



WELCOME YEAR 9 OF 2026

STARTING DATES

As with previous years, we have staggered the start of Term 1 so that we can spend important quality time with each year level as they arrive.

Friday	30 January	8:40am – 3:05pm	All Year 9 students first day. Please come in full school uniform. Powhiri, Orientation & Peer Mentoring day. - Please bring your BYOD Device today. (Parents welcome to attend Powhiri 8:40–10:30)
Monday	2 February	8:40am – 3:05pm	Timetabled Classes for Day 3 All year levels in

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

The main school office and accounts department will reopen on **Monday 19th January** with normal hours;
Monday – Thursday; 8am – 4pm
Friday; 8am to 3.30pm Friday.

UNIFORM

Uniform, is no longer sold onsite at the school

Uniforms are purchased through the Uniform Shoppe 521 Rosebank Road, Avondale in person or online at <https://theuniformshoppe.co.nz/location/the-uniform-shoppe-avondale/>

Chromebooks - Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

All Year 9 students are asked to bring their device on the first day of school (**Friday 30th January**) to log on to the school network and begin their e-learning programme. **If you do not have a device yet, please see the school website for more information.** The school requests that parents provide a digital device (Chromebook or similar). **Almost all assessments are now done on devices.** Devices also allow students to access work online at home in addition to any school learning.

SCHOOL LUNCH INITIATIVE

Waitākere College is part of the Government's *Lunch in Schools* initiative. Students are provided every day with a hot lunch and snacks. These will commence on **Friday 30th January**.

CANTEEN

This will be open for lunch and normal sales from **Monday 2nd February**. Please see the school website for the menu.

BUSES

School buses will be running from **Thursday, 29th January**. If you have any queries, please contact the office on 836 7890 or see our website.

TRAFFIC INFORMATION

For the safety of our students, we ask that there be no drop offs or pickups within the school grounds directly before and after school. Please encourage your child to use the Swanson Road exits or to meet you at a prearranged area away from the school. Please do not park in the bus bay at the front of the school.

LOCKERS

The school has invested in lockers to provide a safe place for students to be able to store their computers and bags. These lockers are available for hire at a cost of approximately \$20 per year. **Students are required to bring their own padlock.** If you wish to purchase a locker for the year, please pay at accounts. Lockers will be allocated in the first few weeks of school. There are also free casual day lockers in the gymnasium for when students are doing P.E. or Sport. For the casual day lockers students will also need to provide their own padlock.

BYOD – ENGRAVING

To help with security around devices, we encourage them to be named. Inscribing on a device incorrectly can cause the warranty to be invalidated. We have organised a local company, who can engrave your device safely, to come into the school, mid-February, to engrave your computers at a cost of about \$15 per device. The date for this will be advertised through the daily pānui at the beginning of the year.

ID CARDS

All students will be photographed mid-February for ID cards and for the school's records. Although ID cards are not compulsory, students may require them for discounted fares on buses and trains or concessions at movies. ID cards cost approximately **\$10.00** and students can order and pay for these at the accounts department.

STATIONERY

We have included a stationery list in your welcome email. If you require a WINZ quote, please take it to your stationery shop of choice as the school does not sell or supply stationery. For some subjects, workbooks will be required and these will be given out in class.

We've teamed up with Warehouse Stationery for our 2026 stationery requirements, and we're happy to let you know that your lists are ready to go. You'll have the flexibility to purchase in store or online, with delivery and click & collect options available. Click the link to view your stationery list and enjoy getting school ready! Note, to get the best deals, the Back-to-School special pricing is available from early January 2026. Your stationery lists are now available to view on our website or alternatively [Click here](#) to access the **Warehouse Stationery** order form. If you are going to use this service the closest store is 111/115 Lincoln Road, Henderson.

SCHOOL DONATION & FEES

The school's Board of Trustees has decided to take part in the NZ Government's Donations Scheme. The purpose of this is to lower the cost of education to families.

There will be no request for a school donation.

We will only be asking families to meet course material costs where there is a take home component. This will result in considerable savings for you and your family.

Course workbooks and on-line learning programs will also be funded by the school where these items are an expectation for the whole class. Students will need to purchase their own optional revision guides.

The costs of day trips that are a core part of the curriculum will now also be covered by the school. A family contribution can be made towards the costs associated with optional and overnight curriculum trips.

Students and families will still be expected to meet the costs for sports, arts and cultural activities.

DAILY PĀNUI

Waitākere College is a very busy place. We produce a daily bulletin with all the activities going on in the school. This is emailed to students every day and published on our school website for parental access. We encourage you and your child to read it so as to not miss any upcoming opportunities.

SCHOOL RULES & EXPECTATIONS

In your pack you will find a copy of the school rules and expectation, please read over this with your child to familiarise yourselves before the first day of school.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

This term all our Year 9 students will be involved in an exciting outdoor trip as part of their learning program. In March, each Year 9 class will spend a day at Cornwallis. Students will be involved in team building activities, a bush walk and a swim in a waterhole.

YEAR 9 BBQ

We would like to invite you to the Year 9 BBQ to be held on **Tuesday 24th February**. We will send a letter home closer to the time with full details. The BBQ is a good opportunity to come in and meet your child's tutor class teacher and other senior staff in a relaxed informal environment.

SCHOOLBRIDGE APP

Download the SchoolBridge app today to make your school life easier! With the app, you can quickly report absences, arrange exit passes, and easily check your child's attendance and NZQA results—all in one place.

The app can be downloaded through either the google or Apple store. Further information is available on our website and the link for that is here; <https://waitakere.bridge.school.nz/app>