

9 October 2026

Kia ora tatou ngā whānau, parents and caregivers,



As we begin Term 4, we look forward to welcoming all learners on Monday, 12 October, including all Boarding students returning from their homes across Te Tau Ihi. I trust the well-deserved school holidays have been a positive and restful time for all. It is pleasing to be experiencing the warmer weather and fresh spring growth in the trees, gardens and lawns here at Garin.



Our prayer theme this October is on the virtue of Compassion, reflecting the love and mercy at the heart of our Catholic tradition. We encourage our entire community to hold those who are suffering or vulnerable in our thoughts and prayers. Together, through everyday acts of empathy, kindness, and connection, let us bring hope and comfort to those in need. As Pope Francis expressed - *"Let us care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation."*

Following the successes achieved for learners across Terms 1, 2 & 3 this year, we look forward to Term 4 with great anticipation as our senior students focus on completion of NCEA internal assessments and prepare for the NCEA external exams that start on 10 November. We also encourage our senior learners to continue to engage in their tertiary and career pathway planning. I was thrilled to enjoy the positive engagement of all students in the Year 12 Journey during the last week of term and their enthusiasm for leadership roles when in Year 13 next year. Many of our Year 12 students will be engaged in leadership interviews during the next few weeks.

For our Year 9 and 10 learners, we look forward to their ongoing engagement in learning and wider school participation. I encourage all learners to engage proactively with their teachers and the opportunities offered through peer tutoring and subject tutoring. As you will see below our event calendar is comprehensive and we look forward to you as Parents and Whānau engaging in, and celebrating many of these events with us. I encourage you to access these dates throughout the term via the [Garin College](#) calendar.

Parents, caregivers, whānau, and parishioners are warmly invited to join us in celebrating **Garin College's End-of-Year Mass and Year 13 Leavers' Candle Ceremony on Wednesday, 5 November at 11.40am**. Together we give thanks for 2026 and farewell our Year 13 students as they prepare to step into their next chapter. Mass will be followed by light refreshments for Year 13 students and their whānau. This special liturgy and candle ceremony is a treasured tradition - a time of faith, gratitude, and community, and we look forward to celebrating with you.

I would like to 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.

We have an exciting calendar of events ahead of us this term and look forward to your participation and celebration;

Important dates Term 4:

- 12 Oct: Term 3 begins
- 26 Oct: Labour Day
- 28 Oct: Fun Run
- 29 Oct Club Garin Colours Assembly
- 3 Nov: Board meeting
- 5 Nov: End of Year Mass
- 10 Nov: NCEA exams begin
- 13 Nov: Orientation Day
- 16 Nov: Teacher Only Day - New Curriculum
- 16 - 20 Nov: Tournament Week - Junior

- 4 Dec: Junior and Senior Prizegiving
- 4 Dec: NCEA exams finish
- 6-9 Dec: YCL Leadership Camp - 2027 Student Ldrs
- 10 Dec: Board Meeting

- 14 Dec: Hauora Day - last full day of school
- 15 Dec Last day of term

Attendance - Every Day Matters

As we begin Term 4, thank you to our students, parents, and whānau for your continued support in prioritizing regular school attendance.

Our target for regular attendance in 2026 is **65%**. Across Terms 1–3, our year-to-date average stands at **60.7%**, we're getting closer, and with your support, we know we can reach our goal! While our Term 3 rate of **55%** remains below target, it represents a **2% increase** compared to Term 3 last year and builds on our fantastic momentum from Term 2, where attendance jumped by **14%** over 2025.

Regular daily attendance is essential for learning, wellbeing, and long-term success. Every day at school offers valuable opportunities for our rangatahi to connect, participate, and grow. Achieving strong attendance is a shared responsibility, and with our school community working together, we can keep striving toward our **65%** goal.

If you are experiencing any difficulty getting your child to school, please reach out—we are here to help! You can contact your child's Whānau Teacher, Year Level Dean, or any member of our Senior Leadership Team. Together, we are committed to supporting every learner and building a school culture that celebrates excellent attendance.

Arriving for the School Day

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

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

Absences

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

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

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, **TEXT 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.

Summer Uniform

At Garin College we value our learners' appearance and for them to take pride in their uniform. If for any reason your learner is unable to wear part of their correct uniform then they will require a day pass issued by their Whānau teacher. Parents are encouraged to support their learner by providing a note when your learner does not have the correct uniform.

Summer uniforms may be worn in term 4. The Senior Blazer is optional in Summer, apart from formal assembly, mass and other formal occasions.

For all formal occasions at school, including our end of year Mass, Club Garin Colours and annual Prize Giving, senior students are required to wear their formal school uniform (Winter uniform) at these events and Juniors are required to be in full and tidy uniform.

A black puffer jacket is only acceptable to be worn to and from school and at morning tea or lunch, but not in classrooms.

Non-uniform items, for example; sweatshirts, hoodies caps and excess jewellery are not part of the uniform, learners are not to arrive at school wearing such items. [Garin College Uniform](#)

As always, our Teaching Staff and Year level Deans are motivated and available to discuss all learning and pastoral inquiries you may have in relation to your child's schooling. 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



Community Garden Initiative in association with Enviroschools

With spring on the way, it's the perfect time to get the school garden growing again. This year we want our whānau and local community to be part of it!

We are looking for both experienced and keen gardeners who live locally to turn the existing, unproductive garden into a productive garden for us all to benefit from.

If you are interested in being part of the garden team this year, please come to our first meeting to check out the garden and discuss plans for an abundant Spring and summer season.

We welcome all students, parents and grandparents who have energy and some skills in growing food to join this new kaupapa at Garin.

Where: Garin College - Main Office

When: Wednesday 14 October 4.00pm

Bonus: Tea, coffee, and biscuits provided!

Interested? Send an email to jen.nelsonenviroschools@gmail.com so we can gauge numbers.

See you there!