



JHC

# JAMES HARGEST COLLEGE KEEP FAITH

8 May 2026



**Culture Day**

## Principal's Comment

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Anna McDowall  
Principal

It has been a fantastic start to the term, with a strong sense of purpose and pride evident across JHC. Our recent Culture Days were an absolute highlight on the calendar. I was lucky enough to share lunch with Room 7 who had prepared delicious dishes representing who they are and where they come from. Staff and students alike were uplifted by the vibrant performances prepared by students to showcase their cultures. At the Junior Campus assembly, The Three Little Pigs was beautifully retold by 25 students in 18 languages. It was a powerful way to show the richness of our community and the manaakitanga

that sits at the heart of our kura. My sincere thanks to the staff who made all of the different aspects of the day come together so effectively. Culture Day is a student initiative and student lead, and the staff who support the students find ways to say yes and support bringing their ideas to life. We are very grateful for your mahi to make it happen.

Learning beyond the classroom has also been significant this term. Our Junior Campus trips to Riverton helped deepen students' understanding of our local history and environment, while our senior language students have returned from unforgettable experiences in Spain and France, bringing with them new perspectives and a greater understanding of the world. We now look forward to supporting our rugby team as they prepare for their long-awaited trip to Australia, and preparations are also underway for our language students trip to Japan.

None of these incredible experiences happen without the dedication of our staff and the support of our whānau. The thinking through, planning, fundraising, logistics of these trips is a huge undertaking and those who take on these roles do it because it is such an amazing opportunity for students. We know for those who are fortunate enough to attend one of these trips, it is

often the highlight of their school days and beyond. We are very grateful to our staff and community for the countless hours and meticulous planning that goes into creating these opportunities for rangatahi.

Our Year 13 students are starting to look ahead to the future, with a recent visit to the University of Otago showing students some of the options they can be considering for next year. We know that this time of year can feel daunting, so many decisions and they all feel both crucial and weighted. We are here to help. Chat to the team in Guidance and Careers, they can help you think about what might be a great next step on the journey.

We are proud of our history, proud of who we are, and excited for what lies ahead. The opening of our Sir Peter Beck Science and Innovation Centre is a clear example of our commitment to the future, providing world-class opportunities right here in our kura. At James Hargest College, we believe our students can achieve at the highest level, anywhere in the world. As someone who has been part of the JHC community for a long time, it is both humbling and exciting to be entrusted to the role of Principal | Tumuaki. It is a privilege to be part of a school with a strong legacy and such a bright future.

## Board of Trustees Report

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In the April meeting the board had the library report presented by Kirsty Adam. We were impressed how much work goes into supporting our students by the proactive library team. It's not just books, the library hand out about 120 devices each day to students who need a device.

The opening of the new science building last month was a highlight, having Sir Peter Beck attend to open his namesake building was a treat. His passion for science was clear and he shared his fond memories of his time at Hargest and requested a tour of his favourite rooms, hard materials!

We thank Lara Buchanan who has been the staff rep on the board for a number of years. She has stepped down and a new staff election will be held.

Mrs McDowall presented her Principal's report to the Board for the first time. We had a wide ranging discussion covering the breath of student achievement from Year 13 scholarship targets to foundational programs for students who find classroom learning more challenging. Although you might not see it, the school really does try to give every student the opportunity to be the best they can be.



Nic Raines  
Board Chair

# PTA Report



Jo Wilson  
PTA Chairperson

Kia ora from the PTA

Welcome to term two! Hard to imagine we are close to half way through the year. Last term James Hargest farewelled Mr Newell. The PTA wished him well on his next adventure. This term the staff warmly welcomed Anna McDowall into her new role as Principal. We look forward to continuing our great work together and building on our strong relationship.

I know the students are all very busy with their school work, sports and other commitments. I have no doubt it will be another busy and productive term.

**Whaowhita te kete mātauranga**  
**Fill the basket of knowledge**

Just a friendly reminder, our next

meeting which will also be our AGM is on Thursday 21st May, 7.30pm at Senior Campus in the Brigadier's room (located in reception area). Everyone is welcome to come along and check out our great team and what we do.

Ngā mihi  
Jo Wilson and the PTA Team

## PTA Meeting Dates

The next PTA meeting will be held in the Brigadier's Room at the Senior Campus, scheduled to start at 7.30pm.

