

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kaupapa ka whai ake

Term 1 Ends -
Thursday 2 April

Term 2 Begins -
Monday 20 April

ANZAC Day -
Monday 27 April

Board Meeting -
Tuesday 28 April

Franklin Schools
 Career Expo -
Thursday 30 April

Market Day -
Friday 1 May

Cross Country -
Friday 15 May

CAA Exams -
*Wednesday 20 May to
 Friday 22 May*

Kings Birthday
 (Public Holiday) -
Monday 1 June

**SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR
 AN INDICATIVE TERM 2
 CALENDAR FOR 2026**



**In Māori mythology,
 Tāwhirimātea is the god of
 weather, including
 thunder and lightning,
 wind, clouds and storms.**

Principal's Farewell

Photos inside!



Koorero a te Tumuaki **The Principal speaks:**

Kia ora koutou katoa. Ngaa mihi kia kotou katoa! As we approach the end of Term 1, I want to address the recent incident at our school. While distressing, last Thursday's event does not define who we are at Tuakau College. First, I want to thank our community for the overwhelming response and support shown to the College and the teacher involved. He is currently recovering with the full backing of his whaanau and the school. While his path to recovery will take time, we are committed to supporting him, every step of the way, as he eventually transitions back to the classroom.

Our staff and students have been affected by what has happened. We are currently working with groups of students to ensure they are okay as well. An incident like this has a ripple effect on the students, staff and parents and caregivers in the school community.

This was an unprecedented event. The Tuakau College Board is treating this matter with the highest level of seriousness. As a school, what happened was totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated under any circumstance. The student involved is facing the most serious consequences possible the Board can give, and the Police are heavily involved in the ongoing investigation. We ask for your patience while the Board and authorities complete their work. Please refrain from using social media to discuss the matter, as it is not helpful or the appropriate platform. The Board is adamant that students should not be bringing any kind of weapon to school under any circumstance. If they do then a serious consequence will occur. CONTINUED INSIDE. . .

'THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKS' CONTINUED. . .

. . . Finally, the wellbeing of the staff and students remains our priority. We have an excellent Guidance network available for anyone impacted by these events. We ask parents to stay vigilant and reach out to us if your child needs further support.

It is the end of Term 1 and Thursday is the end of school but it is also Easter Weekend. This is a time for students and whaanau to have family time, eat chocolate and hot cross buns and enjoy each other's company. For most people, Easter is a blend of religious significance and cultural traditions. While its roots are deeply Christian, it has evolved into a widely celebrated secular holiday focused on family and new life. In the Southern hemisphere it is about Autumn, finishing of day light saving and the months leading us into Matariki – the Maaori new year.

For Christians, Easter is the most important festival in the religious calendar. It celebrates the belief that Jesus Christ rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion.

This event signifies a 'new start.' For non-religious people, or those who celebrate both aspects, Easter is often about new life. It is a major occasion for families to get together for festive meals, which include chocolate easter eggs, chickens and rabbits. Tuakau College wishes you all a happy joyous Easter.

We are into the final weeks of Term 1 and before we know it, we will be starting Term 2! A massive well done to the students that represented our kura at the Waka Ama Nationals in Rotorua last week! They achieved some spectacular results and we have received positive feedback about representing our school well.

Next term our winter sports codes will kick off and we wish all our students representing the school in these the very best! In this e-Bulletin is information around sports, how we expect our students and spectators to behave and fair play. Please make sure you read this and adhere to it.

A massive thank you to those who have volunteered as coaches and managers this year. Our sports teams can't happen without your time, dedication and effort and we greatly appreciate it. As the school grows and we have more students we have more sports teams and need more volunteer coaches/managers to make these teams a reality.

If this is something you think you might be interested in please email the Sports Co-ordinator on a.taua@tuakaucollege.com or keep this in mind for the start of next year when we call for coaches/managers volunteers.

End of term 1 is also my last days as Principal of Tuakau College. I have been associated with the College since 1984. I was a young teacher, during the 80's and eventually I was privileged and honoured to come back as the Principal in 2004.

