



UPCOMING events

*Nga Takahanga Ka
Haere Mai*

Parent Teacher
Conference Evenings -
*Thursday 7 May and
Tuesday 12 May*

Cross Country -
Friday 15 May

Board Meeting -
Tuesday 26 May

**TERM 2, 2026
CALENDAR ON
BACK PAGE**



**Rūaumoko
Red House**

**Rūaumoko (also known as
Rūamoko) is the god of
earthquakes, volcanoes and
seasons. He is the youngest
son of Ranginui (the Sky
father) and Papatūānuku (the
Earth mother) (commonly
called Rangi and Papa).**

Anzac Day Parade - Page 5

Koorero a te Tumuaki The Principal speaks:

Teena koutou katoa,

I would like to sincerely thank our school community - our staff, students, whaanau, and wider community, for the warm welcome I have received as the new Principal of Tuakau College. I feel both privileged and honoured to be part of this kura.

From the moment I arrived, it has been clear that this is a school grounded in strong relationships, respect, and a deep sense of community. Thank you for the kindness, support, and openness you have shown.

As I shared at my poowhiri, I am committed to ensuring our school is a place where every young person feels safe, valued, and a strong sense of belonging.

I believe in high expectations alongside strong support – and in working together to ensure all our students can succeed and thrive. I look forward to strengthening relationships and working in partnership with you to deliver the very best for each of our akonga.

Welcome back to all our students after the Term One holidays. I hope you are all ready for another action-packed term. It's a short term but there is a lot on! CONTINUED INSIDE. . .



Koorero a te Tumuaki Haere tonu The Principal speaks continued:

... In a couple of weeks we have our Cross Country day and we look forward to seeing our students participate to earn valuable points for their house - these points may make all the difference at the end of the year!

On Thursday 7 May and Tuesday 12 May we have Parent Teacher Conferences. We look forward to meeting with you and discussing your child's progress and the continued plan for success. All are welcome, including students. An email has already been sent out to parents/caregivers regarding the booking process for this through SchoolBridge (<https://tuakau.bridge.school.nz/>). **Please note that school will finish at 1pm on Thursday 7 May and Tuesday 12 May. School buses have been arranged to pick students up at 1pm on both these dates.** All interviews are held in the school Gym on these dates from 2pm to 5pm, and 5:30pm to 7pm. Please note that staff will be unavailable from 5pm to 5:30pm for a dinner break. If you are unsure of where to go a school map can be found on our website (<https://www.tuakaucollege.com/key-information>). If you have any queries about the Parent Teacher Conferences please email Mrs Hemana (Deputy Principal) on k.hemana@tuakaucollege.com

All the best to the winter sports teams that are kicking off their seasons shortly! We wish all our students representing the school the very best! A friendly reminder about school sports conduct and how we expect our students and spectators to behave and fair play. Students are representing our school in school uniform kit and therefore we expect a good behaviour and sportsmanship in every aspect of the sport - whether it be games, trainings, travelling to trainings, etc.

Another friendly reminder that when games are held on school grounds the school rules still apply to everyone on the grounds and therefore this means no smoking/vaping, no dogs or animals on site, etc. We love to see whaanau there supporting our students and encouraging them and we know it means the world to your children when you are there watching them. They are however, only children, and so we ask that spectators are considerate of this and kind and respectful.

We say a massive thank you to all those who volunteer as referees/umpires for sports as we know that games cannot go ahead without them and we ask that students and spectators alike are respectful of them also. Thank you also to the parents/caregivers/members of community that step up and dedicate their time for our students as coaches, managers, etc. Thank you so much for this as it couldn't happen without you!

We look forward to another busy term. Students should be building on their work from Term 1 and ensuring they have a sound homework program in place. Ka kite ano!

Whaea Donna (Tumuaki/Principal)



NGĀKAU TĀPATAHI INTEGRITY

Kaua e takahia
te mana o te tāngata.
Do not trample
on the mana of
the people.

In Term Two we focus on 'Ngākau Tapatahi - Integrity.'

Having integrity means that you live in accordance to your deepest values, you're honest with everyone, and you always keep your word.

Integrity is a highly valued trait, especially in good leaders.

Integrity often means refraining from sharing secrets with others, avoiding gossiping about others, following through on promises you make and admitting when you are wrong.

Let's all do our best to show integrity in everything we do this term!

