WHCC Newsletter

Faith | Character | Wisdom | Excellence | Community

08 August 2025

Principal's Pen

Secondary Qualifications

There has been considerable media attention on NCEA, including the recent decision to replace it. One of the key concerns is that students and schools have sometimes selected credits simply to get students 'over the line'. In doing so, the assessment tool has ended up shaping the curriculum rather than the other way around. This has led to critical gaps in students' knowledge. A second issue is that, once students have enough credits, they often lose motivation to study.

The issue isn't necessarily with the individual assessments, but with the lack of clarity around what must be taught. We must begin by identifying what is valuable to teach, and only then select assessments that meaningfully measure learning.

Our Year 9 students will complete their secondary education under NCEA. Our goal is to set aspirational content that keeps doors open for future career pathways. Assessments will serve that purpose, not define it. And the NCEA assessments are good.

The new qualification, in my view, has a lot to commend it. But I remain cautious in my optimism. There are still unknowns:

- What will the vision for course content be?
- What values will be explicitly and implicitly woven in?
- Do those values align with ours?
- How will the qualification support a wide range of career choices?

I am not concerned about the answer to these questions, just highlighting them as important ones to ask. If we know what we are about, we will successfully navigate any government changes, good and bad, while holding true to what we value.

Please note: A communication from the MoE is attached to this notice.

From the Board

Proposal to Increase Parent-Elected Board Members

Dear WHCC Community,

As our school community has grown significantly over the past three years, the School Board would like to increase the number of parent-elected members on the Board — from three to five. To make this change, we are required to consult with our school community.

If you would like to share your thoughts on this proposal, we invite you to join us for this discussion at our next School Board meeting, which will be held at **6:30pm on Monday, 18 November at WHCC**. We warmly welcome your attendance and input on this topic at the meeting.

We also extend a special invitation to all those who have been nominated for the upcoming board elections. This meeting will provide a valuable opportunity for you to observe how the Board operates and gain insight into our governance processes.

Warm regards,
Peter Wilding
Presiding Member/Board Chair
WHCC School Board

Prayer Points

- Please pray particularly for a wise path in growing the school.
- Board elections coming up
- Working bees coming up

School Board Election – Voting Pack

A voting pack has been mailed to your registered postal address. Each parent is entitled to vote. If you have not received your pack, please collect one from the school office at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Working Bee – 23 August 2025

Thanks to our Parent Volunteers for kindly offering to assist with our upcoming working bee and for sharing your availability.

Most responses have indicated availability on **Saturday 23 August**, so we will proceed with the working bee on that date, **starting at 10am**.

It's truly heartening to have engaged and supportive parents like yourself contributing to our school community.

If you're also able to lend a hand on Saturday 23 August, please don't hesitate to let us know by emailing our school office. (office@whcc.school.nz)

Notices

ICAS English Assessment

The ICAS English assessment will be on Monday 11th August at 9:30am in the Yr 9 homeroom.
A device will be supplied for the assessment.
Depending on which test level they are doing, they will have 35 to 60 minutes to do the test.
If you have any questions, please contact Dan Shaw. (dan.shaw@whcc.school.nz)

Year 7 and 8 Languages

We are pleased to inform you that Mrs. Kim Shaw has joined our teaching team and has taken over from Mr. Tim Kuipers as the Languages teacher for our Year 7 and 8 students.

To ensure students are prepared for her classes, please provide a **1B8 exercise book** by **Monday, 11 August 2025.**

Relieving Teachers

We would like to increase the size of our teacher relief pool. If you know of anyone available, please contact the school office or email Dan Shaw (dan.shaw@whcc.school.nz)

WHCC Facebook Community Group

WHCC Facebook Community Group Our APT (Parent Support) Group has established a Facebook group to help keep our school community connected. For school-related updates and communications, click here to join.

School Lunches: Now Available

We now have a **school lunch ordering and delivery service in school on Thursdays and Fridays.**

To take advantage of this convenient option:

- Visit www.lunchonline.co.nz to create your account.
- Register your child as a **Member** under your account and complete their details.
- Select **Wellington Hills Christian College** as the school and specify their **Year Group/Homeroom**.
- All your orders will be delivered in school before lunch time (12:15pm)

If you have any questions or need help, feel free to contact the school office (office@whcc.school.nz)

WHCC – Bank Account Number

For all school banking, such as donation payments and school fundraisers, please make an internet banking payment to:

Wellington Hills Christian College Board
ASB Bank
Account Number: 12-3481-0040719-00

Calendar

Our GOOGLE calendar is linked to the front page of our website. You can also access it here. Term dates and events are already in place.

Key Dates

Monday, 11 Aug	ICAS English Assessment
Tuesday 12 Aug	Yr 9 Junior Badminton Champs
Friday 15 Aug	Yr 9 Parliament Trip
Monday 18 Aug	ICAS Spelling Bee
	Enrolments: Second round offers made to General Public
Friday 22 Aug	ICAS Science
Wednesday 10 Sept	School Board Elections

Community Notices

Piano Lessons

Piano lessons for all levels, from beginners to advanced with professional pianist and experienced piano teacher, Kirsten Robertson. Learn for fun with a lesson book, or work towards a graded exam. Kirsten teaches the ABRSM, Trinity College London syllabus and AMEB syllabus'. Kirsten will be available to teach at WHCC on Wednesdays and Fridays, during school hours.
Kirsten is a classically trained pianist and she studied postgraduate performance piano at the Royal College of Music in London. Kirsten plays regularly with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra as Principal Keyboard.

Name: Kirsten Robertson MMus (Uni. Cant.), PGDip, PGDip adv. (RCM, London)
Contact Number: 021 188 1044
Email: krr.robertson@gmail.com

Camp Code for Year 9 Girls

Camp Code for Girls is a FREE week-long program that makes computer programming fun and accessible for girls in Years 9 and 10. Campers gain hands-on experience in coding, while learning how to solve real-world problems, build mobile apps, and make a positive impact.
Instructors and guest speakers—all accomplished tech professionals—connect with the campers to introduce them to the opportunities open to women in tech from programming to engineering to cybersecurity, and more!

Space is limited, apply now at https://www.fastenterprises.com/camp-code-nz/