



# Whangarei Girls' High School

**FEBRUARY 2015**



**WGHS NCEA Academic Colours and  
Elite Academic Colour Recipients  
for 2014**



Dear Parents / Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa

A big warm welcome back to all those returning to our school community this year and a big welcome to those joining us for the first time, including our international students from Germany, Japan, Chile, Norway, Korea, Switzerland and USA.

In addition to new students and their whanau, we also warmly welcome new and returning staff this year:

Stacey Cox – ex Cambridge High School, English Department

Rachel Drysdale – ex Whangarei Boys' High School, Science and Biology

Luke Kirner – ex Kamo High School, Outdoor Education

Nicola Mann – returning to Whangarei Girls' High School after time with her young children, Mathematics

Natalie Peyton – ex Ormiston College, Music

Tamara Phillips – ex Pompallier Catholic College, Science

Leah Valli – ex James Hargest High School, Foods

Natalie Willcox – ex Mt Roskill Grammar School, Health and Physical Education

Ashleigh Young – ex Auckland University – Classical Studies, Health

Katy Mandeno – International Director (Marketing & Recruitment)

Maree Covich – PA to Senior Leadership team

Jillian Blogg – RTLB

Joanne Hammon – RTLB

Ros Mitten - RTLB

We have a record roll this year, nudging 1400, and are under pressure for space while we await the building of our new classrooms. The Health classes are using rooms at Lupton House this term and we have converted one of the computing rooms to a regular classroom to help ease the pressure.

Some of you who have already been in to school this year will have seen the changes to our front office. Marion Haywood and Maree Covich are PAs for our Senior

Leadership Team and will deal with all general enquiries. Helen Olsen and Maree Houba will take all fee payments so please come round to the other side if you wish to make a payment. Dianne Sullivan also works in the front office on administrative work for sports and departments.

We have started the year with very pleasing NCEA results, especially with the increases in Maori achievement and the number of Excellence endorsements at all levels. There is more detailed information later in this newsletter. Special congratulations must go to Emma Barnes, Alah Musa, Grace Elliot, Jessica Fowler, Rebecca McKean and Mihi Shepherd for achieving more than 100 credits at Excellence in their respective NCEA levels – a truly outstanding achievement and very deserving of the Elite Colours Awards they each received. Grace Elliot also received Elite Cultural Colours as she gained the top mark in New Zealand in the Trinity College Grade 4 Theory Music Examinations. We were also very proud to award Stephanie Donelley Elite Sports Colours for her selection into the Junior Black Sticks and Elite Cultural Colours were awarded to Megan King, Katrina Topp and You Bin Kim for their outstanding success in the 2014 HETTANZ Fashion Awards. This was a fantastic start to the year and we are very proud of them all.

We are thrilled to announce our Head and Deputy Head Girls and their team of prefects. They received their badges at the whole school assembly and the Heads and Deputies are to be congratulated on their outstanding skills in running that assembly.

Head Girls – Eva Pearson, Kerira Tapene

Deputy Head Girls – Katie Nilson, Te Kowhai Robinson

Prefects:

Ball Committee – Emma Barnes, Dayna Shelley

Citizenship – Amanda Still, Kelly Still

Cultural Committee – Beatrice Holman,

Design Committee – Laura Cheeseman, Emma Davies

Environment – Olivia McGinn, Alah Musa

Global Issues – Rachael Machado

Health Committee – Jordan Horan, Katrina Howe

Honorary Big Sisters – Tennille Nisbet, Anna Zhong

---

**Cont...**

House Captains:

Bell – Hayley Green, Olivia Lobb

Lovelock – Taylor Campbell, Jessie Cresswell

Manaia – Ashley Ellis, Deana Hauraki

Mansfield – Kate McLeod, Mia Scott- Petersen

Rutherford – Madisen Hudspith, Briar Mortensen

Sheppard – Jessie Parr, Claudia Squire

International – Amy Dawber, Mikayla Gulick

Mana Kaitiaki – Kiel Boyd

Music – Penelope Wilson

Performing Arts – Anthea Mallasch

SADD – Rama Davis, Adrienne Gardiner

Sport – Ella-Rose Kini, Maria Wright

They already have exciting plans in place for the year and will have some of these on display at the Clubs & Socs Days at the end of this week.

Another initiative we have put in place this year is to hold SPTs (Student, Parent, Teacher) meetings next week for all new students and their whanau. The purpose of these is for you to be able to meet your daughter's whanau teacher, find out a bit more about your daughter's education and opportunities available at Whangarei Girls' High School and to ask any questions or express any concerns you may have. We will still have the whole school SPT meetings at the end of Term Two as previously. These meetings are scheduled for Tuesday 17th February, starting at 2.30pm which means regular classes will finish at lunchtime. Students will be able to go home then or can be supervised in the library. Please let staff in the front office know if you require supervision for your daughter that afternoon. Buses will run at the normal times.

