



St Peter's College Hāto Petera

JULY 2026
Newsletter

Principal's Comment

Kia ora e te whānau

Thank you to all those who attended our open night on the 29th of July. This is a great opportunity for prospective and future students and their whānau to see what we have on offer. We are currently accepting enrolments for 2027 and all those received before Friday 25th of September will go in the draw to win one of four uniform vouchers worth \$250.00. Please encourage anyone considering enrolling for 2027 to get in touch with the school office to arrange an enrolment interview. Thank you to all the students and staff who made this night a success.



We have had the sign off from the Ministry of Education to allow for the PTFA to go ahead with resurfacing the Susan Horrell Courts. This work will take place in November and will ensure that the courts can be used moving forward. I want to thank all the members of the PTFA who have made this possible and especially those such as Julie Chisholm, Justine Abernethy, John Henry, and Kate Mitchell who have spent many years working towards this goal. Our students will certainly benefit greatly from this upgrade.

The house on Pukaki Street that the Rosminians lived in when they were here on staff and was later used by some of the hostel staff is now for sale. This house belongs to the Gore Parish and proceeds from the sale will go to them. The house is not in a usable condition at the moment, and the sale of that section will assist with improving the aesthetics of the school site.

We have also been fortunate early this term to have a visit from Fr Aidan Cunningham IC to the College. Fr Aidan was accompanied by Fr Ambrose Maliakkal IC, the Rosminian Superior for New Zealand, and Fr Marco Tanghetti, the Rosminian Provost General from Rome. They were all pleased to see some of the progress with buildings around the site and to interact with some of our students and staff.

We have recently begun our year level masses in the chapel starting with Year 13. These will continue for the rest of the year and are a great way for our students to become more familiar with the Mass, which is the core of our identity as a catholic school.



St Peter's College Hāto Petera

JULY 2026
Newsletter

Thank you to Fr Sani for making this possible and for his ongoing support of the college. A reminder that we have a mufti day on Tuesday 4th of August to support the Kindness Collective, who provide bedding and sleepwear to those in Aotearoa who are struggling during winter. Both of these are good examples of our school value of compassion in action.

I wish to thank all those who have made improvements to their attendance this last term. The statistics issued from the Ministry of Education have shown that our school's regular attendance (90%+) increased in term two 2026 to 61% compared to 56% last year. Chronic attendance of below 70% has also decreased. Overall, our attendance rates have improved, which is very pleasing to see. Well done also to all those students who have received 100% and most improved attendance certificates; this is a good example of demonstrating the school value of commitment. As you will be aware, regular attendance at school is a significant factor in overall student achievement.

There will be a survey coming out to all parents as part of a uniform review that we are currently undertaking. The reason this review has come about is that currently our uniform is supplied by four different suppliers and there have been some challenges around securing stock in a timely manner, with some parents waiting up to six months for uniform items. We are also having to commit to large volumes of fabric very soon if we stick with the uniform as it currently is. Therefore, the School Board has decided to conduct a uniform review as we wish to resolve these challenges. Please take the time to complete the survey that will be emailed out next week.

This term we have welcomed three students and an agent on exchange from Chiang Mai in Thailand who will be with us for three weeks. They are all adjusting to the colder climate and have enjoyed the various excursions that they have been part of so far, including Bluff and Te Anau.

Good luck to our Bishops Shield team that travels to Dunedin next weekend to compete in a variety of cultural and performing arts events. This is a great opportunity, like the Quad exchanges, to have all four catholic secondary schools gather in some friendly competition. Thank you to all the staff involved in this. A great example of the school value of community in action.

Charity fulfills the law
Kieran Udy



Ako – Teaching and Learning Update

*E kore au e ngaro he kākano i ruia mai i Rangīātea.
I will never be lost for I am a seed sown in the heavens.*

Across the last couple of weeks, we've been hearing Jesus' parables about sowing seed and what can happen to the seed once it hits the ground. In some situations the seedlings die, unable to grow in poor soil or choked by weeds and thorns while others go on to grow and flourish producing good but varying yields. I have been thinking a lot about how this is like teaching and learning, with kaiako, teachers, sowing the seeds of knowledge.

I am pleased to report that both kaiako and rangatahi were rewarded on the first day of the new term with the release of the Writing and Numeracy Common Assessment Activity results. A comparison of our results against the national pass rate as reported on the RNZ website on 22 July is below.

Assessment	St Peter's pass rate	National pass rate
Numeracy	76%	52%
Writing	74%	57%
Reading	84%	61%

Congratulations to ākonga and kaiako involved in this mahi. There is the opportunity for ākonga to attempt the CAAs again in September if they did not achieve it this round. It has been good to have conversations initiated by the young people who have come to see me to say that they have learned from their mistakes and will definitely be more focused going into the next round of exams. This is a sure sign of personal growth and maturity – a determination to tend the soil to ensure better growth.



