

Tēnā koutou katoa ngā whānau,

Kawanga Whare, Blessing, Liturgy and commissioning of Te Mauri Tapu - Religious Education Centre



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for the celebration and opening of our new classrooms on Friday, February 28th. Led by our Ngā Amorangi, Caitlin Gorn and Ayla Turner, our esteemed guests were warmly welcomed into our new Religious Education Learning Space, Te Mauri Tapu. As the sun rose, a truly special moment unfolded with the sharing of karakia, kōrero tene, and waiata, blessing the sacred learning grounds of Fr Garin – “Te wāhi tapu o te ako i te papa Garin.”

Later in the morning, we gathered for our liturgy and commissioning of the classrooms, surrounded by our enthusiastic Year 9 and 10 learners. Our Ngā Amorangi graciously welcomed parents, teachers, whānau, community members, parish priests, and Archbishop Paul Martin SM. We are deeply grateful to Archbishop Paul for his prayer and blessing of each classroom and all those present. It is a privilege to have these wonderful new classrooms and courtyard, and it brings us immense joy to see classes underway and all learners thriving in their new learning space. We acknowledge and sincerely thank the Archdiocese of Wellington for their unwavering commitment to resourcing our new developments at Garin College. Our gratitude also extends to Architect Gerard McDonnell for his exceptional creativity, design, and vision throughout the development, and to Bob Powick for his meticulous project management. Finally, we thank Coman Construction for their excellent work in building these spaces.



College Opening Mass. Gathering as a school community in song and prayer to celebrate the Eucharist is a deeply special and spiritual element to begin our Garin College year. We extend our sincere thanks to Fr Cirilo Barlis, Fr Dyson Tharakan for our celebrating of Mass. Thank you to all parents, caregivers, whānau and members of our community who came along to celebrate the eucharist and support of our students and staff.

