

TERM TWO NEWSLETTER



**Hastings Girls'
High School**

Ngā Rau Huia o Ākina

JULY 2026



OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2026
5:30PM



WELCOME TO OUR TERM 2 NEWSLETTER

As we reflect on another busy and rewarding term at Hastings Girls' High School, we are incredibly proud of the opportunities our students have embraced and the many ways they continue to demonstrate our values both within our school and beyond.

This term, our students have achieved success in classrooms, on sports fields, on stages, and in leadership forums across New Zealand. They have represented our school with pride at national conferences, cultural festivals, academic programmes, sporting competitions, and performing arts events. They have explored future careers in health, business, science, defence, and community leadership, while continuing to build the skills and values that will support them throughout their lives.

One of the things that makes Hastings Girls' High School so special is the diversity of opportunities available to our students. Whether a girl's passion lies in academic excellence, culture, service, sport, the arts, leadership, or simply finding her place within a supportive community, there is truly something for everyone.

As you read through this newsletter, we hope you gain a sense of the vibrant, inclusive and aspirational environment that exists within our kura. Most importantly, we hope you see the remarkable young women who make our school such a special place to learn, grow and succeed.



[hastingsgirlshighschool](https://www.instagram.com/hastingsgirlshighschool)



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www.hastingsgirls.com

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At Hastings Girls' High School, we are committed to helping every student achieve her personal best. Whether students are preparing for NCEA assessments, exploring future careers, engaging in hands-on scientific investigations, or developing entrepreneurial skills, learning is designed to be relevant, challenging, and connected to real-world opportunities. This term, our students embraced a wide range of experiences that extended their learning beyond the classroom and helped them explore future pathways.

ROTORUA ADVENTURE

Our Level 3 PE students travelled to Rotorua, where they combined adventure with learning. Alongside training for their upcoming 10km run assessment, students developed leadership, teamwork and outdoor education skills, putting them into practice while tackling the white-water rapids of the Kaituna River. The trip was a fantastic opportunity to build confidence, resilience and lasting memories.



ABEL TASMAN TRIP

Our Level 2 and 3 Physical Education in the Outdoors students recently returned from an unforgettable week in Abel Tasman National Park. Kayaking, camping and exploring the park's stunning coastline provided the perfect setting to put their learning into practice. When changing weather disrupted their plans, students demonstrated excellent leadership, teamwork and risk management by adapting their itinerary and safely returning by water taxi. It was a memorable experience that strengthened confidence, resilience and outdoor skills.



JUNIOR DEBATERS STEP UP

Year 10 students Vardeep, Riddhi and Anamika represented HGHS in their first inter-school debate at Karamū High School. Competing with confidence and presenting thoughtful arguments on a challenging topic, the team narrowly missed the win by just five points. We are incredibly proud of the way they represented our school.



SENIOR DEBATING SUCCESS

Our debating teams have made a strong start to the Hawke's Bay interschools competition, with three junior teams and one senior team competing against schools from across the region. A special congratulations to our Year 9 team, who secured a fantastic win at Iona College, with Amrit Kaur also earning the Best Speaker award. We are proud of the confidence, critical thinking and poise our students continue to demonstrate in every debate.



CELEBRATING OUR VOICES

Our annual International Languages Speech Showcase was a vibrant celebration of culture, identity and language. Students delivered inspiring speeches in a wide range of languages, including Samoan, Tongan, Hindi, Brazilian Portuguese, Tagalog, Rarotongan, Punjabi, Tamil, Khmer and Te Reo Māori. Through their stories, students explored themes of identity, belonging and kaitiakitanga, proudly sharing their heritage with our school community.



INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE

Our Year 12 and 13 Business Studies students showcased their entrepreneurial thinking at the annual Young Enterprise pitch presentations. Students presented innovative product ideas to business leaders and will continue developing their businesses ahead of upcoming market days.



SAMOAN LANGUAGE WEEK

This term, we proudly celebrated Samoan Language Week with a range of activities that showcased the richness of Samoan language and culture. Highlights included a special Ava Ceremony attended by students, staff, whānau and community members. There were cultural performances, language challenges, traditional games, and visits to local schools. The week concluded with a combined Ava Ceremony alongside Hastings Boys' High School, further strengthening the connection between our two kura. It was inspiring to see students confidently sharing their culture with pride, demonstrating the strong sense of identity and belonging that exists within our school community.



PINK RIBBON LUNCH

Our Student Council and Student Leaders hosted a wonderful Pink Ribbon Lunch this term, bringing together more than 60 staff and students in support of the Breast Cancer Foundation. The event was a powerful reminder of the strength of community, with students demonstrating outstanding leadership, organisation and compassion. Through their efforts, they raised awareness and support for a cause that impacts many families in our community.



RELAY FOR LIFE

We were thrilled to welcome Cancer Society and Relay for Life committee member, Rizwaan Latiff, to our Assembly earlier in the week to present Volunteer Support Certificates to four incredible students. A massive congratulations to Khushi Bijalwan, Soraya Palipane, Niharika Bukka, and Niranjana Subhash for their outstanding community dedication!



GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Over three afternoons, Niranjana, Hope and Khushi generously gave their time in support of the Salvation Army, who provides vital assistance to people in need throughout our community. Their enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to serve made a positive impact, helping to encourage the generosity of the public. We are incredibly proud of the compassion and leadership these students demonstrated, embodying the values of service and making a meaningful difference beyond the school gates.



AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN EXCELLENCE

A highlight of the term was seeing Year 12 student Khushi Bijalwan named the Hawke's Bay Youth Excellence Award winner. Khushi was recognised for her outstanding commitment to service, balancing her studies while dedicating countless hours to supporting both our school and the wider community. Her leadership, generosity and willingness to help others make her a truly deserving recipient of this prestigious award.



GROWING CONFIDENT LEADERS

Leadership at Hastings Girls' High School is about more than holding a title. It is about developing the confidence, empathy and skills to make a positive difference in the world around us. Throughout Term 2, our students represented the school at regional and national leadership events, learning alongside young people from across New Zealand and developing the skills needed to become future leaders.

YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Year 12 students Niranjana, Anvitha, Hope, Paige, Chezcah and Dylan, were selected for the Young Women in Leadership Programme at Massey University. Chosen from applicants across the Central North Island, the students developed and presented a community project focused on increasing student participation through Pickleball. The programme provided a valuable opportunity to build leadership skills and confidence.

YOUNG NAVIGATOR PROGRAMME

Year 13 student Abby loane spent part of her Term 1 holidays participating in the Young Navigator Programme in Auckland. Working alongside students from across New Zealand, Abby joined the Deloitte group to tackle real-world challenges while developing leadership, teamwork and problem-solving skills. The programme provided valuable opportunities to build connections, broaden perspectives and gain insight into future career pathways.

FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Three Year 13 students, Te Ahua Mainini, Grace Warren and Juliet Hokianga, attended the University of Auckland's COACH (Creating Opportunities in a Career in Health) Wānanga. The programme provided valuable insight into careers in medicine and health sciences while connecting students with like-minded peers from across Aotearoa.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Student leaders Khushi, Payton, Paige and Jaz attended the World Vision Youth Conference in Wellington, exploring global challenges and leadership through service.

Khushi and Niharika represented our kura at the SADD (Students Against Dangerous Driving) National Conference in Cambridge. They worked alongside students from across Aotearoa, developing communication and advocacy skills while exploring ways young people can promote safer roads and make positive change within their communities.

Elizabeth, Khushi, Mennat and Rahma participated in the Aotearoa Youth Declaration forum, tackling issues affecting New Zealand and developing solutions for future generations.

NATIONAL ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY

Year 13 student Kaea Tangohau was selected for the prestigious University of Otago On Campus Experience. Chosen from more than 120 applicants nationwide, Kaea will spend a week experiencing university life, attending lectures and exploring future study opportunities.



OPPORTUNITY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Participation in sport and the arts helps students develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and leadership. Whether competing locally, nationally or internationally, our students continue to achieve outstanding success while representing our school with pride.

SPORTING SUCCESS

It has been another successful term for sport at Hastings Girls' High School, with students embracing opportunities to compete, learn and grow across a wide range of codes. From local competitions to regional events, our athletes have continued to demonstrate determination, resilience and pride while representing our kura.

Beyond competition, we have continued to strengthen our sports programme by expanding participation opportunities and developing a long-term strategic vision for sport at HGHS. As we look ahead to Term 3, we are excited to see several of our premier teams compete on the national stage, showcasing the talent, commitment and school spirit that define our sporting community.

We extend our sincere thanks to our coaches, managers, officials, staff, whānau and volunteers whose generosity and dedication make these opportunities possible. Together, they continue to inspire our students to strive for excellence both on and off the field.

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Brooke, Peyton, Aaliyah and Bella, who travelled to Portugal with Club Recode and were crowned champions of the 2026 Portugal Youth Rugby Tournament after defeating teams from around the world.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Pattreece Andersen earned selection for the New Zealand U16 Tag Blacks and will represent New Zealand at the Tag World Cup in Australia.



Year 9 student Irie Nikora also achieved national selection for the U14 ANZMRL Teina & Rangatahi Kotiro Tournament after an impressive start to her rugby league journey.

MANUKURA SPORTS EXCHANGE

Our annual sports exchange with Manukura provided a fantastic opportunity for students to compete against one of New Zealand's leading sporting schools in rugby, netball and basketball. While Manukura claimed victory across all three codes, our athletes showed determination, resilience and outstanding sportsmanship throughout the day. The exchange was a valuable learning experience and a celebration of the strong relationship between our two kura. We look forward to welcoming Manukura to Hastings next year.



HAVE A GO SERIES

We began our new "Have a Go" series, designed to encourage students to experience different sporting opportunities. A group of students visited the Sports Park and tried canoe polo, a sport we are keen to grow within our school. We look forward to offering introductory sessions for rowing and pickleball during the coming term.



PERFORMING ARTS EXCELLENCE

SHOWQUEST SUCCESS

Our Showquest team delivered an outstanding performance, placing 3rd overall while receiving Excellence Awards for Culture and Live Music, along with recognition for Video Design. A special congratulations to Sharon Faalelea, who was awarded Whetū Rangatahi – Star of the Show.