VISION:

Ka whakarite kareti o Tuakau i ngā ākonga kia whai tōna e tōminā nei, kia kōanga tonu tana kete mātauranga. Tuakau College prepares students for life through a quality education promoting excellence in all things.

TUAKAU COLLEGE

STRATEGIC GOALS - TUAKAU COLLEGE WILL:

Whakawhānui i ngā whai wāhitanga te angitūtanga o ngā ākonga.

Maximise opportunities for student achievement.

Me ārahi i ngā whanaketanga o te rohe o te Ao hurihuri.

Lead local developments in a continuously changing world.

Kia moho hei manawa o te hapori kia hiahia te katoa.

Be the heart of the community where everyone wants to be.

MANAAKI, AROHA + WHAKAUTE
CARING, LOVE + RESPECT

He aha te mea nui o te Ao?
He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata.
What is the most important thing in the world?
It is people, it is people, it is people.

NGĀKAU TĀPATAHI
INTEGRITY

Kaua e takahia te mana o te tāngata. Do not trample on the mana of the people.

Ū TONUTANGA
PERSEVERANCE

Kaua e mate wheke mate mangōpare. Don't give up like an octopus but fight like a hammerhead shark.

TINO PAI RAWA
EXCELLENCE

Pai rawa atu i ngā mea katoa. The very best in all things.

TUAKAU COLLEGE

Waka Ama Nationals 2026
Waka Ama Nationals 2026



Tuakau College was represented by 20 students at the Secondary Schools Waka Ama Nationals at Lake Tikitapu (Rotorua) this year! Our teams were accommodated at Mātaatua Marae with aroha and manaakitanga. Noo maatou te waimaarie, noo maatou te whiwhi.

Day One saw Kingdom Tāne compete in the U19 Boys W1 250m sprint (Heat 1 of 4), alongside 37 paddlers. He placed 8th with a time of 1:17.86, qualifying for one of two Te Ihu semi-finals. Day One also featured the U19 Boys W12 250m sprint. Our two crews, Puaha and Wahapū, combined to represent the college and successfully progressed through to the semi-finals.

Day Two saw Kingdom continue on to his Te Ihu semi final finishing 9th, beating his previous time with 1:15.33 and while he did not progress to the Final, this result placed Kingdom among the top 24 for U19 paddlers in Aotearoa! We are extremely proud of his efforts and look forward to supporting him as he prepares for the Waka Ama 2026 World Sprint Championship in Singapore later this August! Day Two also saw the U19 Boys W12 crew race strongly in their 250m semi-finals, earning a place in a Te Ihu Final. They recorded the 9th fastest time overall and from 3rd place on placings were decided by split seconds. Unfortunately, the boys were disqualified with a fault at the start line. With only three Year 13 paddlers (Kiritāhanga, Tipene, and Rokena) who will be departing this year, the future remains bright. Coach Mahaki and the team will no doubt build on this momentum over the winter season! In the W6 250m sprints (7 heats, approximately 84 crews), Kingdom joined the Wahapū crew, who placed 3rd in their heat with a time of 1:02.52. Our Puaha crew progressed through to a Te Takere semi-final, as well as our U19 Girls crew, Ōruarangi.

Day Three was the 500m Turns and all three of our teams completed their races successfully and delivered skilfully timed turns. Wahapū won their heat - an outstanding result! All crews had to treat this as a final due to weather conditions cancelling Thursday and Friday racing. The last of progressions for the 250m events saw the U19 Girls Ōruarangi reach their Te Takere Final, where they placed 6th. This is a strong result and with only one paddler, Liyah Purdon, in Year 13 it leaves the remaining crew (all U16) in a promising position for 2027. The Puaha crew finished 9th in their Te Takere Final (1:06.29), narrowly behind Pukekohe (1:06.22). Wahapū reached the Te Ihu Semi Final, placing 7th, but were impacted by a lane infringement at the finish line.

All of our kaihoe demonstrated excellent preparation and commitment, building on their club experience and transitioning strongly into Secondary School Nationals! A huge mihi to Coach Mahaki and Coach Marley for their dedication and leadership with their crews, and also to Whaea Ani for all the behind the scenes organisation and administration too. Another very positive outcome were all the schools in our rohe doing very well in their races, and progressions. Onewhero, Pukekohe HS and Tipene used the same space down at the awa and waka to train in, our kura already had strong connections and with Waiuku joining in on our Race Simulation Day 2 weeks prior to Nationals, there was definitely whanaungatanga and manaaki being shown by all our students!

