



# Whanganui High School

## NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2016 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



### Introducing our Head Prefects 2016



**Connor Cresswell**  
Head Boy

**Jeanne-Marie Bonnet**  
Head Girl

**Connor Cresswell - Head Boy**

*Studying: Cambridge Mathematics, Chemistry, Drama, English, French, Physics*

As Head Boy of WHS it is my role, along with our Head Girl to work alongside all of the talented Prefects at our school. I will be working particularly closely with the Head Prefects of each team, getting the bigger picture of what our Prefects are doing around the school, and liaising with our teachers. Also, I represent the school at Formal Functions throughout the community, such as memorials and prizegivings. One thing I personally wish to achieve this year is to help my Prefect team to introduce new and lasting initiatives which become distinctive features of our school's life years after we have moved on. I also wish to reach out to new students. Acceptance and inclusion are important parts of Whanganui High School's culture, and I know it can often be difficult for newer students to feel these things. I would like to help students to feel welcome at our school, to achieve this would be a great plus in what I am sure will be a fantastic year.

**Jeanne-Marie Bonnet - Head Girl**

*Studying: Economics, English Literature, Calculus, Cambridge Mathematics - A Level, Statistics, Music Performance, French & Spanish externally through Massey University*

I see my role of Head Girl for 2016 as an opportunity to give back to the school that has given so much to me over the last 4 years. With this in mind, I have laid only one simple task on my heart; to make this year memorable. This is my goal not only for the Year 13 students, for whom final and lasting memories must be made, but also for the students and staff alike that we will leave behind at the year's end. In order to bring this task to fruition, I have the privilege of working with the other amazing prefects that have been appointed. Already, with the year having scarcely begun, we have run an incredibly successful Valentine's Day event, spoken in assemblies and made plans for various community and school events in the near future. We have started to make our mark, and if our current successes are anything to go by, we shall be set to stand once again on the shoulders of our predecessors and bring WHS to the forefront of everyone's minds.



**Joseph Redpath**  
Deputy Head Boy

**Poipoia Poa**  
Deputy Head Girl

**Joseph Redpath - Deputy Head Boy**

*Studying: Accounting, Economics, Calculus, Geography, Sports Science, Statistics, Trigonometry & Algebra*

As the Deputy Head Boy for 2016, I aim to assist my fellow leaders in the organisation of events that will bring the entire school together, as one. I am looking forward to seeing the Student Council promote change, and speaking out so that we address issues that the whole school feels strongly about. Having the opportunity to be involved with all of the leadership teams is a great privilege and I am really excited to be able to see all the behind the scenes work that is going on across the board. I am honoured to have been given the Role of Deputy Head Boy for 2016, and I am looking forward to making a great contribution towards the success of the school over the next 9 months.

**Poipoia Poa - Deputy Head Girl**

*Studying: Chinese, Chemistry, Drama, Economics, English, Mathematics, Probability & Statistics*

I have taken all that I can from our school, a wealth of knowledge, the warmth of friendships, opportunity after opportunity, I have grasped what was offered to me by extraordinary people. Daring our student body to do the same is the greatest ambition I hold in my role of Deputy Head Prefect. I hope to establish a school culture in which students pursue their aspirations wholeheartedly. Multi-level activities that encourage Juniors and Seniors alike to push past personal boundaries and encouraging a 'seize the most' attitude will be the focal point of my position.



**Regan Davey**  
Head of Academia

**Methmi Perera**  
Head of Academia

**Regan Davey - Head of Academia**

*Studying: Biology, Cambridge Mathematics, Chemistry, English, Literature, Physics, Probability & Statistics*

As Head of Academic, I hope to encourage and motivate all students at WHS to achieve their very best academically. However, I aim to do this in a way that students can also maintain success in sporting, cultural and extra-curricular activities. To do this I will try to emphasise time management and balancing between a social life and school work, as you are more likely to succeed in less stressful and more enjoyable circumstances. In addition, I hope to help in the fulfilment of a fun year at WHS, as positive memories and exciting experiences are vital to have in our final years of school.

**Methmi Perera - Head of Academia**

*Studying: Calculus, Cambridge Mathematics, Chinese, Economics, English, Statistics & Probability, Study*

This year my goal is to emphasise the importance of academia at WHS in a fun and enjoyable way. Learning is one of the core principles at our school, influencing every aspect of our lives, and gives every individual the opportunity to achieve greatness. Together with the Academic Prefect team we would like to motivate every student at WHS to surpass their own expectations and experience the personal fulfilment that comes with perseverance and resolve.



