

TERM THREE NEWSLETTER



**Hastings Girls'
High School**

Ngā Rau Huia o Ākina

OCTOBER 2026



A NEW TRADITION | OUR FIRST ACADEMIC BLAZERS

This term we proudly presented the first Academic Blazers in the history of Hastings Girls' High School to Mennat Quazi, Maieke Thompson and Rahma Miah.

Introduced this year as a legacy initiative from our Senior Student Leaders, the Academic Blazer recognises sustained excellence across senior study. To qualify, students must achieve an NCEA Excellence Endorsement at both Level 1 and Level 2, earning at least 50 Excellence credits at each level.

As our inaugural recipients, Mennat, Maieke and Rahma have set an outstanding benchmark for future generations of HGHS students. Their achievement reflects years of hard work, determination and commitment to learning, and we are incredibly proud to see academic excellence recognised in such a visible and lasting way.

Congratulations, girls – we hope this is the beginning of a very special HGHS tradition.



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ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

OUR STUDENT WRITERS PUBLISHED

Four talented HGHS students have seen their writing reach a national audience after being published by *The Sapling*, an online magazine dedicated to children's and young adult literature in Aotearoa.

Congratulations to Daphney Vea, Peris Kirisimasi, Val Failauga and Liliu Nu'uvali, whose literary responses were selected for publication as part of coverage of the 2026 New Zealand Children and Young Adult Book Awards finalists.

Seeing their ideas and voices published beyond the classroom is a wonderful achievement and recognition of the quality of their work. A special acknowledgement also goes to their English teacher, Whaea Maeve, for encouraging and supporting our young writers.



CONGRATULATIONS ABBY!

Year 13 student Abby loane has received an early offer University of Waikato Vice-Chancellor Scholarship valued at \$15,000 for 2027.

Abby plans to study a Bachelor of Business Studies at the University of Waikato next year. Her achievement is particularly special given Abby has only been part of the New Zealand education system since 2023. Her success reflects the determination, resilience and commitment she has brought to her learning. Congratulations Abby – an exciting next chapter awaits!



HANDS-ON AT OTAGO

Congratulations to Year 12 students Jaz and Paige who have both received prestigious Poutama Scholarships to attend Hands-On at Otago in January.

The residential programme gives students an opportunity to experience university life, academic research and study within an area that interests them. Jaz will explore Political Science while Paige will focus on Law and Politics.

What an exciting opportunity to experience university life and begin exploring where their interests may take them after HGHS.



YOUNG ACHIEVERS RECOGNISED

Congratulations to Maieke Thompson and Mennat Quazi who were selected as Hastings Girls' High School's recipients of the Lions Club of Hastings Young Achievers Awards for 2026. Both young women have achieved NCEA Levels 1 and 2 with Excellence Endorsement while making significant contributions to leadership and service within our kura.

Our Amorangi, Maieke, has been a strong advocate for te ao Māori and Māori student voice through her leadership of Te Huia Kaimanawa. Her academic achievements include gaining an Outstanding NCEA Scholarship in Te Reo Māori while in Year 11.

As Head Girl and Academic Captain, Mennat has represented HGHS at community events, leadership conferences and public functions while also contributing to the wider community through the Hastings District Youth Council.

Both intend to continue their studies at the University of Auckland next year. We are very proud to see two outstanding young wāhine recognised for their achievement, leadership and contribution.



CREATIVITY TAKES CENTRE STAGE

CELEBRATING OUR PERFORMING ARTS

Our School Hall came alive this term for our annual Performing Arts Showcase, celebrating the creativity, courage and talent of students from Years 9–13. Friends and whānau filled the Hall for an evening featuring dance, drama, choir, Te Ao Haka, instrumental music and vocal performances.

The Showcase gives our students an opportunity to take what they have been developing throughout the year and bring it to the stage. Just as special was seeing our performers encouraging and celebrating one another throughout the evening.

Thank you to our Performing Arts staff, the many people who worked behind the scenes and, most importantly, our students for having the confidence to step into the spotlight and share their talents.



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DANCENZMADE – FROM REGIONALS TO NATIONALS

It has been a fantastic term for our HGHS dancers. At the DanceNZmade Hawke's Bay competition, our team achieved 2nd place in the Open Category and 3rd overall, earning a place at the DanceNZmade Nationals in Palmerston North. There was further individual recognition for Johannes Iese and Loupua Vaitaiki who were each awarded coveted DanceNZmade Golden Tickets.

