



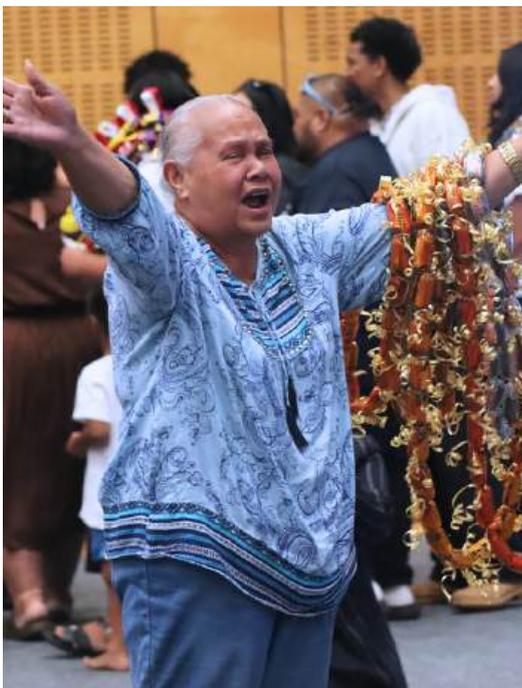
OUR TĀMAKI



Welcome to this edition of Our Tāmaki.

We're excited to share the latest news, updates, and highlights from across our school. So many great things are happening, and we want to make sure you don't miss out on celebrating the success, growth, and opportunities within our community.

Thank you for being a valued part of the Tāmaki College whānau.



OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

- **Celebration of Success**

Snapshots of our annual celebration of success. Acknowledging the great work of all our young people and our team of amazing staff.

- **20 Years Service**

Our Principal, Soana Pamaka reaches a new milestone.

- **New Security Partnership**

We have partnered with a local security company to support our mission of ensuring our grounds are safe for student, staff, visitors and all who come to learn.

- **Featured Alumni**

We're proud to highlight former students achieving great things beyond our gates.

Honouring Achievement, Inspiring Futures



COS 2026, Principal, Soana Pamaka; Dux 2025, Rona David; Guest Speaker, Kaho Valikoula.

PHOTO: TāmakiCollege ©2026

Across two days, we proudly hosted our annual Celebration of Success, an evening dedicated to recognising the outstanding achievements, resilience, and growth of our students across academic, cultural, sporting, and leadership fields for 2025.

The event brought together whānau, staff, community partners, and special guests in a powerful showcase of student excellence. From NCEA endorsements to leadership awards, cultural accolades, and service recognition, the evening reflected the College's unwavering commitment to nurturing confident, capable, and future-focused young people.

Our principal spoke of the strong upward trajectory in student achievement and attendance, acknowledging the collective effort of students, families, and staff in striving toward the school's goals.

"your commitment to being present, day in and day out, has been a defining factor in your success. High attendance is the bedrock of learning. It is a commitment to your future, showing discipline and determination.," the audience was told.

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of students who have demonstrated exceptional progress — those who have overcome challenges, committed to improvement, and embraced the support systems around them, including targeted academic mentoring and attendance initiatives.

The College also celebrated students excelling in cultural leadership, reflecting Tāmaki College's rich Pacific heritage and diverse community. Performances from Kasanita Melino, Redeemer Lam Sam, Victoria Samisoni, and Hemi Rudolph added vibrancy and pride to the evening, reminding everyone that identity, culture, and achievement go hand in hand.

Guest speaker and 2007 graduate Kaho Valikoula shared his journey and the message to "back yourself", "the path is never straight, there is always going to be detours and diversions, sometimes it's planned, other times it's a surprise, but stay the course".

The Presiding Member of the board acknowledged the partnership between home and school as a cornerstone of success, thanking whānau for their continued support in ensuring students are present, engaged, and prepared to learn.

As the evening concluded, one message resonated clearly: success at Tāmaki College is collective. It is built on high expectations, strong relationships, and an unshakeable belief in the potential of every learner.

