



28 February 2026

NAENAE COLLEGE

He moana
pukepuke e
ekengia e te waka

A choppy sea can be
navigated by a waka

Kia ora e te whānau

We are well underway and into the 2026 year. It's been a busy and hectic start to the year, and this newsletter is no different. There is lots of information so please take the time to engage in all that's going on for our community.

The messaging to students, staff and you our community this year is around raising expectations. While we were carrying out our community, staff and student voice for the strategic plan last year, the underlying theme that came out was 'expectations'. The Kura's community message was we are "good, however we want to be great". This year marks the start of a new three-year strategic plan and the focus over that time is going to be on raising expectations.

It is important to note that research suggests that raising expectations is not just about being stricter and tougher on rule breakers. Instead, we need to focus on getting to know students and build trust first, through this we can then develop high expectations. Our mission is to:

"...be an exceptional school for our diverse community, where excellence is not defined by who you are, but by what you aspire to be. We are a beacon of opportunity, fostering an inclusive culture where every student is challenged to achieve their personal best and empowered to contribute as active citizens in our community and Aotearoa"

Chris Taylor, Principal

Save these dates!

- Friday 13 March: Tabloid Sports Day
- Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 March: Learning Conferences (early closure 12:30pm)
- Thursday 2 April: End of Term 1
- Monday 20 April: Start of Term 2
- Monday 27 April: ANZAC Day Observed, School Closed
- Friday 1 May: May Music Month starts
- Thursday 7 May: Pasifika NCEA Evening
- Thursday 14 May: Whānau NCEA Evening
- Wednesday 20 to Friday 22 May: CAA exams
- Monday 1 June: King's Birthday, School Closed
- Tuesday 2 June: Teacher Only Day.

Naenae College would like to thank Rosa and Ryan Wright, Wellington Free Ambulance, Embracing Hearts and Paparangi School for their support of our new community AED.



From Good to Great

Here are some excellent statistics that show we are good. However, we need to continue to strive for great.

 Regular Attendance

50%

Compared to 34% in Term 4, 2024



Chronic Absence 17%

Compared to 35% in Term 4, 2024

At the end of week three this term 537 students had been at school 100% of the time.

NCEA Literacy pass rate is 15% higher than previous year

NCEA Numeracy pass rate is 9% higher than previous year

NCEA Level 2 overall pass rate is 16% higher than previous year

NCEA Level 3 pass rates are above the pass rates for similar schools to our Kura.



Property from Good to Great



Sad day for our kura

Last Monday was a rough weather day for many in the motu and we were no exception. An emergency closure is never carried out lightly as student learning time is important. However, the road conditions, flooding in the library and classrooms, power issues and of course the damage to our trees made this an easy decision in the end. One of the saddest things was the loss of a couple of 50 plus year old trees. These photos show some of the damage we sustained, and many within our community will have memories associated with the trees. We are working our way through the complete removal of those trees and are sad to see this part of our history gone in such a tragic manner.



Lent/Ramadan/Chinese New Year

Library corner

Naenae College has a large, welcoming space for students to enjoy during their break times. We have board games, chess, colouring and cards available, plenty of popular new books to read, manga and graphic novels, as well as areas for studying, relaxing or chatting. Students are encouraged to borrow books from our collection, to come and chat to Kathy the Librarian about any new books they would like us to get.



Currently many within our community are taking part in significant cultural and religious events. Over a 24-hour period of 17/18 February all three events occurred, this was the first time since 1863 this had happened and will not happen again until 2189. One of our students pointed out to me that in the Lower Hutt over 35,000 people identify Christianity as their religion (according to Census 2023). Combined with the other events this is a significant time for many in our community.

Many religions have significant practices that can affect students throughout this time. Fasting, abstaining from various foods, giving up things of value for a period, and prayers are all part of significant practices during this time. We wish to honour these practices but please ensure you are letting us know if these are going to have an impact on students. If you want students to miss time from school, we ask that you follow normal attendance practise and let us know prior to the event. Under the Education Act we are legally responsible for students during the school hours and cannot release students for any appointments or events without parental consent. Please let the office or your students whānau teacher know prior to these appointments.