Appreciation and aroha must go to our local Māori community organisations such as Huakina Development Trust, Raukura Hauora o Tainui and Waikato-Tainui for all their support and aawhina who helped make the week as stress-free as possible! We look forward to growing participation, particularly encouraging more U16 paddlers next year, and we are excited to see the ongoing development of our talented U19 paddlers in 2027!



Principal's Poowhiri *Te Poowhiri Tumuaki*

On the first day of Term 2 we had a poowhiri to welcome our new Tumuaki (Principal), Donna Tupaea, to our kura. Donna brings a wealth of educational and leadership experience to the role, having served as Team Manager of Change and Implementation at the Ministry of Education (Waikato), Acting Principal at Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate Senior School and has held Deputy Principal roles at Alfriston College and Pukekohe High School! She is highly qualified with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, a Master of Maaori Visual Art and a Master of Professional Studies in Education with First Class Honours!

Proud of her Ngaati Tiipa, Ngaati Pikiiao and Samoan whakapapa, Donna brings with her a deep sense of identity, connection and commitment to serving our community! Outside of education she finds joy in creative pursuits, spending time in her garden and spending time with family and friends.

Donna is excited about the opportunity to lead Tuakau College into the future! She looks forward to bringing her skills and expertise to benefit the community and to guide the school through an exciting phase of growth, innovation and opportunity!



ANZAC Day 2026
Ra ANZAC 2026



Our Head Students, along with other students from our school, represented our our school at the Tuakau ANZAC Day Parade on Saturday 25 April, 2025. They represented our school with pride and did a fantastic job speaking on behalf of the school. *We remember them, we will remember them. Lest we forget.*



<p>VISION: Ka whakarite kareti o Tuakau i ngā ākonga kia whai tāna e tōmira nei, kia kōwhiri tonu tana kete mātauranga. Tuakau College prepares students for life through a quality education promoting excellence in all things.</p>	<p>STRATEGIC GOALS - TUAKAU COLLEGE WILL:</p>		<p>MAHAKAHI, AROHA + WHAKAUTE CARING, LOVE + RESPECT He aha te mea nui o te Ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata. What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.</p>	<p>NGĀKAU TAPATAHI INTEGRITY Kaua e takahia te mana o te tāngata. Do not trample on the mana of the people.</p>	<p>Ō JONUBANIDA PERSEVERANCE Kaua e mate wheko mate mangōpara. Don't give up like an octopus but fight like a hammerhead shark.</p>	<p>TINO PAI RAWA EXCELLENCE Pai rawa atu i ngā mees katoa. The very best in all things.</p>
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Sulize showcases talent on national stage
Ka whakaatu a Sulize i nga pukenga ki runga i te atamira o te motu

Over the first week of the holidays, Sulize represented Pukekohe Swimming Club at the National Age Group Swimming Championships (NAGS) held in Hawke's Bay.

Across the competition, she achieved two Top 10 finishes in New Zealand, showcasing her talent on the national stage.

Top 10 New Zealand placings:

- 50 Breaststroke - 6th
- 100 Breaststroke - 5th

Attendance update - Working together for success Whakahoutanga o te hunga tae atu - Mahi tahi kia angitu

Regular attendance at school has a direct and significant impact on student achievement. Quite simply; the more students are present and engaged in learning, the greater their opportunity to succeed.

The Government has set a clear national priority to improve school attendance, with a target that by 2030, 80% of students are attending school regularly (defined as attending more than 90% of the time). This is an ambitious goal, and it will require a collective effort from our school, students, and whaanau.

For Term 1, our school's regular attendance rate was approximately 54%, compared to 51% in Term 1, 2025. While this reflects a slight improvement, it also highlights that there is still important work ahead of us as a school community.

As part of our monitoring and reporting requirements to the Ministry of Education, the school sends automated attendance letters when students reach certain thresholds of unjustified absence:

- 5 days
- 10 days
- 15 days

Recently, we have received a few queries from whaanau asking why a letter was issued when an absence had been explained. This usually relates to how absences are coded within the national system.

To provide clarity, below is a simplified guide. You can access further information from the Ministry of Education website.

Definitions

Presence

A student is **present** if they;

- P** are physically **present in class**,
- L** arrive **late to class** within school/kura determined thresholds,
- A** are physically present in **alternative provision**,
- V** are engaged in onsite **exams or study**,
- N** are **temporarily out of class** either **at school**,
- D** or in an **appointment**,
- O** or are engaged in **Board approved learning offsite**.