You may remember that towards the end of last year we changed the name from form class and form teacher to whanau class and whanau teacher. This better reflects the role of this class which stay together for five years and are the "family" at High School. There will be some structured time where students will be taught skills such as time management and study skills and also time



***WGHS Prefects for 2015***



---

Cont...

where senior students will run activities during this time. The whanau teacher will mentor individual students in her/his whanau class. This will replace the Academic Coaching programme which has now become unsustainable due to our increased roll.

This year we have joined FarNet to deliver curriculum subjects to students who chose subjects which are not viable for us to run due to low numbers. Although we have the expected teething problems, this is a programme which is gathering momentum across an increasing number of schools and we are pleased to be able to give students subjects they want to take.

In line with the changes we wish to make to our Year Nine curriculum for 2016, we are currently researching the best timetable structure to deliver this, as well as provide the best structure for our senior students and to give the whanau classes the time they need to meet the needs of the students.

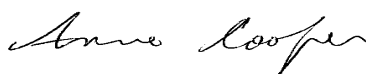
A busy term lies ahead and already trials are being advertised for the winter sports codes. Swimming Sports are being held on Friday 20 February (weather permitting). Please encourage your daughter to participate in this day as she will gain a great deal more enjoyment from it if she does. It is an important occasion to build House spirit and have a lot of fun in the process. Please note that it is a regular school day and full attendance that day is a requirement. Permission will not be given for students to have the "afternoon off."

The PTA is having their first meeting on 12th March, with our outstanding Head and Deputy Head Girls as the guest speakers. I fully recommend you come along to this evening, not only to hear the speakers, but also to enjoy the comradery and learn more about our school. We truly appreciate the excellent support the PTA give us in so many ways and it is always good to have new members each year.

Congratulations to the Northland girls in the Black Sticks for a convincing win in the series

against Canada last weekend. Special congratulations to ex-students of Whangarei Girls' High School – Brooke Neal who scored two goals in front of her home crowd and Ella Gunson who had a special presentation for her 100th test match in the game on Thursday – so fitting that it was back here in Whangarei where her hockey career began.

I look forward to meeting many of you at one or more of the forthcoming events this term and wish you all the best for a great year in 2015.



Anne Cooper  
**Principal**

### **WGHS Head & Deputy Head Girls' 2015**

2015 is upon us, and we are ready to take what it throws us. Firstly we would like to acknowledge the exceptional team of prefects we are privileged to be working with, we are looking forward to seeing the amazing initiatives you girls will achieve this year. As head prefects, our major goal for 2015 is to implement a community service program called Project Connect, in an effort to give back to the community that has given us so much, as well as improving our school's already stellar reputation and increasing our visibility in the wider community. We want Project Connect to be ever-moving, a sustained and continual project that will last for the years to come and become an integral part of our school life. Project Connect will consist of a series of small initiatives, all designed to blend our school and community lives together. Our first initiative is Connect For Boxes. Connect For Boxes will soon be distributed to every whānau class as a place to bring donations for organisations in need in Whangarei. Other initiatives we have in mind include starting tutoring programs with local schools like Whangarei Primary, Whangarei Intermediate and St Francis Xavier, visiting local retirement homes and organising activities for the IHC. It's exciting to think of how much we can achieve and the difference we can make as a school. Another one of our goals is to really improve our Whānau classes. With a roll nearly pushing 1,400,

we believe now is a vital time to be making bonds in our vertical whānau classes, strengthening the sisterhood. We also hope to reconstruct the Student Council, to a fully functioning council of students dedicated to making a difference to the school. To do this, we will be looking closely at the structural framework of the Student Council, trying to come up with an effective way to collect the ideas and opinions of the majority of the student body. A lot of big goals we know, but with such a capable team of prefects and teachers behind us, we believe we can reach them.



*Te Kowhai, Kerira, Eva, & Katie*

## Whanau Evening

Tēnā koutou katoa,  
Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou mo te tau hou

One of our key goals at Whangarei Girls' High School is to improve all aspects of NCEA results and raise Māori achievement at every level. We believe your daughter has the potential to achieve well at our school and would like to share with you our plans for 2015 and beyond.

