



Whānau update - Term 2, 2026

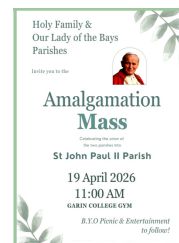
Tēnā koutou katoa ngā whānau,

I hope you have all enjoyed a peaceful and restful school holiday break, and that your Easter was marked by a spirit of Christ's love, hope and joy. As we move through the beauty of the autumn season, we give thanks for the warmth we continue to experience in the day and the beauty of the changing colours. With the recent end to daylight saving and the shortening of our days, we look ahead to enjoy the routine of the term ahead of us. We look forward to welcoming our learners back, refreshed and ready for the full and purposeful 11-week term. Students are required to be in their winter uniform for terms 2 & 3. We look forward to the start of our winter sports calendar. We wish each student every success in their chosen sport, embracing participation, teamwork and healthy competition. This term also brings rich opportunities for connection and celebration, including our 2026 Matariki celebrations and *Te Wairua o Ngā Mahi Toi* - Garin College Arts Festival later in the term, alongside our continued focus on engagement in learning and achievement throughout the term.

We welcome back our student travellers and staff after their exciting Social Studies Trip to Vietnam over the school holidays. We look forward to the opportunity for a student presentation of learnings and experiences to the assembly later this term.

Looking back on term 1 success - Term 1 has been a vibrant and fulfilling start to the year at Garin, marked by strong engagement in learning, Journey camps, cultural celebrations, performing arts and sport. We celebrate an especially outstanding successful season of sport, including athletics, volleyball, yachting, and rowing reflecting commitment, teamwork, and pride in our College. We hold our yachting team in our thoughts as they compete at the 2026 Secondary Schools Team Racing National Championships in Whangārei. We also celebrate student positive and energetic engagement in College life and opportunities. My sincere thanks to our staff, students, and whānau, together we look to Term 2 with hope, purpose, and continued excellence.

Amalgamation Mass - St John Paul II Parish - This weekend marks an important moment in the history of our Archdiocese – the merging of two of our parishes into the St John Paul II Parish. The new parish covers Nelson and Tasman Catholic churches, merging Holy Family Nelson-Stoke and Our Lady of the Bays. A special Amalgamation Mass will take place this **Sunday (19 April) at 11am at the Garin College gym** in Nelson. It will be celebrated by Archbishop Paul. All Students, Parents and Whānau are welcome. Please pray for the new parish and parishioners as this new era begins.



Garin College Strategic Plan & Annual Plan 2026 - I invite you to access and read the [Garin College Strategic Plan 2024–2026 & Annual Plan 2026](#). Here you can view the direction set for Garin College by the Garin College Board, followed by our Annual Implementation Plan. Within our annual plan you will recognise our continued focus on student wellbeing through reinforcement in Teacher development within Restorative Practice, and learning about the 'Teenage Brain' and our capacity to understand and build strength-based learning relationships with students. Also included are our annual targets for student attendance and achievement.



ANZAC Day commemorated Monday 27 April, the College will be closed on this day. Garin College students and staff will gather to remember ANZAC Day at our college assembly week 2 Tuesday 28 April. Our prayer liturgy and reflection will be led by our student leaders and our students in the NZ Cadet Forces Nelson. Students are invited to wear their Cadet Uniforms to assembly and are also invited to wear their cadet uniform throughout the full school day in recognition of ANZAC Day and NZ fallen soldiers.

Student Attendance - I acknowledge the positive commitment and energy shown by those students who have maintained attendance rates between 90–100% throughout the term. These students are recognised as regular attenders and are meeting both College and Ministry of Education expectations. Evidence clearly shows that regular attendance supports stronger academic achievement, wellbeing, and a sense of belonging.

We also recognise that, for some students, maintaining regular attendance can be challenging and at times unavoidable. In these situations, clear and timely communication with our Attendance Office is essential. If your child is absent due to illness or for any reason, please ensure this is communicated on the day of absence, or in advance where possible, so we can accurately record attendance.