Thursday 21 May (AGM & meeting)  
Thursday 21st August  
Thursday 6th November

# Whānau Report



Matua Neitana Tane

He pai ake te iti i te kore.  
A little is better than none..  
Anō nei te mihi o te wā ki a tātou katoa.

The new term is underway, and a busy schedule, academically and culturally, is in action. Last week celebrated our broad cultural spectrum here at Hēmi Hākena with traditional performances, foods, and a wonderful appreciation of our students and their heritage. Our kapa haka kicked things off with a strong rendition of 'Tōia Mai' and 'Ko wai rā'. This set the tone for an amazing celebration. Preparations continue for the annual Ngā Manu Kōrero Speech Competition. The dates have changed for this. It is now on Wednesday the 17th and Thursday the 18th of June in the Civic Theatre.

## Wednesday 17 June

10:00am: Pōwhiri (2025 timings)  
11:00am: Senior Prepared speeches  
Lunch  
Senior Prepared speeches continued  
Short break  
Senior Impromptu sections

## Thursday 18 June

8:45am Karakia (2025 timings)  
9:00am Junior Prepared speeches  
Lunch  
Junior Prepared speeches continued  
Short break  
Prizegiving

Hei kona mai.



# Mihi Whakatau for our new Principal

The staff came together on the first day of the term to formally welcome Mrs Anna McDowell into her new role as Principal | Tumuaki of James Hargest College. It was a lovely way to start the term.



## Staff news

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Erin Pickering

We are delighted to welcome Erin Pickering into her new role as Deputy Principal.

Erin is already a familiar and highly valued member of our school community, having previously held the role of Head of English. Known for her warmth, humour, and quick wit, she brings a thoughtful and considered approach to her work. Erin is deeply committed to our students, consistently placing their needs at the centre of her decision-making and working diligently to ensure the best possible outcomes for all.

A hard working and solutions focused leader, Erin approaches challenges

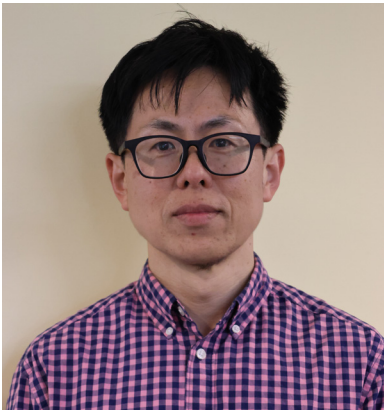
with care and a calm determination to problem solve effectively. Her ability to build strong relationships, combined with her professionalism and genuine care for others, makes her an outstanding addition to our leadership team.

Erin is a very knowledgeable curriculum leader with strengths across long term planning, strategy, alignment and assessment. She is well read and current with curriculum development ideas and requirements. She will lead curriculum and teaching and learning at the Senior Campus.

We are excited to see Erin step into this role and look forward to the positive impact she will continue to have across our school.

## Staff Welcome Senior Campus

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Fumio Yoshimura

Yoshi joins us as our new Japanese teacher, bringing over 15 years of experience teaching at secondary school level in Japan.

Outside of school, Yoshi enjoys discovering great coffee spots, going to the gym, and cooking. He is also looking forward to exploring the beautiful natural landscapes of New Zealand.

We are excited to have Yoshi join our kura and know our students will benefit greatly from his knowledge and experience.



Sarah Tuapati

Sarah Tuapati is excited to be joining the school community as the new Sports Director and is looking forward to getting involved in both sports and wider student life.

Outside of school, Sarah is involved in cricket, and sport plays a big role in her family life, particularly rugby, rugby league and basketball. She is also a member of the PIACT advisory group, supporting the Fijian Community.



Uchitha Herath

We are pleased to welcome Uchitha Herath to our school community in her role supporting Graphic Design and Student Administration.

Uchitha is a talented designer with a strong eye for detail and creativity, bringing experience from working with well-known brands around the world. Her expertise is already evident in the high-quality materials she produces, including publications such as this newsletter.

Alongside her design work, Uchitha will be a warm and friendly presence in Student Administration, supporting students as they navigate their day and helping ensure everything runs smoothly.

We are thrilled to have Uchitha join our team and look forward to the contribution she will make to our school.



