

# TERM ONE NEWSLETTER



**Hastings Girls'  
High School**  
Ngā Rau Huia o Ākina

APRIL 2026



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PRINCIPAL

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## ABOUT US

Welcome to our Term 1 newsletter, where we celebrate the people, achievements and experiences that make Hastings Girls' High School – Ngā Rau Huia o Ākina such a special place to learn and belong.

Guided by our values of whanaungatanga/belonging, manaakitanga/care, kaitiakitanga/guardianship, pono/trust and whakaute/respect, we are committed to creating a supportive and aspirational environment where every student is encouraged to strive for excellence. Through tailored learning and a wide range of opportunities across academic, cultural, sporting and leadership areas, we support our students to grow in confidence and capability.

We hope you enjoy this snapshot of Term 1 and the many ways our students continue to learn, connect and thrive.



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# MRS LISA AKERS

## PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Tēnā koutou e te whānau

As we come to the end of Term 1, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a positive and purposeful start to the year at Hastings Girls' High School – Ngā Rau Huia o Ākina.

It has been a real privilege to begin the year getting to know our students, staff and wider community. From the very first weeks, there has been a strong sense of connection across the school, with our values of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga evident in the way students have welcomed one another and settled into school life.

This term we have placed a strong focus on building good habits for learning. Attendance, punctuality and wearing the correct uniform all play an important role in ensuring students are ready to learn and able to achieve to their potential. We appreciate the ongoing support from whānau in reinforcing these expectations.

We also continue to strengthen our approach to literacy and numeracy, ensuring students are well supported as they work towards the NCEA co-requisites. Establishing these foundations early is key to long-term success.

Our Academic Assembly was a highlight of the term, where we celebrated the outstanding achievements of our 2025 students. These results reflect hard work, commitment and a drive for excellence, and set a strong example for our current students.

A very special moment this term was celebrating 70 years of Hastings Girls' High School. This milestone gave us the opportunity to reflect on our history, honour those who have come before us, and acknowledge the strong relationship we share with Hastings Boys' High School. It was a proud and memorable occasion for our school community.

Beyond the classroom, it has been fantastic to see students getting involved in the many opportunities on offer. Whether through sport, performing arts, cultural groups or leadership, our students continue to show enthusiasm, pride and a willingness to contribute. We have also seen some outstanding success this term. Our Senior A Volleyball team achieved an impressive 4th place in Division 2 at Nationals, and our Waka Ama crews performed strongly with all teams progressing through to the semi-finals. These results are a testament to the commitment and teamwork of our students.

It has also been pleasing to see our students giving back to the community, representing the school with pride and demonstrating the values that make our kura so special.

We were delighted to welcome Year 8 students to our Big Day Out this term. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to experience life at HGHS, and we look forward to seeing them again at our Open Evening later in the year.

Thank you to our students, staff and whānau for your continued support. Together, we are building a strong, connected and aspirational school community.

Ngā mihi nui  
Lisa Akers  
Principal



Mrs Akers with Kahmarni Ormsby-Te Tau, Tagi Olive, Rebecca Iorangi and Elizabeth Tere  
These students are recognised for quietly stepping up to help others, reflecting our school values in action. We are incredibly proud of the example they have set for our school community.



# ACADEMIC SUCCESS



Mr Rob Orr

DP Curriculum

Huge congratulations to Nadia Morrell and Harshpreet Kaur, for their outstanding success in the NCEA Art Scholarship!

Both Nadia and Harshpreet received scholarships for their incredible Art boards, providing a great start as they begin their university journeys this year.

Thank you to Mr Lee for his mentorship and dedication in guiding these talented artists



## TEACHING & LEARNING

There has been a strong focus on teaching and learning this term, with students engaging well across their subjects and beginning to set goals for the year ahead.

Our parent-teacher interviews were a valuable opportunity for students, whānau and teachers to come together to discuss progress, celebrate successes and identify next steps. These conversations play an important role in supporting each student's learning journey and strengthening the partnership between home and school.

We recognise that understanding NCEA, including certificate endorsements, course endorsements and the literacy and numeracy co-requisites, can feel complex. As a school, we are committed to providing clear communication and ongoing support to ensure both students and whānau feel confident navigating these pathways.

A continued focus this term has been strengthening literacy and numeracy across all year levels. These foundational skills are essential for success in NCEA and beyond, and we are working to ensure that all students are well supported in developing confidence and capability in these areas.

Students have also had opportunities to explore future pathways, including visits from tertiary providers and engagement with university representatives. These experiences help students to better understand the options available to them and begin thinking about their future beyond school.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TERM TWO

Our Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite Assessments (CAAs) begin from 18 May. These assessments are a key part of NCEA, and students must achieve them to gain any Level 1, 2 or 3 qualification.

## EXPLORING BIOCHEMISTRY AT OTAGO



I recently spent an incredible week at the University of Otago on a full scholarship for their Hands-on programme. I'll admit, I was pretty nervous heading into such a new environment, but the support from the teachers and other students made me feel at home right away. I was selected for the Biochemistry stream - an amazing chance to dive deep into innovative science!

Meeting talented students from all over NZ really inspired me and grew my confidence. We finished the week with a big night out dancing and shopping, making memories I'll never forget. I am so grateful to have received this scholarship and making this experience possible. I was proud to represent HGHS.

