



WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Te Kura Tuarua o Taraika ki Pukeahu

PRINCIPAL: Dominic Killalea BA Dip Ed

December 2024

Kia ora whānau and caregivers,

Nau mai, haere mai, a warm welcome to you and thank you for entrusting your rangatahi to our care for the next five years. We are confident that your child will thrive during their time at Wellington High School. This letter contains some information regarding the start of the 2025 school year.

Here is a quick overview of your student's first week at Wellington High School:

Wednesday 29 January – Pōwhiri for Year 9 students and their whānau followed by Year 9 orientation

Thursday 30 January – Year 9 orientation

Friday 1 February – Year 9 full timetable

Below is detailed information about the first week:

Day 1: Wednesday 29 January: Pōwhiri for Year 9 students and their whānau followed by Year 9 Orientation. You will receive more information about this in January.

What to bring:

- Students should bring a pen, an exercise book, their BYOD/computer
- The cafeteria will be open from 29 January if students prefer not to bring their own lunch
- Students may be involved in an outdoor activity in the afternoon and should bring sneakers, comfortable clothing, a hat and a drink bottle.

Day 2: Thursday 30 January: Year 9 Orientation. Start 8.45am finishes 3.20pm (normal school hours)

Our Year 9 orientation programme is designed to give our ākonga the opportunity to create new connections with peers and to get to know our kura. Students will get a copy of their personalised timetable, will be introduced to the Year 13 peer support leaders and will learn about key places and processes at WHS.

What to bring:

- Students should bring a pen, an exercise book, their BYOD/computer
- Students may be involved in an outdoor activity in the afternoon and should bring sneakers, comfortable clothing, a hat and a drink bottle.

Day 3: Friday 31 January: Year 9 full timetable. Start 8.45am, finish 3.20pm.

- Students should bring a pen, an exercise book, their BYOD/computer.

Other key dates in Term 1

Thursday 6 February - Waitangi Day Holiday (school closed)

Thursday 13 and Friday 14 February - school photos

Thursday 20 February - Rā Aroha - sports and clubs sign up (in class time)

Monday 24 February - Athletics Carnival

Rā whakawhanaungatanga / camp: In weeks 1-3 of Term 1, each Year 9 class will spend three days and two nights outside the classroom participating in activities together at El Rancho. This is an opportunity to build new connections with peers and kaiako / teachers. Please note that it is expected that all Year 9 students will attend and participate. We aim to make this experience accessible for all students/whānau, and payment options/financial assistance is available if required. Please get in touch with year9deans-2025@whs.school.nz if you'd like to discuss any of this in more detail.

Term dates & calendar:

Full term dates for 2025 can be found on our website: <https://www.whs.school.nz/term-dates/>

View the full calendar at: <https://www.whs.school.nz/whs-calendar/>

School Bus information: There are some school buses to Wellington High School. We recommend that you look at the Metlink website www.metlink.org.nz to find out the best route. Buses are under the jurisdiction of Metlink.

BYOD/Computers: You may have already purchased a BYOD/computer for your student. If not, there are several ways you can buy a device. We recommend a Chromebook for use in Year 9 and Year 10. More information can also be found at: <https://www.whs.school.nz/byod-recommendations/>.

Whānau who have indicated that they may require a loan device from the school for their rangatahi will be contacted by us via email on or before 13 December. If you haven't been contacted about financial assistance but would like to, send us an email: year9deans-2025@whs.school.nz.

Promoting WHS values of Whānau and Excellence: To promote our school values of Whānau and Excellence we want to create more time for students to build relationships with their peers/teachers and to have more focus on learning. This means, students' mobile phones and ear buds must be in the student's school bag during class time. There are noted exceptions for individual learners with assistive technology needs and some specific learning activities. Whānau are asked not to text or phone students during class time and in an emergency they should contact Student Services.

Communication: A lot of our communication is by email. Please let us know if your email address changes. For full information on the ways we communicate with home, see this link on the school website <https://www.whs.school.nz/communications-with-whs/>. You can get specific information about your young person from the parent portal on our website. The login details for this will be sent out early in Term 1, 2025.

Music lessons: You can sign your student up for instrumental lessons at the following link: <https://forms.gle/ZYJrL9E2L28YpCCu9>

Sports registration: Sign up for sports in 2025 at sporty.co.nz/whs. Our Sports Department recommends early registration to ensure that you don't miss out on information at the start of Term 1.

Science & Mathematics: Both Science and Mathematics use online platforms to support students' learning. In order to purchase a subscription to these platforms, we need to ask students for a voluntary contribution of \$24 for the year for Stile (Science) and \$25 for Education Perfect (Mathematics). See the Payments information below for details of how to pay.

Invoices: Wellington High School asks for a general donation towards the running costs of the school as well as donations to cover activities, materials, teacher aides and other aspects of the Year 9 programme. Invoices will be sent to you during the year. Student Services office staff and deans are happy to discuss payment options with you. There may be other ways in which we can support you. Please discuss this with the deans via email: year9deans-2025@whs.school.nz.

Payments: You will be able to make payments online for your student from 21 January 2025.

Internet banking: Include the student's name and a reference e.g. 'Stile' or 'Donation' in the details. Bank account ASB bank 12-3141-0212924-00. Please ensure that the payee name is Wellington High School and Com Ed Centre.

Credit card: You can also pay by credit card by phoning Terese on 04-385 8911 extension 872 between 9am-3pm.

In person: If paying in person at Student Services EFTPOS is available and cash payments (exact money preferred) are also accepted. Phone and in person payments at Student Services will be possible from 29 January 2025.

Absences:

Daily absences can be reported through the app, by email (absences@whs.school.nz) or by phoning the absences line 043858911 ext 873.

Requests for exceptional leave (planned but not medical), must be made to the Principal (admin@whs.school.nz).

Stationery: Visit the <https://www.whs.school.nz/stationery-list/> for student stationery requirements. You can purchase stationery from [Office Max](#), [Qizzle](#) and [Warehouse Stationery](#).

Lockers: Lockers are not compulsory but are available for Year 9 students for \$10 for the year. On receipt of payment (which can be made in person using an EFTPOS card, or via online banking) students will be assigned a locker and will be given a combination lock. Students will be given the opportunity to sign up for lockers during the orientation programme on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 January.

ID cards: ID photos are taken during the first week of school, and a standard ID will cost \$10. A Snapper loaded ID card is \$25. Students can use their ID card with the school photocopiers.

Student Services: Located in Main Block Level 5, near reception, Student Services take care of much of the administration of the school. Student Services will be open for parents and caregivers from 9.30-2.30pm from 29 January. Further details of term-time opening hours can be found on the school's website.

Cafeteria: The cafeteria will be open from Wednesday 29 January.

We look forward to working with you and your student, and to seeing you at the pōwhiri on Tuesday 29 January. In the new year, we will be available to answer any queries you may have from Tuesday 21 January 2025 via email or telephone.

Ngā mihi nui,
Tina Stolze & Jed Shepherd
Year 9 Deans
Email: Year9deans-2025@whs.school.nz

Attached to this letter:
- Junior Whānau Guide