Congratulations to all our recipients and 2025 special award recipients: Dux - Rona Cheska David; Proxime Accesit - Inga Hiko, The Rothery Scholarship - Nisha Abdul Wahid, Top Year 12s - Deborah Taufou'ou and Azzhmyr Villacruel; Year 11 - Hinano McQuade; Year 10 - Zaid Farhat and Top Year 9 Lance Temu

Two Decades of Visionary Leadership at Tāmaki College



Principal, Soana Pamaka and students Chris and Valerie PHOTO: TāmakiCollege



Principal, Soana Pamaka PHOTO: TāmakiCollege

This year marks a remarkable milestone for Tāmaki College as Soana Pamaka, Principal since 2006, celebrates 20 years of inspiring leadership, innovation, and unwavering commitment to her school and community.

Appointed Principal in 2006, Mrs Pamaka has guided Tāmaki College through two transformative decades — building not only academic excellence, but also a culture rooted in inclusion, resilience, and opportunity for all learners. Her tenure has seen sustained improvements in student outcomes, increased engagement across the curriculum, and a deepening of the school’s connection with whānau and community partners.

Born in Tonga and educated at Tonga High School and in Aotearoa, Mrs Pamaka’s journey in education began at Tāmaki College in 1990, when she joined as a student teacher. She later taught English, History, was a Dean, and Deputy Principal before stepping into the role of Principal — becoming the first person of Tongan descent to lead a secondary school in New Zealand.

Under her leadership, Tāmaki College has not only embraced academic innovation but also led the way in digital learning, pastoral care, and community-focused initiatives. Her vision has helped strengthen pathways such as vocational academies, cultural programmes, and partnerships that broaden students’ horizons and support real pathways to tertiary education and careers.

Presiding Member of the School Board, Mr DJ Tuaru Temu describes Mrs Pamaka as a visionary and “builder of people” — someone who empowers staff to pursue new ideas and prioritises a strengths-based approach to teaching and learning. Through her leadership, Tāmaki College is a place where every young person is encouraged to dream big, know their worth, and succeed.

In marking this 20-year milestone, staff, students, and alumni acknowledge Mrs Pamaka’s deep commitment to community — one that has helped shape generations of learners not only academically, but personally, culturally, and socially with the gifting of a taonga pounamu at the Senior Celebration of Success this year. This taonga was blessed by Matua Adrian and presented by the student representative and head girl Deborah Ta’ufo’ou.

As one long-serving staff member reflected: “Soana doesn’t just lead — she nurtures, challenges, and inspires. She sees possibilities where others see barriers.”

From our little corner in Auckland to the wider education sector, Mrs Pamaka’s impact over the past two decades stands as a testament to her enduring leadership and her belief that education is a pathway to opportunity for every student.

Mālo ‘aupito

Expanding Creative Horizons



Students at Tāmaki College are firing up their creativity with the arrival of the school's first ceramic kiln, marking an exciting milestone for the arts programme.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of our Creative Arts Department, the new kiln will give students hands-on opportunities in ceramics and three-dimensional art — skills not previously available at the College.

Presiding Member of the School Board, DJ Tuaru Temu says the kiln is more than a piece of equipment — it is a gateway to creativity, confidence, and expanded pathways for students interested in the visual arts.

"This kiln opens doors for our learners — from traditional pottery to sculptural work — it allows them to explore ideas in a tactile and expressive way," he said.

The kiln will be integrated into curricula across levels, offering students the chance to learn clay techniques, glazing, firing stages and artistic expression rooted in cultural context and personal voice.

For many young people, working with clay and ceramics can build patience, problem-solving and self-discipline — all essential skills whether in creative arts careers or other future pathways.

The addition of the kiln reflects Tāmaki College's broader commitment to growing rich and diverse learning experiences in the arts, ensuring students can pursue their passions and develop skills that extend beyond the classroom.

As students gather around the warm glow of new possibilities, the creative community at Tāmaki College looks forward to seeing imagination take shape — one fired piece at a time.

Year 13 Leaders Set the tone at Powerful Pōwhiri Welcome



PHOTO: TāmakiCollege ©2026

We began the school year with a powerful and heartfelt pōwhiri, led proudly by its Year 13 students to welcome incoming Year 9s, new students, and new staff.

The ceremony reflected the mana and unity of the College, as senior students stepped confidently into their leadership roles — guiding the tikanga, delivering whaikōrero, leading waiata, and performing haka with pride and strength.

For many Year 9 students, this marked their first formal welcome into the Tāmaki College whānau. The pōwhiri created a strong sense of belonging, connection, and shared purpose from the very first day.

