



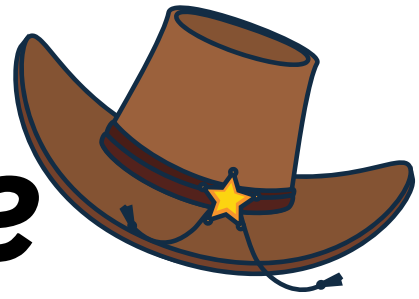
2026

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

By: Student Council 2026



Footloose



Senior College Production 2026

Footloose was a massive highlight of the year, but also one of the standout experiences of my entire time at school. From the long rehearsals and hard work to the laughs and countless behind-the-scenes memories, it was an experience we will all cherish. It was so special to build new friendships within the Senior College and have the opportunity to spend time with students from different year groups outside of the classroom.

Seeing all our hard work come together at the end of last term was such a proud moment. The fantastic turnout made it even more special and allowed us to showcase the incredible talent we have here at school.

Footloose gave me so many memories, friendships and experiences that I will carry with me forever. I'm incredibly grateful that I got to be a part of such a special production, and so thankful to all the staff and students whose hard work and dedication made it possible. It is definitely an experience I will never forget!

By: Sienna Chu Y13



Senior College House Competition



While the Year 12 and 13 senior college girls are away on Monday mornings for senior college assembly and on Thursdays for Hauora. The senior college race to be the winning house is well underway, with events such as the chase, guess the song, general knowledge quizzes, and cringe cryptic clues. We challenge our teachers and our peers in fast-paced, action-filled games for house points. These have proven to be fun activities to get everyone in their senior college houses, Waiti, Tupuanuku, Tuparangi, and Ururangi, involved.

-Y12 Isabel Bailey



The Big Sing

On the 18th of June after many weeks of practice the year 11 fun choir headed over the hill to Palmerston North to compete in the big sing. The choir led by student leaders Bella, Lola and Maddy performed two songs, Uptown Girl and Riptide with Uptown girl being chosen to sing in the next round. All of the girls had so much fun, and we all were very proud of how we performed on the day. Huge thanks to Lola, Bella and Maddy because without all of their effort this wouldn't have been possible!!!!

-Y11 Katelyn Corbett



Hokonui Fashion Week



The Hukanui Fashion awards have been running for over 38 years, making it the longest running fashion design awards in New Zealand. This is held in Gore in late July. As year 12 and 13 students this is an event we look forward to each year alongside working hard to achieve an outcome that meets the standards of the category and show overall. Something that always amazes us as a class is the diversity and individuality of all the garments in their respective categories. As a class this year we made memories we will never forget alongside eating amazing food and witnessing so much creativity. Massive thank you to Mrs Bucknell who works hard to organise this trip each year and makes it so special.

As a year 13 student I would highly recommend taking Fashion as a subject for as long as you can.

- Y13 Bonnie Noble

Y7/8 performance

On the 30th of July, the Year 7/8s travelled to Rathkeale, dressed in their Ancient Greek togas. We headed to the Roman Theatre and listened to Miss Mahoney as she introduced us to the assembly. First, the three “men”, Evie Tulloch-hay, Melody Bazley and Te-Arawa Martin, who were leading their “parties” in the debate, gave their speeches. Between speeches, the woman, slaves and foreigners were allowed to mingle and lobby with the men. The options for the men would be voting for were, to save the money, spend it on warships or use it to build more public spaces. Melody, who led the saving money campaign, won by a lot. Afterwards, we reflected on our roles and wondered how life was like for the Ancient Greeks. We found that for the people who were the men, felt powerful and meaningful, the woman felt useless and overlooked, and the slaves and foreigners felt excluded and ignored.

-Y7/8 Cate Eddy and Fuschia Gibson



Y10/11 Duke of Edinburgh



In Term 1, a group of Year 10s went to Mt Holdsworth for our practice Duke of Edinburgh tramp. We packed our bags with food, clothes, and everything we needed for the night before heading off on our first hike to Donnelly's Flat and back, which took about two hours. Once we got back, we split into groups to put up our tents, then learnt some basic navigation and first aid skills that would be useful if something went wrong while tramping. That night we all had our amazing dinner and hung out before getting into our tents for a very cold night. The next morning, we had a warm breakfast, packed everything up, and hiked to Rocky Lookout. We enjoyed the views and company of the people around us before making our way back to the van and heading to school. It was a fun experience, and I learnt a lot while spending time outdoors with my friends. I'd definitely recommend giving Duke of Edinburgh a go because it's a great challenge and a lot of fun.

-Y10 Charlotte Johnson



Sports Review



Netball

-Y13 Ava Edge

Tournament Week is officially done! Our three top codes have been across the country representing the school and putting everything on the line with their chosen sport. Senior A Netball travelled down to Wellington, leaving on Saturday and returning Thursday after a huge 10-game tournament. The girls finished with 5 wins and 5 losses from our 10 games, placing 27th out of 64 teams and, most importantly, holding their position in A Grade for another year. Alongside their tournament success, there were also some huge milestone games celebrated, with Ava Edge reaching 125 games, Ribh Holden 100, Amelia Didsbury 75, and Kaytlen Corbett 50 games for Senior A Netball! 🏐👏



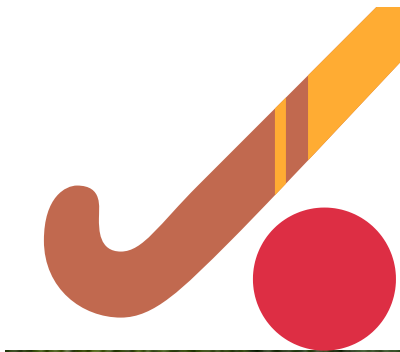
Hockey



Up in Whangārei, First XI Hockey played 7 games, picking up 2 wins through shootouts and suffering 5 losses. Their final game was a real heartbreak, as the team dominated for almost the entire match, only for the opposition to score with just 20 seconds left, putting them into the lead and leaving our girls to finish 4th in the Marie Fry Tournament.

🏒 There were also some special milestones for First XI Hockey, with Ellie Southey, Bella Shearing and Lucy Osborn all reaching 50 games! 🎉

Despite the highs and lows, all three teams showed huge determination, resilience and school spirit throughout the week. A massive congratulations to everyone who competed and represented the school, and a special congratulations to those year 13s who played in their last tourney week ever!



Football



Meanwhile, Football headed up to Napier, battling through their tournament and making it all the way to their final game against Wairarapa college, where they narrowly missed out in their last match. The football girls finished up 17 in their tournament. ⚽



Around Boarding



Boarding at St Matthews is not what you might expect. Although boarding is, in essence, a sleepover with your friends all week, 2026 has had more to offer the girls than just the mischievous nightly dorm runs. We started our year with the Big Splash, an event where each dorm is colour-coded and competes for the biggest bomb and Manu. Throughout the year, we've also had dance and ping pong competitions, a talent show, Boarding Week events and a '90s Week! Many other fun activities also take place in the afternoons, led by our Tutors, Olive and Hessie. Overall, boarding has never had a dull moment, and the sisterhood continues to thrive with each year!

-Y13 Ruby Ferguson