**SENEESA LAMAHEWA - YEAR 13**

## BIOLOGY IN ACTION AT AHURIRI

Our Level 2 Biology students had an amazing day at Ahuriri exploring the incredible marine life that calls the rocky shore home. By collecting data from the low tide all the way up to the high tide mark, they were able to see firsthand how different species choose their spot on the shore.

We couldn't have asked for better weather and finished the day with a lovely walk along the boardwalk to soak up the last of the sun. Such a great day of science in action!



## A WEEK OF SCIENCE & DISCOVERY



Thanks to an incredible scholarship, I recently headed down to the University of Otago for a week of discovery! My focus was Physiology - diving deep into how the human body works through hands-on experiments and lectures that brought science to life.

I got to experience university life, attend sessions with lecturers, take part in hands-on experiments, and explore the campus environment, which made the whole experience feel very real and exciting. It wasn't just about the science; it was about building independence, thinking critically, and getting a real taste of life after school. I've come home feeling more confident and inspired to keep chasing my passions.

**KANISHKA POKHRIYAL - YEAR 13**

## EXPLORING NAVIGATION & HISTORY AT NAPIER WHARF

Our English Language classes took a deep dive into history at the Napier wharf! Students explored a waka hourua re-creation and the Ātea a Rangi Star Compass to learn the secrets of traditional Māori navigation. Our students had the special honour of welcoming the waka Ngahiraka Mai Tawhiti from Tauranga Moana with a powerful Ākina haka pōwhiri.

From studying the twin hulls of the voyaging canoes to learning how ancestors read the stars, waves, and wind, it was an inspiring day of discovery. A huge thanks to our guides for showing us how incredible these Pacific voyages truly were!



## STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE CELEBRATING OUR 2025 ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Earlier this term, we were proud to celebrate our 2025 Level 1 and Level 2 endorsement recipients at a special Academic Assembly.

These students were recognised for achieving Merit and Excellence endorsements in their NCEA qualifications. A Certificate Endorsement reflects 50 or more credits at Merit or Excellence, while a Course Endorsement recognises high achievement within a specific subject. It was particularly pleasing to see that many of our certificate-endorsed students also gained multiple course endorsements, highlighting both consistency and subject strength.

In her address, Principal Lisa Akers spoke about the importance of strong daily habits, drawing on the words of our founding Principal and the example of Silver Fern Irene van Dyk. Her message was clear – excellence comes from consistent effort, commitment and a willingness to engage fully in learning.

These students demonstrate exactly that. Their success reflects regular attendance, active participation, and a focus on improving each day.

It is also important to acknowledge the role of whānau and teachers in supporting this success, as well as the importance of literacy and numeracy as the foundation for achievement across all levels of NCEA.

We congratulate all of our endorsement recipients on their achievements. They have set a high standard and are an inspiration to others across our school.



### Level 1 Certificate Endorsed with Excellence

Harpreet Kaur  
Niranjana Subhash  
Payton Tautau  
*Not shown in photo:*  
Erica Monika-Matehaere Paul



### Level 2 Certificate Endorsed with Excellence

Mennat Quazi  
Maieke Thompson  
Rahma Miah  
Lyka Canlom  
*Not shown in photo:*  
Kaea Tangohau  
Te Raukura Harris



### Level 1 Certificate Endorsed with Merit

Jade Moore  
 Hazel-Maree Naoia  
 Tagi Olive  
 Jade Palisoc  
 Anna Parkins  
 Tenequa Ross-Araia  
 Jeza Leih Salmasan  
 Franny Staples  
 Daphney Vea  
 Pippa Yule  
 Khushi Bijalwan  
 Elizabeth Turner  
 Summer Gifkins  
 Bavneet Kaur  
 Jaz Hohipuha-  
 Godtschalk

Stevie-Lee Cargill  
 Paige Cunningham  
 Shine Eiden Dumlao  
 Teiyah Fomai  
 Shilou Fromont-Rose  
 Sasha Hunt  
 Aryana James  
 Rajvir Kaur  
 Valentyne Manutulila  
 Natalia Mclean  
 Jade Moore  
 Hazel-Maree Naoia  
 Tagi Olive  
 Jo Opoc



### Level 2 Certificate Endorsed with Merit

Juliet Hokianga  
 Te Ahua Mainini  
 Jazz Te Pou  
 Sulu Ah-Yu  
 Leilani Brown  
 Kunisha Chumber  
 Jen Galacan  
 Jasmeet Kaur

Kamalpreet Kaur  
 Myrah Kereti  
 Seneesa Lamahewa  
 Jicada Mohi-Te Whero  
 Kanishka Pokhriyal  
 Jessica Sunder  
 Ruby Taylor  
 Grace Warren



## WHERE LEARNING MEETS THE LANDSCAPE

Our Year 10 Exploring the Great Outdoors Hub spent the day exploring the Hawke's Bay coastline, travelling from Waipātiki right through to Te Āwanga. Along the way, students observed and recorded the different coastal features they encountered, gathering valuable information to support their upcoming assignment back at school. It was a fantastic opportunity to see their learning come to life in a real-world context while enjoying some of the stunning environments right on our doorstep.



## POLICE PATHWAYS: INSPIRING FUTURE RECRUITS

Our Year 12 & 13 Police Course students sat down with an inspiring team of wahine from @newzealandpolice to talk careers, frontline reality, and the recruitment journey.

We're all about finding your "unique passion" here at HGHS, and it was a proud moment to hear that two of our very own past students are currently on their way to joining the force!



Huge thanks to Constable Gemma Hyde, Constable Sahria Adams, Constable Ashleigh Renata, Detective Constable Jess Arthur and Sergeant Laura Bevan for empowering our next generation of recruits.

## UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND VISIT

We had a fantastic turnout for our first university presentation of the year!

A huge thank you to Natalie from the University of Auckland for dropping by the Library to chat with our students. She covered everything from subject choices to what life is really like on campus. For those who couldn't make it, here are the two big takeaways from the session:

- Externals matter: Sitting your externals is excellent practice and helps build the exam skills you'll need to succeed at university.
- Scholarship prep: If you are aiming for scholarships, remember that your results in Year 12 really count! Keep striving for those Merits and Excellences.



## BUSINESS STUDENTS LAUNCH THEIR YES JOURNEY

Our senior business studies students spent the morning at the Toitoti - Hawke's Bay Arts & Events Centre. The annual Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) Spark Tank event served as the official launch for this year's regional programme, bringing together business studies students from across the Bay.



The Spark Tank event is the first major event on the YES calendar. It offers students a unique platform to move their business concepts from the drawing board into the real world. Throughout the morning, our students engaged in:

- **Mentorship Sessions:** Direct access to local business leaders and industry experts who provided invaluable “speed-dating” style feedback.
- **Networking:** Connecting with YES students from other regional schools to share insights and build a supportive community of young founders.
- **Programme Briefings:** Gaining a clear roadmap of the busy year ahead, including upcoming pitch competitions and market days.

## DISCOVERING OUR BACKYARD: TE MATA PEAK

Our Year 9 Outdoors Elective Class headed to Te Mata Peak for a day of exploration and connection. It was fantastic to see the girls setting a great pace as they wound their way down to the Redwoods for a well-deserved lunch.

We were blessed with stunning weather, which gave us the perfect opportunity to dive into some of the lesser-known trails on our return journey. From basking in the afternoon sun to soaking up those iconic Hawke's Bay views, it was a wonderful day of ‘place-based’ learning.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## IMPORTANT TERM TWO DATES CLASSROOM & LEARNING

- 🏠 22 April | Level 2 & 3 - DVC Trip to Hastings City Gallery
- 🏠 23 April | Level 3 Biology - Daphnia Aquarium Trip
- 🏠 23 April | Level 2 Outdoors - Peak Walk & Waimārama Tip
- 🏠 23 April | NCEA Information Evening
- 🏠 29 April | Health Careers Expo
- 🏠 1 May | Junior Reports sent home
- 🏠 3-8 May | Level 2 & 3 Outdoors Abel Tasman Trip
- 🏠 7 May | Junior Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 🏠 11 May | Learner Licensing with Constable Chris Leppien
- 🏠 18-22 May | Numeracy & Literacy Assessments
- 🏠 22 May | Pūhoro: Term Two Wānanga Māpūrau
- 🏠 27 May | NZ Careers Expo
- 🏠 28 May | Victoria University, Māori Future Student Advisor visit
- 🏠 29 May | PIHMS Hotel Management/Tourism School Visit
- 🏠 3 June | Level Up Year 11 Careers Event
- 🏠 3 June | Year 9 Outdoor Elective Scenic Reserve Trip
- 🏠 8-11 June | Level 3 PE Rotorua Camp
- 🏠 11 June | Senior Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 🏠 24 June | Health Careers Expo
- 🏠 25-26 June | Year 10 Outdoors Hub Sunrise Hut Overnight Trip

### PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

We encourage all students to take their upcoming Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite Assessments (CAAs) seriously and come prepared. Attending school regularly, engaging fully in class learning, and making the most of support opportunities will all help set students up for success. Please ensure your daughter is present and ready on her assessment days, as this is an important step in her academic journey.

To support this, we will continue to offer tutoring opportunities in the Library, supported by our fantastic student tutors. Sessions will run before and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students are strongly encouraged to take up this opportunity.

If you would like to register your daughter, please contact Kate Elworthy  
[kew@hastingsgirls.com](mailto:kew@hastingsgirls.com).

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & OPPORTUNITIES



Ms Emma Jensen

DP Pastoral

Congratulations to Paige Cunningham, our Blue House Captain, and Payton Tautau, our Academic Captain, who have been selected to represent rangatahi on the Hastings Youth Council.

It's fantastic to see our students stepping up to ensure young people have a strong voice in our district.



## ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

It has been a very positive start to the year, with students settling well into routines and demonstrating a strong commitment to their learning. Classrooms have been purposeful, and it has been pleasing to see students engaging positively with both their teachers and peers.

Attendance continues to be a key focus for our kura. Regular attendance is one of the strongest indicators of student success, and building consistent habits early in the year is important. We are encouraging all students to aim for full attendance each term, as even small amounts of time away from school can impact learning progress and connection.

Alongside attendance, punctuality and being prepared for learning remain important expectations. Arriving on time, in correct uniform, and ready to participate sets the tone for a successful day. We appreciate the support from whānau in reinforcing these expectations at home.

A strong sense of belonging is also central to student success. We encourage all students to get involved in school life, whether through sport, cultural groups, performing arts or leadership opportunities.

Participation helps students build confidence, develop relationships and feel connected to our school community. It has been fantastic to see so many students already taking up these opportunities this term.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TERM TWO

We ask that whānau avoid taking holidays during term time, as regular attendance is essential for student success. Please plan travel during the school holidays so students can stay engaged in their learning.

