

# Taita College

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*Tītiro Whakarunga Ki Ngā Puke*

## **Kia ora e te Whānau**

It is wonderful to see how our new students have quickly settled into Taita College routines. Our Year 9/10 PAT testing has been completed and we now have valuable information on where our students are at, academically. This data helps teachers immensely with planning and ensures that all students are able to access appropriate learning. As always our students' wellbeing and learning are our top priority and your support with this is greatly appreciated.

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of former teacher and HOD, Mr Dave Strawbridge. Dave's dedication and commitment to teaching at Taita College spanned 42 years, making him our longest serving staff member. Dave was a much loved member of staff and is fondly remembered by a large number of students, not only for his teaching but also for coaching and managing. Laterly, his success with the smallbore rifle shooting teams resulted in National honours. Dave's life was celebrated at the College on Saturday 28th February.



## **School Photos**

ID photos have been taken and all of our Year 9 students will receive a free student ID card within the next couple of weeks. Years 10 to 13 students are able to order an ID card from the main office for \$10. The ID photos will be used for the class composite photos which will be available to purchase through InPhotography. More information will be emailed to parents soon.

## **Barbershop Group Sign-Up**

We are excited to invite students to join our school Barbershop group for 2026. This is a wonderful opportunity for students who enjoy singing and performing. The joining fee is \$50, which can be paid at the front office. Throughout the year, we will also organise fundraising activities such as sausage sizzles and bake sales to support the group. More information will be shared once students have enrolled and completed payment. Ms Ahmad will send a detailed letter outlining events for the year, including performances and participation in The Big Sing and Barbershop.

## **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.

Please note that our Attendance Strategy can be found on our school website

<https://taita.school.nz/vision.html>

This outlines the processes which occur when students are absent for 5 or more days per term. Medical absences are categorised as being away from school by the Ministry of Education.

We are very fortunate to have the support of Awhi attendance services who are here to help students to attend school regularly.

## **School Ball**

We have set the date for the Year 12/13 School Ball - Friday 12 June. Location yet to be confirmed.

## Athletics Day

Athletics Day was a huge success! The sun was shining, the costumes were fantastic, the house chants were amazing and the competitors were outstanding. The winner of the Taita College House Chant on Athletics Day was Jamieson House (Orange).

The House points for Athletics day are as follows:

Bear = 410

Charles = 350

Jamieson = 420

Narraway = 225



## Building Update

The new admin block is well under way but there has been a discovery of asbestos within the building so this will need to be removed safely. Please see the attached document from the Ministry of Education regarding the removal of asbestos. The removal work will take place from 09/03/2026 to 27/03/2026.

## 2026 Europe Trip

On Saturday 28th March we have 30 Year 12/13 students and 4 staff members jetting off to Europe for 17 days! First stop is London where they will spend 5 nights, off to Belgium for 2 nights, onto Paris for 3 nights and finally onto Rome for 3 nights. Students and staff have worked tirelessly to help fundraise for this trip and are extremely grateful to all of our local businesses that have supported us in these fundraising ventures.

A **HUGE** thank you to: [Mexicano](#), [Moore Wilsons](#), [Caltex Stokes Valley](#), [New World Stokes Valley](#), [Red Badge Events](#), [Pak N Save Lower Hutt](#), [Bunnings Petone](#), [I LOVE YOUR HAIR](#), [Ceramysterium](#), Supersave Naenae, Centa Bakery, [Whittakers](#), [Salem Hair](#), [Lighthouse Cinema](#), [Monterey Cinema](#).

## 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. Blazers are a compulsory uniform item however during Terms 1 & 4 students are only required to wear them for formal occasions and assemblies. During Terms 2 & 3 blazers must be worn daily.

Please ensure that you have named your child's uniform so if lost we can return to the correct student.

### **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](http://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**

Sunday 1st March to Friday 6th March	Hillary Outdoors for 10SPA class
Monday 9th March	Maori/Pacifica Parent meeting
Wednesday 11th March	Junior Student Assembly
Wednesday 18th March	Senior Student Assembly
Thursday 19th March	Athletics Regionals
Wednesday 25th March	Full School Assembly
Thursday 26th March	Board of Trustees Meeting - 5.30pm
Saturday 28th March	Europe trip students and staff leave
Thursday 2nd April	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.



# Notice of Asbestos Removal Work

To Whom It May Concern,

**Niche Commercial & Central Demolition**, a licensed Asbestos Removalist (WorkSafe Class A Licence: number **RA16060054, RB19010159**) will be undertaking removal work of some Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) from **Block D at Taita College**.

This removal work will be conducted between **09/03/26** and **27/03/26**.

WorkSafe NZ was notified on **20/02/2026** that this licensed asbestos removal work is to be undertaken.

**Taita College** management and board of trustees have been consulted about the nature and timing of this work, together with the safety measures to be used.

The following safety measures will be put in place and maintained for the duration of this project:

- Signs, barriers and/or temporary fencing will be installed.
- PVA solution or water will be applied to asbestos containing materials to prevent airborne asbestos fibres dust (as required).
- Asbestos containing materials will not be broken, where possible.
- Plastic will be used to cover horizontal surfaces and surrounds.
- Asbestos containing material will be wrapped on site and disposed of at an approved tip site
- Air monitoring at the work site boundary will be place for the duration of the work. If asbestos fibres above the allowable safe limit are detected, work will cease immediately, and corrective measures applied
- An independent party will carry out an inspection of the site on completion of the work and issue a clearance certificate.

The Ministry of Education website has further information about the management of asbestos and procedures to ensure the safety of all involved in or affected by the work, at the school and community. This can be found on:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/education-professionals/schools-year-0-13/property/managing-asbestos-schools>

Additional information about asbestos removal and/or Asbestos Removal Licences can be found on WorkSafe NZ's website <http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe> or by phoning **0800 030 040 (24 hours)**.

If you have any questions or concerns about this removal work, please feel to contact either the Enviro solutions on 027 7774 004 or Brent from Niche on 021 285 0099

Linda Pye  
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