Attendance from Good to Great

We know that attendance at school and in class is important. The Ministry of Education launched a Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) programme last year and in 2026 it is mandatory that schools and school Boards of Trustees adopt this programme and merge it with their own Attendance Management Plan (AMP). Our AMP can be found on the college website.

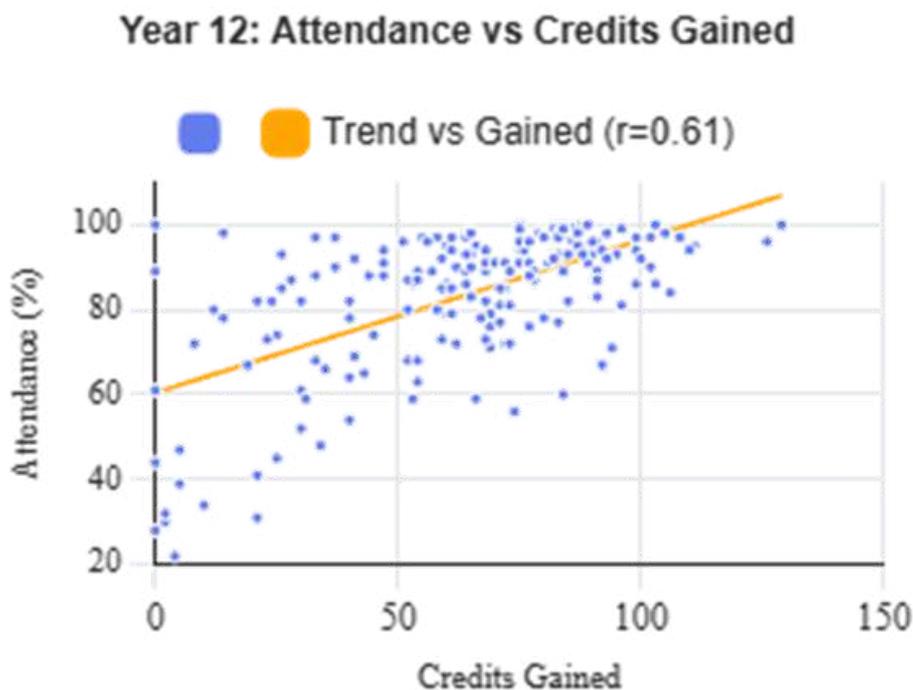
One of the key aspects of this programme is regular reporting to parents/caregivers so that school and home can identify potential bad habits early and respond before they become a more difficult obstacle to learning. Currently, we have various aspects of an AMP that are effective in this early identification such as using the SchoolBridge application to inform the college of absence, and daily text alerts if we don't hear from you as to why a student is not in school. Additionally, we are now going to send home, via email, a weekly attendance summary. This email will start at the end of week five this term (approx. 6 March). Please contact the school if you either don't get the email, or details in the email are incorrect so that we can alter those as required. In addition, we will be sending home emails (as part of the STAR, AMP) if students miss 5, 10, 15 or more days of school each term.

Please rest assured, we are not trying to make this process a compliance issue that is going to make parents/caregivers feel bad. These are early indicators to signal we want to work together to overcome barriers to attendance and therefore student learning outcomes.

“Education Counts research, produced in 2020, showed that someone who left school in 2009 with no qualifications and who did not get any in the next nine years was earning nearly 40 percent less than those who got NCEA level one or equivalent.

They were earning nearly half what people with a level two qualification earned, 80 percent of what people earned who had University Entrance, and about a third of what someone earned who went on to finish a degree”

The graph below shows what we know to be true. That is, students who attend more regularly get more consistent learning opportunities and therefore can be more successful, as our Year 12 students from last year can attest to.