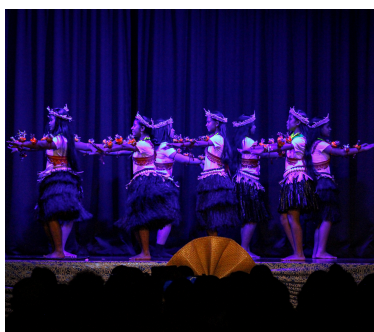
CONCERT BAND SUCCESS

Congratulations to the joint Lindisfarne College and Hastings Girls' High School Concord Concert Band, who earned a Silver Award at the New Zealand Concert Band National Festival in Cambridge. Several students also received individual awards for their solo performances, recognising their talent and dedication. Prior to the festival, the band performed for students at Leamington Primary School, sharing their passion for music and inspiring the next generation of musicians.



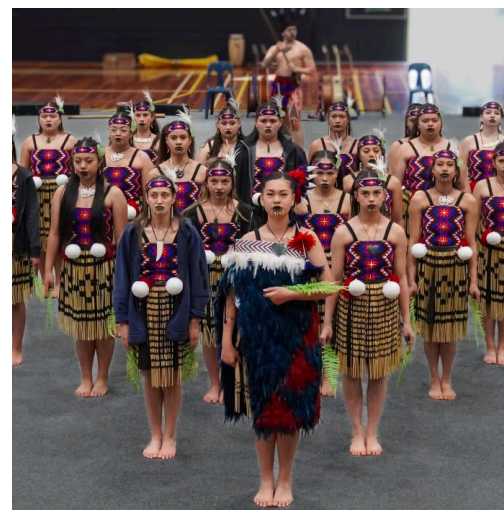
FIAFIA FESTIVAL

One of the highlights of the term was our annual Fiafia Festival. Students proudly represented eight cultural groups through traditional dance and performance, sharing their culture with whānau and the wider community. The evening was a powerful celebration of identity, pride and belonging.



KAPA HAKA NATIONALS

We are incredibly proud of Te Rōpū Manu Huia following their outstanding performance at the National Secondary Schools Kapa Haka Competition in Tauranga. After more than 20 weeks of dedicated preparation, our students took to the national stage with confidence, pride and passion, delivering a powerful and memorable performance. We extend our sincere thanks to the tutors, whānau and staff whose support made this journey possible. Te Rōpū Manu Huia represented our kura with distinction and embodied the very best of our school values.



GUARDIANS OF OUR PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE

One of the most powerful ways our students learn about future possibilities is through the experiences of former students who return to share their journeys.

This term we were privileged to welcome back several alumni who are making a difference in their chosen fields. Award-winning journalist and author Anna Fifield returned to speak with senior students about her career as an international correspondent for The Washington Post and Financial Times. Her message encouraged students to aim high and embrace opportunities beyond their comfort zone. Former students Dr Hena Dugh and Julie Luong returned to share their journeys from Hastings Girls' High School into medicine and pharmacy, inspiring students considering careers in the health sector. Former students Miracle and Maera spoke about their careers in the New Zealand Army, while Zyggy Kireka-Russell shared her experiences serving in the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Whether students aspire to careers in health, business, journalism, defence, the arts, sport or community leadership, Hastings Girls' High School provides the opportunities, support and encouragement to help every girl discover her pathway and strive for excellence.



STRENGTHENING OUR ĀKINA PARTNERSHIP

This term provided several meaningful opportunities to strengthen the longstanding partnership between Hastings Girls' High School and Hastings Boys' High School.

During Samoan Language Week, our students and staff were honoured to attend Hastings Boys' High School's Ava Ceremony, celebrating Samoan culture, language and tradition alongside our brother school.

Principal Lisa Akers and Deputy Principal Rob Orr also attended the school's inaugural Matariki celebration, beginning before dawn with karakia, waiata and reflections on the significance of the Matariki stars, culminating in the moving whāngai i te hautapu ceremony.

The term also marked a significant milestone in the history of our two schools, with Principal Lisa Akers becoming the first Hastings Girls' High School Principal in our 70-year history to address a Hastings Boys' High School Assembly. Accompanied by our student leaders, Mrs Akers spoke about the importance of respect, kindness, supporting one another and striving for excellence. Together with Hastings Boys' High School Principal Mason Summerfield, this occasion reflected a shared commitment to strengthening the relationship between our schools and creating opportunities for students to learn from one another, celebrate together, and continue building a connected and supportive Ākina community.





FIND YOUR PLACE

OPEN EVENING

6 AUGUST

5:30–7:30pm

Join us for an inspiring evening
and discover what makes
Hastings Girls' High School a place
where every student can thrive.

Meet our students and teachers,
explore our learning areas, and
experience how we support each girl
to grow in confidence, build
connections, and achieve success.

CONTACT US

MRS LISA AKERS
PRINCIPAL

06 873 1133

admin@hastingsgirls.com

EXPLORE. CONNECT. BELONG.

All Year 7 & 8 students and whānau welcome