Te Kura Tuarua o Tūranga Wāhine
Gisborne Girls' High School

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

Kia ora e te whanau,

We are midway through Term 4 for juniors and at the end of regular school for seniors. This year has really raced past, and I continue to be so grateful for the support of this kura from all our whanau and wider community. Thank you!

NCEA EXAMS

To the seniors, here is a message from Ms Carroll. She will support you through your external exams:
We've reached the business end of the school year! External NCEA exams are the final step in securing your Level 1, 2, or 3 qualifications. Prepare with purpose, stay focused, and approach each paper with confidence.
Key Exam Information

- Dates: Tuesday, 10 November – Friday, 4 December
- Morning Session: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Afternoon Session: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- Results: Released mid-January via the NZQA ākonga learner login

Exam Day Checklist

- Arrive early in full school uniform.
- Bring a fully charged Chromebook (for digital exams).
- Bring a clear plastic water bottle to stay hydrated.

Preparation Tips

- Focus & Consistency: Use a structured study plan, revise in short, phone-free blocks, and take regular breaks.
- Targeted Practice: Work through past papers to spot patterns and master the specific skills required.

Here to Support You
Ms Carroll is on hand throughout the exam period to guide our kōtiro through any questions or issues:
Email: jayde.carroll@gghs.school.nz
Phone: 06 868 6092 ext 803

Wishing all our seniors the absolute best - finish strong!

Reviews:
For the exams, we would like to seek your thoughts on the timing of our derived-grade exams for 2027. Please click on this link:
Derived Grade exam timing for 2027.
Your opinion matters to us.

While I am on surveys, I would also like to share the Trust Tairawhiti Wellbeing Survey with you all. It only takes a few minutes and your voice is important. Here is the link to that survey
www.tairawhitidata.nz

SHAKESPEARE IN SCHOOLS

In September 2026, Year 11 Grace O'Connor attended the National Shakespeare in Schools Production Camp (NSSPC) in Wellington. This was an invitation-only event, and Grace was the only student from Gisborne to attend; the invitation was a result of being selected at the Gisborne Regional Shakespeare in Schools event earlier in the year. Over nine days, 46 students from across the country came together for Shakespeare workshops, waiata and haka practices, movement and stage-fighting workshops, history of Shakespeare lessons, a mystery tour around Wellington, and a visit to Victoria University. The camp culminated in two nights of performances, with Grace taking to the stage as Feste, the Royal Jester, in Twelfth Night, directed by Dr James Wenley. At the conclusion of NSSPC, Grace was one of 27 students offered a place in the Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand Young Shakespeare Company to workshop and perform at the Globe Theatre in London in July 2027.



This is Grace with her Director, Dr James Wenley

PŪHORO
He Waka Eke Noa

This is a new kaupapa for Tairawhiti, which is super exciting. Congratulations to those who are part of the STEMM Academy. Here is a bit about the programme:

Igniting the Future: Pūhoro STEMM Academy launches in Te Tairāwhiti!

The future of innovation in Tairāwhiti just got a whole lot brighter! We are thrilled to celebrate 17 of our outstanding Year 10 kōtiro who have secured places in the Pūhoro STEMM Academy for next year. This high-impact programme offers invaluable mentorship and hands-on growth across Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Mātauranga Māori.

The excitement kicked off on November 2nd with Pūhoro's official launch in our rohe, diving straight into two action-packed days of immersive learning. Our kōtiro put STEMM principles into practice across an incredible range of challenges: coding custom mini-vehicles, going head-to-head in robotic soccer, testing traditional engineering with harakeke ropes, competing in an Amazing Race, and sending rockets sky-high. A standout highlight was a realistic simulated whale triage at Kaiti Beach, blending local environmental action with practical marine science.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Pūhoro STEMM Academy for empowering our rangatahi and bringing these world-class opportunities directly to our community. We can't wait to watch our kōtiro thrive!





MĀTAI SCHOLARSHIPS 2027

Here is the full list of GGHS Mātai Scholarship recipients this year along with their wonderful supporters:

- Nellie Varey – Mātai–Quest Scholarship
- Miriam Cornfeld – Mātai Dr Katharine Holdsworth Scholarship
- Quinn Haughey – Mātai Tūranga Health Scholarship
- Reremoana Maynard-Wilson – Mātai Tūranga Health Scholarship (absent)
- Nikita Schwass – Mātai–Pinnacle Scholarship
- Lucie Carr – Mātai Tūranga Health Scholarship (absent)
- Else Pauwels – Mātai Sunrise Scholarship (absent)



Also in the photo are Sam Holdsworth, Mātai, Glenda Stokes and Janine McDiarmid from Sunrise Foundation.

Such a wonderful group of young women! The girls can go to Mātai at any time if they're seeking guidance in the STEM and medicine / medical sciences areas and are encouraged to apply for the Mātai summer research internships too.
Thank you, Sam Holdsworth, for being so amazing 🧡



THE LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

Our Learning Support classroom has had a fantastic year, with our students embracing a range of exciting opportunities both within and beyond the school. LSC proudly entered the IHC Art Awards, where students showcased their creativity and sold their artwork. We have enjoyed community outings including swimming, horse riding and volunteering at the local SPCA Op Shop. Our students have also loved being part of mainstream Art, Music and Pathways classes, building connections, confidence and a sense of belonging across the school. We warmly invite our wider school whānau to pop in and visit our classroom anytime, we would love to show you around and share what we get up to!