Our first event this year is a Whānau Evening on:

**On: 25 February**  
**At: 6pm to 7.30pm**  
**In: WGHS Library, Gate 5**

Our Mana Kaitiaki Team will be hosting the night. Mana Kaitiaki are a group of girls who want to support this kaupapa and want to share ideas as to how they can support your daughter. At our last hui in 2014, the possibility of a Whānau Support Group was raised and we would like to revisit

this. We will also have key staff available to answer any questions you have and hope you are able to attend.

Naku noa, na

## NCEA Results

We are, once again, very pleased with our NCEA results from 2014.

At Level One, 76.4% of our students gained their NCEA Level One, 42.4% gained their certificates endorsed with Merit while 15.7% were endorsed with Excellence. These are increased percentages from 2013.

At Level Two, 87.7% gained NCEA Level Two with 28.9% endorsed with Merit and 14.5% endorsed with Excellence. Once again these results are well above the National results and both achievement and Excellence were an improvement from 2013.

At Level 3, 64.2% gained NCEA Level Two with 25.2% endorsed with Merit and 13.7% endorsed with Excellence. These results again show an improvement in achievement and the percentage gaining Excellence.

The criteria for gaining University Entrance was changed, making it more difficult and nationally the percentage achieving this declined. 49% of our students attained University Entrance in 2014 which is well above the National percentage of 45%.

One of our main focuses in 2014 was to improve the percentage of Excellences our students gained and we are pleased to see that we did this at every level with the biggest increase coming at Level 3 where we had a five percent improvement.

Congratulations to all students who gained success in 2014. We will aim to continue to improve our statistics which will give students continued access to further successes as they move on from school.

## Scholarship Winners

Amelia Blundell for Design

*Dave Beazley, teacher*

Brooke Costello—Outstanding Scholarship  
(top 1%) for Design

*Dave Beazley, teacher*

Kelsey Ferris for English

*Amy Groome, teacher*

and Biology

*Cali Wati, teacher*

Anna Miller for English

*Amy Groome, teacher*

and Outstanding Scholarship (top 1%) for  
Physical Education

*Phil Mechen, teacher*

## Elite Academic Colours – Yr 12

Emma Barnes

Alah Musa

## Elite Academic Colours – Yr 11

Grace Elliot

Jessica Fowler

Rebecca McKean

Mihi Shepherd

## Elite Cultural Colours

Grace Elliot – Music

You Bin Kim – Textile & Fashion

Megan King – Textile & Fashion

Katisha Topp – Textile & Fashion

## Elite Sport Colours

Stephanie Donelley – Hockey

## Academic Colours – Year 13

Poppy Bacica-Stewart

Amelia Blundell

Brooke Costello

Nikol Doncheva

Kelsey Ferris

Natsuko Fushida-Hardy

Hannah Gwilliam

Sarah Harkness

Katie Harvey

Brooke McGill

Sara McKean

Anna Miller

Summer Millett

Ella Reynolds

Anna-Lena Roennert

Catherine Ross

Susan Turney

Cassey Wan

## Academic Colours – Year 12

Laura Cheeseman

Ella Christian-Farrow

Mary Coulton

Emma Davies

Ashley Ellis

Katie Gell

Hayley Green

Kate Greenaway

Beatrice Holman

Jordan Horan

Madisen Hudspith

Olivia Lobb

Rachael Machado

Kate McLeod

Briar Mortensen

Maddison Nicholl

Katie Nilson

Tennille Nisbet

Jessie Parr

Katie Jean Prestidge

Te Kowhai Robinson

Dayna Shelley

Nikola Smith

Amanda Still

Kelly Still

Kerira Tapene





## Academic Colours – Year 12 (continued)

Hetaswi Thakkar  
Charlotte Toner  
Penelope Wilson  
Katie Woodward  
Maria Wright

## Academic Colours – Year 11

Sarah Adam  
Georgia Beasley  
Victoria Cammell  
Julia Carter-Bell  
Frances Christian-Farrow  
Claudia Cooke  
Natalie Dey  
Claire Fuller  
Rhiannon Fyfe  
Tanika Gleeson-Wiki  
Shenae Heswall  
Georgia Higgins  
MacKenzie Johnson  
Nina Kalkoff  
Dani Kirby  
Meg Lyon  
Libby O'Brien  
Pru Rhynd  
RebekahRobb  
Kaea Robinson  
Tia Saunders  
Brooke Soulsby  
Kate Stanley  
Sheena Wejendorp  
Jennifer Wordsworth  
Simone Zoellner

## Images from the beginning of year powhiri



---

## Uniform

It is pleasing to see that the vast majority of our students are continuing to wear their uniforms well. We would ask you to support us in maintaining a high standard, reminding your daughters that black socks, very short, taken in skirts and face studs are not acceptable.

## Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality to class are very closely linked with good achievement and are certainly to be encouraged. Texts are normally sent out to let you know if your daughter is marked absent from her class in the morning. If your daughter is away for any reason, please contact Neddy, our attendance officer, and then follow up with a note explaining your daughter's absence on her return to school.

**Attendance Line – Direct Dial 430 4405  
or email [office@wghs.school.nz](mailto:office@wghs.school.nz)**

## English Department Corner

We are thrilled to be welcoming all of our students back to their English classrooms for 2015. We can promise an exciting year ahead! We are thrilled to welcome a new teacher to the department this year. Miss Stacey Cox joins us from Cambridge High School. We know her students are very fortunate to have her as their teacher. We are also delighted to announce that our lovely Ms McGoverne who is on maternity leave for 2015 now has a gorgeous wee son, Liam. We look forward to many cuddles throughout the year!

The department would also like to heartily congratulate the following students who gained Excellence subject endorsements in English in their NCEA studies last year. This means that they gained at least 14 credits at Excellence in English across their internal assessments and in at least one external assessment.

### *Level Three*

Mili Davie-Martin  
Kelsey Ferris  
Neelam Madhav  
Anna Miller  
Susan Turney

### *Level Two*

Emma Barnes  
Mary Coulton  
Ashley Ellis  
Kate Greenaway  
Olivia Lobb  
Rachael Machado  
Kate McLeod  
Ala'h Musa  
Katie Nilson  
Sara Priest  
Dayna Shelley  
Danica Sketchley  
Kelly Still  
Charlotte Toner

### *Level One*

Julia Carter-Bell  
Grace Elliot  
Claire Fuller  
Justice Hetaraka  
Dani Kirby  
Rebeca McKean  
Libby O'Brien  
Ella Poole-Crowe  
Pru Rhynd  
Rebekah Robb  
Mihi Shepherd  
Brooke Soulsby  
Breanna Worthington-Gibbs

We are thrilled with our students' 2014 external examination results, having seen a big jump in the number of Excellence grades. A special congratulations to Ms Kate Carter whose Year 12 students gained an impressive nine Excellences in their Written Text essays. Dani Kirby, Year 12, is set to represent our school at the ANZ RSA Cyril Bassett Speech Competition on 14 February at Whangarei's RSA buildings. She will be competing with Year 12 and 13 students from around all Northland sec-



ondary schools for a regional win in this competition. This year all regional winners are being flown to Gallipoli for the commemorations. We wish Dani all the best with her speech about New Zealanders in WWI.

Students are reminded to continue to take up the opportunities that present themselves out of the classroom in our subject throughout the year. The English Department noticeboard, located outside Room 11, is kept up to date with the latest competitions available to students.

Lastly, our annual English Department text amnesty is underway. We need back any books that students may have forgotten to return to their teachers last year, or indeed, in previous years. No questions will be asked; we will simply gratefully receive our books!

**Margaret Northey**  
*HOD English*

## Geography News

Welcome back to WGHS and 2015 is looking to be another great year with 4 Year 11 classes, 2 at Year 12 and 1 class at Year 13. Congratulations to all students on their NCEA results and especially to those girls who were endorsed with Excellence (12 students at Level 1, 2 at Level 2 and 1 at Level 3).

We are looking forward to the upcoming field trips. This term, Year 11 are going to the Poor Knights on 4th March and Year 13 are going to Ruakaka Beach on 25th March.



Students need to pay field trip costs and return the permission slip by the due date. In Term Two Year 12 head to Tongariro and Year 13 to Wai-tomo. Your teacher will give you information on those trips soon. Finally, Geography standards cover 5 of the 6 Vocational Pathways and so will prepare you well for many careers once you leave school.

**Denise Potter**  
*HOD Geography*

## PTA News

### PTA Annual General Meeting, Wine and Cheese Evening

*When* Thu 12th March

*Time* 5.30pm

*Where* WGHS lunch room

Guest speakers are our Head & Deputy Head Girls

### PTA meeting dates for 2015:

23 April

21 May

18 June

23 July

20 August

17 September

15 October

19 November

### Second Hand Uniform

A big thank you from the PTA to all those who supported the recent and most successful Second Hand Uniform sale by donating and purchasing items. If you still require bits and pieces please remember to try our uniform co-ordinator Toni Daniels (02108225587). She is always keen to accept used articles no longer required.'

## Student Support Centre (SSC)

Services available at the SSC apart from first aid are: Physio, Public Health Nurse, Rubicon and Counselling appointments.

