



NPGHS NEWSLETTER

8 May 2026

Tēnā koutou katoa

One of the terms you are probably hearing a lot at the moment is the *Science of Learning*. Like many terms that suddenly move to the forefront of conversation, it can be misunderstood or misused. At NPGHS, we use *Science of Learning* to describe well-researched insights from science and education about how students learn best, including how they take in new information, practise it, store it in long-term memory, and successfully use it again later. In practical terms, it means teachers giving clear explanations, carefully sequencing learning, building in frequent practice and revision, and providing timely feedback, all supported by consistent routines and strong teacher–student relationships.

Over the past two years, we've been strengthening our teaching practice through the Science of Learning. This approach is helping us lift student outcomes, which is reflected in our fantastic academic results. We are being more intentional about the high-impact strategies we already use every day, and it is paying off.

Changes are happening across education, such as the current curriculum refresh and future changes to assessment. Our focus, however, remains the same: creating a calm, consistent, and seamless learning experience for students across all year levels. Clear routines and lesson structures reduce cognitive load, so students can focus on learning rather than wondering what might happen next. Purposeful learning, along with regular opportunities to practise and recall what has been taught, is therefore more effective.

Teachers also bring their own personality to the classroom and aim to build engaging and exciting activities into their lessons. Of course, students may sometimes find schoolwork less interesting than the many interactive experiences available outside school. Even so, they generally recognise that learning has real value and can open up new pathways. We also know that the connection between students and their teachers is an important part of learning, and our teachers do a wonderful job of getting to know students as individuals.

We certainly appreciate it when students engage positively in return and provide constructive feedback about what is working well for them in lessons.

Ideally, your daughter or young person will be able to give you examples of what we expect to see in classrooms. If not, please let me know as it may be something we can improve for everyone.

What you would expect to see in classrooms:

- **Clear entry routines**, so students settle quickly and know exactly what to do at the start of a lesson.
- **Clear exit routines**, so students reflect on their learning before everyone leaves calmly.
- **More explicit revision** (sometimes called retrieval practice), to strengthen memory and help learning 'stick'.
- **Small, guided steps** when teaching new content, including worked examples and supported practice.
- **Frequent checks for understanding**, so teachers can respond quickly and keep everyone on track.

Many of these practices are things our teachers have been doing for a long time. The difference now is that we are using them more consistently and intentionally across classrooms, and we are seeing strong results. This may not sound revolutionary, but it makes a real difference for all students.

We're proud of the progress we're seeing and we are committed to keeping this process consistent from Years 9 to 13. By staying focused on strong teaching practice and strong relationships, we're supporting students in their learning and helping them to achieve their best in every subject.

Ngā mihi mahana
Jacqui Brown
Principal





Year 9 TOPEC

Our Year 9 Outdoor Education Activity Days at TOPEC (20-24 April) were a great example of learning beyond the four walls of the classroom. Outdoor Education supports students to reconnect with the natural environment, learn practical skills, and grow in confidence through real experiences. Across the week, students showed care and responsibility for one another, built stronger relationships through teamwork, and demonstrated leadership as they tackled new challenges. Even with some wet weather, we adapted the programme and students persevered, with many stepping well outside their comfort zones.

A sincere thank you to the staff who attended and supported each class throughout the week. Their willingness to be alongside students, encouraging them,

keeping them safe, and taking the time to get to know them better, made a real difference.

We also want to acknowledge the Year 13 students who volunteered. They showed outstanding leadership as they stepped up, modelled positive participation, and relived a few great memories from their own Year 9 Outdoor Ed days too!

Most of all, we'd like to say a big thank you to Mrs Chelsea Glover. It was her organisation, enthusiasm, care, and attention to detail that made these days so special for everyone involved.



Chilean Exchange

NPGHS has a long-standing exchange partnership with San Nicolás de Myra in Chile. This year, ten students from San Nicolás have been hosted by our school, and over the past 25 years more than 400 students have taken part in this valuable programme. The exchange began when the then Principal of NPGHS, Jain Gaudin, was visiting Chile and met the Principal of San Nicolás. From that initial connection, a lasting partnership was formed. As San Nicolás is a co-educational school, Boys' High was also invited to participate in the exchange.

We extend our sincere thanks to the generous host families who opened their homes and shared their lives

with the visiting Chilean students. We hope strong and lasting connections have been formed over the three weeks, and that families enjoyed the experience as much as the students. This exchange simply could not take place without your support and involvement.

Learning about another culture teaches us a great deal about ourselves—what we take for granted, what we value, and what we choose to represent. The students from San Nicolás shared their culture with us at assembly, and our students thoroughly enjoyed their presentations, including the vibrant dances they so energetically performed.

Thank you to all the students who helped make our visitors feel welcome, and special thanks to our Head of Languages, Ms Yomi Williams, for her organisation and longstanding commitment to this exchange.

If you are interested in your daughter participating in the return exchange to Chile in 2027, please contact Yomi Williams at ywilliams@npghs.school.nz to register early interest. More information, including indicative costs and travel dates, will be available in Term 3.





Lunchtime activities

This week lunchtime adventures were led by Outdoor Education student leaders Olivia Corin and Bethan Mulliss. They designed a range of fun challenges for teams and individuals that tested problem-solving and teamwork skills. Activities included a school-wide scavenger hunt, opportunities to try slacklining and skateboarding, initiative challenges, and a 'backyard ultra' event for Waka points.