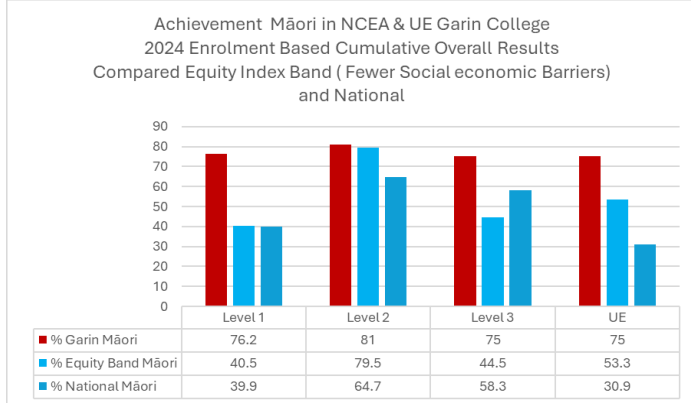
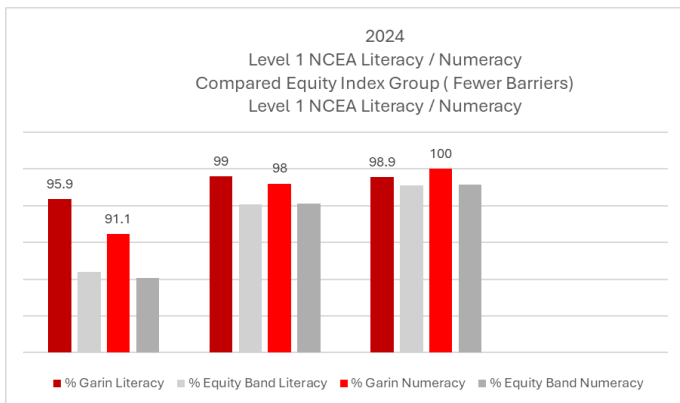
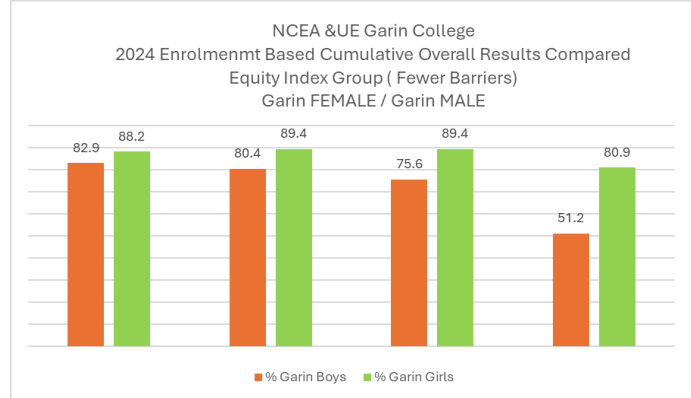
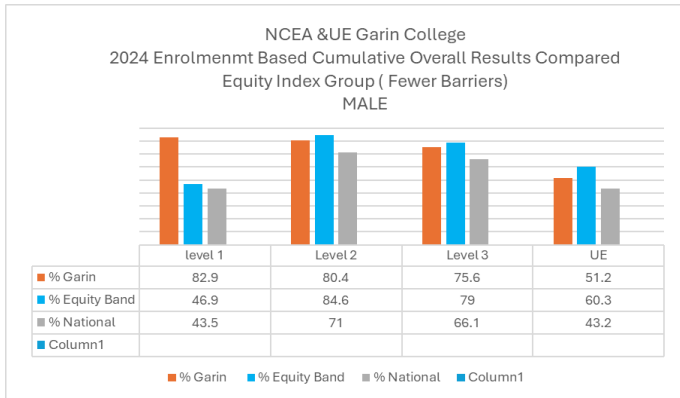
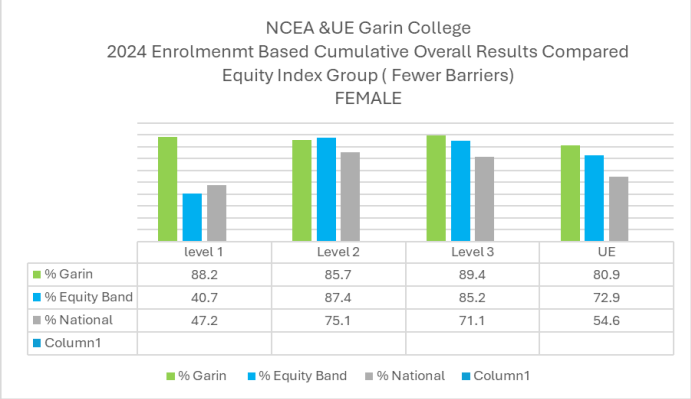
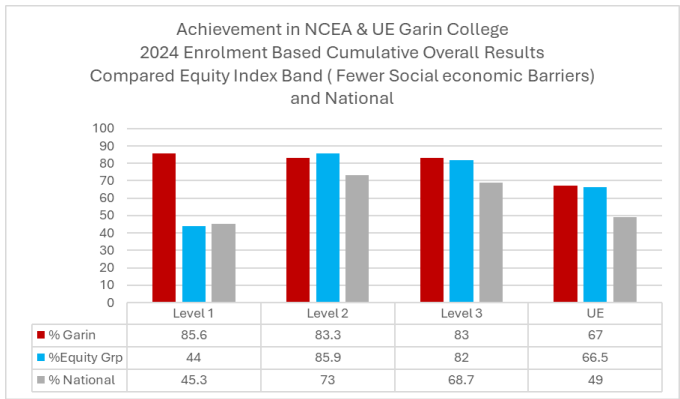
We are pleased to present the 2024 NCEA Achievement data for Level 1, 2, 3, University Entrance (UE) and Level 1 Numeracy and Literacy. Garin learners have attained outstanding levels of achievement in NCEA in 2024, as demonstrated in the tables below.

- Garin student **Achievement in NCEA** across levels 1, 3 and UE exceeds Equity Index Band data
- **Female** NCEA Achievement Level 1, 3 & UE exceeds Equity Index Group and National Data
- **Male** NCEA Achievement Level 1 exceeds Equity Index Group and National Data
- Level 3 NCEA **Excellence Endorsement** exceeds Equity Index Band data by 6.3%
- **Literacy and Numeracy** Level 1, 2 and 3 exceeds Equity Index Band data
- **Māori** Student Achievement in NCEA L1,2,3, UE exceeds Index Band and National Data
- We recognise a significant closing of the gap between Male and Female learners in L1 NCEA

2024 NCEA Scholarship Results

Scholarship candidates are expected to demonstrate high-level critical thinking, abstraction and generalisation, and to integrate, synthesise and apply knowledge, skills, understanding, and ideas to complex situations. Three of our learners achieved L3 NCEA Scholarships in 2024, Caitlin Lloyd - English scholarship, Caitlin Lloyd - History scholarship, Ellen Theobald - History Scholarship, William Hayward - Drama Scholarship

We congratulate and thank each and every learner for their commitment and diligence to their learning and NCEA assessment throughout the 2024 college year.