I have been involved with Tuakau College and the Tuakau Community for over 40 years. I am humbled by the words being said as I leave. I want to wholeheartedly thank the Tuakau Community, the staff and the students for my time as Principal. Ngaa mihi kia koutou katoa.

Tuakau College will always be part of my life and as I move to retirement I can honestly say that it is in good hands for the next part of the journey with the massive changes in the qualifications and curricular structures. I want to wish everyone the best form the future and I do want to support the College as much as I can from retirement. I hope to come in and do some day to day relief from the middle of next term.

Maa te huruhuru ka rere te manu - With feathers the birds will fly."

This school is empowered and has the necessary resources-human and physical to build the future required for success.

Ka kite ano! *Mr Chris Betty (Tumuaki/Principal)*



Swimming Tabloids 2026
Ripa Kauhoe 2026



On Friday 27 February we had our Swimming Tabloids and this was a fun event with plenty of house spirit! Students competed in the plank race, underwater treasure hunt, house scramble, relays and more to try and earn points for their house! Congratulations to Tane Mahuta who won with 300 points! Tawhirimatea placed second with 275 points, Ruaumoko placed third with 175 points and Tangaroa placed fourth with 110 points.



Endorsement Assembly Huihuinga Whakamana



On Thursday 12 March we celebrated our students that received Endorsements in NZQA in 2025 at an Endorsement Assembly! An outstanding effort from these students and great role models for our younger students to look up to! To see more photos please visit the Tuakau College Facebook page.



VISION:

Ka whakarite kareti o Tuakau i ngā ākonga kia whai tāna 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 angitātanga 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 noho 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 TAPĀTAHI
INTEGRITY

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

Ū TONUITANGA
PERSEVERANCE

Kāua 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

No access to farm next to school Karekau he urunga ki te paamu i te taha o te kura



A friendly reminder that all students who walk to or from school **MUST** use public footpaths. **DO NOT** cut through private property (including farms surrounding the school) as it is a health and safety issue and you are **trespassing**. If owners of private property see you trespassing they are within their rights to report it to the Police and trespass you.

The farmer has advised that students are walking through paddocks and leaving gates open and their stock/cattle are moving into paddocks they aren't meant to be in, which is unacceptable. No students are to cut through the farm next to the school.

Principal's Farewells *Nga Poroporoaki a te Tumuaki*

On Wednesday 25 March we held a community farewell for Chris Betty, Principal. It was a lovely evening celebrating 21 years of Chris as Principal. Following this we had a staff farewell for Chris on Friday afternoon and our student farewell for Chris will be held on Thursday 2 April!



MHSTA Students *MHSTA nga akonga*

Recently our MHSTA students have been working with Alfriston College as collaborative team members! One of the teams worked on erecting and disassembling scaffolding. They learnt to base out their initial bays and once it was levelled they began erecting the scaffolding, using the clip-in module system to connect it together. Locking in each bay by placing walking platforms within each bay - helping to make the build safe, sturdy and secure. Another of the teams worked at placing building wrap onto the bones of the building - stapling the wrap to the exterior wall frames. Part of this process the students needed to remove some of the window frames and once these had been wrapped, they taped down the window space and then installed the window frames again. Our third group had a couple of the boys complete their hand and power tool induction and will join our working groups onsite next week. Both schools are developing an awesome working relationship built upon mutual respect!



Sports and Fair Play *Taakaro me te takaro tika*

Next term our winter sports codes will kick off and we wish all our students representing the school in these the very best! It makes us proud to see our students working in a team and collaborating while supporting each other to get the results they desire. A friendly reminder that 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!

