

Senior Prizegiving 2025



See Page 3 for photos!

INSIDE this issue

I roto i tenei putanga

*Sports Awards
 Results and Photos*

SENIOR PRIZEGIVING RESULTS AND PHOTOS

2025 Term 4 Calendar and 2026 start dates



Tangaroa Blue House

Tangaroa is the 'god of the sea.' Māori believe that water is an energy, with many moods. It can be calm and life-giving, or dangerous and destructive. This energy is called Tangaroa – 'god of the sea.'

Koorero a te Tumuaki The Principal speaks:

Kia ora koutou katoa!

We are already 4 weeks into this term! We have had a number of events already - with Sports Awards and Senior Prizegiving and NCEA external examinations starting next week. We wish all students in Year 11-13 the very best for these exams!

It was so awesome to celebrate our students sporting successes at the Sports Awards earlier this month! A special congratulations to Brya Mahoney (Most Outstanding Achievement in Sport), Braxton Fletcher (Sportsman of the Year) and Danielle Claridge (Sportswoman of the Year)!

It was also awesome to celebrate our senior student successes at our Senior Prizegiving earlier this week. Following the Senior Prizegiving, senior students should only be on site for external exams or to do work with a specific teacher. If students are here for exams they must be in correct uniform and if they come early or stay later in order to catch the bus, they must be in the iHub during this time and sign in and out at the Student Centre. If students are coming in to do work with a specific teacher they also must be in correct uniform and must sign in. CONTINUED INSIDE

Koorero a te Tumuaki Haere tonu The Principal speaks continued:

... and out at the Student Centre. Students are NOT to be at school wandering around or unsupervised. If they are, the student will be told they are not able to come in to school.

Coming up is our Camp Week for Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 students. We love seeing our students enjoy these camps and extra-curricular activities. A special thanks also to the teaching staff that volunteer to go on these camps and all the awesome parents/caregivers who put their hand up to help too! These camps and trips couldn't go ahead without your support and we are thankful for your help.

Please note that we have a Staff Only Day on Friday 14 November, 2025. On this day staff will prepare for next year, work on the new curricula and continue to develop Lit/Num strategies.

We look forward to our Junior College and Middle College Prizegiving's on Thursday 11 December. Term 4 ends on Thursday 11 December, after the Junior and Middle College prizegiving's.

I want to thank you all for your perseverance and patience with the industrial disruptions, across the country, as we navigate these rough waters with pay and conditions negotiations with the State Services Commissions. There could be further disruptions yet.

As we get closer to the end of this year, we start preparing for 2026! Start dates for 2026 can be found further on in this e-Bulletin. We are finalising the Fees Schedule and Stationery Lists for 2026 at the moment and these are expected to be published on our website in the next few weeks. By the end of the year information will also be published regarding some changes to the bus bay. Due to the construction of our new 6 block classroom building by our Science classrooms/current Student Centre there will be some changes to the access parents/caregivers have to the Elizabeth Street carpark and the buses and bus bay will be moved up to the Buckland Road entrance to the school. We thank you in advance for your patience with these changes and more information will be provided once it is finalised.

I want to thank the Board for their work in appointing Donna Tupaea to replace me, as Principal, at the end of Term 1 next year. We have already started a transition and will continue this until the end of Term 1.

This is a very busy time of the year for the school and its students and we know it is for parents/caregivers/the community as well. Let's all stick together and help each other through the last couple of months of 2025. Before we know it, it'll be Christmas and summer holidays!