**Tom Adkins**  
Head of Community

**Millie Manning**  
Head of Community

**Tom Adkins - Head of Community**

*Studying: Biology, Economics, English, Physical Education, Probability & Statistics, Technology Engineering*

In my role as Head of Community I would like to help our local community by getting WHS students involved in our fundraisers for Whanganui charities. I would like to make a difference in school by raising awareness of dangerous driving and that electronic devices are recommended in the learning environment. I feel cyber bullying could be an issue that we also need to raise awareness of.

**Millie Manning - Head of Community**

*Studying: Dance, Drama, English, Geography, Performing Arts Academy, Outdoor Education, Study*

As Head of Community for 2016, my goal is to create an awareness of the wonderful charitable organisations in the local community such as cancer society, the RSA and the food drive, as well as in the wider regions such as 'Starlit HOPE' and 'Starship Hospital'. I would like our students to become more aware of the importance of the 'Anti-bullying campaign' and 'Students Against Drunk Driving' and motivate students to perpetuate the support we have for these important and relevant issues. I want to promote these organisations and maintain the level of support by various fundraising means. In doing this, I intend to include the entire school, especially the Juniors to get involved and encourage them to express themselves and come together, in fellowship so that the school also fosters good community spirit.



**Te Paerata Tichbon**  
Head of Culture

**Grace Jones**  
Head of Culture

**Te Paerata Tichbon - Head of Culture**

*Studying: Design & Visual Communication, English, Music, Performing Arts Academy, Photography, Trigonometry & Algebra*

I want people to realise the effects that cultural opportunities have on a person and understand the passion that artists have inside of them. When students find this passion the culture in the school expands. As Head of Culture I will create a space for students to become involved and connected to the cultural aspects of school life. Expression is the biggest part for me, and this will be my main idea to pass on to younger students encouraging them to express themselves through the Arts. Alongside the Cultural Prefect team we will look at events and opportunities to build a bridge between the School and it's cultural side.

**Grace Jones - Head of Culture**

*Studying: Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, Physics, Probability & Statistics, Music Performance, Study*

As Head of Culture I would like to spread all aspects of Culture throughout WHS and want to encourage students to try something new. This may include events that students or teachers at our school never would have heard of such as; Poetry Slams, Art Exhibitions, Chamber Music competitions, and many more Cultural activities. My aim is to get everyone involved in the Performing Arts, by having many diverse activities offered by us. This will ensure everyone can find something that interests them, especially our new Year 9s. Being involved in many productions, Stage Challenges and choirs, I have witnessed how cultural events bring people together and helps form new friendships, and that is something very worthwhile, and something I will never forget.



**Tuupuhi Karaitiana**  
Head of Māori

**Mitchell Millar**  
Head of Māori

**Tuupuhi Karaitiana - Head of Māori**

*Studying: Accounting, English, Health, Mathematics, Sports Smart, Sport & Exercise, Study*

As Head of Māori, I aim to establish a strong Māori Prefect team to provide as many opportunities to get all our Māori taura of WHS to create a bond that will strengthen all throughout this year and could potentially last many years after. Obvious opportunities include Kapa Haka (which meets twice a week every week), celebrating Puanga (the celebration of the Māori New Year) and Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week). The annual Māori awards held in the last term recognises success of our Māori students. My own aspirations of being a leader and being Māori is what has driven me to become the WHS female Head of Māori. I have created a team of Year 12 students who I will be working alongside this year in preparation for when they become leaders of our school.

**Mitchell Millar - Head of Māori**

*Studying: English, Mathematics, Outdoor Education, Physical Education, Sports & Exercise, Sports Smart*

As Head of Māori, I aim to support the wider Māori students throughout the entire school, through encouragement of participation in areas they identify as a strength. As sports is a huge strength of our Māori students, I want to ensure they feel comfortable to be who they are so they are able to perform to the best of their abilities. I want for our Māori students to be proud of who they are and what they bring to Whanganui High School. Whether that be on the academic front, on a Kapa Haka stage or on the Rugby field. We are all more than capable and I am here to provide that support and encouragement as I too embark on my journey to achieving success. "Tirohia kia marama, whāwhāngia kia rāngona te hā. 'Observe to gain enlightenment, participate to feel the essence.'