St Peter's College Hāto Petera

JULY 2026
Newsletter

It has been very moving to see our new whare ako, Te Rangimarie, in use for Te Ao Tikanga and Te Ao Haka classes. Over the last five years we have moved to ensure that every ākonga from Years 7 – 9 has dedicated time to engage with Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori. For the first time this year we have an NCEA pathway dedicated to Te Ao Māori. As a college, we continue to move our way along Te Poutama Ako, the Poutama of Learning for which we are grateful, and I was particularly reminded of this today when I walked past the panel in the office area pictured in this article. Bishop Pompallier and Suzanne Aubert, who were both fluent in Te Reo Māori would, I think, be pleased with this mahi.



Returning to the metaphor Christ used in his parable of the sower, if we the kaimahi are the sowers of seed for the rangatahi, weeding and providing good soil quality is probably the most important part the home-school partnership where parents and whānau work with kaiako to help things flourishing. Partnership implies communication.



St Peter's College Hāto Petera

JULY 2026
Newsletter

Kaiako will be communicating with you frequently this term and welcome your engagement in this process. Fortnightly ATL reporting will begin in week three and Whānau Conferencing for the whole school will be held on Wednesday 12 August from 2.30pm till 7pm.

Booking for this is now open and can be accessed on the School Interviews website using this code **n6y5h**. There will be no ATL reporting between weeks three and seven because of this kanohi ki te kanohi, face to face, reporting so I encourage you to make an appointment to meet the relevant kaiako for your rangatahi.

Another evening to calendar is Thursday 27 August. On that date all Year 10 – 12 ākonga and their whānau are invited to the Hooked on Learning and Senior Options evening. More detailed information about this important event will be emailed home in the next few weeks. This will be the beginning of the subject selection process for all ākonga from Years 9 – 12. I'd like to finish by just clarifying what it means when we have a shortened school day or "half day" as the rangatahi call it. Despite us closing at 2pm, every scheduled class for the day is taught. We change the timings of our day slightly, but every timetabled curriculum class is taught. If you are hearing that "it's not worth going to school because it's a half day", that's definitely not the case.

Wishing you a safe weekend as we head into what's looking like a cold and wild couple of days – kia pai tō koutou rā whakatā!

Bridget Ryan
Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning



St Peter's College Hāto Petera

JULY 2026
Newsletter

**Junior Art students
working on the
Hokonui Taniwha
mural for the
school whareniui.**





St Peter's College Hāto Petera

JULY 2026
Newsletter



**Year 11 Workshop
projects from
Semester One.**



St Peter's College

Hāto Petera

COMING
UP
AUG '26

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					01	02 SENIOR SSS NETBALL TOURNAMENT
YEAR 8 SWIMMING 03 SENIOR ART TRIP	YEAR 8 SWIMMING 04	YEAR 8 SWIMMING 05 OTAGO UNIVERSITY COURSE PLANNING SIT PRESENTATION YEAR 10 & 11	YEAR 8 SWIMMING 06	YEAR 8 SWIMMING 07	08 BISHOP SHIELD	09 BISHOP SHIELD
10	11 YEAR 13 PE SKI TRIP	12 YEAR 13 PE SKI TRIP WHANAU CONFERENCING	13 CENTRAL SOUTHLAND NETTY TOURNAMENT WINTON JUNIOR A NETBALL TEAM	14 UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY LIAISON	15	16
17 YEAR 7 & 8 LIFE EDUCATION	18 YEAR 7 & 8 LIFE EDUCATION	19 YEAR 7 & 8 LIFE EDUCATION	20 YEAR 7 & 8 LIFE EDUCATION	21 YEAR 7 & 8 LIFE EDUCATION	22	23
24 DANCENZMADE	25	26	27 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING	28	29	30



St Peter's College Hāto Petera

GENERAL
NEWS
JULY '26



SEPTEMBER VOYAGE

5 DAY SAILING JOURNEY

28 September – 2 October 2026

5-Day Sailing Adventure – Are you up for the challenge?
Explore Auckland's Hauraki Gulf on this epic journey
Ages 14-18
\$1,575 incl GST – all gear, food & accommodation included!

Sail and Explore in the School Holidays

Live aboard the legendary Steinlager 2
Learn to sail, helm, and work as a crew

Counts for Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Bronze, Silver & Gold

Limited spots – Don't Miss Out!



Badjelly the Witch

Adapted by Alannah O'Sullivan
from the book Spike Milligan



27th - 29th August 2026



GIRLS* ON ICE

MT RUAPEHU EXPEDITION

JANUARY 6-16, 2027

Love science, art and/or the outdoors?
Aged 15 or 16 on January 6, 2027?

Join our annual tuition-free expedition to Mt Ruapehu.
Find out more and apply online by August 24.

**FIND OUT MORE
APPLY ONLINE**



<https://www.inspiringgirls.org/goi-aotearoa-nz>

* Girls* on Ice welcomes female-identifying, non-binary, and intersex students



Uniform Shop is open
Thursdays
11:00-11:30am
(morning tea time)