
Concerns

If for any reason you have a concern regarding your child, please feel free to phone us. We teach as well, so are not always available at the time, but we will return your call as soon as we are able.



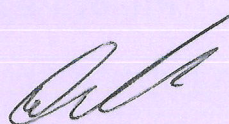
Bob Hollinshead

Assistant Principal



Laurel Silvester

Year 9 Dean



Will Cawkwell

Year 9 Dean