College leaders acknowledged the Year 13 cohort for setting a high standard of leadership and modelling the values of respect, service, and excellence.

As the final waiata echoed across the courtyard, one message was clear: at Tāmaki College, every student and staff member is welcomed with pride, purpose, and the promise of opportunity.

Pre Loved Uniforms



DROP OFF ZONE:
TĀMAKI COLLEGE STUDENT HUB

CONTACT OUR STAFF FOR COLLECTION:
09 521 1104 EXT 800

Strengthening Safety through Local Partnership



The Tāmaki East Community Security crew

PHOTO: Auckland Council ©2025

Tāmaki College has taken a proactive step to enhance the safety and wellbeing of its school community by partnering with a trusted local security provider, Tamaki East Community Limited, to patrol school grounds.

The initiative reflects the College’s commitment to providing a safe, calm, and supportive environment for students, staff, whānau, and visitors. By engaging a locally based company, the College is strengthening on-site security while also investing in the surrounding community.

The security presence includes regular patrols of school facilities, monitoring during operational hours, and professional response to incidents if required. Personnel are appropriately trained and vetted, with a strong emphasis on professionalism, discretion, and positive engagement with young people and will commence on Monday 23rd February 2026.

Principal Soana Pamaka said the partnership is about safeguarding learning and reinforcing the values of the school.

“Safety is foundational to student success. When our ākonga feel secure, they are able to focus, participate, and thrive. This partnership strengthens our ability to maintain a positive learning environment while working collaboratively with our local community. Some of the guards are alumni of the school. They know what to look for and how to keep our school safe”

Looking ahead, the College sees potential for this partnership to enhance our current training and pathway opportunities for students interested in pursuing a career in the security industry, supporting real-world experience and employment prospects.

Tāmaki College remains committed to creating an environment where teaching and learning can flourish — underpinned by safety, opportunity, and strong community relationships.

Talanoa Ako - Learning Through Conversation



Talanoa Ako continues to strengthen student learning through connection, culture, and conversation.

This term Talanoa Ako offers two streams. A learner support programme to help students get the credits they need through mentoring and active monitoring as well as a parent programme designed to empower parents to champion their learners educational journey.

Grounded in the Pacific concept of talanoa — open, respectful dialogue — the programme creates safe spaces where students and parents can ask questions, deepen understanding, and build confidence in their academic subjects.

Talanoa Ako is not just about catching up — it is about lifting achievement and empowering students to believe in their potential.

By keeping relationships at the centre of learning, Talanoa Ako is helping students move closer to their goals — together.

The programme runs every Wednesday during the term in our Sylvia Fausett library.

Refreshments are provided for both students and their whanau. Transport and child care are available on request.

For more information please email info@Tāmaki.ac.nz



Volleyball Teams Spike into the Season



Davlyn Pakieto - Senior Boys Volleyball team

PHOTO: Koch

The senior volleyball teams at Tāmaki College are off to a strong start this season, showing determination, teamwork, and pride every time they step onto the court.

Both the Senior Boys and Senior Girls squads have been training consistently, focusing on fitness, communication, and sharp game strategy. Their commitment has been evident in recent matches, with players demonstrating improved coordination, powerful serves, and disciplined defence.

Beyond the scoreboard, the teams are building leadership and resilience. Senior players are setting the standard for younger athletes, modelling sportsmanship and representing the College with mana at competitions.

Keep up to date with sports game times and training by following Tāmaki College Sports on Instagram.



@tamakicollegesports

Showing Up Matters: The Power of Attendance

Attendance
IS EVERYBODY'S
RESPONSIBILITY

Stepped Attendance Response



0-4 Days
Absent in Term
Early monitoring

Mentor:

- Follow up every absence
- Confirm correct code
- Ensure contact details is up to date
- Give students weekly attendance updates



5-9 Days
Absent in Term
Emerging concern

Deans:

- Within 2 days:
 - Contact parent (*phone call if repeat*)
 - Record all actions in KAMAR
 - Support for catch up learning
 - Identify barriers



10-14 Days
Absent in Term
Moderate concern
-Escalation

Assistant Principal:

- Escalate contact with parents
- Hold meeting with student + Whanau
- Develop support plan with clear expectations
- Access in school support: Counsellor, nurse, SWISS



15+ Days
Absent in Term
Serious concern
high level intervention

Principal

- Escalation letter to parents
- Urgent meeting with student + Whanau
- Review support plan and set reintegration steps
- Refer to MoE Attendance Service Provider (*with evidence of earlier actions*)

RECORD ALL ACTIONS IN KAMAR

Senior Leadership Team

- Ensure STAR steps are followed school-wide.
- Provide training for all staff on attendance procedures.
- Oversee 15+ day cases and lead whānau hui.
- Maintain partnerships with MOE Attendance Service and external agencies.