1996 REUNION

During Labour weekend we had the reunion of the 1996 year group. What a fantastic event it was. It was such a pleasure to show these ex students around our school. The prefects did a fantastic job and wowed the ex students with all the fabulous facilities we have. The day ended with a fun filled dinner out at the Vines, where both previous Principal Karen Johansen and myself were invited to speak.



Here is the organising committee with Karen and myself.



Here is the group enjoying their mystery bus tour.

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

The Junior Volleyball team travelled to Hawkes Bay for a seeding tournament. They showed great resilience and a never give up attitude. Well done to you all. Thank you Kelly Hansen and Rocky for taking them away. They head away to Auckland on Nov 16th to the Nationals. Best of Luck!



From Left to right Top: Frances Thomson, Malia Waihi, Awatea Walker, Hayley Rolls, Amber Monika, Rylee Barker coach Rocky Monika
2nd Row: Ruby Seymour, Kylah Te Moananui, Lauryn Houkamau, Persia Taiapa Matchitt, Olive Moleta

TWTT Tamararo Photos Album
Click here for TWTT Tamararo

NMTA Tamararo Photos Album
Click here for NMTA Tamararo





TAMARARO JUNIOR KAPA HAKA COMPETITION

The Karaitiana Tamararo Primary and Junior Kapa Haka Competition was held on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 November at Te Poho-o-Rāwiri Marae. In the Junior Division, we had 60 proudly representing our kura in two rōpū. Our Tūranga Wāhine Tūranga Tāne (TWTT), led by Gisborne Boys' High School Staff Kōkā Lor and Kōkā Paige, and our Gisborne Girls' High School rōpū ngahau, Ngā Manu Tangi Ata.

A special mihi to our TWTT kōtiro, ngā amorangi ki mua, who learnt two brackets and role-modelled a standard of excellence throughout our campaign. A mihi also to our teina and kōtiro who took to the stage for the very first time. Me whakanuia ka tika! Your commitment to te ao haka and ngā mahi a Tānerore me Hine Rēhia is something to be celebrated.

Finally, our sincere thanks to the whānau, tutors and haka exponents who generously contributed their time and mātauranga to prepare and uplift our kōtiro for this performance. Nā tō rourou, nā tōku rourou ka ora ai te iwi!





CELEBRATIONS

A big week of celebration last week beginning with the Colours and Contribution assembly where we had the pleasure of listening to Katie Blackburne. Katie has returned home to Tairāwhiti and is now undertaking her PhD through the University of Auckland, based at Mātai Medical Research Institute. With a background in psychology and neuroscience, Katie uses advanced MRI technology to help understand what happens after a brain injury and how research can improve people's lives. Thank you Katie for sharing your story with us.

Senior Prizegiving was held on Thursday night. What a stunning night of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga celebrating all of our ākonga success in a beautiful venue. Thank you to all the dignities, staff, whanau, friends and community who contributed to a full house. A first EVER! Congratulations to all prize winners GGHS is super proud of everyone of you.



The student leadership team for 2027, Lilla Hain, Ruby Jefferson and Rhianna Morgan-Horsfall.

CONGRATULATIONS and please follow these links for more photos:

Prize winners album
Click here for prize winner photos

Stage Photos album
Click here for other photos



Here is the DUX and runner up for 2026: Romie Roseman, Runner up and Nellie Varey DUX.



Head prefect for 2027, Ruby Jefferson being presented her gold badge and korowai by our 2026 Head prefect Quinn Haughey.

PREFECTS AND YEAR 13 STUDENTS 2026

Finally, to our 2026 Prefects and Year 13 students, led by Wairere, Jacqueline and Quinn: you have shown us what it means to be wāhine toa through your leadership, kindness and commitment to our kura. Thank you for your mahi, your support and the example you have set for those who follow. As you begin your next chapter, be proud of who you are and all you have achieved. I wish you every success wherever your journey takes you.



JUNIOR STUDENTS

REMEMBER WHANAU there are still 5 more weeks to go for Juniors so let's keep motivated right to the end.

Some dates coming up are:
13th Nov – Year 10 subject selection ends
10th Nov – NCEA exams begin
13th Nov – Hastings Girls' High Exchange (Gisborne)
14th – 15th Nov – Duke of Edinburgh Practice Journey, Guthrie Smith
14th Nov – Ngā Manu Tangi Ata – Tūranga- nui ā Kiwa Poukai
16th Nov – Volleyball Nationals (Auckland)
24th Nov – Year 8 Orientation Day
3rd – 4th Dec – Junior Condors (Mt Maunganui)
6th Dec – Yr 13 Leavers Dinner (The Vines)
9th – 10th Dec – NZSS Touch Tournament (Gisborne)
9th – 10th – End of Year Activities for Year 9 and 10 students.
11th Dec 10.30am JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING

Thank you again for your on-going support.

Ngā mihi nui

Bindy Hannah
Tumaki/Principal

GISBORNE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Te Kura Tuarua o Tūranga Wāhine

OUR VISION:
Whāngaihia te āpōpō
Empowering rangatahi for life

OUR VALUES:
Whakawhanaungatanga
Manaakitanga
Mana Motuhaketanga
Maiatanga

HINETŪ PROFILE:

Hine tiaia ki kura rau!
Hine hōkaia taumata rau!
We are Hinetū; strong in our identity and culture.
With courage and compassion, we empower each other to thrive.
E tū e! Hinetū e