Earlier this month a Sports Handbook was emailed out to all parents/caregivers and we ask that you please read over this with your students so that they are aware of the schools expectations around sport. As stated in this handbook, it is expected that students will:

- Attend all timetabled classes.
- **Must have 85% attendance at school.**
- **Expected to have no more than 5% unjustified absences.**
- Meet homework and assessment deadlines.
- Wear the uniform correctly, at all times.
- Attend all practices/trainings and communicate with the adult in charge if unable to attend.
- Follow the Fair Play Rules, if playing sport.
- Pay for the activity (or make arrangements for regular payments) before the activity begins unless otherwise stated.
- Understand that curriculum work and school detentions take priority over extra-curricular activities.
- If a student is suspended or stood-down from school then they may not participate in the school activity and/or practice during the suspension and stand-down time. Discussion will be had regarding future participation at the return meeting with senior management.

By following the above criteria students can enjoy activities and be successful in all areas of their education. In cases where students do not meet the above standards, a student may be withdrawn from an activity. This may include practices and/or competitions for one or a number of weeks. This will occur after senior management have informed students and parents/caregivers have been notified.

Max takes out first place *Ka eke a Max ki te tuunga tuatahi*

Well done to Max Morrow (Year 11 student) who finished first place for 15 - 16 Yr 125cc motocross for the 2025/26 season at Pukekohe Motorcycle Club and also achieved an award for Most Improved Junior Rider!



Volleyball Poirewa



Volleyball is building at Tuakau College and we are excited for the future! Senior Volleyball has made an impact across the South Auckland takiwa. Our teams began training at the end of 2025 and throughout the summer holidays. Three times a week these students have demonstrated commitment, perseverance and whakautē towards the game, displayed our school values with pride and built long lasting friendships showing kotahitanga, manaakitanga and whanaungatanga. The season is short, with only 4 weeks of play and each night having 2 games and a refereeing duty. Both teams were entered into the A1 grade and both teams asserted their dominance.

- Senior Girls - each week the girls played well and the rallies were exciting to watch. Memorable moments was the game between Tangaroa College where the score was point for point the whole way and into the third set - the same, with Tuakau taking the game at the end! A great game to watch. The girls are competitive and have developed their skills in the game. Tuakau came second in their pool after going down to Auckland Seven Day Adventist! Auckland Champs was an event that the girls had been working towards since the first training. They were highly competitive to make the top grade. With the draw between Howick College, McAuley and ourselves, we knew it wasn't going to be an easy ride. The girls played hard and unfortunately lost to Howick two sets to nil, but each set losing by only 2 points. The game versus McAuley the score went to 1-1, with McAuley taking out the match again by 2 points. These teams featured in the top 10 of A Grade last year, so even though we got put into Division 3 for the rest of the competition, the girls could remain confident that they had the skills to match these top teams. Final result was ninth in Division 3.
- Senior Boys - interest for Volleyball for the boys was high, and we had nearly 20 boys trial for the team, from both the junior and senior school. Credit to Ryder Elder-Morunga and Terry Bakabane who were selected to be in the senior squad. The boys had a rollercoaster of a season with some schools defaulting, which hindered their competitive game, but also coming up against some really strong sides like Otahuhu College and Sancta Maria College. They came a respectful fourth in their pool! Highlight of the games was the match between Tangaroa College. ASDAH had beaten Tuakau, Tangaroa had beaten ASDAH and the final game between Tuakau and Tangaroa would cement their overall final position for the season as well as giving them a positive seeding for Auckland Champs. The boys on both sides were blocking the spikes and the rallies were long and tense. It came down to the wire and into the third set where the score went to 20-20, then 25-25 and we managed to hang in there to get 2 points on them! The boys were amazing and this definitely improved their confidence all round. Auckland Champs was great, however they were graded in the fourth division due to other schools who were part of the weekly games not entering the tournament and results from across all Auckland areas are taken into account.

We would like to thank our coaches, Nico and Warena, who have given so much time to our students! They try to organise their work rosters around our games and trainings and they spend countless hours organising games with other schools, with a vested interest in developing the game at Tuakau College!

A big thank you also to the parents/caregivers, for stepping in to help in times of need and picking up and dropping off students for trainings! We look forward to continuing the season with the juniors in Term 3!