Subject Teachers and Professional Staff

Subject Teachers:

- Mark rolls accurately
- Raise concerns early with the mentor
- Add clear KAMAR notes
- Support catch-up learning
- Reinforce attendance messages
- Join support plans when needed
- Maintain positive relationships
- Follow school-wide systems

Student Hub

- Monitor students signing in late or leaving early
- Log late arrivals accurately
- Alert Deans to emerging patterns

Pastoral Care Team

- Attend whānau meetings
- Assist with Support Plans
- Monitor progress of students on plans and report back to deans/form teachers.

Attendance Navigators

- Conduct home visits
- Track patterns of partial attendance (lates, early exits)
- Keep KAMAR updated with detailed notes
- Provide data and trends for pastoral meetings

Teacher Aides

- Support students to catch up on missed work
- Share concerns with mentors
- Support students in class to rebuild confidence

We believe one simple truth: **if you're not here, you can't learn.**

Coming to school every day gives you the best chance to succeed. When you attend regularly, you keep up with your learning, understand your subjects better, and stay on track for NCEA. Missing just one day every two weeks can add up to weeks of lost learning across the year.

Attendance is also about connection. Being at school means spending time with friends, building relationships with teachers, and taking part in sports, culture, leadership, and events. You feel part of something bigger.

Showing up builds discipline, responsibility, and strong habits — skills that will help you not just in school, but in life.

Your future starts with today.

Be present. Be prepared. Be here.

For all absences call

0800 1 Tāmaki
(0800 1 826 254)

or

hub@Tāmaki.ac.nz



Physics by the sea



For Physics students at Tāmaki College, the classroom moved to the waterfront as they experienced what many described as “the best physics lesson ever” at the electrifying SailGP event at the Viaduct.

Watching the high-speed F50 catamarans lift above the water was not just thrilling — it was physics in action.

Students saw buoyancy at work as hulls displaced water, then transitioned to foiling, where hydrofoils reduced drag and lifted boats above the surface. They observed aerodynamics in the towering wing sails, designed like airplane wings to harness wind forces efficiently.

The event also brought textbook concepts such as pulleys and levers to life. SailGP crews constantly adjusted sail tension using pulley systems to manage force and control direction — a perfect real-world demonstration of mechanical advantage.

Wind became more than an abstract idea. Students could physically see how wind forces, lift, and drag determined speed and stability, and how slight angle adjustments could mean the difference between leading the race or falling behind.

Teachers noted how powerful experiential learning can be. Concepts that can feel complex in the classroom suddenly became clear when students could see, hear, and feel them in action.

The trip reinforced a key message: physics is not just equations on paper — it is the science that powers innovation, sport, and technology in the real world.

As one student reflected, “You don’t just learn physics — you see it.”

Trades Academy Builds Community Studios Head North



PHOTO: DunnR

The Trades Academy at Tāmaki College is making a real impact beyond the school gates — designing and building small studios and relocatable cabins that are now being sold to schools and organisations across the country.

The latest builds are heading north, where local schools and community organisations will use the high-quality, student-crafted spaces for learning and support.

Under the guidance of Mr Thomas and Mr Huddlestone, Trades students have been gaining hands-on experience in construction, project management, and client engagement — applying classroom learning to real-world projects with real clients.

One recent highlight saw the team modify a cabin to create a neurodiversity support space for a local kura. The customised design ensures a calm, practical, and inclusive environment tailored to meet diverse learning needs — a powerful example of students building with purpose.

These projects not only strengthen technical skills but also teach pride in workmanship, teamwork, and the value of contributing to community wellbeing.