Chris Betty

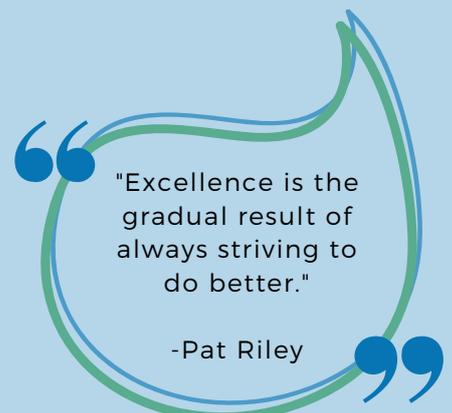


<p>VISION: Ka whakarite kareti o Tuakau i ngā ākonga kia whai tāna e tōmīna nei, kia kōunga tonu tāna lete mātauranga. Tuakau College prepares students for life through a quality education promoting excellence in all things. <small>TUAKAU COLLEGE</small></p>	<p>STRATEGIC GOALS - TUAKAU COLLEGE WILL:</p>		<p>MANAAHI, 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.</p>	<p>NGĀKAU TAPATAHI INTEGRITY Kaua e takahia te mana o te tāngata. Do not trample on the mana of the people.</p>	<p>Ū TONUTANGA PERSEVERANCE Kaua e mate wheke mate mangōpare. Don't give up like an octopus but fight like a hammerhead shark.</p>	<p>TINO PAI RAWA EXCELLENCE Pai rawa atu i ngā mea katoa. The very best in all things. <small>TUAKAU COLLEGE</small></p>
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TERM 4 VALUE - EXCELLENCE

Striving for excellence is trying to do your best. When we strive for excellence, we feel satisfied with a job well done. We learn from our mistakes and don't let them define us. We enjoy the process, not just the outcome of our endeavors. And we remain flexible and can adjust our standards and goals as needed.

What's the difference between excellence and success? Success is often measured by comparison to others. Excellence, on the other hand, is all about being the best we can be and maximizing our gifts, talents and abilities to perform at our highest potential. We live in a world that loves to focus on success and loves to compare.



2025 Senior Prizegiving

Congratulations to all the students that won prizes at our 2025 Senior Prizegiving! A special congratulations to Izzy Currie, our 2025 Dux for overall academic excellence at Year 13! The 2025 Proxime Accessit, for runner up in academic excellence at Year 13, is Brooke Ngatai!

The Wild Cup (academic excellence at Year 12) was awarded to Nathan Haliday and the Gwen Barnaby Memorial Cup (academic excellence at Year 11) was awarded to Paige Powell! The Rangipokaia Memorial Shield (in memory of Whaea Jacque Hema for the student who reflects the school motto across all four school values) was awarded to Sophie Dorotich!

The Bale Trophies (best all round student across the four kete) were awarded to Charmaine Hazell and Hemi McGrath, the 'Friends of Tuakau College' (PTA) Shield Champion House for 2025 was Tawhirimatea, the Andrew Cooling Memorial Cup (service to our school) was awarded to Leo Brooker, the Spirit of Community Trophy (school spirit) was awarded to Tia Barker, the Tuakau College Special Award (dedication and service to their peers) was awarded to Willow Hyslop, the Simon Vare Trophy (endeavour and participation in house competitions) was awarded to Harlem Kawhena, the Ann Linacre Award (Year 11 perseverance and dedication) was awarded to Cielo Nicole De Castro and the Matete Tupaea Memorial Cup (contribution by a Maaori student linking school and community) was awarded to Te'Arani Kahi!

Our 2026 Students Leaders are Mattias Tafto, Kahungunu Aubrey-Lindsay, Hazel McMillan, Baylee Hynes and Poppy Aislabie (Student Representative on the Board)! Supporting this team are the 2026 Prefects which are Kristian Bvutira, Cate Harvey, Eknoor Kaur, Rachel Maguire, Tahlia Pearson, Lome' Strydom and Max Thomas!

Honours Awards were awarded to Nathan Haliday (Academic 2024), Merell Valencia (Academic 2024), Brya Mahoney (Sport 2025), Sapphire Somerville (Cultural 2025) and Willow Hyslop (Service 2025)

Congratulations to all the other award recipients - we are proud of you all and it is awesome to see you achieving the very best in all things! *To see all photos, please visit the Tuakau College Facebook page.*





2026 STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



Head Student
Baylee Hynes



Head Student
Mattias Tafto



Head Student
Hazel McMillan



Head Student
Kahungunu
Aubrey-Lindsay



**Student Representative
on the Board**
Poppy Aislabie

PREFECTS: Tahlia Pearson, Max Thomas, Cate Harvey, Lome' Strydom,
Eknoor Kaur, Kristian Bvutira and Rachel Maguire



Congratulations to Tawhirimatea (Yellow House) for winning the 2025 'Friends of Tuakau College' (PTA) Shield for the being the Champion House for 2025!