**Anastasia Tamaniyaga**  
Head of Pasifika

**Anastasia Tamaniyaga - Head of Pasifika**

*Studying: English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Psychology, Study*

I want to take my role of Head of Pasifika to a whole other level. As Head of Pasifika I aim to encourage others to participate in the school's extra-curricular activities by being involved myself, and in doing so I would like to increase the participation of students in our school Athletics days, Pasifika and Kapa Haka groups, quiz nights and so on. In doing so bridging the gap slowly between the Junior and Senior school. I would also like to be a role model to all Pasifika students to have pride in themselves and in their

heritage. I want to see more student's experience success in their lives at WHS and fulfil their full potential. Another one of my goals is to be able to work closely with the other prefects and creating stronger connections between the Pasifika prefects and the other leaders. I would also like to help create experience, memories and friendships within the Pasifika community at school that they will have and remember for the rest of their lives. Like the other prefects, I want 2016 to be the year to remember. In doing this I hope that I am creating and building stronger and more confident leaders for the near future and impart into the lives of the Pasifika community of WHS. I look forward to this year and to what it holds.



**Isiah Hamlin**  
Head of Social

**Rylee Dudley**  
Head of Social

**Isiah Hamlin - Head of Social**

*Studying: Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, English, Physical Education, Probability & Statistics, Study*

As Head of Social for 2016, I want to create an atmosphere around the school that promotes being yourself and testing your limits. My main goal for this year is to not only encourage my fellow prefects to stand up and make a difference but to help those new to our school feel comfortable in voicing their opinions, so that we as a school can make a difference. I aim to personally push myself and those around me, so that we may step outside the normal and provide something new and exciting for WHS to look forward to. Overall, I am excited to see what this Social Prefect team is going to achieve over this year as I know we have a fantastic team who want to do their very best for all students and staff here at WHS.

**Rylee Dudley - Head of Social**

*Studying: Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English, Health, Study, Trigonometry & Algebra*

As Head of Social, Isiah and I have big shoes to fill. For many years before us, the social team has done a tremendous job. So for us, we are striving to meet that expectation and further go above and beyond to make it the best year yet. I hope to be seen as a role model to the younger students below me and make sure they feel as a part of our school as I do. I want to push myself to try new things and encourage others to do the same. I want to be remembered for what I achieve through this role. But above all, I want every student in WHS to love life as much as we do.



**Jack Pilet**  
Head of Sport

**Ruhia Tamati**  
Head of Sport

**Jack Pilet - Head of Sport**

*Studying: Cambridge Mathematics, Digital Science, English, Economics, Geography, Probability & Statistics*

As Head of Sport for 2016, I believe it is my responsibility to promote sports within WHS and ensure we can best cater for our students competing from social to the top level of their chosen sports. I believe that this is especially important for our Juniors, getting our youth involved and maintaining WHS is strong sporting successes for the future years. I want to be an activist for sport and encourage maximum participation in our vast selection of sports at WHS.

**Ruhia Tamati - Head of Sport**

*Studying: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English, Mathematics, Sports Smart, Physical Education*

As Head of Sport this year I aim to be a positive role model and encourage students to give things a go. My main goal this year is to reach out to the general student body, those who perhaps are not avid sports people, by showing everyone how achievable and fun a physical lifestyle can be. I will do this by providing all students opportunities to become more active. I feel confident about the year ahead of me and I am grateful to have the support of my sports prefect team for 2016.



**Kyle Lai**  
Head of International

**Bella He**  
Head of International

**Kyle Lai - Head of International**

*Studying: Biology, Geography, International English, Music, Trigonometry & Algebra*

I am really glad that I can serve the school and students as an International Head Boy. This year I have a great responsibility to encourage International students to get involved in different areas in school and also create a bridge between students and the school in order to achieve comprehensive communication. For International students, I want to make sure all International students can enjoy their school life in WHS with various activities, I am hoping that the activities that I organise will help improve the connection between Internationals students and kiwi students.

**Bella He - Head of International**

*Studying: Biology, Chemistry, Digital Technology Media, International English, Mathematics, Physics, Probability & Statistics*

As Head of International I would love to help every student. Whilst I am working and learning with other students I will try my best to create a really good International year group with our International prefects. I would like to build a harmonious relationship with other prefects. I will try and provide opportunities for Internationals and kiwi students to interact together.

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