



NEWSLETTER, JULY 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 3 at Whanganui High School. This term is ten weeks long, finishing on Friday, 28 September.

We are now in the middle of the academic year and the focus for *all* students has to be on academic achievement, with School examinations for the seniors in weeks eight and nine, and for juniors early in Term 4. As Years 11, 12 and 13 students finish their timetabled classes at the beginning of week 4 of Term 4, we will be working hard to ensure they are well prepared for the External examinations. Our Junior examinations are held once the seniors finish timetabled classes early in November, so they also need to be putting continual focus on their own individual academic progress.

Aside from the events for Term 3, we would like to give you advance notice about dates for the various award ceremonies held early in Term 4. This will give you time to forward plan if you wish to attend. We always appreciate and value parental support at these special occasions.

Thursday 18 October	Sports Awards (Whanganui Function Centre)
Thursday 25 October	Arts Awards (Royal Wanganui Opera House)
Thursday 1 November	Maori and Pasifika Awards (Whanganui Function Centre)
Monday 5 November	Year 11 Prizegiving (1.30pm start). Final day for Y11.
Tuesday 6 November	Year 12 Prizegiving (1.30pm start). Final day for Y12. Year 13 Prizegiving (7.00pm start). Final day for Y13.
Wednesday 7 November	NCEA examinations begin.
Friday 7 December	Final day for the Junior School. Prizegiving at 11.00am.

All Academic prizegivings are held in the School Hall.

Final reports for 2018 will be issued to students and emailed to parents on the day of their respective Prizegiving.

TERM 3 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday 30 July	Interim report e-mailed to parents with email addresses and posted to parents without email addresses.
Wednesday 1 August	Team Photos
Monday 6 August	NCEA Report <i>A report will be e-mailed/ posted home during this week for each student in Years 11 to 13, indicating individual progress towards their NCEA Levels 1, 2 or 3.</i>
Tuesday 7 August	Central 6 Junior Tournament <i>This is a sports exchange with games against Freyberg High School, Havelock North High School, Taradale High School, Tawa College and Kapiti College.</i> <i>Involves Junior teams in Netball, Basketball, Hockey, Football and U15 Rugby</i>
Thursday 9 August	Student Achievement Conferences (School Gymnasiums)
Friday 10 August	Student Achievement Conferences (School Gymnasiums)
Thursday 16 August	Hawera High School sports exchange <i>At Whanganui High School</i>
Friday 17 August	NZQA Fees Due <i>Please read the essential information about this towards the end of the newsletter.</i>
Monday 20 August	Future Focus week begins <i>Students will be choosing their subjects for 2019.</i>
Wednesday 22 August	Wanganui Collegiate sports exchange <i>At Whanganui High School.</i>
Thursday 23 August	Future Focus evening <i>Presentation for parents in the Library – details to be provided closer to the date.</i>
Friday 31 August	Stage Challenge
Monday 3 September	Winter Tournament Week <i>A number of our sports teams will be involved in competitions this week.</i>
Wednesday 12 September – Friday 21 September	WHS Senior Examinations <i>All subjects will be offering an examination and students are expected to attend these. Study leave is a privilege not a right, and therefore students have to earn the permission to have study leave. Students will be considered, case by case, based on their effort in class and their academic performance. Students will be told whether they qualify for study leave or not by <u>Monday 3 September</u>. A study leave pass will be issued, and parents of those students who have not earned a study leave pass will be contacted.</i>
Friday 28 September	Last day of Term 3

Please encourage your son or daughter to plan ahead for their examinations, especially students in Years 11,12 and 13. Encourage them to ask their respective subject teachers to explain exactly what topics will be assessed in the School examinations, so that they can plan a meaningful programme of revision at home and school. We will be offering a variety of tutorials for the Senior school, across weeks 6 and 7. These are held after school from 3.30 to 5.00pm, and from 7.00 to 9.00pm each evening. They will be advertised via the daily notices and the School website.

Your support with these important aspects of your son or daughter's education is highly valued and appreciated by our entire teaching staff.

NZQA FEES

This applies to students in Years 11, 12 and 13, and some Year 10 students studying Level 1 Social Studies. NZQA fees are due by **Friday, 17 August** payable to the Bursars Office. NZQA apply a late fee if the amount is not paid by **Friday, 17 August**. The fee has been included on the financial statements already sent to families on 29 May.

If you have a Community Services card, receive a Work and Income Study Link benefit, or have total NZQA fees exceeding \$200 in your household, you qualify for the financial assistance discount. This reduces the fee from \$76.70 to \$20.00. There is a Financial Assistance form which can be downloaded from the NZQA website, or a copy can be collected from our School Bursar's office at any time during the school day.

STAFFING

On the last day of Term 2, we sadly bid farewell to Diana Ghinda (Head of Faculty – Languages). Diana has taught at Whanganui High School since 2012, but has decided to return to her home country of Moldova, via time with family in England and France.

At the same time, I am very pleased to announce that Lorna Smith will be our new HOF Languages from Monday, 27 August (Week Six). Lorna is currently Curriculum Leader of Languages at Marlborough Girls' College (Blenheim) and is a specialist French teacher. Lorna has also been Head of Languages at a secondary school in Wales and a secondary school in England. We look forward to Lorna, her husband, and two young children joining us within the next few weeks.

In the meantime, Marilyn Wilkie (recently retired HOF Languages) is teaching our French classes until Lorna arrives.

At the end of Term 2, we also sadly bid farewell to a long-serving and very dedicated member of our Support Staff Office Administration team – Gael Head. Gael has been working at Whanganui High School since 1990 and has made many significant contributions to the smooth running of our school systems. We welcomed Julie Porteous onto the staff as Gael's replacement at the beginning of this term.

NCEA REVIEW

As part of the wider national Education Conversation, the Minister of Education has announced a review of NCEA. The Ministerial Advisory Group appointed to explore ideas for how to strengthen NCEA identified six Big Opportunities:

- Creating space at NCEA Level 1 for powerful learning;
- Strengthen literacy and numeracy;
- Ensure NCEA Levels 2 and 3 support good connections beyond schooling;
- Making it easier for teachers, schools, and kura to refocus on learning;
- Ensuring the Record of Achievement tells us about learners' capabilities;
- Dismantling barriers to NCEA.

It is important that everyone involved across all sectors of the education community contributes to this discussion.

CORE Education will be presenting their NCEA Public Roadshow workshop 'Talk to us about the future of NCEA' tonight (Wednesday, 25 July) from 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm at the Function Centre, Whanganui Racecourse, Purnell Street.

More information about the NCEA review, the Big Opportunities and ways to participate can be found at conversation.education.govt.nz/ncea.

Wishing you and your family all the best during this very important term for educational achievement and learning.

Yours sincerely



Martin McAllen
Principal



Elizabeth Spooner
Associate Principal

and