



#7 Friday 29th August 2025

Dargaville High School

Tēnā tātou katoa,

The last month has been a busy time at school with a number of events and activities taking place. This week as well as a Teacher Only Day, our senior students have had their senior practice examinations. These will be a good indication of preparedness for the end of year external examinations. Next week, we begin the second round of Common Assessment Activities for Literacy and Numeracy. Timetables for these have been shared with students.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the visit by the students from Yakushima in Japan. They have arrived home safely and have taken with them fond memories of their time here. Thank you to the Homestay families, staff at school who assisted with programmes, our driver, and a particular mention to Alastair Grant for being with the students as well as Lucy Heller-Evans for her organisation.

We have two staff members who are currently in Monaco. Julianne Parkinson (our Music Teacher) and Adrian Humm (RTLB) are part of the team from Dargaville Little Theatre, representing New Zealand at the Mondial du Theatre, which the World Festival of Amateur Theatre. We wish them all the best.

This week, we have our senior Netball Team attending the Upper North Island Secondary School competition and we have also had students attending Pūhoro last week and the regional Mathex competition on Thursday August 7. Also, our First XV played the semi-final of their Rugby competition on Wednesday. Next week, we have a number of activities involving students including a Health and Safety Course, a First Aid course as well as the Tutamoe OPC trip.

We are currently working through our application process for student leadership positions for 2026. There are a number of positions available and applications close on Monday. Shortlisted candidates will be notified next week.

Sadly, we had news that Tae Robertson, an ex-student (2021-2023), recently passed after a courageous battle with cancer. Tae was a quiet and conscientious student who always strived to a high level of achievement. Several staff from the school and students who attend the Building Academy, where Tae's father is one of the tutors, attended his funeral and supported his family as they said their farewells.

We have been advised by the PPTA of partial strikes, which commence in the final week. Closer to the time, when we have confirmation of these going ahead, we will update you with what is happening. In the same week, we have Parent Teacher meetings on Tuesday (16 September) as well as the Tutamoe class going to New Plymouth. That week is also Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori.

Nāku nā,

Mike Houghton
Tumuaki

SCHOOL COSTS – PAYMENT OPTION

With regard to your school costs, did you know you can set up an automatic payment to pay these off?

If you are interested in this option, please call in and see Liz Pocklington at the school office to make the arrangements.



UNISS Update

Christine Cochrane—Team Coach

This week our Senior netball team have been competing in the annual UNISS event in Auckland. So far, they have played five games across the five days of, winning three and losing two.

The team have been playing well and still have games left to play.

Thank you to the parents and staff involved in the organisation, fundraising and chaperoning of the team to ensure the girls were able to attend this event.

We look forward to sharing the remaining game results in the next newsletter.



Diary Dates

Sunday 31st August	Tutamoe OPC Trip Begins
Tuesday 2nd September	Mufti Day—\$2
Wednesday 3rd September	Health and Safety Course
Thursday 4th September	Health and Safety Course First aid Certificate
Friday 5th September	Head Leader Hui Rodney College
Monday 8th September	2026 Student Leaders Applications Close
Wednesday 10th September	Senior Options Forms Due
Thursday 11th September	School Photos
Friday 12th September	Senior Reports Issued

Careers Corner

Please make sure you prepare for practice exams and finals in November. EXTERNAL EXAMS are really important and show depth of knowledge and skills. You need to pass exams to move into senior subjects and to prepare for tertiary study.

STEM Online NZ is a free, interactive teaching and learning platform for NCEA external standards in STEM subjects. Designed by NZ teachers includes videos, animations, quizzes, and classroom activities it covers key NCEA standards in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Students can now self-register at:
<https://www.stemonline.nz>

Attendance

We have continued to focus on student attendance throughout the 2025 school year.

If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by 16 years of age. As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school.

You must let the school know if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure. Family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (not organised by school) are not acceptable reasons for being absent.

Knowing if your child is well enough to go to school can be tricky. Health guidance to support you to decide is available. If you are still unsure, get in touch with us and let's work together to support your learner.

If you are finding it hard to get your child to school, please talk with us so we can work together. Our school is committed to supporting your child to attend school.



Art Exhibition

Recently, the Art Department held an art exhibition to showcase the amazing work students have been doing in painting, crocheting and knitting clubs. There was some amazing work done by our students!



QRC Tourism Trip

The recent Tourism and Gateway trip to QRC (Queenstown Resort College) in Paihia seen students involved in an over-night stay at QRC Halls of Residence complete with tourism career informational talks. The following day, they enjoyed a smooth boat trip out to the Hole in the Rock.

