June 2026

Newsletter

Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate Senior School

Kia ora,
Mālō e lelei,
Talofa lava,
Taloha ni, Kia orana,
Fakaalofa lahi atu,
Namaste, Ni sa bula, nǐ hǎo,
Salaam, Selamat siang, Mauya

and warm greetings to all our SEHC Senior School whānau,

As we come to the end of Term 2, I want to thank our students, staff, parents, and whānau for another term of growth, resilience, and progress. This term, we have continued to focus on building a strong culture of learning by:

- **Re-establishing** high expectations and positive school routines.
- **Launching our new SEHC Senior School Strategic Plan and Values**, providing a clear direction and shared vision for our future (see attached).
- Making **incremental progress** in teaching, learning, and student engagement.
- Building a culture of **respect, responsibility, and belonging** across our school.
- Celebrating success in academics, sport, culture, leadership, and community service.
- Strengthening partnerships with our families and wider community to support every learner.

While there is still much to achieve, I am incredibly proud of the journey we are on together. Every small step forward is helping us build strong foundations for the future.

Thank you for your continued support of SEHC Senior School. I wish you all a safe, restful, and enjoyable holiday break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Christine Pili
Tumuaki/Principal SEHC Senior School

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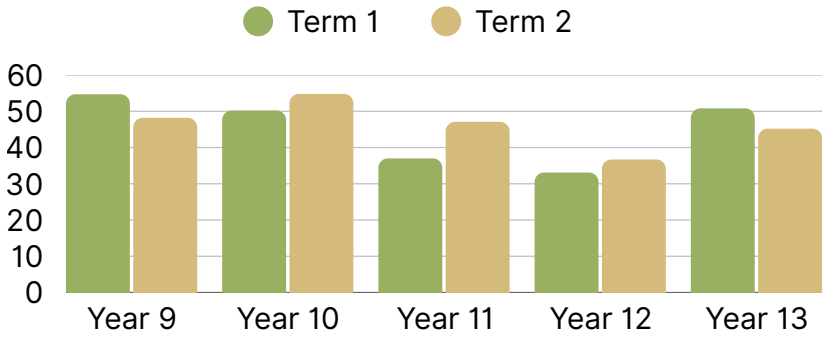
Attendance Matters: Every Day Counts

At SEHC Senior School we know that every day at school is an opportunity to learn, build relationships and strengthen a sense of belonging. Regular attendance (90%+) supports our akoranga to achieve academically, grow socially and remain connected to their peers, kaiako and wider school community. We're preparing our young people for life beyond school, where being on time, showing up consistently, and managing their time are essential skills.

Our school wide attendance goal is 90% of our learning attending school regularly.
Attendance is a shared responsibility between home and school and we know collectively we can continue to make a difference. If your child is finding it difficult to get to school consistently or are experiencing anything that is hindering their learning, please get in touch with the school.

Weekly you should be receiving an email from the school with up to date attendance data for your child. If this is not happening, please email jlane@sehc.school.nz to update your email address.



Tutoring & Homework Centres

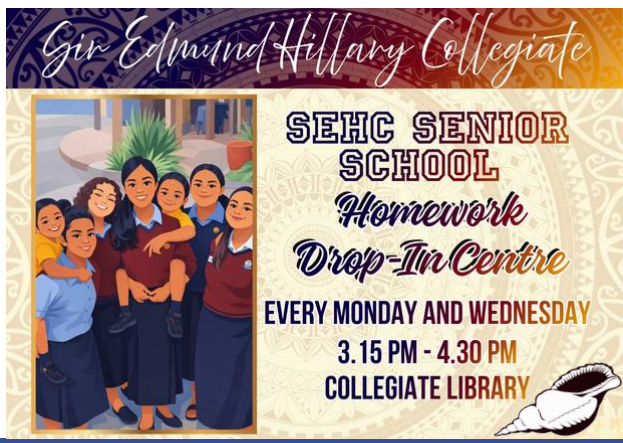
Pacific Literacy and Numeracy Tutoring Initiative
Our Senior School, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Kip McGrath, is pleased to advise that a small group of Year 9 students have been selected to take part in the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy Tutoring Initiative.

This Ministry of Education pilot programme supports Pacific learners to strengthen their literacy and numeracy skills and prepare for the NCEA Co-requisite Assessments (CAAs) in reading, writing, and mathematics, which are required to gain any NCEA qualification.

Students get 2.5hrs of tutoring weekly for 8–10 weeks with Samantha Kane and the Kip McGrath NZ team. Sessions are held in the school library on Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:15–4:30pm.

Homework Drop-In Centre
Our Homework Drop-In Centre also runs in the school library during these times. It provides a quiet place for students to complete homework or assessments, receive extra help with their learning, and access mentoring and tutoring support.

Any students who would benefit from additional support are welcome to attend. Staff (Miss Waterhouse, Mr Malcolm and Ms Likiō) are available to help, and students are encouraged to bring their friends.



Academic Updates & Events

Launch Evening: NZ Certificate Foundation Skills Course

We had a fantastic evening celebrating the launch of an exciting new course now available at our school. It was wonderful to see parents, whānau, and students come together to learn more about this opportunity and the pathways it opens.

Designed for our Year 11–12 students, this course provides a supportive and engaging way to achieve valuable credits while working towards a nationally recognised New Zealand qualification. It reflects our ongoing commitment to creating inclusive, future-focused learning options that cater to the diverse strengths and aspirations of our students.

We look forward to seeing our learners grow in confidence, gain meaningful skills, and take positive steps toward their future success.