Well done to the mighty winds of Tawhirimatea!



Sports Awards 2025 Tohu Taakaro 2025

Congratulations to all the students that won prizes at our 2025 Sports Awards on Wednesday 15 October! It was an awesome evening and we were privileged to have Karl Bailey from Touch NZ as our guest speaker! He shared his story about his journey taking a Tongan Touch Rugby team to the World Championships when they hadn't been for about 25 years, and gave our students a great inspiring message that a small pebble in a pond makes big ripples! A massive thank you to Karl for taking the time to speak to our students and be at our Sports Awards!

The Most Outstanding Achievement in Sport award for 2025 went to Brya Mahoney for her basketball officiating successes at local, regional, national and international levels! The 2025 Sportswoman of the Year was awarded to Danielle Claridge and the 2025 Sportsman of the Year was awarded to Braxton Fletcher! The 2025 Team of the Year was awarded to the 1st XV Rugby team, the 2025 Official of the Year was awarded to Brya Mahoney, the 2025 Staff Award was awarded to Lee-Anne Shaw, the 2025 Manager of the Year Award went to Sharon Chitty and the 2025 Coach of the Year was awarded to Allan Luu!

Congratulations to all the other award recipients - we are proud of you all and it is awesome to see you achieving the very best in all things in your various sporting codes!

Big thanks again to all our coaches and managers that make these sports possible! We really appreciate your time and dedication to our students.

To see all photos of the awards evening, please visit the Tuakau College Facebook page.



MESSAGE FROM TUAKAU COLLEGE BOARD

Principal Appointment Update



Kia Ora Koutou Katoa/Greetings to all,

I am very pleased to announce on behalf of the Tuakau College Board that Donna Tupaea, currently Acting Principal at Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate Senior School, has been appointed as our new principal with effect from the beginning of Term 2, 2026.

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) and 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 Pikiako 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.

Ngaa mihi, Kandi Ngataki (Presiding Member of the Tuakau College Board)

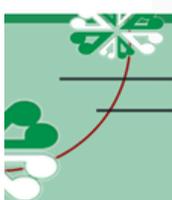
Communication with us

Te whakawhitiwhiti korero ki a matou

We deeply value the relationship we share with parents and caregivers of our students. This means that we expect communication to be appropriate for the issue concerned. Please do not turn up to the school demanding to see a teacher, Dean or Senior Leadership Team member as they are busy doing the work they are required to do and will not just drop what they are doing to see you. Your queries, news and emails are always welcomed and appreciated so please make an appointment to discuss any issues/queries you have. If there are things you are unhappy about we request that you do not vent your displeasure with the reception staff and the person assisting you with your query.

Please respect this and understand that if you email a staff member they may not respond immediately. This is the best form of communication. A list of staff emails can be found on the website. If you would like a face-to-face meeting with the staff member then please email them and arrange a time that is convenient to both of you. Unscheduled meetings are usually unhelpful and things are said that should not be said. Coming in angry and wild and taking it out on the reception staff is unacceptable.

For a school to function many of the students have to talk to teachers, especially if they have been misbehaving. We also understand that sometimes students do not want to speak to certain staff. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons this does occur but I can assure the school community that the staff, Deans, and Senior Leadership Team are always professional in their dealings and discussions with students. Students are not able to select which person to speak to. A judgement call will be made to ensure the right person deals with a student but sometimes this may not be possible. Please continue to support us in the work we do, and we welcome communication and discussions about your child



Tuarua College

2026 Start Dates

Thursday 22 January Student Centre, Reception and Accounts Office open.