## ROBOTICS TEAM WINS PRESTIGIOUS CONNECT AWARD

Our Robotics Club headed to Havelock North Intermediate to face off against schools from across the country in the FIRST Robotics Competition during the summer break. While we didn't take home a podium finish in the matches, our team walked away with something equally prestigious: The Connect Award!

The award isn't just a "participation" prize – it's a formal judged award that recognises the "brain" behind the bot.

To win, our students had to master:

- The Engineering Design Process: Documenting every success, fail, and redesign.
- Scientific Rigour: Detailing the maths and science behind their robot's movement and game strategy.
- Professionalism: Maintaining a high-level Engineering Notebook that follows strict FIRST industry standards.

Winning this award proves that our students aren't just building robots – they are becoming world-class engineers and strategic thinkers. We are so proud of how you represented our school on the national stage. Way to go, team!



## FUTURE LEADERS TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Some of our aspiring Year 12 students travelled to Massey University on 19 March to take part in a Young Women in Leadership Event. This programme was limited to just 30 students from schools across the Wellington and Gisborne regions. The students listened to speakers and discussed what leadership looks like in our community and what makes a good leader. Each school group now has a month to put together a project that will benefit the community. They will return to Massey to present their projects at the end of May.



## FROM SCHOOL TO UNI: A REAL EXPERIENCE

Twenty-one of our Year 12 and 13 ākonga had the wonderful opportunity to immerse themselves in university life at the University of Waikato. As an academically innovative kura, we value these “beyond the classroom” experiences that help our students visualise their own unique pathways. Over two nights, our girls lived and dined in the Halls of Residence, getting a true taste of the independence and excitement that awaits them after graduation. Joining a group of 280 secondary students from across the country, they engaged in workshops and connected with current university students, hearing firsthand about the diverse journeys that lead to success.

It wasn't all study, though! The trip fostered a great sense of whanaungatanga (connection), with highlights including a movie night in town and a fun quiz evening alongside students from other schools.

A huge thank you to the University of Waikato for hosting our girls and providing a safe, inspiring environment for them to explore their potential. This experience has left our students feeling empowered and ready to lead their own stories as they plan for the years ahead.



### STUDENT SUCCESS IN REGIONAL KAPA HAKA

Ka mau te wehi to Erica Monika-Matehaere Paul (Year 12) and her kapa haka rōpū, Mātangirau!

The group placed 4th overall at the Ngāti Kahungunu Regional Kapa Haka Competition in Waipukurau, qualifying for Te Matatini 2027 in Hopuhopu, Waikato.

We are incredibly proud of Erica's achievement and look forward to seeing her perform on the national stage.

## SENIOR DEBATING TEAM IMPRESS AT REGIONALS

Our Senior Debating Team delivered an outstanding performance at the Sainsbury Logan & Williams Regional East Coast Debating Competition.

Competing against some of the region's strongest teams, our students showed sharp thinking, confidence and composure, winning three out of four debates against Karamū and Havelock North, and narrowly missing a win against Gisborne Girls' High School. The debates covered a range of economic, social and contemporary issues, challenging students to think critically and respond under pressure.

A huge congratulations to Elizabeth Turner, Pippa Yule, Khushi Bijalwan and Paige Cunningham for their excellent results and the way they represented our kura.

With the local inter-school competition still to come, this is an exciting start to the season. We look forward to seeing what this talented team achieves next.



## BIG DAY OUT AND LOOKING AHEAD TO OPEN EVENING



We're incredibly proud of the many students who supported this term's Big Day Out. From guiding groups and sharing their experiences to creating a welcoming and positive environment, our students represented Hastings Girls' High School with confidence, warmth and pride.



We now look forward to welcoming Year 7 and 8 students and their whānau to our Open Evening on 6 August. This is another great opportunity to see the school in action, explore what we offer, and take a fresh look at life at Hastings Girls' High School.

## GROWING AS LEADERS AT GRIP

Four of us leaders - Payton, Jasmine, Mennat, and Maieke - had the privilege of travelling to Rotorua to take part in the GRIP Student Leadership Conference. We came away from the conference with a new perspective on leadership, as well as open minds and positive attitudes. We had an amazing day and learned so much. Thank you, GRIP Leadership, for such a great conference!



## OUR LEADERS, OUR FUTURE: THE 2026 BADGING CEREMONY



We held a Special Assembly to officially welcome and acknowledge our 2026 Student Leaders. It was a proud and meaningful moment as each student crossed the stage to receive their leadership badge – a symbol of their commitment to our kura and the journey ahead.



These young women represent the diverse voices of our community, and we are so excited to see the innovative ways they will lead, inspire, and grow alongside their peers this year. Congratulations to our new leaders; we look forward to the positive impact and fresh perspectives you will bring to our school whānau.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- 14 MAY | Fiafia Night
- 15 May | Pink Shirt Day
- 22 May | Pink Ribbon Day
- 1 June | Samoan Language Week
- 8 June | International Languages Week
- 15 June | Schools' Pride Week
- 17 June | Big Sing
- 22 June | Showquest
- 28 June | Kapa Haka Nationals
- 29 June | House Quiz



ĀKINA - STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

# School's more than just class **DON'T MISS IT!**

## Regular attendance makes a big difference

Being at school every day helps students build friendships, stay connected, and keep up with their learning.

Every day matters. Missing just a few days each term can quickly add up – students who miss more than 5 days in a term may begin to fall behind, impacting their progress, confidence and achievement.