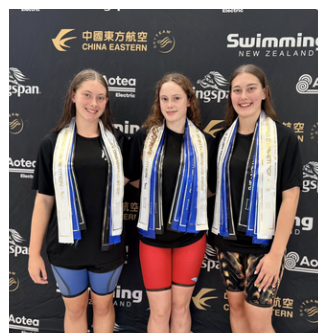
Rowing success for Mattias and Lukas
Angitū te hoenga mo Mattias raua ko Lukas

Mattias and Lukas Tafto rowed for Mercer Rowing Club at the New Zealand National Rowing Championships recently. Mattias won a gold medal in the Mixed Exhibition Intermediate Coxed Eight, and made A Finals in the Men's Intermediate Coxed Eight, Men's Intermediate Coxed Four and Men's Intermediate Coxed Quad. Lukas made A Finals in the Mens Novice Coxed Quad, Men's Novice Coxed Four, and a B Final in the Men's Novice Double. Tuakau College can be proud of these results being achieved at a National level, at a regatta featuring current and future Olympians.



Students shine at swimming competition
Ka tiaho nga taura ki te whakataetae kauhoe

Three of our students did our school proud at the recent Divison II swimming competition in Dunedin! They all swam very successfully to come away with a collection of placings! Congratulations to Lomè Strydom, Addison Welch and Sulize Strydom! Addison Welch's results were: 1st in 50 Butterfly, 2nd in 400 individual medley, 2nd in 100 Butterfly and 3rd in 200 individual medley. Lomè Strydom's results were: 1st in 50 Backstroke, 1st in 100 Backstroke and 2nd in 50 Freestyle. Sulize Strydom's results were: 1st in 50 Breaststroke. Relay Results (all 3 were in the relay team) were: 2nd in 4x100m medley relay (Backstroke - Lomè, Breaststroke - Sulize and Butterfly - Addison) and 3rd in 4x100m freestyle.



Counties Tennis Schools Tournament *Whakataetae Kura Tennis Counties*



Ashley Shepherd (Year 12 student) and Caian Clarke (Year 13 student) represented our school with pride at the recent Counties Tennis Schools Tournament, competing against more than 70 talented players in the Senior Girls and Senior Boys divisions. With sunshine and plenty of grit on court the day was packed with long rallies, intense matches, and winning shots!

Caian showed composure and control throughout the tournament, battling hard in every match and securing an impressive 6th place overall in the Senior Boys division. A brilliant achievement in such a strong field!

Ashley delivered an outstanding performance! Demonstrating determination and resilience, she fought her way past the number one seed in a thrilling match to earn her place in the final. Despite not having played competitively since October last year, Ashley rose to the occasion and finished 2nd place overall in the Senior Girls division!



Kura Waitii Programme *Kura Waitii Programme*

Earlier this month in Kirikiriroa, nine of our 8R students had the wonderful opportunity to deepen their understanding of Te Awa o Waikato and Te Taiao (the environment) through hands-on learning with waka ama! Representatives from Waikato District Council joined them to share important information about an invasive pest currently affecting the awa and discussed practical ways we can help prevent the further spread of Golden Clams.

A heartfelt thank you to Matua Turanga and the dedicated members of Te Toki Voyaging Trust, alongside the Waikato District Council, for facilitating such meaningful and engaging learning experiences. Through this kaupapa, students learned to identify the different parts of the waka, how to correctly lash the ama to the waka, how to use the hoe (paddle) with proper technique, and how to respond to calls while on the water – all while strengthening kotahitanga (working together as one). One of the highlights of the day was seeing the smiles on our tamariki as they paddled confidently along the awa in the 12-man waka – a truly awesome sight! Our students will continue to grow their knowledge and embrace new experiences each term as part of the Kura Waitii programme



Outdoor Education *Mātauranga o waho*

Earlier this month some of our Year 12 Outdoor Education students went on their 'Survival camp' in the Hunua Ranges! They were on ration packs for a day and a half and had to carry and create a shelter to then sleep in for the night! It got down to 7°C but they all did an awesome job!



