



# NEWSLETTER

February 2018

Tēnā kotou katoa

Welcome to Learning, Integrity, Fellowship, Excellence (LIFE) at Whanganui High School for 2018. A special welcome to all families new to the school, and welcome back to all our returning families.

This year we have introduced a vertical Form Class and House system. All Teaching and Support Staff (with the exception of the Principal, Associate Principal and Maori Dean) and all students have been assigned to a House – Awa, Maunga, Moana or Whenua – and each House has a Deputy Principal and two Deans – Mr Sean Brown is our Māori Dean and Mrs Cherie Cowan-Puru is our Kaiawhina.

House	Deputy Principal	Deans
Awa	Mrs Jemma de Smidt desmidt.j@whanganuihigh.school.nz	Mrs Rebecca Hardy hardy.r@whanganuihigh.school.nz Mr Bryn Parry parry.b@whanganuihigh.school.nz
Maunga	Mrs Jenny Langrish langrish.j@whanganuihigh.school.nz	Mrs Felicity Butchart-Smyth butchart-smyth.f@whanganuihigh.school.nz Mr Jimmy Leonard leonard.j@whanganuihigh.school.nz
Moana	Mrs Nola Todd todd.n@whanganuihigh.school.nz	Mrs Casey Graham graham.c@whanganuihigh.school.nz Mr Hunter Wilson wilson.h@whanganuihigh.school.nz
Whenua	Mr Paul Turner turner.p@whanganuihigh.school.nz	Mrs Natalie Campbell campbell.n@whanganuihigh.school.nz Ms Lisa Martin martin.l@whanganuihigh.school.nz
	Maori Dean	Mr Sean Brown brown.s@whanganuihigh.school.nz

Please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate Deputy Principal or Dean at the earliest possible stage if you have any concerns regarding your son or daughter. The relevant Deputy Principal or Dean will then ensure that your concern is resolved as quickly as possible.

At Whanganui High School, we place considerable sustained emphasis on developing an effective three-way relationship between Form Teacher, student and parents. We believe that the strength of this relationship is a crucial factor in establishing student success at School. Many staff contact parents regularly by telephone or email and we welcome your contact the same way. To help us maintain this relationship please ensure that we always have your most up-to-date contact details. Phone the Student Centre (349 0177) if your contact details have changed.

One or two Newsletters will be sent by email each term. The Newsletters will also be available on the school's website ([www.whanganuihigh.school.nz](http://www.whanganuihigh.school.nz)), with paper copies available at the Main Office and the Student Centre.

There is also a monthly newsletter in the 'River City Press' on the last Thursday of each month. If you do not receive the 'River City Press', copies are available from the Main Office, or a copy can be posted to you. Please phone the school (phone number 06 349 0178) to arrange this.

#### IMPORTANT TERM 1 DATES:

<b>Thursday 15 February</b>	<b>Whanganui High School Swimming Champs</b> 9.00 am – 12.00 pm at the Splash Centre
<b>Friday 16 February</b>	<b>Houses Opening Day – Whole School</b> 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm (Jubilee Stadium)
<b>Tuesday 20 February</b>	<b>Level 1 NCEA Information evening</b> <b>5.30 pm – 6.30 pm in the School Hall.</b> <i>This is an excellent opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn about NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement). Any questions you have will be answered.</i>
<b>Tuesday 20 &amp; Wednesday 21 February</b>	<b>Class Photographs</b> <i>This year the photographer will be taking an individual photograph of all students, not just those students whose parents have requested a photograph. This means that parents will be able to order later on line if this suits you better.</i>
<b>Thursday 22 February</b>	<b>Whanganui High School Athletics Day – Whole School</b> 9.00am start (approx.) at Cooks Gardens. House Competition. More indepth information about the day's organisation will be sent next week. <i>Parents are welcome to attend.</i>
<b>Thursday 1 March</b>	<b>Level 1 NCEA Information evening for Parents of Māori and Pasifika Students.</b> <b>5.30 pm – 6.30 pm in the Whare.</b> <i>This is an excellent opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn about NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement) in our Whare environment. Any questions you have will be answered.</i>
<b>Friday 16 March</b>	<b>Interim Reports will be issued to all students</b> <i>These reports will be emailed.</i>
<b>Monday 19 March</b>	<b>Summer tournament week begins</b>
<b>Friday 30 March – Tuesday 3 April inclusive</b>	<b>Easter break</b>
<b>Friday 13 April</b>	<b>Term 1 ends</b>
<b>Monday 30 April</b>	<b>Term 2 begins</b>

Please avoid parking across the school gateways when dropping off/picking up your son or daughter. This seriously obstructs entry/exit into the school and can hinder access for our parents who have children with special educational needs and/or special mobility requirements. Please note that we recommend that students are dropped off and picked up near the walkway and car-park area on London Street to reduce traffic congestion on Purnell Street.

## **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES:**

Research shows clearly that regular attendance (over 90% attendance), engagement and success at school are very closely linked. The more often a student is in class learning productively, the better that student's academic success.

Truancy patterns often start with being late to school, then missing the odd Form time and Assembly, then the odd class, then more frequent absences. It is very important that we work in partnership with families to ensure this does not happen.

You can help us by having high expectations around attendance, rigorously monitoring your son/daughter's absences, and informing the school when your child will be absent.

We will let you know by text message when your daughter/son is absent from Form time or Period 1, and any other absence by email at the end of each week. This email will tell you about any unexplained absences during the week. Details can be viewed on the KAMAR portal, and you will be advised to contact either the Student Centre or relevant House Dean.

At school, the House Deaning team will follow up unexplained absences, which may result in your daughter/son having to complete a school service as a consequence for unexplained absences.

We know that student educational outcomes are best when students are at school and learning.

If you have any concerns or questions about any matter regarding your daughter or son's education please feel very welcome to make contact with us at your earliest possible convenience.

Ngā mihi nui



*Martin McAllen*

**PRINCIPAL**

Med Leadership with First Class Honours,  
PG DipEd Leadership, BA, Dip Tchg



*Elizabeth Spooner*

**ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL**