

Taita College

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Lower Hutt 5019
New Zealand
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Tītiro Whakarunga Ki Ngā Puke

Kia ora e te Whānau

Welcome to the 2026 school year! We hope you all had a restful summer break and managed to spend quality time with friends and family.

We are buzzing with excitement to welcome our returning ākonga (students) and extend a special welcome to the new families joining the Taita College community this year. We began the school year with a pōwhiri to welcome our new students, staff and their whānau last Friday. We were blown away by the amount of whānau that came along to support our new students. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Our school is still undergoing the rebuild with our new Admin block currently being constructed, Knowledge Hub (library) being refurbished and a new parking area being constructed. This should not cause any inconvenience to our students and we are hopeful that this will be completed by the end of term 2. Our Knowledge Hub is closed at this stage but if students would like to borrow a book they can request this at the front reception area.

New staff

We welcome the following new staff members to Taita College:

Jackie Agalawatta - Teacher Aide
Laifa Ta'ala - Teacher Aide
Anna Trethewey - Teacher (Science)
Leslie MacKay - Teacher (Mathematics)
Ryan Pene-Stevens - Teacher (Physical Education)
Rick Mawby - Teacher (Hard Materials)
Wendy Joyes - Teacher (Science)
David Prendergast - 24/7 Youth Worker
Kaitlin Kirk - 24/7 Youth Worker

Absences

As you may be aware the Ministry of Education is now tracking student absences. Please ensure that you contact the school on 04 567 8728 to inform of an absence. If your child is truant from school you may receive a call or visit from Awhi Attendance Services.

Please note that our Attendance Strategy can be found on our school website <https://taita.school.nz/vision.html>

Mobile Phone Rules: A Refresher

Following the regulations solidified last year, our "Away for the Day" policy remains strictly in place.

- Phones must be **switched off and in bags** from the first bell (8:50 am) until the final bell (3:15 pm).
- This includes interval and lunch times.
- If you need to contact your child urgently during the day, please call the office on 567 8728
- If your child is caught with their phone they will need to hand this into the school office to be collected at the end of the day. If caught with their phone over 3 times a parent will need to collect the phone from school.
- No headphones are allowed to be worn during school time.

Uniform

A reminder that we expect our students to be in perfect school uniform, every day.

Students will need to wear their blazers for formal occasions, such as assemblies which will be on Wednesdays. Please ensure that you have named your child's uniform so if lost we can return to the correct student.

Bell Times

A reminder that school starts at 8.50am each morning. School finishes at 3.15pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Tuesday school finishes at 2.00pm.

We have wonderful services available to our students which include:

Our Manaaki team - Taita College has a school counsellor - Jo Wisker and youth workers on site, everyday.

Vibe Clinic - We have the wonderful nurses Holly and Maya in on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's with the Nurse Practitioner - LEEANNE in on Friday's. LEEANNE is able to write prescriptions for students that need them. Please see the VIBE letter attached.

Period Products - Period products are available to our students from the main office, whenever they need them.

Lunch in School - We have government lunches available at our school canteen, during the first break. Each student should bring a water bottle to school.

School Policies

Please find below the following school policies that are up for review this term. To place a review on these policies please go to www.schooldocs.co.nz and enter the username: taita and password: taitacollege

- Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Harmful Substances Policy - Board Review
- Sun Protection - Board Review
- Digital Technology and Online Safety- Board Review
- Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices
- Safety and Welfare for Students on Work Experience

Important Term Dates

Friday 6th February

Wednesday 11th February

Thursday 12th February

Thursday 12th February

Monday 16th February

Tuesday 17th February

Wednesday 18th February

Wednesday 18th to 20th February

Wednesday 25th February

Thursday 26th March

Thursday 2nd April

WAITANGI DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)

Junior Assembly

Year 11 Assembly

Board of Trustees Meeting

Whanau Information Evening (Information to be sent to parents)

Student ID Photos

Senior Assembly

Year 11 Tongariro Crossing

Athletics Day

Board of Trustees Meeting

Last Day of Term 1

You can keep up to date with events during the year by following us on FaceBook or Instagram or by viewing the Taita College website.