



11 July 2025

TERM THREE WELCOME - NAUMAI HAERE MAI

Kia ora koutou Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

We look forward to welcoming all learners back to school next week, Monday 14 July as we begin Term 3. I trust the well deserved school holidays have been a positive and restful time for all.

Throughout Term 3, we look forward to high engagement for all learners in the breadth and depth of learning, sport, arts, culture and the spiritual life within Garin. This is an exciting term in many respects for our learners as they continue their learning journey and consolidate learning toward internal assessment and for our senior students with their derived grade exams later in the term. I encourage all learners to engage proactively with their teachers and the opportunities offered through peer tutoring and subject tutoring.

Student Attendance - Priority

To date this year, across Terms One and Two, 55.6% of our students have attained an attendance rate of 90–100%. Firstly, we acknowledge and thank these students and their parents for their commitment and diligence in maintaining this level of attendance.

We also wish to thank the students and whānau who work closely with our Pastoral Care and Student Services teams to develop strategies where significant challenges impact their child's attendance.

However, we are seeing an increasing trend in unjustified absenteeism across all year levels. This includes truancy, holidays taken during term time, and some medical or illness-related absences.

At Garin College, we know that when students are present by 8.40am and attend Whānau Time, they are more likely to remain at school for the full day. When Whānau Time is missed, the likelihood of missing the whole day increases.

We ask all parents and caregivers to closely monitor their child's attendance and reinforce the importance and expectation of regular attendance. I encourage parents to communicate with their student's Whānau Teacher to discuss attendance concerns or to ensure recorded absences are correctly coded; further communication with the year level Dean, Student Services (SENCO) or a Senior Leader may be necessary to support you in addressing attendance concerns for your student.

Below, you will find key messages that highlight why regular attendance matters. I look forward to your continued support in raising student attendance this term.

Student Attendance Every Day Matters – 90% to 100% is the Goal = Regular Attendance

The Ministry of Education defines regular attendance as 90% or higher — no more than one day away each fortnight. When students are regularly present, they are far more likely to thrive in their learning and social development.

Attendance Directly Impacts Achievement and Wellbeing

ERO and MoE data clearly show that students who attend regularly achieve more, form stronger peer relationships, and experience better wellbeing. Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student

success.

A Partnership Between Home and School

Supporting regular attendance is a shared responsibility. We encourage whānau to communicate promptly about any absences and to work with us to ensure learners are supported to be at school and engaged in learning.

I express my gratitude to all of you, as parents, caregivers and whānau who engage so willingly with your student's learning and for the way you support each of them and us in a true learning partnership. We look forward to a wonderful term of learning and engagement.

Term 3 Upcoming events

- 15 July: Club Garin meeting + AGM
- 16 July: Parent and Whānau Info evening
- 23 July: Open Day
- 23 July: Vietnam History trip 2026 - info evening
- 29 July: Board meeting
- 30 July: Y10+11 Course Election Info evening
- 4 Aug: Environmental Awareness week
- 6 Aug: Kate de Goldi writer visit
- 11 Aug: Course Selection evening
- 15 Aug: Mass of Assumption
- 16 Aug: Garin Ball
- 20 Aug: Course Selection closes
- 21 Aug: Sports Awards evening
- 22 Aug: Enrolments close
- 24-29 Aug: Winter Tournament week
- 28 Aug: Enrolment Ballot
- 29 Aug: Scholarships close
- 29 Aug: Teacher only day - school closed
- 1-12 Sept: Literacy + Numeracy Corequisite exam weeks
- 2 Sept: Club Garin photos
- 8 Sept: Derived Grade Exam week
- 9 Sept: Board meeting
- 15 Sept: Mental Health Awareness Week
- 15 Sept: Y12 Journey Camp
- 17 Sept: Kāhui Ako Cultural Festival
- 19 Sept: end of Term 3
- 6 Oct: start of Term 4

A reminder that we publish numerous school interest items, event updates and a regular update from myself to our [website homepage](#); access these by selecting Media in the top ribbon.

Garin College Enrolments for 2026 (due by Friday 22 August)

Should you have Whānau, friends, neighbours or colleagues considering Catholic secondary education for their children, please do encourage them to attend our Parent Evening and Open Day or contact us via the Garin Office. Enrolment packs can be collected from the school office or [downloaded from our website](#).

Parent and Whānau Information evening is being held on Wednesday, **16 July at 7pm** in the College Gym. This evening is for all new parents and whānau to be informed of the opportunities an education at Garin provides.

Open Day for new enrolments 2025, is being held on **Wednesday 23 July at 12 noon** at the college gym. Our welcome and tour of the college is focused on informing Year 8 students and students at other year levels about Garin College and the opportunities an education at Garin provides for learners.