Regular attendance means being at school at least 90% of the time.  
**THAT'S MISSING FEWER THAN 5 DAYS IN A TERM**

90%+ – On track

80–89% – Starting to fall behind (around 5–10 days away)

Below 80% – At risk of significant gaps in learning (more than 10 days away)

**EVERY DAY COUNTS. BE HERE, BE READY, BE INVOLVED.**



Mrs Amy Moli

DP Operations

We would like to sincerely thank the students who gave their time to collect for the Cranford Hospice street appeal.

Their willingness to support such an important cause reflects our school values of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga—showing care for others and contributing positively to our community.



## SCHOOL LIFE, CULTURE & OPPORTUNITIES

Term 1 has been full of energy, with a wide range of opportunities for students to be involved and connected to school life. Our cultural groups have been particularly active, with kapa haka students working hard in preparation for an upcoming national competition. Their commitment, discipline and pride in representing our kura and Ngāti Kahungunu is evident. At the same time, our Pasifika students have been preparing for Fiafia, celebrating the rich cultural diversity that is such a strength of our school.

Sport has also been a significant part of the term, with high levels of participation across a range of codes. Events such as Swimming Sports have been a highlight, showcasing strong house spirit, participation and encouragement of one another. These events play an important role in building connection and school pride.

We have also seen many students stepping into leadership roles, supporting events, mentoring younger students and contributing positively to the wider school environment. These opportunities help students develop confidence, responsibility and a sense of ownership within the school.

Beyond school, students have continued to represent Hastings Girls' High School with pride in the community. Whether through service, cultural performance or sporting events, our students consistently demonstrate the values that underpin our kura.

Overall, it has been a strong and successful start to the year. We look forward to building on this momentum as we move into Term 2.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TERM TWO

We encourage all students to get involved in school activities, as participation helps build a sense of belonging, strengthen relationships, and create lasting connections within our kura.

## A SPECIAL HOMECOMING FOR HASTINGS GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

There is something powerful about coming home – especially when that return brings experience, perspective, and a deep sense of purpose.

That is exactly what Hastings Girls' High School – Ngā Rau Huia o Ākina is celebrating, as former student Lisa Akers steps into the role of Principal this year. While the appointment has been shared within the school community, it is a moment worth pausing for. This is more than a leadership change – it is a full-circle journey.

Lisa's connection to HGHS runs deep. Educated locally before attending the school, she achieved academic honours and later returned as a Physics Teacher. Since then, she has built a distinguished career spanning more than three decades across a range of schools, including Wairoa College, Iona College, Napier Girls' High School and Te Kura Correspondence School. Her leadership has focused on student wellbeing, strengthening school culture, and lifting achievement, with her work at Wairoa gaining national recognition.

Those who have worked alongside Lisa describe her as a leader who brings people together, building strong relationships with students, staff, whānau and iwi. Her approach is grounded in a simple belief – that every young person should feel seen, supported, and capable of success.

Earlier this term, we were proud to formally welcome Mrs Akers with a beautiful mihi whakatau. It was a special occasion, with whānau, representatives from her previous schools, the Ministry of Education, and members of our wider community joining us, alongside the valued presence of Ngāti Kahungunu.

In her address, Mrs Akers shared her vision for the future, committing to lead with compassion, empathy and openness, while continuing to strengthen our relationship with Ngāti Kahungunu. Her focus is on ensuring all students leave Hastings Girls' High School equipped with the skills, attributes and values to succeed.

We warmly welcome Lisa Akers back to Hastings Girls' High School and look forward to this next chapter.



## CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF HASTINGS GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



This term, we proudly gathered to celebrate a remarkable milestone – 70 years of Hastings Girls' High School. Our story is one of strength, identity and deep connection, not only within our own kura but also with our brother school, Hastings Boys' High School.

We were delighted to welcome Hastings Boys' High School Headmaster Mr Summerfield, alongside Deputy Headmaster Mr Crawford, Kaiako Kapa Haka Mr Hurae, Mr Rosenberg from the Hastings High School Old Boys' Association, and senior kapa haka students and prefects. While Hastings Girls' High School was established in 1956, when Hastings High School separated into two schools, the bond between our kura has remained strong. We continue to share the huia emblem, school song and haka – traditions that reflect our shared beginnings.

During the celebration, we acknowledged the significant contribution of Ms Jean Kelt, a former Head Girl of Hastings High School and later our second Principal. As a founding teacher of Hastings Girls' High School, her legacy continues to shape who we are today.

A highlight of the day was the cutting of the anniversary cake, shared with students, staff and our guests. Watching students from both schools perform the haka and sing together was a powerful reminder of our shared heritage. We were also honoured to receive a beautiful glass artwork from Hastings Boys' High School, symbolising the story of our Ākina motto and huia emblem, gifted by Ngāti Kahungunu.

We look forward to continuing to strengthen this special relationship as we build on the legacy of the past and look ahead to the future.



## EARTHQUAKE COMMEMORATION 2026

Our community gathered in Civic Square on the morning of 3 February 2026, to mark the 95th anniversary of the 1931 Hawke's Bay Earthquake.

The commemorative ceremony honoured those who lost their lives, acknowledged survivors, and reflected on the resilience of our region.

We were proud to have our Head Girl, Mennat Quazi, speak on behalf of Hastings Girls' High School alongside Sivarna Rowe-Thompson from Hastings Intermediate School, civic leaders and iwi.



## HGHS CONNECTS WITH SISTER CITY GUILIN



This term, we were proud to be part of a special video message celebrating Chinese New Year, shared with our sister city of Guilin in China. Hastings District Council's long-standing relationship with Guilin supports cultural understanding and international connection between our communities.