Well done to Rob, Richard, and our outstanding Trades students. You are not just building structures — you are building futures.

FEATURED ALUMNI



We are proud to celebrate two outstanding achievements in Sculpture at Tāmaki College.

Fa'alagilagi Ili has had their Level 3 Sculpture Folio selected for the prestigious Top Art Exhibition, organised by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

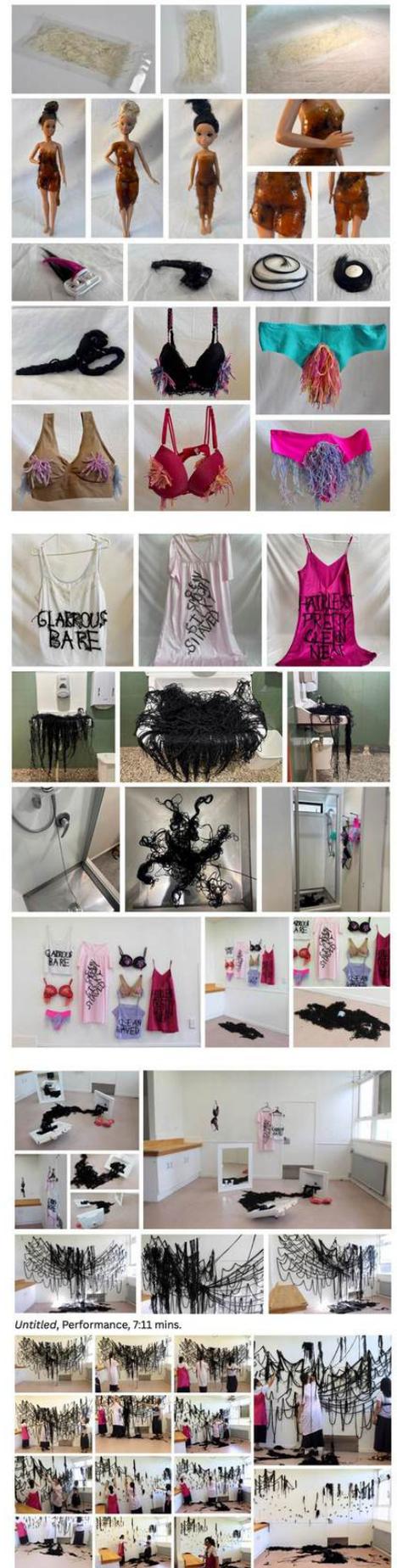
Top Art is a national touring exhibition that showcases the very best NCEA Level 3 Visual Art portfolios from across Aotearoa. From thousands of submissions, only a small number are selected. Fa'alagilagi's inclusion places their work among the highest-achieving art students in the country and reflects exceptional conceptual thinking, technical skill, and commitment to excellence.

We also celebrate Fa'alagilagi, who has also gained a New Zealand Sculpture Scholarship. This award recognises the top 3% of secondary school students nationwide in each subject. Students invited to sit NZ Scholarship complete additional, highly challenging assessments beyond their regular NCEA internal and external standards.

In Visual Art, Scholarship students submit an 8-page A3 workbook articulating and critically analysing the ideas developed throughout their artmaking process. This demands advanced thinking, depth of insight, and academic rigour.

Only twelve Sculpture Scholarships were awarded across the country — with one proudly belonging to Tāmaki College. Scholarship recipients receive a \$500 monetary award towards tertiary study, along with national recognition of their achievement.

These accomplishments reflect talent, perseverance, and the strength of our Visual Arts programme. We congratulate Fa'alagilagi for representing Tāmaki College with distinction on the national stage.



Student Leaders Stepping Forward in 2026



PHOTO: [unreadable]

We proudly acknowledge our 2026 Student Leaders, a group of young people committed to serving the school with integrity, pride, and purpose.

Our Head Students, Deputies, and wider student leadership team have stepped confidently into their roles — leading assemblies, supporting events, mentoring younger students, and representing the College in the community. They model our values daily through their actions, attitude, and commitment to excellence.

Student leadership at Tāmaki College is about more than wearing a badge. It is about service, responsibility, and setting the standard. Our leaders understand that true leadership is shown through respect, reliability, and the courage to stand up for what is right.

As the year unfolds, we look forward to seeing this team continue to grow, inspire, and leave a positive legacy for those who follow.

