



1 DECEMBER 2023

# NAENAE COLLEGE

Hea rea here a ngā  
raumānuka e kore  
whawhati

Bind the multitudes of  
mānuka together and  
never be broken



**Kia whaka tōmuri te haere whakamua:  
'I walk backwards into the future with my eyes  
fixed on my past.'**

*Chris Taylor, Principal*

## Kia ora e Te Whānau

Our senior students have been busy studying for exams and finishing off any last pieces of work. The feedback from the staff who run our exam centre has been positive and there have been lots of comments about the kotahitanga our students have shown to the exam supervisors. The junior students have carried on with their mahi and have also shown kotahitanga working with staff and others to keep learning despite the temptation to 'ease up' that often happens at this stage of the year.

Next week, we have our Education Outside the Classroom activities. The purpose of these activities is to provide students with access to hands-on experiences that are not available inside the classroom. They offer unique and stimulating learning opportunities that support skills such as confidence, leadership, resilience, self-awareness, empathy and self-esteem. Activities on offer this year range from overnight camps, movies, day walks, mountain biking and fishing, as well as cultural experiences. I trust students will make the most of these opportunities and demonstrate what Te Whānau Tahī looks like to all those who come in contact with our community.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) and our staff have been focusing and planning for 2024. Our teacher-only day focused on changes required with new NCEA Level 1 requirements; the essence of these changes requires staff to consider how best to engage our students with the new NCEA Achievement Standards. The other main mahi being worked on by the BOT and staff has been improving attendance and raising classroom expectations. The evidence in education research (and what we know to be true) is that for students to be at their best, they need to attend classes regularly, and we need to expect them to arrive ready to learn. We here at Naenae believe that ALL students are capable of success and that the two key indicators of success are being present and having high expectations.

Another key work-on for us as a kura is our communication with home. I am aware that we can do better with many aspects of our communication, and to that end, we have purchased an application that we will roll out at the start of next year. This new app, "Schoolbridge", has a number of features that we think will help us improve our communications. These include:

- Report student absence from school via the app
- Allow access to the app, parent portal, forms, newsletters and information with one password
- This password will be using an existing service you may already have, such as Google, Microsoft, or Facebook sign-on.

Finally, have a great Christmas and New Year. I hope you all get a chance to reconnect with friends and whānau. I am looking forward to spending time with my whānau and some much-needed time relaxing in the sun. Here's hoping the Wellington weather will come to the party.

Ngā mihi

Chris Taylor  
Principal



Thank you to all whānau and friends who have come to our recent Sports Awards, Senior Prizegiving, and Senior Graduation evenings. We loved seeing all the love, care and support as we celebrated the successes and achievements of our young people! Below is a link to the official photos from these three evenings for you to be able to cherish for many years to come.

[https://www.pixs.co.nz/gallery-collection/Naenae-Prize-giving-2023/C0000ZO4zDm\\_2h7Y](https://www.pixs.co.nz/gallery-collection/Naenae-Prize-giving-2023/C0000ZO4zDm_2h7Y)

# 2024 Start of year information

- Monday 15 January 2024 - School office opens
- Monday 29 January 2024 - Years 11, 12 and 13 course confirmation, all senior students must attend
  - 9:00am Year 13
  - 10:00am Year 12
  - 1:00pm Year 11, surnames A-M, Mentors and Prefects Pōwhiri practice
  - 2:00pm Year 11, surnames N-Z
- Tuesday 30 January 2024 - Year 9 and students new to Naenae College only  
Pōwhiri for new students, senior Mentors in school
- Wednesday 31 January 2024 - All Year levels in school, normal start time.



## Term dates - 2024

Term 1 – Monday 29 January to Friday 12 April  
 Term 2 – Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July  
 Term 3 – Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September  
 Term 4 – Monday 14 October to Tuesday 10 December

### Public holidays 2024

6 February – Waitangi Day  
 29 March – Good Friday  
 1 April – Easter Monday  
 25 April – ANZAC Day  
 3 June – King's birthday  
 28 June – Matariki  
 28 October – Labour Day

**If your child is away from  
 school, please remember to  
 phone in on either:**

**04 5677175**

**or**

**0800 662 655**