

# PAEROA COLLEGE

## COLLEGE COMMENT

24 February, 2026

### Tumuaki MESSAGE

Tēnā koutou katoa,

We've had a busy start to the school year with swimming sports taking place in week 3. We continued with our new format from last year which was again well received by everyone with a really positive environment for all involved. Congratulations to all students who took part and represented their houses with pride.

Last week our Year 9's went on camp up the Kauaeranga Valley. Our Year 9 camp is designed to promote teamwork, resilience and connection within the cohort and staff. Activities ranged from hiking up the Pinnacles, river traversing, survival skills and raft building. Thank you to all of our staff and student leaders who attended to give our Year 9's this awesome opportunity.

We had Athletics day this week on Wednesday and what an awesome day it was! My highlight has to be the positive house and school spirit seen during the dance off at lunch time. These events are a true indication of the whānau atmosphere we have at the College. Thanks again to all of our staff who made this happen and to our students for your positivity and enthusiasm throughout what was a scorcher.

We continue to promote and maintain high expectations and standards around attendance (including lates and truanting), uniform, and keeping our school a cellphone and vape-free zone. Our school processes provide clear expectations and boundaries for our students to ensure they build positive habits that will serve them well whilst at school and in life. You will find attached to this college comment a summary of our pastoral processes and attendance codes to be clear about our expectations.

We would also like to acknowledge and farewell Whaea Melba Pakinga as she has her final day at our kura. We would like to thank Melba for her service and contribution to Te Reo Māori and Te Ao Māori. We wish her all the best for the future.

Term 1 continues to be a busy time, so please keep up to date with messages and events on our social media pages.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa,

*Andrew Cameron*  
Tumuaki / Principal



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## Attendance matters!



Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student success. The Ministry of Education Attendance Action Plan sets a clear expectation that students attend school regularly (90% or more of the time) so they can fully engage in learning, build positive relationships, and achieve their qualifications.

Every day at school counts – missing just one day a fortnight can add up to a month of learning lost over a year!

### Attendance Code Decision Tree



### Attendance Code Descriptions

Present for 1/2 day calculations	Justified absence	Unjustified absence
<b>P Present</b> Student is present in class. This includes supervised dual tuition with Te Kura. <b>L Late to class</b> Student is late to class. Schools set the threshold for lateness (e.g. 30 minutes) in their school policy. <b>A Alternative provision</b> Student is present on a Ministry-approved alternative provision, such as a teen parent unit, alternative education, secondary tertiary program, health school or activity centre. <b>V Unsupervised exam study</b> Student is present in an examination or unsupervised study where the student is on-site.	<b>N Present but out of class</b> Student is present but out of class due to an on-site school activity (cultural or sporting events), internal appointment, temporary removal from class, or time in the canteen. <b>O Board approved offsite learning</b> Student is present in Board-approved off-site learning, including courses, school-organised activities, and work experience. <b>B Approved external appointment</b> Student is present but has a medical appointment which is unable to be scheduled outside of school hours (e.g. doctor or dentist) and includes travel time or is participating in court proceedings.	<b>J Explained and approved</b> Student is absent due to explained and approved reasons (e.g. family emergencies, bereavement, accompanying parents on overseas diplomatic / military postings). <b>M Illness / Medical absence</b> Student is absent due to illness or medical reasons, including mental health-related absence (e.g. anxiety). <b>X Exam leave</b> Student is absent studying offsite preparing for exams. NOTE: Time allocated to this code is not included in Ministry attendance calculations. <b>U Stood down or suspended</b> Student is absent due to formal stand down or suspension. This code applies to the period of the stand-down or suspension, excluding the day it was imposed.
	<b>T Truant</b> Student is absent without explanation or permission from a parent / caregiver (e.g. skipping class). <b>E Explained but not approved</b> Student is absent and the reason provided does not meet the school's policy for a justified absence (e.g. a parent states their child didn't want to attend sports days). <b>G Holiday during term time</b> Student is absent due to a holiday taken.	<b>F Unknown (Temporary)</b> Temporary code used when the reason for a student's absence is initially unknown. This will be updated once the reason is confirmed.

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### INTRODUCING OUR:

Taku Tūrangawaewae Taku ohooho  
 (The place I stand is where I awaken)  
 Ko Larn Wilkinson tōku ingoa  
 He kākano ahau i ruia mai i a Hako me Tamaterā

## Board of Trustees

I currently serve on the Paeroa College Board and work with Hauraki District Council as their Iwi Liaison Officer. These roles are more than positions to me – they are extensions of who I am and where I come from. My whakapapa anchors me firmly to this whenua, a connection that stretches back nearly a thousand years. There is something deeply grounding about knowing I walk the same paths my tūpuna once walked, breathed the same air, and called this place home. With that privilege comes responsibility – an obligation to ensure future generations can continue to live, grow, and thrive within this same rohe, just as their forebears did.



Equipping the next generation with the tools, confidence, and support they need to flourish has long been a passion of mine. I am the proud parent of five tamariki – two now living in Perth, and three still here in Paeroa. One has recently completed college, while another is currently navigating Year 10. I am also the very proud koro of moko, whose energy and joy have a way of lighting up any room – and reminding me of what truly matters. I am deeply passionate about seeing our tamariki succeed and take their place as leaders of āpōpō. I value the opportunity to work alongside Paeroa College and its dedicated staff, who share the same commitment to achieving the very best outcomes for our young people.



Larn Wilkinson

True success does not happen overnight. It is built through integrity, collective effort, and a willingness to keep striving – to be better as educators, better as whānau, and better as individuals. When we do this together, our tamariki reap the rewards. Success to me is when I see our people smile, when we see them at tangi there to awahi and when we see them be comfortable in who they are and proud to be Māori.