In the coming weeks we will be opening up our sports council nominations. This group of leaders will lead our lunchtime activities as well as prepare and manage other sporting events for students.



Head Boy: Militina Takai

Head Girl: Deborah Ta'ufo'ou



Deputy Head Boy: Davlyn Pakieto

Deputy Head Girl: Sar Yar Chan Min

Student Leaders: Lino Ake, Khyba Alesana, Iva Brown, Fawad Ehsani, Piri Ekuasi, Luana Elia, Hannah Epenisa, Puna Faoa, Tevesi Fetuuaho, Cheyene Gonzales, Benjamin Kava, Solomon Lehaulii, Lia Lelenoa, Mason Liu, Vinent Lupina Pineki, Kalisi Mafile'o, Pitara Mata, Lavell McCarthy, Halateu Misi-Penitani, Simone Pulupaki, Hemi Rudolph, Kevin Swamy, 'Isileli Taholo, Lily Uasi, Sifa Vaioleti, Milika Vaisima, Azzhmyr Villacruel, Sebastian Wayne.

Upcoming Events



Athletics Expectations

- Students must come to school in full school uniform.
- Students need to bring the following:
 - A full water bottle, which can be refilled at school.
 - A sun hat (sunscreen will be provided by the Health Centre).
 - PE gear in their house colours to change into. (Kowhai – yellow, Puriri – blue, Rata – red and Totara – green)
- Morning tea and lunch will be provided by the food service team
- Please note that bandanas (including bandana patterned clothes and hats) or paint are NOT allowed.
- Students may also wish to bring money to purchase fundraising items such as ice blocks.
- Students must sit in assigned House areas.
- Only one student per house at a time can be given permission to use the bathroom.



EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO CHAMPION EDUCATION

Parent Programme



- Navigate the NCEA system, track credits, and support your child's pathway to University, Employment or further Training.
- Refreshments, childcare and transport offered
- Sylvia Fausett Library - Tamaki College
- 3.30pm - 5.00pm

Learner Programme



- Years 11–13 who are "on the bubble" for NCEA credits or need Literacy/Numeracy CAAs
- Refreshments provided
- Sylvia Fausett Library - Tamaki College
- 3pm - 4.30pm

Every Wednesday (Starting 17th Feb)

for more information email info@tamaki.ac.nz





@TamakiCollege



@tamakicollegeofficial



School Uniform

It is expected that all students are wearing the correct school uniform.

Students were given notice at the start of the year to organise any required adjustments.

We appreciate the effort whānau make to ensure students meet uniform expectations.

Please note that any incorrect uniform items may be confiscated by their Dean.

Please refer to the Uniform Regulations for full details.

A copy is available from the school office.

Uniform Reminders

- Junior boys must wear school shorts. Long trousers are not permitted. They must also wear the long navy socks with the maroon stripe.
- All boys: White socks are not part of the school uniform.
- Footwear must be black leather lace-up school shoes or black sandals only. Please refer to the Shoe Regulations for further detail (a copy is available from the school office).
- Sports-style shoes are not permitted.
- Sports uniforms, training gear, and supporters' apparel may only be worn for games or training, not during school hours.

If there are any difficulties meeting these requirements, please speak with your Dean for support.

For further information, please contact info@Tāmaki.ac.nz

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- **Equity:** Uniforms reduce visible differences in clothing costs and brands, helping students feel equal and focused on learning.
- **Identity & Pride:** Wearing the school uniform shows belonging and connection to the school community.
- **Safety:** It makes students easy to recognise on site and during trips, and helps staff quickly identify who should be there.
- **Focus on Learning:** Less competition about fashion means fewer distractions in class.
- **Preparation for the Future:** It supports expectations around presentation and professionalism.

Have a Concern?

- **Speak Directly First**
 - Raise the matter with the staff member involved or the Principal (complaints cannot be anonymous).
 - **Serious or Unresolved Matters**
 - Submit a written complaint to the Principal with clear details and the outcome you are seeking.
 - **If the Complaint is About the Principal**
 - Write to the Presiding Member of the School Board.
- ✓ All complaints are treated confidentially
✓ Natural justice principles are followed
✓ Support and mediation options are available where appropriate

We value open communication and partnership with our whānau.