Monday 26 January Auckland Anniversary (Public Holiday)

Thursday 29 January **Course Confirmation for Year 12 and Year 13 students** will occur from 10:30am - 3:30pm in iHub. Please be patient during this time.

Friday 30 January **Course Confirmation for Year 11 students** will occur from 10:30am - 3:30pm in iHub. Please be patient during this time.

Monday 2 February **New Students Pōwhiri/Orientation.** New students pōwhiri and orientation from 9am - 1pm. Arrive to school at 9am and go to D Block. All students to be in correct uniform. Year 12 and Year 13 students to meet in the gym at 9am. Day finishes at 1pm. Parents/caregivers are welcome at the Pōwhiri at 9am and the BBQ lunch at 1pm.

School bus service starts.

Tuesday 3 February Whole school starts. All students arrive at school at 8:50am for a 9am whole school assembly. All students to be in correct uniform and to bring a pen - no other stationery required. Please ensure you have your PE uniform, hat, sunscreen and water bottle for the Whaanau House Rounders competition in the afternoon.

Wednesday 4 February Timetable starts. Stationery is required.

Friday 6 February Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)

We look forward to seeing you!



Pōwhiri for new Deputy Principal *Pōwhiri mo te Tumuaki Tuarua hou*

On Monday 6 October we had a pōwhiri to welcome our new Deputy Principal, Mrs Hemana, to our kura!



Diwali 2025
Diwali 2025



From 20 - 24 October we celebrated Diwali! Diwali is the "Festival of Lights," a five-day festival celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

The name "Diwali" comes from the Sanskrit word "dipavali," meaning "row of lights," which refers to the oil lamps or diyas that people light outside their homes. The holiday marks the Hindu New Year. We had activities throughout the week, including Bollywood dancing in D Block, daily questions for students, henna and more. Our staff enjoyed shared food for lunch on Wednesday.



Fijian Language Week 2025 *Te Wiki o te Reo Whthia 2025*

From 13 - 17 October we celebrated Fijian Language Week! The week ended with a celebration in the iHub on Friday at lunchtime - with lots of cultural dances and shared food!



Year 7&8 Franklin Touch Rugby Tournament *Tau 7&8 Franklin Touch Rugby Tournament*

It was an action-packed day at the Franklin Year 7&8 Touch Rugby Tournament on Wednesday 22 October, where Tuakau College fielded 35 players across four teams — Boys A, Boys B, Girls A, and Girls B! Despite the weather playing its own game with showers coming and going throughout the day, our students brought nothing but energy, teamwork, and enthusiasm to the field!

Our teams performed exceptionally well: Boys B - 1st Place, Boys A - 3rd Place, Girls A - 2nd Place and Girls B - 2nd Place!

Every match was filled with skillful play, determination, and most importantly, great sportsmanship. The message of the day was clear: have fun, play fair, and support one another and our Tuakau players embodied that spirit from the first whistle to the last try!

A huge thank you to Anikalee Thompson, Maryjane Davis, Bella Wilkinson, Aro Clark, Justuce Maera and Jaylan Whiunui-Manukau for being our referees and coaches for the day - you helped make the day such a success!



Clay Target Shooting *Te Puru Whaingā Uku*

Over the past few months, our Clay Target Team have been training and competing around the Waikato circuit to prepare for their North Island and National's competition held in Hamilton! Charmaine Hazell (Year 13 student), Fletcher Jamieson (Year 12 student) and Ashton Currie (Year 10 student) all had some impressive rounds. With some good competition Fletcher and Ashton both became tough competition, at their first Nationals competition. A special mention to Ashton for getting his 25 badge after hitting over 25 targets in a row! This was Charmaine's last school competition, and she placed just out of top 3 placings in some categories! The team looks forward to hopefully welcoming some new students next year!



Volleyball *Poirewa*



Our volleyball teams season is underway!





***PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THESE ARE INDICATIVE AND COULD CHANGE
A 'WEEK AHEAD' IS POSTED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES EACH
SUNDAY WITH UP TO DATE INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK AHEAD.**

Calendar Maaramataka for Term 4 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Day 6 6 OCT Term 4 Starts Tuvalu Lang. Week	Day 1 7 Tuvalu Lang. Week	Day 2 8 11SCI Trip Tuvalu Lang. Week	Day 3 9 Tuvalu Lang. Week	Day 4 10 Tuvalu Lang. Week	11	12
Day 5 13 Fijian Lang. Week	Day 6 14 Fijian Lang. Week	Day 1 15 12CHE Trip Sports Awards Fijian Lang. Week	Day 2 16 Fijian Lang. Week	Day 3 17 Fijian Lang. Week	18	19
Day 4 20 Diwali Week	Day 5 21 Diwali Week	Day 6 22 Diwali Week	Day 1 23 Diwali Week	Day 2 24 Diwali Week	25	26
27 Labour Day (Public Holiday)	Day 3 28 Niue + Tokelau Lang. Week Board Meeting	Day 4 29 Niue + Tokelau Lang. Week Senior Prizegiving	Day 5 30 Niue + Tokelau Lang. Week Year 13 Breakfast	Day 6 31 Niue + Tokelau Lang. Week	1 NOV	2
Day 1 3	Day 2 4 NZQA Exams Start	Day 3 5 Year 8 Camp	Day 4 6 Year 8 Camp	Day 5 7 Year 8 Camp	8	9
Day 6 10	Day 1 11 Franklin Golf	Day 2 12	Day 3 13 Year 7&8 Franklin Athletics Te Haa o Taawhirimaatea	14 Staff Only Day	15	16
Day 4 17 Year 9 Camp	Day 5 18 'Friends of Tuakau College' (PTA) Meeting Year 9 Camp	Day 6 19 Year 9 Camp	Day 1 20	Day 2 21 Kapahaka - Te Ahurei o Rangiriri Festival	22	23
Day 3 24 Year 10 Camp	Day 4 25 Franklin Golf Year 10 Camp Board Meeting	Day 5 26 Year 10 Camp Year 7 Trip	Day 6 27 Franklin Golf	Day 1 28	29	30
Day 2 1 DEC	Day 3 2 Duke of Ed Tramp	Day 4 Duke of Ed Tramp Leavers Dinner	Day 5 4 Duke of Ed Tramp	Day 6 5	6 Tuakau Christmas Parade	7
Day 1 8	Day 2 9	Day 3 10	Day 4 11 Junior and Middle College Prizegivings Term 4 Ends			



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SUNDAY WITH UP TO DATE INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK AHEAD.*

Calendar Maaramataka for Term 1 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
26 JAN Auckland Anniversary (Public Holiday)	27 Staff Only Day	28 Staff Only Day	29 Course Confirmation	30 Course Confirmation	31	1 FEB
2 New Students Day	3 Whole school starts Rounders Competition	4 Day 1 Timetable starts	5 Day 2	6 Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)	7	8
9 Day 3	10 Day 4	11 Day 5	12 Day 6	13 Day 1	14	15
16 Day 2	17 Day 3	18 Day 4	19 Day 5	20 Day 6	21	22
23 Year 7 Camp	24 Year 7 Camp Board Meeting	25 Year 7 Camp	26 Day 4	27 Day 5	28	1 MAR
2 Day 6	3 Day 1 PhotoLife ID Photos	4 Day 2	5 Day 3	6 Day 4	7	8
9 Day 5	10 Day 6	11 Day 1	12 Day 2	13 Day 3	14	15
16 Day 4	17 Day 5	18 Day 6	19 Day 1	20 Day 2	21	22
23 Day 3	24 Day 4	25 Day 5	26 Day 6	27 Day 1	28	29
30 Day 2	31 Day 3 Board Meeting	1 APR Day 4	2 Day 5 Term 1 Ends	3 Good Friday (Public Holiday)	4	5