At Nationals, our dancers once again represented HGHS with pride with a particularly special moment coming when the team received the national Togetherness Award. The award recognises teamwork, positive culture and connection – qualities that made it a particularly meaningful way for several of our senior dancers to finish their final national competition with HGHS.



OUR ARTISTS SHINE

Our Year 12 artists achieved outstanding success at the Hawke's Bay Year 12 Art Exhibition which celebrates talented young artists from across Heretaunga.

A huge congratulations to Teiyah Fomai who was awarded Best in Show and Hope Naoupu who won the Pasifika category. A number of other HGHS students also had work selected for the exhibition across the visual arts.

We were incredibly proud to see the creativity and perspectives of our young artists represented alongside some of the best Year 12 artwork from across Hawke's Bay.



SPORTING SUCCESS

A STANDOUT WINTER OF SPORT

Term 3 has been another huge one for HGHS Sport with our athletes competing locally, regionally and nationally across a wide range of codes. Our Senior A Netball travelled to Wellington for the Lower North Island Secondary Schools Tournament. Taking a young squad that included two Year 9 players, the team entered the competition aiming for a top-16 finish. Instead, they finished 8th from 37 teams.

Our 1st XI Football team also tested themselves against strong opposition during Tournament Week, gaining valuable experience and setting a clear benchmark as they look ahead to 2027.



YOUNGEST TUI ON THE BLOCK

At just 16 years old, Teiyah Fomai has been selected for the 2026 Hawke's Bay Tui, becoming the youngest player named in this year's squad. It has already been an extraordinary sporting year for Teiyah. She spent the first four months of 2026 in Australia playing Rugby League with the Newcastle Knights before returning home and transitioning back to Rugby Union. Her performances for M.A.C. earned the attention of Hawke's Bay selectors and ultimately a place in the senior provincial squad alongside several former HGHS students.

To earn senior provincial selection at just 16 is a very special achievement. Congratulations Teiyah – we know there will be plenty of HGHS supporters cheering you on.



REGIONAL BADMINTON CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Jo and Micah who claimed the A Grade Doubles title at the Hawke's Bay Regional Badminton Tournament becoming the top doubles pair in the region. Six HGHS players represented the school across singles and doubles competition, testing themselves against some of Hawke's Bay's strongest secondary school players.

A fantastic achievement for Jo and Micah and a great day on court for our whole team.



BROOKLYN MAKES A SPLASH

Year 9 student Brooklyn Waihua proudly represented HGHS at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Swimming Championships in Auckland becoming the first Hastings Girls' High School student to compete at the championships in more than eight years. Brooklyn achieved a personal best in the 50m Backstroke, placing second in her heat and 12th in New Zealand for her age group.



ARNIKA SELECTED FOR HAWKE'S BAY

Congratulations to Year 11 student Arnika Warren who was selected for the Hawke's Bay Central Zone Secondary Schools Netball Team. Arnika is just the ninth HGHS student selected for the team since 2021, making the achievement particularly impressive while still only in Year 11. Her selection continues an exciting pathway in netball and we look forward to following what comes next.



CULTURE, LANGUAGE & IDENTITY

MĀNAWATIA A MATARIKI

Our kura came together to celebrate Matariki Hunga Nui – Matariki brought us all together, with a special week led by our student leadership group Te Huia Kaimanawa. Students were encouraged to reflect on the past, present and future through the stories and meaning of the Matariki stars.

Across the week, ākonga took part in reflection, environmental challenges, mahi toi and activities exploring their hopes and aspirations for the future. The week culminated in a special gathering featuring Te Hautapu, acknowledgements and kai, led by Te Huia Kaimanawa. It was a meaningful celebration of remembrance, gratitude, aspiration and connection, and a wonderful example of student leadership within our kura.

Mānawatia a Matariki!



CELEBRATING TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori brought another vibrant celebration of language and culture to HGHS. Throughout the week, students took part in kēmu, wharewhare, Kī-o-rahi, whakataukī and Te Ao Haka, creating opportunities for our whole school community to engage with and celebrate te reo Māori.

Our learning pathway in Te Reo Māori continues to grow with students exploring identity, tūrangawaewae, histories and pūrākau. This year has also seen the introduction of Te Reo Rangatira, providing targeted extension for fluent ākonga and supporting them to become strong advocates for te reo. Another important opportunity was our participation in Ngā Manu Kōrero, where Hiria Tangaere represented HGHS in the Senior Māori section.