# Student Representatives Corner

## Student Representative JHC Board of Trustees



Ben Hargest

Kia ora,

My name is Ben Hargest, and I have had the privilege of being the student representative on the James Hargest Board since September 2024. I have a family connection to the school, so I want to see us continue as the high-performing school in Southland.

This is the new student report, it's going to be used to share the student life at Hargest. There is always plenty happening every day, from the 20 student-led clubs, house competitions, sports, and activities to do, which aren't always advertised. Ms McDowall has started as the new principal. She was a head

girl here back in the old days, so understands our school from both perspectives. Her friendly and approachable style is well liked by students.

In the arts world, Rockquest entries have been submitted, and there are multiple student bands entered in the competition that will hopefully win. Following on from performances, culture day took place last week, with 9 different ethnicities showcasing their culture in some superb performances to the school during thursday break times, organised by the cultural prefects. Classes have now started in the new science block. It's a different experience for students as the rooms are so open, and we've

never really had anything new before. In the coming weeks, students are hosting a public viewing of the new block.

This year, the James Hargest Rugby Club has assembled a 1st IV team. The first IV, U16, U14, senior, and junior girls teams all played Central Southland in the first of our preseason games at the Limehills 100th Jubilee over the holidays. It was a sunny Saturday morning, and quite a few people came to watch, although not all the results went our way; they all left everything on that field. The season starts this weekend.

## JHC PTA Student Representatives



Neve Templeton

Kia ora! My name is Neve Templeton and I'm in Year 13 at Hemi Hakana. I've thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the PTA as one of the Student Representatives, alongside my role as an Arts Prefect. It has been a great opportunity to have a say and contribute to a range of initiatives within the school. I've been fortunate to learn about meeting procedures and financial reports, which will definitely prepare me for the "real world" once I leave Hargest. Year 13 has been eventful, and it is only May! I will continue to help ensure that student perspectives shape decisions within the school. I am looking forward to continuing to learn and contribute to the PTA throughout the rest of this year.



David Hardy

Hello! I'm David Hardy, academic prefect, aspiring engineering student, and one of two PTA student representatives. Feels like the year just started, but May's already here. Us Year 13s are already deep into our second round of internal assessments, with our last House Day, Athletics Day, and Culture Day behind us. The first PTA meeting of the year has come and gone, and as this is our final year, the topic of our successors is on our mind. Things haven't been tremendously eventful thus far, but that's sure to change as we get deeper into the year!

JHC Girls after their preseason win over CSC at the DLS Centenary.



## Help Shape Our Students' Futures: Guest Speakers Wanted!

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Our Year 9 Career Exploration course is in full swing, and we want to bring the world of work into the classroom. We are looking for volunteers from our school community to join us for a brief "Careers Chat."

We are not looking for a polished PowerPoint, we want the real story! What does your day-to-day actually look like? What was the hardest part of your training? What do you love most about what you do?

### Time Commitment:

Wednesdays, 2:25pm to 3:00pm  
(approx. 15 mins talk + 10 mins Q&A).

### Target Careers:

Our students have specifically requested to hear from builders, medical professionals, engineers, teachers, electricians, and those in the hospitality or travel industries.

If you (or a family member) would be willing to share your experiences and help our students navigate their future paths, please contact [dmorrison@jameshargest.school.nz](mailto:dmorrison@jameshargest.school.nz) to express your interest.

## Bike Safety

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Thank you to Brian from Cycling Southland who came to the Junior Campus at the start of the term. Brian taught the skills of cycle safety to the classes who missed out last term due to weather. Students had fun with games and learnt important cycle safety rules.



# ANZAC Day

We gathered together as a school and as a community, to honour a promise made over a century ago. In New Zealand, and especially at James Hargest College, we stand in the long shadow of the ANZAC legacy; a story of courage, of deep loss, and of a spirit that defines us.

For us at this College, that legacy isn't just a chapter in a history book; it's the very name on our gates and the crest on our blazers. Brigadier James Hargest was more than a military leader; he was a practical Southland farmer, a husband, and a father. Before the medals and the rank, he was a man who loved the Southland soil. A farmer who expected to grow old in the place we call home.

His journey embodies the very essence of the ANZAC spirit. He was there at the Gallipoli landings in 1915, where he was seriously wounded. He did not falter, returning to command troops on the Western Front. When the world called again in 1939, he chose to lead the 5th Infantry Brigade through the harrowing campaigns of Greece, Crete, and North Africa.