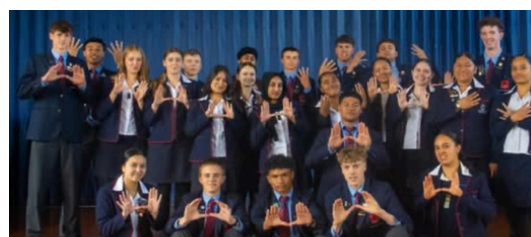
Representing our kura, Elise Hooper, Shilou Fromont-Rose and Bella Lange-Wereta shared a message of goodwill on behalf of our students, staff and the wider Hastings community. With an audience of approximately 7 million people, it was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our school on an international stage.

We are proud to be part of this relationship, strengthening global connections and celebrating the diversity within our community.

## LEADING TOGETHER: ĀKINA LEADERS BREAKFAST

Our student leaders kicked off the term with the annual Leaders Breakfast held here at HGHS. These catch-ups are a valuable opportunity to strengthen connections, grow leadership networks, and collaborate with our Ākina schools.

There was a strong sense of unity and shared purpose as leaders came together to map out the year ahead, exploring opportunities for joint events, friendly competitions, and service initiatives. Working in partnership continues to strengthen our connections and enrich the experience for all students across our schools.



# 2026 STUDENT LEADERS



**Maieke Thompson**  
AMORANGI

**Mennat Quazi**  
HEAD GIRL



**Tagi Olive**  
STUDENT BOARD  
REPRESENTATIVE

**Jaz Hohipuha-Godtschalk**  
STUDENT RELATIONS  
CAPTAIN

**Jasmine Cassin**  
INTERNATIONAL  
AMBASSADOR



**Payton Tautau**  
ACADEMIC  
CAPTAIN

**Khushi Bijalwan**  
COMMUNITY  
CAPTAIN

**Leilani Brown**  
SPORTS  
CAPTAIN

**Maddee Marsh**  
PERFORMING  
ARTS CAPTAIN

## HOUSE CAPTAINS



**Faimafili Sa'e**  
Green House Captain



**Eternity Peni**  
Gold House Captain



**Danielle Marks**  
Purple House Captain



**Paige Cunningham**  
Blue House Captain

# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

## VOLLEYBALL SEASON WRAP UP

It has been an exceptional season for our Senior A Volleyball team, highlighted by both regional success and a strong national campaign.

The team were crowned Hawke's Bay Division 1 champions, defeating Karamū in straight sets to finish the season undefeated – an outstanding achievement and a true reflection of their hard work, consistency and teamwork. This result marks an incredible milestone for our kura, securing three consecutive titles. A special acknowledgement to Imila, Blake, Kiera and Hazel, who were named in the Tournament Team, with Imila also recognised as Tournament MVP.

At the NZ Secondary Schools Nationals in Palmerston North, the team continued to impress. Despite entering as the lowest-ranked team in their pool, they showed resilience and determination, securing key wins against highly ranked opposition. They progressed through to the semi-finals, narrowly missing a place in the final by just one point, and finished 4th in Division 2 and 20th overall in the country.

We are incredibly proud of the way the team represented Hastings Girls' High School, showing skill, perseverance and pride throughout the season.



A huge congratulations to Imila and Fili on reaching an incredible 50 Premier games for the HGHS Senior A Volleyball team! Hitting this milestone is a true testament to their dedication, resilience, and the heart they bring to the court every single match. Beyond their talent, their leadership and commitment have played a huge part in building the culture and success of our Senior A team.

## WAKA AMA SEASON WRAP UP

It has been a fantastic season for our Waka Ama crews, highlighted by strong performances at the NZSS Waka Ama Nationals. All of our crews progressed through to their semi-finals, which is a significant achievement and a reflection of the hard work and commitment shown throughout the season. It was particularly pleasing to see our younger paddlers stepping up into higher divisions and competing with confidence and determination.

Our W12 crew combined with Hastings Boys' High School in the U19 event, while our U16 W6 crew also stepped up to compete in the U19 250m division, with both crews achieving semi-final placings. A special acknowledgement goes to Stevie-Lee Cargill, who made her W1 debut and progressed through to the finals – an outstanding accomplishment.

We are incredibly proud of all our paddlers for the way they represented our kura, showing resilience, teamwork and pride throughout the season.



Our girls are making waves across the ditch! Teiyah Fomai and Maddy Seumanutafa stepped out for the U17 Newcastle Knights in their season opener against the Cronulla Sharks. This was a massive milestone for both athletes.

Huge congratulations, Teiyah and Maddy! We are cheering for you from home.



A huge shout-out to Pattreece Andersen who flew south to Christchurch for the 2026 Youth Touch Nationals! Playing for the Manawatu U16 girls, Pattreece and her team delivered an outstanding performance, narrowly missing the semi-finals after a hard-fought battle against the tournament winners.

We love seeing our students excel in diverse arenas and represent HGHS with such talent and sportsmanship. We are incredibly proud of your efforts, Pattreece!

## ATHLETICS DAY

Our School Athletics Day was a fantastic success, filled with energy, enthusiasm, and great sportsmanship from all students involved. The weather provided ideal conditions, allowing the full programme of events to run smoothly throughout the day.

Students participated in a wide range of track and field events, including sprints, relays, long jump, high jump, shot put, and distance races. It was wonderful to see so many students giving their best effort, supporting their teammates, and demonstrating positive attitudes whether they were competing or cheering from the sidelines.