Student wellbeing from Good to Great

Another area the feedback from last year's student, staff and parents' surveys for the strategic planning highlighted was student wellbeing. One of the questions raised from this survey was 'how do we know how students are feeling'? We have several ways to manage behaviour related issues but do not have enough data to make informed decisions about responses to student wellbeing.

Therefore, this year we are going to trial an online wellbeing student survey platform called Pulse Wellbeing. Initially this will only be for Year 9 and 12 students as a reference group within the kura. The pulse survey will be sent weekly to students and has two key parts. Part one is a question about how they are feeling and a request to speak to someone if they need to talk about anything. This request will be emailed to our Guidance team who will check in with the student and see what assistance they require. The second part is five wellbeing questions that are answered anonymously asking a variety of questions related to wellbeing within the kura. The Senior Leadership Team will review these answers and identify trends that we need to respond to. This will begin in week five of this term.



Afio Mai Evening

Our annual Afio Mai evening for our Pasifika community was held on Wednesday 18 February. During this evening our community was introduced to various key people around the school and recent changes which have taken place were explained. Our aiga were also kept up to date on the various initiatives we have in place to support our young Pasifika people grow and thrive both within Naenae College and in the wider community. Although our numbers were slightly down on last year, the passion from our community was huge. Parents voiced that they wanted to support our kura and their young person on their journey and the talanoa has begun reforming the Pasifika Parents Association. If you were unable to attend our evening and would like to be part of this, please contact Miss Katherine Stokes at kss@naenae-college.school.nz.

Prefect Camp

On Thursday 19 and Friday 20 February our prefects had their leadership camp. These two days were filled with non stop activities building their capabilities as leaders of the school and increasing their bond as a leadership team.

Activities included spending time with the Ignite Sport team, a wellbeing session with our Guidance team, ready steady cook team competition for our shared meal, an amazing race competition around Wellington, an inter whānau competition of tenpin bowling, and finishing with a fun but competitive game of laser strike. A massive thank you to all the staff who were involved in making this camp a rewarding and memorable experience for our prefects.



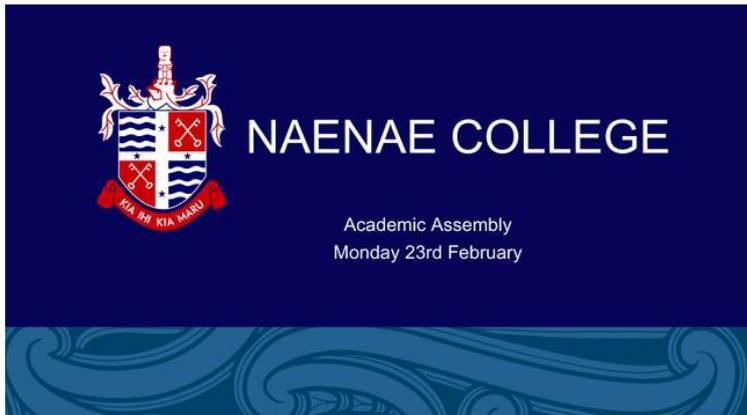
Academic Assembly

As well as celebrating our merit and excellent endorsement and sporting achievements, we also recognised and presented badges to our 2026 Student Leadership Team. This is a team of Year 12 and 13 students which includes 20 prefects, 28 student mentors, and 36 student leaders. This amazing team of 84 young leaders are responsible for the running of our six student run committees and our student council. They have already begun the year with a bang with their involvement in our Year 9 and new student pōwhiri, our Year 9 Welcome Evening, Afio Mai Evening, and prefect camp.



Xander has been selected for the NZ PAC Men U14 team to compete in the "Babe Ruth" World series in Texas in August this year.