We also have Panadol available for 20 cents and sanitary items for 30 cents.

## Science Corner



**Science Club** is starting Friday 20th February at 1.25 pm for 30 minutes. Come along to room and meet other students who enjoy hands on Science. Remember to eat your lunch before you come.

More information - see Mrs Nielsen room 23a or Mrs Younger (Science Technician)

## Rotary National Science and Technology Forum, attended by Emma Barnes

Discovering your passion is often challenging, but the 26<sup>th</sup> Rotary National Science and Technology Forum confirmed my love for science. The two-week program hosted by institutes including the University of Auckland, AUT, Massey University and RMIT aims to bring together like-minded Year 12 students, and expose them to science and technology in New Zealand. We had the opportunity to partake in a number of academic and social activities, which taught us more about our surroundings, and ourselves. The modules contained a mix of the old and the new such as robotics, chemistry, molecular biology, astronomy, biomedical engineering, and food science. Here I had the opportunity to work alongside a number of leading academics, and complete experiments done by first year University students.



## Tutorials

Need a little extra help this year? Come to tutorials. Check the noticeboard outside Room 19 for room details.

Mon. lunch	Sci. 01
Tues. lunch	Chem.
Weds, lunch	Sci 02
Weds after school	Phys.
Thurs. lunch	Bio. 01
(Bio. & Junior	Bio. 02
Science alternate)	
ear 9/10	Chem.
Thurs. after school	Phys.

Another highlight was the opportunity to visit businesses in Auckland, and REX Bionics showed that with a little inspiration and genius, allowing paraplegics to walk via an exoskeleton is possible.



However, the forum has so much more to offer than just knowledge. I formed friendships with many students who will be my peers at University, and colleagues in the near future.

Science and technology will continue to push boundaries and transcend the lines of impossibilities, and I hope that I will be able to take place in the great pursuit to change history. I encourage all students to immerse themselves in science, and those who are passionate to take up this amazing opportunity.

Interested in attending International Science forums/camps? Registration closes on 25th March. Details on the Science noticeboard or from Mrs Younger (Science technician).





**2013** 20 years of bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Habitat for Humanity and Jason Shon Bennett presents a seminar on...

### **“Do you want exceptional health?”**

Find out why the modern diet is poison and discover the links between what you eat and your health.

26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

\$20 per person

Order tickets online at

[www.jasonshonbennett.com](http://www.jasonshonbennett.com)

or email [dianec@habitat.org.nz](mailto:dianec@habitat.org.nz)

## **stowaway Lockers**



Lockers are available again this year, \$45 per year plus a refundable \$10 bond. If you would like a locker for 2015, you will need to fill in an online order form at ...

[www.stowawaylockers.co.nz](http://www.stowawaylockers.co.nz)

GET IN QUICK as they are going fast!

## **School Accounts**

Please note that all school accounts for fees and workbooks have now been given to the students.

You will note on the bottom of your invoice that the school only accepts cash, cheques or payment by direct credit. **There is no Eftpos facility at the school office.**

## **Year 13 Leadership Camp**





## School Calendar

<b>Feb</b>	13	Clubs & Socs Day	<b>Mar</b>	6	NSSSA surfing
	14	RSA Cyril Bassett Speech		7	NISS AFL seniors NISS rowing champs NSSSA croquet
	17	Yr 9 SPT's (pm) Netball trials Prefects training P5		8	NISS AFL seniors NISS rowing champs
	18	Netball trials		10	Netball trials WGHS open tennis
	19	Netball trials NSSSA AFL Senior		11	Netball trials NSSSA track and field
	20	Swimming sports Netball trials NSSSA girls volleyball		12	13OED journey Music lunchtime concert Netball trials NSSSA futsal
	22	NSSSA Triathlon			
	23	Swimming sports PP			
	24	Netball trials NSSSA rugby 7's U15 Prefect training P5			
	25	Whanau Evening 13OED kayak Netball trials WGHS Athletic Champs			
	26	12OED A kayak Netball trials NSSSA rugby 7s U15 NSSSA swimming			
	27	12OED kayak NSSSA touch, senior			
<b>Mar</b>	1	Nthld Reg Debating			
	2	NSSSA Leaf Cup			
	3	11OEE Goat Island trip Netball trials NSSSA Leaf Cup NSSSA Rugby 7s open			
	4	11GEO Poor Knights trip Netball trials NSSSA mountain biking			
	5	Netball trials NSSSA rugby 7s open NSSSA team & ind. Triathlon			
	6	11GEO Poor Knights trip PP ESOL trip NISS rowing champs			