Annual Colours Awards

We look forward to celebrating our **Annual Colours Awards Assembly this Wednesday, 12 March 9.50am - 10.45am.** Our Colours awards celebrate the success of our students from 2024 in Level 1,2,3 NCEA who have gained Maroon Colours and Gold Colours for their outstanding academic achievement in NCEA 2024. We welcome all Parent's, Caregivers and Whānau to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Congratulations to all students who have achieved Academic Colours this year, you have set yourselves goals and worked so hard to fulfil them, well done.

Attendance

As we enter week six of the school term, marking the halfway point of Term 1, we are pleased to report consistently positive attendance rates overall. A significant 72.6% of our students have maintained **regular attendance** levels between 90% and 100%. We extend our sincere gratitude to these students and their whānau for their unwavering commitment and effort in school attendance over the past five weeks. Unfortunately, we have observed an increase in **irregular attendance**, with approximately 16% of students falling within the 80% to 90% attendance bracket. Our focus

will now be directed towards students whose attendance has dipped below 90%. By raising awareness of their attendance responsibilities and providing targeted support, we aim to improve their attendance and ultimately increase our overall regular attendance rate. We acknowledge and thank all students, parents, and whānau for your resilience and dedication to attendance and engagement in schooling.

Our expectations for student attendance

Regular attendance at school is important to your child's success and there is a clear connection between going to school regularly and doing well in the classroom. Making sure students attend and engage in learning is a shared responsibility. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure your child attends school every day. If your child is going to be absent for any reason it is essential that you let us know as soon as possible. It is important that you either send an email to attendance@garincollege.nz, message us via our [website Portal](#) or phone 03 543 9488 to confirm your child's absence and provide us with the reason. We acknowledge that there are genuine reasons students may occasionally be absent. However, without regular attendance your child will struggle to make progress. If your child is absent regularly, or for extended periods, we will reach out to you to discuss the situation. We are committed to supporting your child to attend school. If you're having difficulty getting your child to school, you can ask for support by: speaking with your child's teacher, sending us a message via our [website Portal](#), or phoning us on 03 543 9488 and ask us to arrange for you to speak to your child's year level Dean. We can work with you to develop a support plan that addresses any barriers to regular attendance. More information on attendance, including your rights and responsibilities as parents or caregivers, is available on the [Ministry of Education's webpage: Attendance](#).

Managing the Summer Heat and Sun Protection

Due to the summer temperatures and the need to keep cool, students are wearing their correct light-weight summer uniform throughout term 1. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all, we advise students to wear their sunhats, stay within the shade, and wear sunblock. Students are reminded to keep hydrated, we have free cooled and filtered water stations where students can refill their drink bottles.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Whānau have been sent a separate email re whooping cough at school. Please watch for symptoms of whooping cough, even if you are fully immunised, as you may still develop whooping cough and pass it on to others. It spreads very easily by coughing or sneezing and can cause serious harm to some members of our whānau and communities. Further information is attached to this newsletter.



Our Lenten theme this year is - “ **Restoring Hope: Your Compassion in Action / Kia Puawai Te Tūmanako**” During **Lent** as we prepare for the celebration of Easter, we are called both to turn away from those things that encumber our faith journey and to turn towards God. We are encouraged to be pilgrims of hope, inviting us to actively embody love, compassion, and hope in our daily lives. Lent is a wonderful opportunity to open ourselves to changes that God wants to make in us, so that we can truly flourish.

“Lent is a time for us to empty ourselves of worldly distractions and allow God to fill us with His love, His grace, and His peace.”

Ngā manaakitanga
John Maguire

Principal