Year 11 - NCEA Level 1 Merit Endorsement

Frankie Kopp	Emily Mellsop
Rhaf Mander	Jiro Lagrisola
Claire Shirley	Nat Parker
Bryan Tejano	Liam McKay
Amelia Shirley	Olive Vollebregt
Manaia Rongotaua-Walker	Sarah Welch
Jet Vailini	AJ Getahun
Ashley Thomas	Peter Dunford
Adam Mushet	Liam Palmer
Savea Rarua	Jeanie Bowbyes
	Rafael Bancajergan

Year 11 - NCEA Level 1 Excellence Endorsement

Anthony Varun
Manawa Hume-Cook

Year 12 - NCEA Level 2 Merit Endorsement

Liana Fecteau	Liam Paterson
Sereena Leuw	Helen Nansen
Naomi Lepine	Ella Nelson
Ezra Jeffrey	Phoebe Causer
Ben Hutchings	Isla Revell
Ankit Gounder	Mikayla Pullman
Kijiana Tuatoko	Manawaoho Ryall-Fleming
Jusuf Mirza	Lily Sang
Lisa Dinh	Jamila Aminudeen
Alisha Tailor	Ufimarie Mafoe
Mikaelah Coladilla	Hasnain Haider
Lyanne Metuli-Tuluauau	

Year 12 NCEA Level 2 Excellence Endorsement

Bishr Asfari
Mahia Campos-Pakarati
Sriram Ramaswamy
Miriam Beggs
Waiari Nohotima
Tamarau Nohotima

Year 13 NCEA Level 3 Merit & Excellence Endorsement

<u>Merit Endorsement</u>	<u>Excellence Endorsement</u>
Shyla Browne	Lucie Wright
Callum Sparey	Kamila Bafagih
Sundas Mohamud	Jasnoor Kaur
Samuel Barnes	
Bureyra Guled	
Alilia Tusa	
Jheanua Querubin	

2026 Prefects

Amo	Koruru
Kingston Dewes-Parahi	Bishr Asfari
Risha Nagaiya	Tamarau Nohotima
Danielle Page	Waiari Nohotima
Liam Patterson	Blessing Tafili
Celestine Sunia	Bailee Kepa

2026 Prefects

Maihi	Tokomanawa
Phoebe Causer	Maria Dunwoodie
Liana Fecteau	Ange Musonera
Hayden Mawby	Kijiana Tuatoko
Josiah Scott	Lyanne Tuluauau
Ankit Gounder	Ryan Wright

SchoolBridge App

Please download the SchoolBridge App to receive the latest news and communications from the College, register for sport and other extra curricular activities, advise us of absences, and book learning conferences.

The graphic features the Naenae College crest and name on the left. In the center, there is a QR code and instructions: 'Download Our App', 'Scan the QR Code to download. Or', and 'Search "schoolbridge" on your mobile AppStore or PlayStore.' Below these are buttons for 'Download on the App Store' and 'GET IT ON Google Play'. On the right, two smartphones display the app's interface, which includes sections for 'Naenae C', 'Coming Events', and 'View Full Calendar'. A small kiwi bird is positioned between the smartphones.

Once you have downloaded the app, you can sign in using your school account information. Please contact the school if you need help with your account details.

From Accounts:

For any school payments required during the year.

Payment options:

A. Eftpos/Cash - can be paid directly at Reception

B. Automatic/Online payment - Naenae College Board of Trustees Account number
02-0540-0044653-00

Please remember to put your child's name in the reference. You can make your payment in one lump sum or spread your payments by term, monthly or fortnightly with automatic payments.

Fundraising options are available to help pay your fees if required. Please see our accounts office for more information.

Term dates - 2026

Term 1 – Monday 2 February to Friday 2 April

Term 2 – Monday 20 April to Friday 3 July

Term 3 – Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

Term 4 – Monday 12 October to Monday 14 December

Public holidays 2026

6 February – Waitangi Day

3 April – Good Friday

6 April – Easter Monday

25 April – ANZAC Day (observed Monday 27 April)

1 June – King's birthday

10 July – Matariki

26 October – Labour Day

**If your child is away from school,
please advise us via the
SchoolBridge App (absences) or
call Student Services on
04 5677175 or 0800 662 655**