Seasons For Growth *Nga Kaupeka mo te Tipu*

Seasons For Growth is a grief, loss and change Programme for children dealing with challenges in their lives e.g separation, divorce, death, other significant changes. Their Afterschool Programme starts next term on Thursday 30 of April, held in Pukekohe and runs once a week over 8 weeks. An optional Parent Programme also runs at the same time. For enquiries or enrolments please phone/text Marisa on 021 142 5812, office (09) 238 7228, or email at seasonsfranklin@xtra.co.nz. For more info please visit www.pukekohecommunityaction.co.nz/seasons

Students represent Counties Manukau Touch at national tournament *Ko nga taura hei kanohi mo Counties Manukau Touch ki te whakataetae a motu*

Well done to Cassius Luu, Jaylan Whiunui-Manukau and TJ Cash (Year 11 students) who represented Counties Manukau Touch U16's Boys at the National Youth Tournament in Christchurch!



Round The Bays 2026
Rauna i Te Moana 2026



On Sunday 8 March Tuakau College sent 30 students to participate in 'Round The Bays' in Auckland and they had an amazing day in the sun and festive atmosphere. Some of our students ran some impressive times, but perhaps what was more important was that everyone was smiling at the end of the activity! Thank you to all the staff and parents who attended and made this day possible.



HEALTH CENTRE
Tari Hauora



We are still having some hot days and want to remind students to please stay hydrated! If possible please send a drink bottle to school with your child to help support this. Please also remind students of the importance of eating food throughout the day and remember there are always the free school lunches available!

Year 9 students are having ear hearing screening the first week of Term 2. There is a questionnaire the students have to complete prior to the screening - please remember to complete this!

A reminder also about the fact that we have coughs, colds and flus already starting so please keep yourselves safe with good hand washing, coughing into your elbows, etc. If your child is unwell please keep them at home.

We welcome two new school Nurses to our Health Centre - Catherine and Phoebe and we are excited to have them join our team! Kayley is hoping to be back next term, and we recently farewelled Charlotte.

Tuakau College School Nurses

Phone: 09 236 8521 ext 119

PolyFest 2026

PolyFest 2026

On Saturday 21 March some of our students participated at the ASB Polyfest 2026, held at the Manukau Sports Bowl. Our Pasifika group performed on the Diversity Stage. It was a great day out to celebrate everything Pasifika and although the group may have felt like a tiny drop in the ocean, they have laid the foundations for the future and put Tuakau College on the map! Well done Pasifika group!

Our Filipino group brought the Diversity Stage to life with a vibrant and meaningful performance inspired by the theme, "The Environment Lives in Me as I Live in It" Their piece portrayed the deep connection between the Filipino people and nature, guided by the presence of the Diwata—the guardian spirit of the land. As an archipelago shaped by mountains, rivers, and seas, Filipino traditions and values are profoundly rooted in the natural world, and this connection was powerfully reflected on stage! Their performance unfolded like a story; it began with "Taglugul," a sacred chant from Mindanao honouring ancestors; flowed into "Vamos a Belén," composed by our National Hero, symbolising faith and hope; and culminated in "Aliwan Fiesta," a joyful celebration of gratitude and abundance! What made the performance even more impactful was their thoughtful use of recyclable materials - egg trays, tin can lids, and tissue gift wraps - transformed into props and costumes! It was a powerful reminder that culture and environmental responsibility can come together, moving in harmony through dance!



11AHS Trips

11AHS Haerengas



Our 11AHS students attend a trip to Punchbowl earlier this month (Horticulture Industry). During the visit, students investigated how a range of management practices impact a life process in kiwifruit. The focus was on the effects of pruning and girdling on photosynthesis, as well as kiwifruit quality and yield. They also visited Limestone Downs (Agriculture context) and this visit focused on reproductive technologies, specifically how Artificial Insemination (AI) is managed in a New Zealand dairy farming system.



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	Day 4 3	Day 5 4 12OUT Trip	Day 6 5 12OUT Trip	6	7
Day 1 8	Day 2 9	Day 3 10	Day 4 11 12OUT Trip	Day 5 12 11AHS Trip 12OUT Trip	13 School Ball	14
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