Brigadier James Hargest never returned to his Southland farm; he was killed in

Normandy in 1944. His death was a loss felt by the whole nation, but most keenly by his family, who had already lost his son, Geoffrey, at the Battle of Monte Cassino just months earlier. Geoffrey was just 22 years old.

It is easy to think of these people as distant historical figures, but they were young New Zealanders just like our students today. The soldiers in the trenches, the nurses in field hospitals, and the sailors on the ships were often only 18 or 19. They left their homes and schools to face a reality that was far from the "great adventure" many expected.

ANZAC Day gives us pause to look around at our lives, our ability to speak our minds, to learn in peace, and to live in a free society. Our freedom wasn't a gift; it was a hard-won inheritance. These things were protected by the bravery of young people who stood their ground when everything was at stake. We owe them an immense debt of gratitude. Our way of life is the living legacy of their sacrifice.

We remember them.

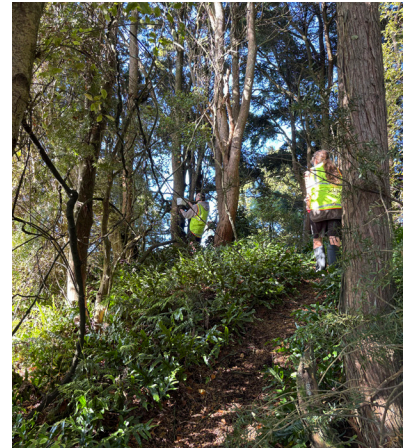
Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou. -  
Lest we forget.





## JHC eco warriors

The JHC eco warriors are back looking after our environment for the third year running. A big thank you to the ICC for allowing us to work alongside them again this year. It has been a very successful start to the year with many possums trapped, tracks maintained and trees planted.



# Environmental Camp

12 of our students recently returned from our annual Environmental Leadership Camp at Te Kōawa Lodge in Blackmount. This marks the second year of this impactful programme, and once again, our students returned with a deeper appreciation for our local ecosystem and a renewed sense of responsibility as kaitiaki.

The camp provided a blend of education and practical conservation work. The students were fully immersed in the outdoors, engaging in a range of valuable activities including a stream study, using tracker tunnels and cameras to monitor pests, and rolling up their sleeves to perform essential maintenance on the mahinga kai planting site.

Looking Ahead to Term 3, the students have already begun brainstorming and planning an exciting community project, which they are eager to execute during Term 3.



# Literacy & Numeracy Corequisite Assessment Tasks

In Week 5 of this term, from May 18th to May 22nd, Y10 students and some Y11, Y12 and Y13 students will have the opportunity to sit the Literacy (Reading and Writing) and Numeracy Corequisite Assessments.

These three assessments enable students to gain the Literacy & Numeracy credits that are required to attain an NCEA qualification. If a student is unsuccessful or absent, there will be another opportunity at the end of Term 3 of this year. Following that, students will be able to continue sitting these assessments until they are successful.

Over the last few weeks students have been preparing for these assessments. They have been asked to ensure that their device is able to access the website and the past sample digital papers and to ensure that their device is fully charged each day. The battery will need to be able

to last for at least two hours at a time. If their device does not have the necessary specifications, they will be able to borrow a school device. Students should let their form teacher know and one will be booked for them. It is unlikely that a device will be able to be borrowed on the day without prior booking. For students who have been granted SAC conditions, appropriate assistance is being organised. Additionally, the Numeracy and Writing assessments will have a text to speech function available to read out the questions. If students wish to use this feature, they will need to have their own headphones compatible with their device. Practice assessments are available on the NZQA site so that students can familiarise themselves with the tasks.


Students have a minimum of 60 minutes to complete each assessment. However, if a student needs extra time, it is available

to them. Students cannot leave the assessment in the first hour, but will be able to return to class at the end of the lesson or when they get finished in the second hour. They will need to be prepared for this.

See below for days and period times for each assessment session. Students should be aware that sessions start at slightly different times each day due to the school timetable. All assessment sessions will take place in the Hall. Students should be outside the Hall at least 5 minutes before the start of the assessment.