ASB Polyfest Sāmoan Speech Competition

Our Gagana Sāmoa students proudly represented Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate Senior School at the ASB Polyfest Sāmoan Speech Competition, showcasing confidence, passion, and pride in their language and culture.

Congratulations to all our participants, with a special acknowledgement to Pearl Maifala for placing 3rd in Year 12 and Salote Fa'alele Fagasua for qualifying as a FAGASA Speech Competition finalist in August. Fa'afetai to our families for their support and to our students for being outstanding ambassadors for our school and Gagana Sāmoa.

Mālō lava le fa'aeaea āiga ma atunu'u. Ua lē ole lea! Soifua ma ia manuia

Ignite: Performing Arts Showcase

On Friday 12 June, our Senior School Hall hosted the Mid-Year Performing Arts Showcase, featuring more than 90 + students from Years 10–13 across the Dance and Drama departments.

Students presented a variety of dance and musical performances to an enthusiastic and full audience of whānau, family, and friends. The evening was a celebration of the dedication, creativity and talent of our Performing Arts students, who delivered outstanding performances throughout the event. Congratulations to our students on a memorable showcase and we look forward to celebrating their achievements at future showcases.

Community Connections

Hon. Jenny Salesa

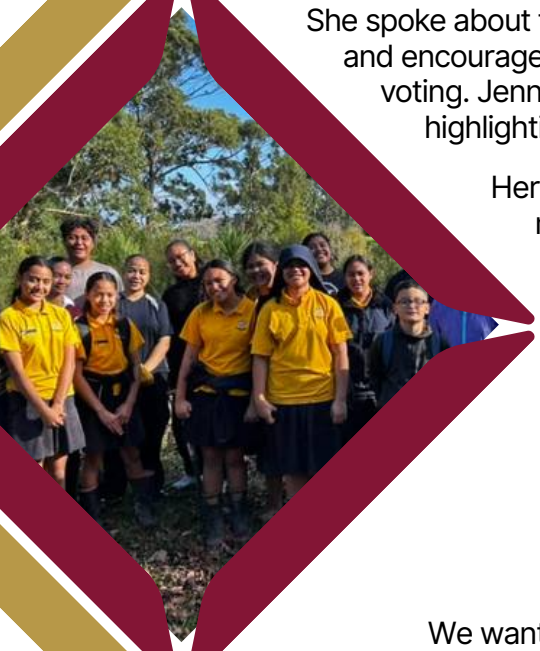
We would like to sincerely acknowledge Hon. Jenny Salesa, MP, for her ongoing advocacy and support in helping secure this long-term safety project for our school community. Thanks to her commitment, work on two new zebra crossings around Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate will commence in July- August.

This important project will improve the safety of our students, whānau, staff, and wider community, providing safer access to and from our school for many years to come. We are incredibly grateful for Hon. Jenny Salesa's partnership and dedication to supporting the wellbeing of our young people and the Ōtara community.

We were also fortunate to have Jenny Salesa speak with our Year 13 students about the importance of voting and civic engagement, as well as sharing her personal journey as a proud Pacific Islander in leadership.

She spoke about the power of having a voice in shaping the future of our communities and encouraged students to recognise the responsibility and impact that comes with voting. Jenny also shared insights from her own pathway into public service, highlighting her experiences, challenges, and pride in her cultural identity.

Her visit was an inspiring reminder for our Year 13 students that their voices matter and that they have an important role to play in shaping the future.



Trees for Survival: Annual Planting Day

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making the Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate TFS Annual Tree Planting Day at Ngati Ōtara Park. It is always such a rewarding and memorable experience. From our tamariki and rangatahi in the Junior and Middle Schools to our valued partners at Auckland Council, every person played an important role in the success of the day.

The journey began months earlier with the careful potting and nurturing of seedlings, culminating in the planting of 850 thriving native trees in our local park. It was a wonderful morning that reflected the true spirit of kotahitanga - working together with a shared purpose to care for our environment and community.

The trees planted today will continue to grow for generations, creating a lasting legacy for future students and the wider community. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved and grateful for the collective effort that made this initiative such a meaningful success.

Other Term 2 Highlights

Aktive As

Term 2 was a great success, with 270+ student participation moments recorded across our lunchtime and interval activations. Students took part in a variety of activities including traditional sports, lawn bowls, skateboarding, step classes, Hunger Ball, and pickleball.

Many activities were also student-led, supporting student ownership, leadership, and giving rangatahi opportunities to contribute to a positive and active school environment. These activities helped students stay active, connect with others, try new activities, and engage positively during breaks.

Student Leadership Development

During Week 10, our student leaders continued to grow their leadership beyond the classroom through a unique learning experience with Vasa Fia Collins and Te'o Harry Teloafoa at the Mangere Community Law Centre. The programme provided valuable insights into local government, civic leadership, and community law, while also giving students the opportunity to reflect on their first six months in their leadership roles in our kura.

These experiences challenged our leaders to think beyond their current responsibilities and consider the many ways they can serve their communities in the future. We definitely have some budding lawyers in the group!! We hope this opportunity has planted seeds of aspiration, showing our students that leadership is not confined to the school gates—it is about using your voice, values, and service to make a positive difference wherever life takes you.

Important Dates

- **20 Jul:** Term 3 Begins
- **3-7 Aug:** Cook Island Language Week
- **12 Aug:** Teacher Only Day - no school for senior students
- **17-20 Aug:** Tongan Language Week
- **1 Sept:** Parent Teacher Interviews
- **7-18 Sept:** Mock Exams and Literacy/Numeracy Co-Requisite Exams
- **14-18 Sept:** Te Wiki o Te Re Māori
- **26 Sept:** Yr 13 School Ball