A highlight of the day was the House relay races, tug of war, the Holi colour run and House Haka, which brought plenty of excitement and loud support from spectators. Many students achieved personal bests, and several impressive performances were seen across all year levels.

Overall, Athletics Day was a great celebration of participation, teamwork, and school spirit. Well done to all students for their effort and enthusiasm.

Overall House winners - Gold House  
Year 9 Champion - Faith Sanele  
Year 10 Champion - Sophia Seilala  
Senior Champion - Blake Nohokau



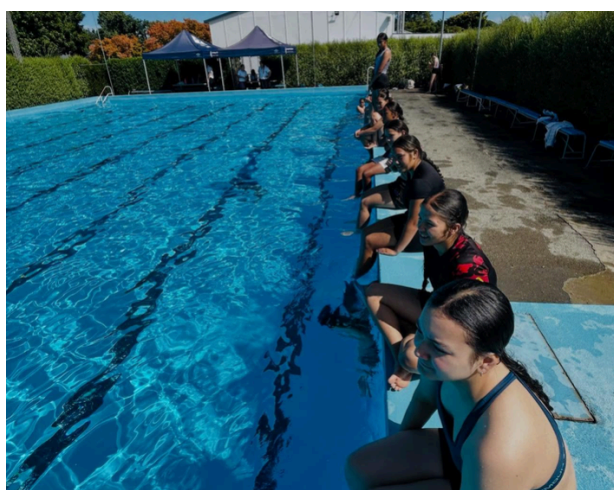
## SWIMMING SPORTS

Waves of School Spirit!

The School Swimming Sports concluded with a fantastic day of competition, enthusiasm, and school spirit. Students gave their best effort in the pool across a range of races and events, showing determination, perseverance, and great sportsmanship throughout the day. There were plenty of exciting finishes and impressive performances, with swimmers proudly representing their Houses and earning valuable points.

A big thank you goes to the PE Department, Sports Department, volunteers, and Sports Committee who were timekeepers and helped the day run smoothly, as well as the students for their positive attitudes and participation. Overall, it was a successful and enjoyable day for the whole school community, with many great memories made in and around the pool.

Overall House winners – Blue House  
Year 9 Champion – Manaia Aranui  
Year 10 Champion – Mel Savaii  
Senior Champion – Elise Hooper



## SPORT AT HASTINGS GIRLS'

GET INVOLVED. GET ACTIVE. GET CONNECTED.

At Hastings Girls' High School, we are proud to offer a wide range of sporting opportunities for our students. Whether your daughter is trying something new or competing at a high level, sport plays an important role in building confidence, teamwork, and school pride.

We encourage all students to get involved and make the most of the opportunities available. To explore our full range of sports, fixtures, and updates, please visit our website.

## SPORT IS A PRIVILEGE

At Hastings Girls', we believe that academic achievement comes first. Participation in sport is a privilege, and all students are expected to attend school regularly, demonstrate a positive attitude, and commit to their learning.

Our sports programme is built on respect, integrity, and inclusion. We expect all players, coaches, managers, and supporters to uphold our school values and contribute positively to the experience of everyone involved.

## OUR EXPECTATIONS

Students representing Hastings Girls' High School are expected to:

- Maintain good attendance and be present at school on game days
- Attend trainings and communicate clearly with coaches if unavailable
- Demonstrate respectful behaviour on and off the field
- Meet their academic commitments
- Pay sports fees or have an agreed payment plan in place
- Return all sports uniforms promptly at the end of the season

Students who do not meet these expectations may have their participation in sport reviewed.



## COMMITMENT ACROSS SPORTS

Students may play more than one sport, provided they can fully commit to both. This includes attending all trainings, games, and key tournaments, with agreement from coaches and the Sports Coordinators.

## FEES AND PAYMENTS

We offer a range of flexible payment options to make participation accessible:

- Online payments via our secure system
- In-person payments at the school office (cash or EFTPOS)
- Automatic payments (recommended) to spread costs over time

If you need support setting up payments, please contact the school office.

## GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our Sports Team:

Finn Martin – Sports Coordinator  
[fma@hastingsgirls.com](mailto:fma@hastingsgirls.com)

Fale Matamata – Sports Coordinator  
[fjo@hastingsgirls.com](mailto:fjo@hastingsgirls.com)

Supporting every student to strive, participate, and succeed – on and off the field.

We encourage all students to get involved in sport, as being active supports wellbeing, builds teamwork and resilience, and helps create a strong sense of connection within our school community.

PLAY HARD, GROW STRONG, BELONG.



## NEW STAFF



**SUZY BAKER**  
HOD Performing Arts

I'm originally from the Taranaki and have lived all around the mōtu, joining you most recently from the Manawatū. I am a passionate and active musician, as well as a proud mum of two and step-mum to three. I am so excited to have landed here in beautiful Hawke's Bay to be closer to my own whānau and to soak up this famous warm weather! I have truly appreciated the warm welcome I've received to HGHS so far, and I can't wait for the adventure ahead as the Head of Department - Performing Arts.



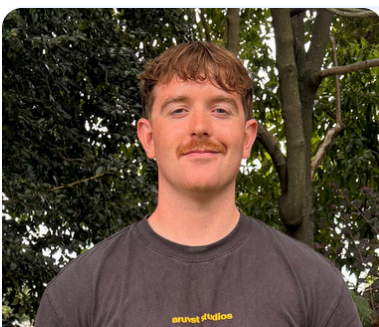
**TANIA MCKAY**  
Teacher Mathematics

I'm originally from Dannevirke and have just moved here from Palmerston North, where I was a teacher at Tararua College, to be closer to my partner. I'm already loving the Hawke's Bay weather! My journey started as a Primary Teacher, then I moved into Secondary English and Drama, but I'm now excited to be teaching Maths. My parents and one of my two brothers are all Math teachers, so I'm looking forward to finally joining the "family business".



**CYNTHIA FAMEITAU**  
Counsellor

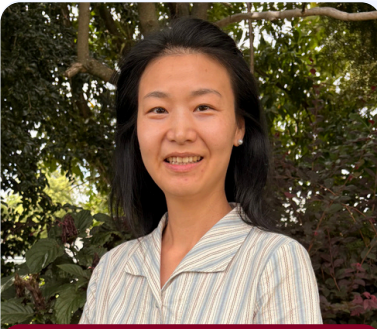
I'm excited to join the HGHS counselling team to complete my final semester of counselling studies. As a proud Samoan woman, I bring a heart for connection and a "safe-space" philosophy to my counselling practice. I am committed to supporting our young women as they build their own resilience and find their unique voices within our Kura. When I'm not in the office or studying, you'll likely find me on the Pickleball court! I'm a bit of a fanatic!



**JOSH CLIFTON**  
Teacher Aide

I'm originally from Hawke's Bay and have spent most of my life here. My family is from NZ and South Africa, and I'm grateful to have grown up here. I'm in my final year of a Master's degree in Sport, Exercise and Health, with a focus on athletic performance. I've worked in schools in NZ supporting students as a Teacher Aide and in strength and conditioning roles. I've also spent time overseas at a university in China, where I lectured in Sport Science.





**YUHAN LIU**  
Teacher Maths & Commerce

I'm excited to join HGHS as a new Mathematics/Commerce teacher. I moved to New Zealand with my family about 20 years ago and completed my university studies here before working for my family. My passion for education began when my daughter started school. I was surprised by how her confidence grew each day, which sparked my curiosity about the impact of teachers and teaching. This inspiration led me to pursue a career in education.



**KATE ELWORTHY**  
Learning Support Coordinator

I was born in India and have returned five times over the years. Travel has always been part of my story, including four years living and working in the United Arab Emirates. Growing up I spent my time in Te Whanganui-a-Tara/Wellington, and Tamaki Makaurau/Auckland, but Hawke's Bay is now home. I'm a proud mum of two sons and have one beautiful moko. Outside of school you'll find me in the garden. I'm passionate about permaculture and have been developing a food forest.



**Maeve Reid**  
Teacher English

Tēnei au he maramara o Rāhiri e mihi atu ana ki a koutou te whānau whānui o Ngā Rau Huia o Ākina! Ko Maeve Reid tōku inga. After starting my teaching career at Wellington High School, some time storytelling at Te Papa and a lot of storytelling at home with my tamariki, I'm enjoying being back in the English classroom here, hearing and sharing unique perspectives. Outside of my mahi I'll be missioning to the beach, in the op-shops or planning the next trip to visit whānau elsewhere in the motu.

## MEET THE DEANS

Our Deans play a vital role in supporting the wellbeing, attendance and overall success of our students. Each Dean works closely with their House, building strong relationships and helping students navigate both the opportunities and challenges of school life. We encourage whānau to contact your daughter's Dean directly if you have any questions or concerns, particularly around attendance or wellbeing. Whānau can also connect with their daughter's Ākina Coach, who works alongside the Deans to ensure every student is well supported.



**Mrs Kim Hokianga**  
BLUE HOUSE DEAN  
hk@hastingsgirls.com



**Ms Oriana Kershaw**  
GOLD HOUSE DEAN  
ke@hastingsgirls.com



**Mrs Abby Hall**  
GREEN HOUSE DEAN  
aha@hastingsgirls.com



**Mr Sam Robinson**  
PURPLE HOUSE DEAN  
sro@hastingsgirls.com

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

## CELEBRATING OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

It has been wonderful to see our international students thriving at Hastings Girls' High School. They have embraced the Kiwi lifestyle, built strong friendships, and become an integral part of our school community. From classroom learning to wider school life, they continue to contribute positively and bring valuable diversity to our kura.

This term has been full of memorable experiences. Our students had a fantastic time at the Regional International Student Games Day, connecting with others from across Hawke's Bay, and proudly represented our school at the Mayoral Welcome, where they were officially welcomed to the region. These opportunities help foster a sense of belonging and create lasting connections, both locally and globally.

We are also incredibly proud to have won the National Tokyo Global Friendship Programme competition, earning the opportunity to send a group of students to Japan. While the trip has been postponed due to rising travel costs, we are excited to still be planning for 2026. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students to immerse themselves in another culture and represent our school as global ambassadors.

At the heart of our programme is our amazing network of homestay families. We are always looking to grow this community and are currently seeking families interested in hosting, including short-term stays. If you would like to be part of this rewarding experience, or have questions about hosting, our August intake, or the Tokyo trip, please contact Jen Fugle at [international@hastingsgirls.com](mailto:international@hastingsgirls.com).



FIND YOUR PLACE

**OPEN EVENING**

**6 AUGUST**

5:30pm - 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.

**EXPLORE. CONNECT. BELONG.**

All Year 7 & 8 students and whānau welcome



508 Pākōwhai Road, Hastings