We encourage students to be completing practice tasks regularly. You can find these at <https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/subjects/past-exams-and-exemplars/litnum/>


Form Class or Year Group	Reading	Writing	Numeracy
<b>Hamilton</b> 10CWN / 10JWN / 10MFE <b>Watson</b> 10GZG / 10RFE / 10TBT	Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> - P3/P4	Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> - P3/FT/F4	Thur 21 <sup>st</sup> - P3/P4
<b>Menzies</b> 10KES / 10NSW / 10QLE <b>Thomson</b> 10CBS / 10CSN/ 10TME/ 10WHAN	Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> - P1/P2	Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> - P3/P4	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> - P1/P2
<b>Seniors</b> Y11 / Y12 / Y13	Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> - P1/P2	Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> - P1/P2	Thur 21 <sup>st</sup> - P1/P2



## Study Centre


Get free help with Maths, English, Science, Physics and Chemistry, or any subject you need a hand with.

Teachers, Librarian and Peer Tutors available to help with homework, research, exam study, classwork



**Senior Campus Library**  
**Tuesdays 3.30 - 5.00pm**

Afternoon tea provided by the PTA



# World Vision Conference

On Friday 24th April, six enthusiastic students traveled to Dunedin with Mr Redmond for the World Vision Youth Conference. The day was about leadership, advocacy and action. We were made aware of how other people are living, in particular in the Solomon Islands, and how we can spark action in our schools. We heard many different leaders speak, including the very impressive Lola Fisher, who, at the age of 14 co-founded Create Happy Media, a media outlet made for teens, by teens. She was very inspiring, as were the

stories of how people are working to help the one in six children who do not have enough food, and other families in extreme poverty around the world. Some are forced to eat only a few seeds a day to survive, or not eat at all.

We learned about how their main food in the Solomon Islands comes from fishing and farming, and how natural disasters are destroying crops. No crops means that they have to find alternative food sources, even though there are less and less fish. Families are separated as

parents go out to fish for days at a time, and come back with barely any at all. Sometimes they never come back. But they have no choice. Thousands of children have to walk for hours to get water, which isn't even clean - sometimes they have no water because the rain makes it too dirty and they get sick. Parents are doing their best, but we have an opportunity to make a difference by supporting World Vision. We will be leading the mahi at Hemi Hakena and can't wait to get started. Addison and the WV Leaders



The JHC team presenting their "Pitch" to the WV Youth Conference in Dunedin.



Sofia, Movindee, Vageesha, Addison, Preethi and Julia

## Duke of Edinburgh

Huge congratulations to Sophie Winder for achieving your Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and to Carly Nicholls for achieving your Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award!

You've shown incredible growth, leadership, and stamina. You should be immensely proud of the impact you've made through your volunteering and the resilience you showed on the trail. Well done!



# Culture Day

Our Culture Day was a vibrant, student-led celebration of identity, diversity, and belonging across our kura.

Students embraced the opportunity to express who they are and where they come from, proudly wearing traditional cultural attire or clothing that reflects their personal stories and heritage. The day was filled with colour, pride, and a strong sense of connection.

We were treated to a range of cultural performances that showcased the talents within our school and highlighted the richness of the many cultures that make up our community. Sharing kai was another special part of the day, bringing everyone together in the true spirit of manaakitanga.

Culture Day is a very special occasion on the Hargest calendar. Well done to all of the student leaders and staff who supported them to make this day the wonderful celebration it was.





# James Hargest College Triumphs at Regional Shakespeare Festival

James Hargest College recently took center stage as the host of the regional University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival. Schools from across Southland participated, but our students truly shone with their rendition of Henry IV Part 1. Focusing on the comedic hijinks between Prince Hal and Sir John Falstaff, the performance expertly balanced the Bard's classic wit with high-energy acting.

The night was a resounding success for the team, who walked away with several top honors. Jack Jia and Jessica Fenton earned the award for Best Connection Between Two Actors, while the production also secured the prize for Best Costumes. Most notably, Desandi Fonseka received an automatic placement in the National Schools Shakespeare Production (NSSP) for her standout, jovial portrayal

of Falstaff. A huge congratulations goes to the entire ensemble, including Janet Wei, Araya Kilgour-Phillips, and Anna Muir. Their collective effort in tackling such an epic scene and bringing Shakespeare's characters to life was a credit to the school. Well done to all involved for their hard work and stellar performances!