Scholarship Applications 2026 (due by 29 Aug)

Scholarships are again available for 2026. Thanks to the generosity of Nancy Black (Twinkle), we have a number of scholarships available, including Financial scholarships to help alleviate financial pressure faced by families, and to ensure access to Catholic education - this was very much Nancy Black's heart and intention as the benefactor.

We also encourage applications for those existing Garin students who are able to demonstrate outstanding potential in academic, sporting, cultural, leadership and faith-based activities.

[Scholarship information and applications can be found on our website](#). Note, Scholarship funds are to enable a student to attend Garin College and to access curriculum related aspects; monies awarded must be allocated to

expenses such as: assistance with transport (bus fees), uniform, Attendance Dues (ADW) fee, school donations, camp donations.

Uniform

Students are required to maintain a high standard in the presentation and the wearing of their uniform. Please take time to check in with your student and if necessary update winter uniform items during the term break. If for any reason your student is unable to wear the correct winter uniform throughout term 3, we ask that you provide a note or email message to their whānau teacher. A uniform pass will be issued to a student by the whānau teacher enabling reasonable time to support students and family to achieve uniform requirement.

Absences

Our timely and accurate recording of students' attendance is essential.

- If your student is going to be absent, parents are required to phone the school office and leave a detailed message on the phone, including the student's name, whānau class and reason for absence.
- Parents wishing to take students out of school for non-school events e.g. holiday must communicate their intentions by email to the Principal. Such approved absence may be deemed explained, however unjustified.

Arriving for the School Day

Garin College school day starts at 8.40am. Students are required to be at school by **8.35am** ready for the first bell at this time.

- If students are late to school or arrive during the school day, they **must report to the school office** to sign in. Students are required to have a valid reason for the lateness, a supporting note from a parent or caregiver is appreciated.

Messages for students during the day

Thank you to parents and whānau for respecting the Phone Away for the Day policy and not contacting your student via phone during the school day. Please consider the following modes of communication with your children:

- As a BYOD school, students regularly use their laptop throughout the day, **email your child with a message**
- **Send a TEXT message or email** that your child may read on their phone before school starts and after school ends
- Make arrangements with your child before that school day - your child could call, **TXT or email after school**

Urgent / crisis communications - where there is a need to contact the office to relay an **urgent** message or if there is a crisis that needs immediate attention, **please do contact the School Office**; when we are made aware of such a situation, this will be treated in confidence and managed carefully and professionally.

I wish you all a happy and successful term ahead. I look forward to reconnecting with our learners and staff next week and sharing in the positive energy each brings to the life and energy we celebrate each day at Garin College through our lived values - *Generosity, Aroha, Rangimarie, Integrity, New Life*.

Ngā Manaakitanga

John Maguire
Principal



Term 3 NCEA me te Whānau workshop registrations are open!

Kei te koruru whare, koutou ko ngā pou whakawhanake o tō kura, ka mihia.

Our NCEA me te Whānau kāhui would like to invite you to book our upcoming workshops for Term 3, 2024. It is an exciting time for ākonga of all levels to gain an understanding of how the NCEA structure works and how it may benefit them for their chosen pathway. Our NCEA me te Whānau workshops will be available to both junior and senior ākonga, and their whānau.

In Term 3, we will be offering the following NCEA me te Whānau workshops:

1. **NCE A-Z** is designed to ensure our **year 10 and 11 ākonga** are well-prepared for their NCEA journey. This workshop delivers content in an easily digestible format, focussing on essential information that ākonga can quickly grasp, instilling confidence within themselves when embarking on their NCEA journey.
2. **NCEA me te Whānau** is designed to assist **parents and caregivers** in supporting their tamaiti/tamariki. It covers every crucial aspect of NCEA and offers guidance on how to help their tamaiti/tamariki make informed subject choices.
3. **Study Prep** is designed to equip **ākonga** with the necessary tools and skills to keep on top of their studies and assessments. This includes the prioritisation of your ākonga's workload so that they are confident in achieving what is required to further their aspirations within their chosen pathway.

How our workshops are designed:

Workshops are 1-hour long and can be delivered in-person* or online. The NCEA me te Whānau workshop is usually delivered in the evening when whānau Māori are available to attend. Ākonga Māori workshops are offered during school hours.

*Note: For in-person delivery, this is subject to the availability of a kaihāpai (facilitator) in your area or region.

How to request a workshop:

If you would like to host a workshop, please complete our registration form by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code below.

Once the registration has been received, a member of our kāhui will be in touch to confirm dates and other arrangements.



For more information about our workshops, please reach out to nceametewhanau@nzqa.govt.nz