CELEBRATING FILIPINO LANGUAGE WEEK

Our Filipino students proudly shared their language, heritage and culture with our school community during a wonderful Filipino Language Week. Throughout the week, students enjoyed traditional-inspired crafts, Filipino food and cultural activities before celebrations culminated in a vibrant concert of music and dance with a very special guest from the Philippine Embassy. The enthusiasm, generosity and pride shown by our Filipino students made the week a special experience for our entire kura.



ERICA HONoured FOR OUTSTANDING KAPA HAKA LEADERSHIP

This year, the Hine Rēhia Female Leader Trophy has been awarded to Erica Monika-Matehaere Paul for her outstanding leadership of Te Rōpū Manu Huia at the Kapa Haka Nationals in Tauranga. This special taonga is named after Hine Rēhia, the female deity of kapa haka and the personification of the wind blowing through the trees. It is awarded to our kaitātaki wahine, recognising outstanding female leadership in kapa haka. Erica, you led with strength, pride and mana, representing our kura beautifully on the national stage.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

DISCOVERING FUTURES IN WELLINGTON

Thirty-seven Year 11, 12 and 13 students spent two nights in Wellington exploring future study pathways through visits to Victoria University of Wellington and Massey University. Students attended mini-lectures, met university staff and students, toured halls of residence and explored study options across Design and Architecture, Commerce and Law, Science and Humanities. The experience extended well beyond the campuses with visits to Parliament, the National Library to view Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the historic Kate Sheppard suffrage petition, Te Papa, Old St Paul's and Wellington Zoo. For our students, it was a valuable opportunity to see what university life could look like and begin making informed decisions about their futures.



DISCOVERING CAREERS IN HEALTH

Our senior students had the chance to discover just how broad a career in health can be when 15 health professionals from across Hawke's Bay visited HGHS. Students were introduced to ten allied and specialist careers, including Occupational Therapy, Audiology, Radiography, Medical Laboratory Science, Sterile Services, Dietetics, Pharmacy, Cardiac Sonography, Emergency Nursing and Anaesthetic Technology. Alongside learning what each profession involves, students heard about tertiary pathways, entry requirements, employment opportunities and the school subjects that can help prepare them. For students interested in health, it was an eye-opening look at careers they may never previously have considered.



LEARNING TAKES US TO TAUPŌ

Our Level 2 Physical Education students swapped the classroom for the outdoors during an action-packed three-day learning experience in Taupō. Students spent a day snowboarding at Whakapapa, tackled the mountain-bike trails at Craters of the Moon and trekked along the Huka Falls river track. Behind the adventure was plenty of learning with students putting their understanding of outdoor risk management, decision-making and teamwork into practice in real situations. It was a fantastic opportunity to challenge themselves, support one another and learn in an environment very different from the classroom.



CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Some of our students spent a memorable day at Cape Sanctuary, experiencing conservation in action right here in Hawke's Bay. Students learned about native restoration planting, bird protection and the important relationship between healthy vegetation and our taonga species. They also explored the dunes, learning about tapu midden sites, invasive species and the native plants that help protect this constantly changing environment. A definite highlight was carefully opening a wētā hotel and discovering the native insects inside! The day gave our students a greater appreciation of the incredible environment right on our doorstep.



EXPLORING LOCAL PATHWAYS AT EIT

Our Year 12 students spent a day at EIT discovering the huge range of tertiary study and training options available here in Hawke's Bay. Students explored pathways ranging from screen production, viticulture and fashion to veterinary nursing, automotive trades, building and hospitality. They also toured EIT's new nursing facilities and learned more about the different certificates, diplomas and degree programmes available. For students beginning to think seriously about life after school, the visit was another opportunity to discover where their interests and strengths could take them.



YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS IN ACTION

Our senior Business students have been busy putting their learning into practice this term. The School Hall was transformed for Senior Market Day, where students showcased businesses they had spent weeks planning, budgeting, creating and marketing. The experience continued beyond school when our Young Enterprise businesses took their products to the Hawke's Bay Farmers' Market, selling everything from dog toys and kawakawa balm to soaps, cookies and gift bags. These experiences give students the opportunity to manage real money, interact with customers, respond to demand and experience firsthand what it takes to turn an idea into a business.