## Junior Campus Choir

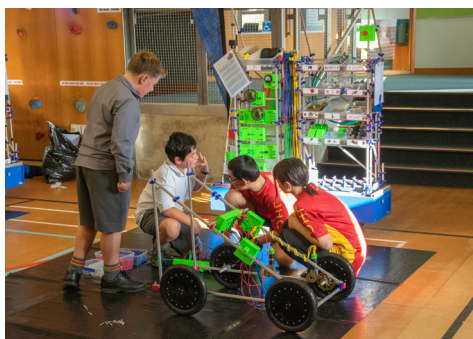
Our Junior Campus Choir went out for our first Outreach Singing event in our local community at the end of last term. It was very well received by the residents of Vickery Court Residential Home, who sang along with many of our songs and spent time getting to know our choir members. We always enjoy sharing music within our community and this was a very positive first engagement for the year.



## EPro8 competition

The EPro8 Challenge is a New Zealand-based STEM competition for school students. It focuses on engineering, problem-solving, and teamwork.

Two teams from JHC participated in the Southland Year 7/8 SBS Bank EPro8 Challenge in the Junior Campus hall. Our teams performed extremely well, achieving 1st place: Tracker, Vinnie, Cooper, and Thehan; and 7th place: Shia, Villi, Dexter, and Theodore. Well done to you all!



# Culture Day

## Junior Campus

The Junior Campus had a fantastic Culture Day on Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup>. We had a chance to dress in our cultural attire. Students on our campus come from many different countries and there were lots of colours and costumes. During the day some classrooms shared kai, giving students a chance to try food

they hadn't had before. During our assembly we saw performances of didgeridoo, Samoan songs and dance, Kapa Haka, as well as a Sri Lankan dance. Twenty five students retold the story of The Three Little Pigs in 18 different languages. It was a great day and very much enjoyed by students and staff alike.





The Hardest way  
to respect each other  
is to treat all people fairly  
We are honest  
We work hard  
We are responsible for all we do  
We care of our environment



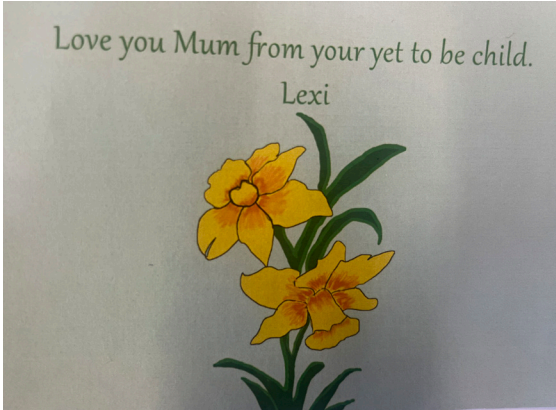
# Deep Cove

## Junior Campus

Across Term One all Year 8 classes travelled to the beautiful Deep Cove. Before and during their camp, students learn more about our environment and grow their confidence and resilience in the outdoors. Deep Cove is a taonga we are grateful to share with our rangatahi. It has been a special part of being a Year 8 for generations and we love having whānau come with us who haven't been since they were Year 8 themselves!



Students have used Illustrator and Photoshop to create their birth flower for their mums. Well done to you all on some lovely creations.



## Celebrating Mother's Day

Mother's Day originated from humble beginnings in 1908 as a simple tradition to honour all mothers, living and deceased. However, it did not take long for florists, confectioners and card companies to jump onboard and commercialise the day, much to the disappointment of its founder, Ann Jarvis.

Today, Mother's Day is an annual reminder to say thanks to our mum, or other motherly figure, who plays an important role in our lives. It is a day to express our gratitude and love towards the women who have dedicated their time, energy, and love to raise and support us. Whether it's a simple gesture like a card, a bunch of flowers, or a heartfelt message, Mother's Day is an opportunity to show our mothers how much we cherish and admire them. It's a time to

reflect on the love, sacrifices, and unwavering support that our mothers provide unconditionally.