I look forward to the journey ahead and all that it may bring for the leaders who will follow us.

Naku noa  
  
 Ki te hoe!

## Careers Corner

**18 March** Women in Trades - Rotorua

**24 March** RYDA Driver Safety Training for ALL Year 12 students

**22 April** University of Wellington Liason Visit

**30 April** University of Otago Liason Visit

**22 May** University of Waikato Open Day - Hamilton Campus

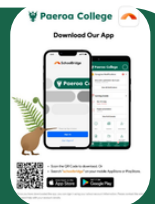
**1 July** University of Waikato Open Day - Tauranga Campus

**24 July** Pacific International Hotel Management School Visit (PC)



## SCHOOL BRIDGE

Welcome to School Bridge!



- This is where you can report an absence, check attendance, see the notices and our school calendar along with seeing your student's timetable.
- Eventually you will receive permission slips for trips through this app.
- To get started, download the app and then click on the Parent / Caregiver box.
- You will be asked to enter an email address. This email address MUST be the one we have on file for you. Schoolbridge will then send you a code and then you are in.

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### Swimming results

#### Junior Girls

- ★ 1st Katie Davies
- 🥈 2 Denvor Kisling
- 🥉 3 Aria Pearce

#### Junior Boys

- ★ 1st Reece Mical
- 🥈 2 Trey Koia-Hamling
- 🥉 3 Kiwi Gurnick

#### Intermediate Girls

- ★ 1st Abigail Hill
- 🥈 2 Caitlyn Hill
- 🥉 3 Indie Robinson

#### Intermediate Boys

- ★ 1st Malakai Anderson,
- 🥈 2 Leon King
- 🥉 3 Jayden Good & Keanu McGregor

#### Senior Girls

- ★ 1st Eliza Stepanicic
- 🥈 2 Mikayla Beisly
- 🥉 3 Pippa Campbell- Spinks & Sienna Moore

#### Senior Boys

- ★ 1st Cooper Robinson
- 🥈 2 Quinn Torstonsen
- 🥉 3 Tamehana Gurnick

### House Results

- 4TH - MARU ❤️
- 3RD - TARA 💙
- 2ND - RAPIRI 💛
- 1ST - NGAKOTU ❤️

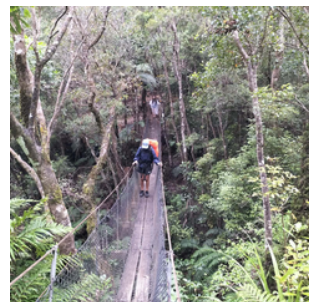


### Year 9 CAMP

Our Year 9 students were lucky enough to experience two fun filled days camping in the Kauaeranga Valley and Pinnacles hut.

Students participated in river traversing, raft building and survival skills. A hike up to the Pinnacles hut tested strength, resilience and allowed students to step outside of their comfort zones.

Camp was a fantastic opportunity for students to build new friendships and strengthen existing ones. We are incredibly proud of the way our Year 9s represented our school and embraced every experience with enthusiasm and positivity.



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### SCHOOL UNIFORM

- All school uniform needs to be purchased through [NZ Uniforms online](#).
- All school shoes must be black. Please refer to the image as a reference guide if you are still needing to purchase shoes.

### PAEROA COLLEGE FOOTWEAR

Paeroa College is a uniform school. Our uniform includes plain black shoes and socks or plain black sandals. Please make sure your child has the correct footwear. If your child is unable to wear the correct footwear please send them to the student centre with a note, we will help solve the issue.



### PHONES



We would like to remind parents and students of the Ministry's ban on mobile phones during school hours. We understand the importance of keeping in touch with your child. However, if you need to get a message to your child, please contact the student centre and leave a message. We will make sure your child receives this message and students have the opportunity to phone home if required.

### STUDENT CENTRE

- Number to Text for students being absent 021 024 04645
- Student Centre is open 8.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday.
- Just a reminder when making payments into the school bank account the correct name for our account is: Paeroa College Board of Trustees – 03-1572-0004693-00

### SOCIAL MEDIA

We highly recommend following the Paeroa College pages on Facebook and Instagram as this is where we communicate with our community. Even if you are able to check once a day for any updates.



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**COMING  
SOON**

### Calendar Term 1 2026

- 2 March** Class Photos
- 5 March** Thames Valley Touch
- 11 March** Thames Valley Athletics
- 13 March** Thames Valley 3x3 Senior Basketball
- 17 March** O1REC Rafting Trip
- 18 March** Waikato / BOP Athletics
- 19 March** Thames Valley Swimming
- 20 March** Thames Valley Tennis
- 23 March** Board of Trustees Meeting @ 5.30pm
- 30 March – 1 April** Year 11 Camp
- 1 April** Thames Valley Bowls
- 2 April** Thames Valley Softball
- 2 April** Catch up day – more information to follow
- 2 April** End of Term 1 – start of school holidays

### Calendar Term 2 2026

- 20 April** Start of Term 2
- 22-24 April** Year 12 Camp
- 27 April** ANZAC Day Observed – no school
- 30 April** Board of Trustees Meeting @ 5.30pm
- 4 May** HSP Interviews – Deans Only
- 13 May** Thames Valley Squash
- 15 May** Thames Valley Golf Round 1
- 15 May** HSP – Whole School Interviews – school closes at 2.30pm
- 18-29 May** CAA Exams
- 3 June** Thames Valley Cross Country
- 10 June** Waikato / BOP Cross Country Champs
- 18 June** Thames Valley Teams Badminton
- 22 June** Board of Trustees Meeting @ 5.30pm
- 25 June** Netball Boulten Cup
- 26 June** Thames Valley Golf – Round 2
- 2 July** Matariki Celebrations
- 3 July** Catch Up Day
- 3 July** End of Term 2