Justified absence

A student is **justifiably absent** if they;

- M** are **ill/unwell**,
- U** have been formally **stood down or suspended**,
- X** are engaged in offsite **study for exams**,
- J** or the school principal has **approved their absence**.

Unjustified absence

A student is **unjustifiably absent** if;

- ?** the reason for the absence is **not yet known**,
- T** they are absent **without parent/caregiver permission**,
- G** they are taking a **holiday during term time**,
- E** or their absence is **explained but not approved** by the principal.



It's important to note that not all explanations automatically meet the criteria for a justified absence under Ministry guidelines, which can sometimes lead to confusion.

If you are ever unsure, we encourage you to contact the school early so we can work together to ensure attendance is recorded accurately and support is provided where needed.

When we work together - the school, our whaanau, and community, we create the conditions for our young people to succeed. Regular attendance is one of the strongest foundations we can give them, and together, we can make a real difference.

Franklin Schools' Career Expo

Over 65 tertiary providers
and local businesses

- Explore further study
- Training options
- Apprenticeships
- Work opportunities

A
Community
Event

All Welcome

Proudly supported by
**Franklin
Local Board**
Auckland Council 



> @franklinschoolscareersexpo

PIA Events Centre
Ward Street, Pukekohe
Thursday 30 April, 2026
5:30pm - 7:30pm



Market Day
Ra Market



Come along and support our young entrepreneurs in action at our Junior College Market Day on Friday 1 May, 2026! There will be food, fun games, art/craft and entertainment. From 1:00pm - 2:30pm in D Block at Tuakau College. For more information contact Mrs Walia on p.walia@tuakaucollege.com

No access to school through farm/private property
Karekau he urunga ki te kura ma te paamu/nga rawa ake

Please note that the farm paddocks have a new fence and students will not be able to access the school using the paddocks as a shortcut. All students who walk to or from school must use public footpaths on Elizabeth Street.



Collecting students from school during the day
Te kohikohi i nga akonga mai i te kura i te ra



A friendly reminder that if parents/caregivers want to collect their child/children from school during a break time we are usually unable to locate them during the break time, due to them not being in a timetabled classroom at that time. If you need to collect your child/children from school during a break time please phone the school to notify us of that prior to the break time starting. That way we can get a message sent to your child/children about this before they leave their classroom and they know when to come to the Student Centre to be collected. We appreciate your understanding.

for Term 2 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Day 4 20 APR Term 2 Starts	Day 5 21	Day 6 22	Day 1 23	Day 2 24	25	26
27 ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)	Day 3 28 Board Meeting	Day 4 29	Day 5 30 Franklin Schools Career Expo	Day 6 1 MAY Market Day	2	3
Day 1 4	Day 2 5 8R Puutaiao	Day 3 6 11COM Trip	Day 4 7 11OUT Trip Parent Teacher Interviews	Day 5 8 11OUT Trip 12AHS Trip	9	10
Day 6 11	Day 1 12 Kura Waitii Programme Parent Teacher Interviews	Day 2 13 11OUT Trip	Day 3 14 11OUT Trip	Day 4 15 Cross Country	16	17
Day 5 18	Day 6 19	Day 1 20 CAA Exams	Day 2 21 CAA Exams	Day 3 22 CAA Exams	23	24
Day 4 25	Day 5 26 Board Meeting	Day 6 27 13OUT Trip	Day 1 28 13OUT Trip	Day 2 29 13OUT Trip	30	31
1 Kings Birthday (Public Holiday)	Day 3 2 Samoan Language Week	Day 4 3 12OUT Trip Samoan Language Week	Day 5 4 12OUT Trip Samoan Language Week	Day 6 5 Samoan Language Week	6	7
Day 1 8	Day 2 9	Day 3 10	Day 4 11 12OUT Trip	Day 5 12 11AHS Trip 12OUT Trip	13	14 School Ball
Day 6 15 Pride Week	Day 1 16 Team/Group Photo Day Pride Week	Day 2 17 Pride Week	Day 3 18 Tough Guy/Gal Pride Week	Day 4 19 Pride Week	20	21
Day 5 22	Day 6 23	Day 1 24	Day 2 25	26 Staff Only Day	27	28
Day 3 29 12OUT Trip	Day 4 30 12OUT Trip Board Meeting	Day 5 1 JULY	Day 6 2 Matariki Celebration Evening	Day 1 3 Term 2 Ends	4	5