This Special Report highlights that Mother's Day is not only a celebration, but also a reminder of the vital role mothers play in the developmental growth of her children and the impact this has on shaping our society. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

Here is the link to this topic [http://jameshargest.nz.schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/celebrating-mothers-day-nz](http://jameshargest.nz.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/celebrating-mothers-day-nz)



## Mother's Day

A SchoolTV topic supporting modern-day parenting



Here is the link to view the school tv <https://jameshargest.nz.schooltv.me/>

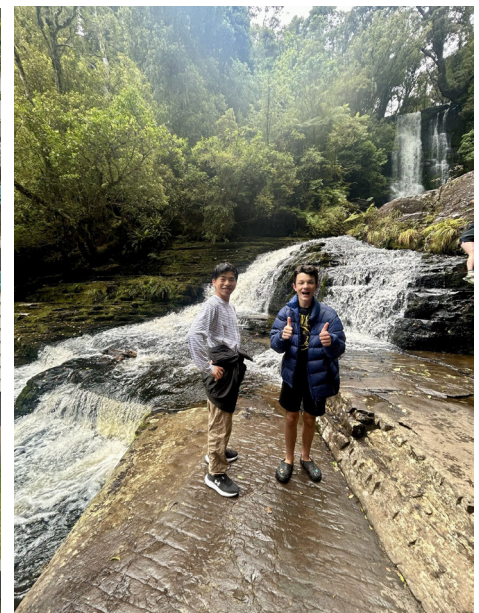
# International Students

It has been an action-packed start to the year with our International Students experiencing some great Southern Hospitality.

We are grateful to our fabulous host families for showing our students the sights of the Great South.

The holiday adventures to Queenstown and Te Anau were enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Ms Jhang and Ms Kylie for accompanying the students.

One of the best things about our school is how welcoming our students and staff are. The support provided to our International students is exceptional.



# International Friendship Club

## Ice Skating Trip

Our International Friendship Club recently enjoyed their annual ice skating trip.

The International Friendship Club is a service-based group where students volunteer their time to support and welcome international students into our kura and wider community. Events like this trip provide a relaxed and fun environment for friendships to grow, helping students feel a strong sense of belonging.

There were plenty of smiles (and a few wobbles) as students spent time together, supporting one another and sharing in the experience. It was a great reminder that connection, kindness, and a bit of fun go a long way in making everyone feel at home.

Thank you to all involved for making the trip such a success.



# Spanish Adventure 2026

Twenty students and two teachers recently set off on an unforgettable Spanish adventure, immersing themselves in the language, culture, and vibrant life of Spain over four incredible weeks.

Our journey began in the lively city of Barcelona, where students explored the breathtaking masterpieces of Antoni Gaudí. Highlights included the awe-inspiring Sagrada Família, the colourful Casa Batlló, and the stunning hilltop views from Park Güell. Wandering through the narrow, winding streets of the Gothic Quarter added a sense of history and charm to our time in the city.

From there, we travelled to Madrid, where students took part in a city-wide scavenger hunt—an exciting way to discover landmarks and hidden gems. A definite highlight was rowing boats in El Retiro Park, soaking up the sunshine and enjoying one of Madrid's most iconic experiences.

Next, we boarded a high-speed train to Córdoba before continuing by bus to Priego de Córdoba, where we spent three weeks living with local homestay families. This immersive experience allowed students to develop their

Spanish language skills while gaining a deeper understanding of daily life and culture. Attending school in Priego proved to be a rewarding experience (and a highlight for some!).

Our time in southern Spain included several memorable day trips. In Ronda, we explored what is often described as one of Spain's prettiest towns, home to one of the oldest bullfighting rings. Back in Córdoba, we wandered through the historic Jewish Quarter and visited the magnificent Mezquita-Catedral, a unique symbol of cultural and religious coexistence over centuries.

A visit to Granada and the breathtaking Alhambra was another unforgettable highlight, showcasing stunning architecture and rich history. Additional excursions took us to Zuheros, where we explored dramatic landscapes, bat caves, and even Roman ruins.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Señorita Fernández for her incredible effort in planning this entire trip, and to Ms Smith and Mr Jegousse for their ongoing support and supervision throughout the journey.





## French Trip 2026

Two years rolls around pretty fast, and April saw another group of Senior French students take to the skies and wing their way to France for the French Exchange.

Once again, James Hargest combined with Southland Girls' High to provide this amazing opportunity to experience the French culture and language in its birthplace.

After landing and finding Ari, our wonderful coach driver, we drove to Le Quesnoy, a town in Northern France that was liberated by NZ soldiers at the end of the First World War. Le Quesnoy has a long history and connection with Aotearoa and while there we walked the ramparts and laid a wreath at the NZ memorial site. We also visited Te Arawhata NZ Liberation Museum and learned about the human impact of the town's occupation and of the soldiers involved in the conflict. Quite the day after a long journey!

