

Principal's Message – Term 1 - Wk 4 , 2026



Kia ora koutou, tēnā koutou katoa,

It is with great joy and gratitude that I welcome you to the 2026 College year. The year has begun with energy, enthusiasm and a strong sense of unity across our community. From Year 9 through to Year 13, our learners have settled quickly into the rhythms of College life, and it has been a privilege to witness such a positive and purposeful start. I particularly acknowledge and thank our learners joining us from afar, boarding students from across Te Taihū and our International students from across the globe, our college is privileged to enjoy the life and experiences each brings to Garin. I acknowledge and thank our Director of International Kerri Haggart and our Director of Garin College Hostel Jade Royds for their leadership of our learners and the connection they maintain with each parent and whānau.

We commenced the year with our Pōwhiri, welcoming new students and their whānau into our College family. It was a beautiful occasion of new beginnings, hope and excitement. Our returning students and staff offered a warm and generous welcome, modelling the inclusive and friendly spirit that defines our community.

A special acknowledgement goes to our Year 9 students, who have embraced their first weeks of secondary school with courage and enthusiasm. They have approached new routines, friendships and learning experiences with openness and positivity. The mentoring and support provided by our Year 12 students has been outstanding, demonstrating care, leadership and genuine encouragement. Our Year 13 leaders have also set a wonderful tone for the year, leading with integrity and motivation. We are proud to introduce our 2026 student leaders in this newsletter and look forward to the contribution they will continue to make.

Our Catholic special character has already been richly evident. We gathered as a community for our Ash Wednesday Liturgy, beginning our Lenten journey in preparation for Easter, and recently celebrated our Opening Mass with Father Andrew Kim. It was a prayerful and joyful occasion, uniting students, staff, parents and parish in thanksgiving and hope for the year ahead. These moments remind us that Christ is at the centre of our work and relationships.

Across the College, life and learning are well underway. Classrooms are purposeful and calm, and it is heartening to see students engaged and striving for excellence. In the Arts, preparations are in full swing for our annual Twilight Notes Concert, promising a wonderful evening of creativity and talent. In Sport, participation is at an all-time high, with strong sign-ups across the Tasman Secondary Sports calendar. We celebrate our 10A Volleyball team returning from the Mainland Tournament, our yachting teams competing regionally, and our rowing crews preparing to travel south for the 2026 Meridian South Island Secondary School Championships. We also acknowledge participation and success in Tennis, MTB Enduro, Senior Cricket and Athletics. It is inspiring to see our students embracing opportunity with such commitment.

Our Year 13 students recently gathered at Rotoiti for their Journey Programme, a time of connection, reflection and unity as our senior leaders. Next week, our Year 9 students head to the Abel Tasman for their own Journey experience. These opportunities in the outdoors are powerful moments of relationship-building, resilience and shared growth. We wish them every success as they continue to form friendships and strengthen their sense of belonging.

I thank all learners for the positivity they have shown in establishing themselves so well this year. We are seeing authentic care, encouragement and support for one another, a living expression of our College values. I also acknowledge the strength of our pastoral care network, which provides reassurance and guidance as students navigate new challenges and opportunities.

To our parents and whānau, thank you. Your partnership, encouragement and daily support make an immense difference. We appreciate your commitment to regular attendance and punctuality, and we are seeing growing awareness among students of the importance of being present and engaged each day. I also commend our students for their pride in wearing their uniform neatly and correctly, presenting themselves with dignity and respect for their learning.

As we look ahead, I encourage every student to embrace the opportunities before them to take positive risks in their learning, to try something new in the Arts, Sport, Culture or service, and to grow in confidence and character. Education at Garin is holistic; it shapes hearts, minds and spirit. Through commitment, courage and faith, each learner will continue to flourish.

May 2026 be a year of growth, joy and blessing for you all.

Ngā manaakitanga,

John Maguire
Principal

Love is Patient, Love is kind

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.