I do remain concerned about students taking leave for holidays during term time. Where this is being considered, parents or caregivers are required to write to the Principal to request approval.

As you are aware, our Stepped Attendance Response Plan supports early intervention. This is activated at the following thresholds:

- 5–9 days absent: Worrying Attendance
- 10–14 days absent: Concerning Attendance
- 15+ days absent: Serious Concern

At each stage, parents and caregivers will receive communication outlining next steps and support.

As we begin the new term, I encourage all families to have a conversation with your child about the importance of attendance and to set clear goals. Our shared aim is for every student to achieve 90–100% attendance throughout Term 2.

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any concerns or would like support with your child's attendance, please contact your child's Whānau Teacher or Year Level Dean.



Club Garin is similar to a Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The 'Club Garin' Committee administers Club Garin parent donations. Having a dedicated and diverse group of volunteer parents on the 'Club Garin' Committee, alongside the School Staff Rep and Business Manager, ensures a well-rounded perspective when considering funding applications. New members on the committee are welcome – Please email your enquiry to - clubgarin@garincollege.nz. For further information - visit [Club Garin](#) or speak to a member of the committee: Donna Pudney, Jess Haywood, Wanessa Hoggarth, Martine McCabe, John Maguire, Justine Butler, Ben Bonoma, Rowan Strange.

We look forward with excitement to Term 2

Key dates

Please check our school calendar regularly, [here](#).

14 May: Vietnam trip returns home
27 May: ANZAC Day - school closed
28-29 May: Y11-13 Parent Conferences
5 May: Board meeting
6 May: Chess Tournament
6 May: Queen Charlotte College Sports Exchange
11-15 May: Reading Challenge
13-17 May: O'Shea Shield - Catholic Schools Comp
19 May: Club Garin meeting
21 May: Nelson Careers Expo
25 May: Geek Week TBC
29 May: Dress up Day TBC
1 May: Kings Birthday - school closed

5 May: Mass of Creativity
16-18 May: Mahi Toi
16 June: Club Garin meeting
23 June: Readers Cup
23 June: Board meeting
30 June: International Friendship Day
30 June: Y8 visit to St Peter Chanel
1 July: Y8 visit to St Joseph's
2 July: Y8 visit to St Paul's
2 July: Hāngi for Matariki TBC
3 July: Last day of Term 2

Senior Year 11 - 13 Parent Teacher Conferences

We will hold parent conferences for our senior students on Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 April; further details will be emailed and shared on our [website news](#) and via our other media sources. Please note, bookings will open during the week prior; you will receive email information (bookings are open for one week).

Enrolments 2027

Should you have friends or family considering Catholic secondary education for their children, please do encourage them to visit the Garin College website for our [Enrolment Procedure](#) and [enrolment pack](#); our College Admin team are also able to discuss any queries. Applications for Enrolments close on 21 August 2026.

Scholarships 2027

I wish to remind parents of the opportunity to apply for Twinkle scholarships where there are financial pressures, and also to recognise outstanding potential in Catholic Character, Academic, Arts & Performing Arts and Sport. The Garin Financial and Hostel & Financial Boarding scholarships are for those families that need help financially in 2027. Visit [Garin College Website](#) for more information on Scholarship packs. Applications for Scholarships close on 28 August 2026.

Winter Uniform - With the winter chill on the way, we are reminded to ensure all students are wearing their winter uniform and are keeping warm. From the start of term 2, to the end of term 3, winter uniform is to be worn by all students. [Garin College Uniform](#).

Garin Fees You may be interested in visiting our [Fee structure page](#) on our website and the Kamar portal; this explains some of the fees you pay and where your money is going.

I thank students, parents, whānau, teachers and support staff for all the support you have shown during a very successful and busy term 1, and for the guidance and encouragement you continue to give our young people.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of the holiday break. I look forward to seeing everyone back safely on Monday, 20 April.

Nga mihi o te aranga

John Maguire

Take a moment:

"Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others"
Saint John Paul II

*"First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth."*Pope Benedict XVI