We were incredibly impressed by the strong collaboration with other student leaders and the way Olivia and Bethan encouraged wide participation across the school. It was a fun, energetic week that engaged many students.

If your daughter or young person is now inspired, there is just one place left available on the Hillary Outdoors Adventure - 2026. Open to students in Years 10–13, this unforgettable week at Hillary Outdoors Tongariro (26-31 July) offers adventure, challenge and leadership development in one of Aotearoa's most spectacular settings.

Activities include rock climbing and abseiling, caving, bushcraft, survival skills and navigation, high ropes and team challenges, and outdoor leadership experiences.

The cost is approx. \$1495 which includes travel, accommodation, food, instruction and activities. For enquiries or to express interest, please contact Mr Karl Domeracki at kdomeracki@npghs.school.nz.



Whanganui Collegiate Sports Exchange

Our annual sports exchange with Whanganui Collegiate School delivered great competition, strong performances, and a fantastic sense of connection. This exchange has been going for over 30 years and is a valued tradition that celebrates sport, relationships, and school spirit.

Across all codes, our students competed with skill, determination, and sportsmanship. The NPGHS 1st XI football team produced a strong performance to secure an impressive win 6-0 after leading 4-0 at half-time. We would like to acknowledge the outstanding sportsmanship shown by the team, who kindly loaned one of their goalkeepers to Whanganui Collegiate for the second half after their goalkeeper was injured.

Our 9A Netball team delivered a dominant and convincing win, demonstrating excellent teamwork throughout the match. The Premier Netball team showed tremendous resilience, fighting back from a 7–1 quarter-time deficit to finish just one goal behind in a thrilling contest.

On the hockey turf, NPGHS battled hard in a closely contested game that sat at 1–1 for most of the match. Despite two late goals from the opposition, the girls showed great determination.

This exchange is made all the more special because of the incredible support of our parent and community coaches, managers, referees and umpires, who generously give their time and expertise to support sport at NPGHS.

Above all, the Whanganui Collegiate exchange is about the spirit of participation and connection. It is a reminder of the value of school sport in building friendships, resilience and pride, and we are proud of the way our students represented NPGHS.

As a reminder, students need attendance of at least 80%, to participate in school exchanges.



Upcoming Events

Please check <https://npghs.bridge.school.nz/notices>, or the 'Coming Events' post on facebook, for even more information.

Every Monday in Term 2	Meet at the Stadium for a lunchtime sports activity every Monday. Or meet on Wednesday for lunchtime badminton.
Sat 9 May	Winter sport is now underway. Approximately 23 of our netball teams will be in action at the Waiwhakaiho courts between 9am and 2pm. Every game on every court will feature at least one NPGHS team.
Mon 11 to Fri 15 May	It's Library Week – activities include Riddle Master book stacking, charades, dictionary challenge, scavenger hunt, Where's Wally, and a bookmark competition.
Mon 11 May	TSSSA Indoor Bowls event for those who have previously signed up with the Sports Department.
Tues 12 May	The next round of the debating competition with NPBHS in N11. Please contact Rebecca Mace rmace@npghs.school.nz if you would like to know more.
Wed 13 May	School cross country will run at 1.30pm for those who have registered. Please go to the Sports Office or email svincent@npghs.school.nz to enter.
Thurs 14 May	Massey University visit focusing on Nursing, Sport Science, Health.
Fri 15 May	Students are welcome to wear a pink accessory with their uniform to show support for Pink Shirt Day . Please note that it is expected that full school uniform clothing items are worn and accessories are things like hair ribbon, bracelets, necklaces etc. Honours Assembly – recognises excellence and outstanding achievement at a National or International level. In this assembly Honours will be awarded for sport and academic. Honours can also be earned in leadership, arts, or cultural areas.
Sat 16 May	Hillary Challenge 6 hour qualifier race.
Mon 18 to Fri 22 May	CAA Literacy and Numeracy assessments. Students in Y9-13 who have entered for these exams will have the opportunity to complete their assessments and achieve the co-requisites. Only students who have been entered are able to sit the exam in this round.
Wed 20 to Fri 22 May	Level 2 SPC at TOPEC completing achievement standard assessments.
Thurs 21 May	We extend an invitation to whānau Māori to join us for the Term 2 Whānau Hui , in Tuhonohono as we celebrate the achievements of ākongā and how they are flourishing at NPGHS.
Fri 22 May	TOP Art Show Govett Brewster Art Gallery.
Fri 22 May	Next newsletter available. You can click here to see the current and previous newsletters.

2026 DATES

TERM 1

30 January - 2 April

TERM 2

20 April – 3 July

Mon 27 April Anzac Day (observed)
Mon 1 June King's Birthday

TERM 3

20 July - 25 September

Fri 21 Aug Curriculum Staff Only Day

TERM 4

12 October - 11 December

Mon 26 Oct Labour Day
Fri 20 Nov Curriculum Staff Only Day

CONTACT US

RECEPTION

reception@npghs.school.nz

ABSENTEE

attendance@npghs.school.nz

ENROLMENTS

enrolments@npghs.school.nz

BOARDING

hostelenquiries@npghs.school.nz

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SCHOOLBRIDGE

'SchoolBridge' on app store

Hostel News

The new van has arrived!

Boarders and staff are looking forward to continuing their trips in and around New Plymouth in style and comfort!

