

PAEROA COLLEGE

COLLEGE COMMENT

4 September 2026

Tumuaki MESSAGE

Kia ora koutou katoa,

Last Thursday 27th August we had our 'Battle of the Arts' evening in the school hall. Although the word 'battle' would suggest competition, it was certainly more of a celebration of our students' talents across the Arts. With fantastic pieces of art on display; including photography, painting and sculpture as well as bands and solo performances from our musicians. It was an awesome evening that raised over \$2600 for the cancer society. A huge congratulations to Finn Casey as Head of Arts and Culture, who's vision and mahi created this event. A massive thank you must also go to all of our staff, whānau and community who's support and donations enabled us to have such a successful evening.

Over the next two weeks, our focus turns towards the second round of the Common Assessment Activities (CAAs). CAA's are national assessments designed to measure foundational skills in literacy and numeracy. They are a vital step toward achieving any NCEA qualification, providing our students with the opportunity to secure their essential reading, writing, and numeracy credits. Our staff have been working hard to prepare our students, and we ask for whānau support at home to ensure they are organised and prepared to do their absolute best. Good luck to all of our students undertaking these assessments over the next fortnight.

Ngā mihi nui kia a koutou katoa,



Andrew Cameron
Tumuaki / Principal

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who supported our Battle of the Arts Evening.

It was a great night to support a great cause.

Well done to Finn Casey for organising this awesome event!

CATCH UP DAY

Catch up day will be on the last Friday of the term (25 September).

Students and whānau will be notified by email if they are required to attend catch up day.

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CAA is **COMING!**

This term sees the return of CAA exams!

CAA schedules were sent out during Week 6 of what exam students will be sitting and when.

CAA exams will be held during Week 8 and Week 9.

Students will need to bring a charged chrome book, calculator for numeracy, headphones (with cord).



Paeroa College
Preparing for the Literacy CAAs

Preparing for the Literacy CAAs

Later this term, students will sit the Literacy (Reading and Writing) CAAs. We are preparing daily in class with exam-style practice, but home revision is key! Whether it's your first attempt or a re-sit, these resources will build your confidence. Scan the QR code to access our complete home revision guide.

Scan for Revision Activities

Scan to access past digital papers

Revising for Literacy

Students have two Literacy CAAs to complete – **Reading** and **Writing**. The best thing students can do to prepare is to log in to their MyNZQA account and access past Literacy CAA exams. Because these are digital assessments, practicing on the actual NZQA platform is the absolute best way to become familiar with the layout and question types you will face. These are helpful whether you are sitting for the first time or re-sitting to achieve. While these practice attempts are unmarked, we highly encourage you to have a go! You are more than welcome to share your answers with your teacher or Miss Tonkin. We would be happy to look over them and give you feedback.

Further Questions?

Literacy Coordinator – Melissa Tonkin
melissat@paeroacollege.school.nz

COURSE SELECTION



Course selection begins for current Y10, Y11 and Y12 students from Week 9. Course booklets have been emailed to students to consider their choices for next year. Ms Youngman and Ms Weston will be meeting with students in Week 9 and 10 to discuss options and make decisions for 2027.

If you would like to book an appointment with Ms Youngman to discuss your child's options please contact the student centre.

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DEPARTMENT Spotlight

The Arts

Kia ora koutou, I am Miss Riddiford and I am the new Drama teacher here at Paeroa college. Since I started at the beginning of term three our junior students have been focusing on devising short theatre pieces through the lens of mime in year nine and exploring different theatre conventions and the way we can use them in year ten. Our senior students have been preparing for a performance standard in year eleven, exploring different scripts and using our techniques to perfect them. The rest of the seniors have been writing their own scripts which are coming along amazingly showcasing a wide variety of stories and messages and will be ready to perform from next week.

In Art classes students have been busy working on a variety of individual projects including paintings, mixed media pieces, and sculptures. Seniors are currently working hard on their art portfolios while juniors are learning about abstract art and mixed media art techniques.

Junior Music students have been working on preparing performances and writing their own compositions. Seniors are focused on preparing solo and ensemble pieces for performance at lunchtime concerts and performance evenings. Some students have also prepared entries for the Play it Strange National Songwriting Competition, which, if successful, will give them an opportunity to have their songs recorded.





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Alternative Programmes

DEPARTMENT *Spotlight*



Within Alternate Programmes we have 10 Pathways teachers, 3 Learning Lab teachers and 10 workshops teachers, delivering engaging initiatives designed to build well-rounded, resilient students. .

Workshops offer our year 11 and 12 students the opportunity to participate in a variety of non academic subjects such as craft, puzzles, guitar, reading, study, racquet, boardgames, fitness, skills and more. The purpose of the programme is to provide opportunities for students and staff to take part in activities that support wellbeing, physical and mental health, social skills, life skills and other soft skills. These 5 week rotations of 2 x 50 minute lessons have seen some excellent outcomes and high levels of student engagement.

Within the Learning Lab, junior students have been making muffins and sushi while learning about food safety and hygiene, food related jobs, recipes, planning and cooking. Others have been creating small business ideas, developing business cards and products for a junior market in Term 4. Learning Lab senior students have been visiting the Ohinemuri Rest Home weekly as part of an assessment on giving back to the community. They lead arts and crafts, perform music, and spend meaningful time conversing with residents. This has been incredibly rewarding for both the students and residents. Other Learning Lab classes are making mocktails, learning to master topographical maps, planting kitchen herbs and investigating methods to spot and combat fake news. Many successes have been celebrated throughout the year in the Learning Lab.

Pathways offers senior students the opportunity to gain 14+ credits in a range of essential life skills such as financial literacy, credit and debit, making a significant purchase, funding study, driving risk factors, obligations of owning a motor vehicle, filling in forms, writing a CV, managing emotions and goal setting. Many of our students have taken full advantage of these learning opportunities, achieving all available credits and laying a strong foundation for their futures. Many students have optimised these learning opportunities, achieving all credit available. To date, Alternate Programmes across the school have had a very successful year.

Kathryn Burtenshaw
HoD Alternative Programmes



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Calendar Term 3 2026

**COMING
SOON**

Calendar Term 4 2026

7-18 September CAA Exams Year 10-13

14-18 September - Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori Week

18 September Haka Wars

21-25 September Fiesta Week

21 September Board of Trustees Meeting @ 5.30pm

23 September Thames Valley Senior Volleyball

24 September - Top Team

25 September Catch Up Day

25 September End of Term 3

12 October Start of Term 4

13 October Senior Music Performance Evening

26 October Labour Day - No School

27-30 October Senior School Devices are being collected.

29 October Sports Prizegiving (afternoon)

29 October Board of Trustees Meeting

4 November Senior Prizegiving (evening)

5 November Thames Valley 3x3 Junior Basketball

10 November - 4 December NZQA Exams

11 November Thames Valley Junior Volleyball

13 November Teacher Only Day

16 November Teacher Only Day

23 November Board of Trustees Meeting

24 November Year 8 Enrolled Students Day

25 November Junior devices being collected

1-4 December Year 10 Camp

9 December Junior Prizegiving (morning)

9 December End of 2026 School Year