EXPLORING HAWKE'S BAY TOURISM

Our Year 13 Tourism and Gateway students discovered some of the career opportunities available right here in Hawke's Bay during a behind-the-scenes tourism experience in Napier. Visits to Napier Airport, the i-SITE and Scenic Hotel Te Pania gave students insight into aviation, tourism and hospitality careers and the many people and roles involved in welcoming visitors to our region. It was a practical and enjoyable way to explore an industry that plays an important part in the Hawke's Bay economy.



PUSHING LIMITS AT OUTWARD BOUND

Year 12 students Jo and Kyah had an unforgettable opportunity to attend Outward Bound, taking on challenges including tramping, sailing, kayaking, navigation and team activities. The experience pushed them well outside their comfort zones while developing confidence, resilience, leadership and communication. For Jo, one of the biggest lessons was discovering that growth often comes from being willing to embrace challenges and keep moving forward when things become difficult. An incredible experience and one whose lessons will extend well beyond school.



BRINGING BACK TRADITIONS WITH HASTINGS BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

Term 3 saw the return of two much-loved traditions as Hastings Girls' High School and Hastings Boys' High School came together for our Senior Ball and Junior Social.

Our senior students celebrated a wonderful evening at Toitoti with this year's *Under the Lanterns* theme providing a beautiful setting for a night of dancing, friendship and special memories. Later in the term, our Year 9 and 10 students enjoyed their own opportunity to come together for the Junior Social with plenty of music, dancing and fun.

Both events were a huge success with fantastic feedback from students who thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to socialise and celebrate together. It has been wonderful to see these traditions return, strengthening the connection between our two schools and creating memorable experiences for our young people. We hope they are traditions that are here to stay!



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STUDENT VOICE & LEADERSHIP

BUILDING LEADERS

Leadership at HGHS extends well beyond wearing a badge. Our student leaders joined approximately 150 students from across Hawke's Bay at the inaugural Hawke's Bay Interschool Prefect Day taking part in leadership development, team-building and opportunities to connect with other young leaders. Our Junior Leaders have also been active in the community including supporting Frimley School's Cross Country and taking part in Pasifika leadership activities with primary students. These experiences give our students opportunities to serve others, develop confidence and communication skills, and understand that leadership is as much about contribution as it is about position.



DEBATERS FIND THEIR VOICE

Our debating teams have had plenty to celebrate this term with students from Years 9–13 representing HGHS in competitions across Hawke's Bay. Our senior team secured a win at the Secondary Schools Regional Debating Competition while Year 10 students Riddhi, Vardeep and Anamika also celebrated victory in what is their first year of competitive debating. Our junior teams have tackled challenging topics including whether social media should have a minimum age of 18, developing their ability to think critically, respond under pressure and speak confidently in front of an audience.



A TERM FULL OF OPPORTUNITY

Whether competing at national level, performing on stage, exploring a future career, learning in the outdoors, celebrating culture, creating a business or stepping forward to lead, our students have certainly made the most of Term 3. What makes us particularly proud is the sheer breadth of opportunities our girls are willing to embrace. Not every achievement comes with a medal, trophy or certificate. Sometimes success is trying something for the first time, discovering a new passion, finding your voice, stepping outside your comfort zone or beginning to see a future you had not considered before. We are incredibly proud of our students and all they have achieved this term and grateful to the staff, whānau, coaches, volunteers and community organisations who continue to make these opportunities possible.

BECOME A HOMESTAY FAMILY IN 2027!

OPEN YOUR HOME. SHARE YOUR CULTURE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Hastings Girls' High School is looking for warm, welcoming local families to host our Brazilian and Japanese international students arriving throughout 2027.

Becoming a homestay family is a wonderful opportunity to share everyday Kiwi life, experience another culture and make a lasting difference in a young person's life.

What we're looking for:

- A caring, safe and supportive family environment
- English as the main language spoken at home
- A private indoor bedroom with a desk, lamp and heater
- Three meals a day, plus snacks (school lunches are provided during term time)



HOMESTAY PAYMENT

Families currently receive \$340 per week to help cover the costs of hosting a student.

Interested in finding out more?

We'd love to hear from you! Whether you're ready to become a host family or simply have a few questions, please get in touch.

Email: international@hastingsgirls.com

HELP US GIVE OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS A HOME AWAY FROM HOME!



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