We stayed three nights at the Peace Village in Mesen, Belgium, while we visited various places connected to the Western Front and WW1, including Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, Ypres, and Polygon

Wood. Our group participated in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menen Gate Memorial where we laid another wreath on behalf of our two schools.

On our way back to Paris to get the train to Bourg-en-Bresse, we stopped at Arras to visit the Carrière Wellington, a network of tunnels dug out by NZ soldiers to gain a territorial advantage along the Western Front during WW1.

After our time in Belgium, we took the train to Bourg-en-Bresse to meet with our host students and spend some time in a French school. Most students got to experience what a full day at school in France means - an 8am start with lessons right through until 6pm - the consensus was that they prefer the NZ schooling system! The New Zealand students stayed with their host families for the first week of their school holidays and visited various places within the region and beyond. We met back again as a group and travelled to Lausanne, Switzerland to experience another French-speaking country before finishing our trip with Paris.

Paris highlights included Disneyland, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Notre-Dame Cathedral, travelling the metro, wandering the Parisian streets and soaking in the French joie de vivre. Sacré-Coeur Basilica, the Montmartre, Sainte Chapelle, dinner out at a traditional Parisian bistro restaurant and the Opéra Garnier were also on the itinerary. A full week of sightseeing and adventures!

It truly is a pleasure to take these groups away and all the students represented the school outstandingly. The lifelong memories they make, the friendships they forge, and seeing how the world opens up to them makes all the hard work worthwhile. Thank you to the JHC and SGHS Boards for their continued support of these opportunities for our students.

Catherine Patterson





Lachlan and Caitlin Checketts have both been selected for the National Youth Pipe Band of New Zealand. Lachlan plays the bagpipes and Caitlin plays the Tenor Drum. This is a fantastic achievement for the talented siblings. Ka rawe Lachlan and Caitlin!



## Things are getting busy in the music department as our ākonga are practicing for multiple events in Term 2.



Warm up gig for Rockquest on Sunday May 24 at The Riff (formerly the Southland Musicians' Club) starting at 2pm for our songwriters and bands.

Chamber Music Contest - held at Knox Church this year, Thursday June 4th, starting at 6:30pm

The Big Sing - held at First Church on Tuesday June 9th, starting at 6:30pm

Rockquest - held at the Civic Theatre on Friday June 12th, starting at 7pm

The Sing Thing - held at ILT Stadium, Friday June 26th, starting at 1pm, all welcome!



Whānau are warmly invited to come along and support our choirs, rock bands, soloists, chamber music groups and concert band.

Pictured are one of our school bands getting ready for Rockquest by performing at the Open Mic Night at The Riff this week. Ollie, Will (both year 10), and Alec and Jack (both year 7).

While the year 12 and 13 music classes are working hard on their research internals at the moment, every now and then they like to revisit their year 9 and 10 music selves and bust out the boomwhackers! If you hear some melodious thumping coming from the music department on Friday afternoons it is probably the 12 and 13s having fun with these melodic percussion instruments.



Well another Cricket season is done and dusted and it was great to see the passion and growth we are seeing in this area. This season we had two teams in the Year 7/8 competition with a lot of new Year 7 faces. We were really lucky to have some great parents on board supporting these kids. A big thank you goes to Cain Duncan, Tim Mackay and Ollie Mortensen for all your hard work.

Again this season we had two teams in the Secondary School grade. We decided this season we would put in a first and a second with the goal to have the 1st XI in the Southland men's competition in term 4. The first had an excellent season and were unbeaten after Christmas. We were super proud of these students as they are great role models for our school. Our second showed great improvement during the season and came close to knocking over SBHS in one of their games. A big thanks to Scott Williamson for looking after this team and Mrs Nicholson for organising the children at the senior college. A big thank you to Year 13 student Ruby Tangney for

all her efforts with cricket at James Hargest who has now moved into the workforce. Ruby's contribution and effort can not be faulted and we are proud of what she has brought to our cricket programme. Also well done to Cooper Goad who played for Appleby and his team made the senior final this year.

This year again we entered in the Otago/ Southland Year 9/10 tournament this year in Alexandra. The team had a target on their back after winning this tournament the previous year. The team started really well and knocked over Wakatipu College and Taieri College on day one. This brought a final against the only unbeaten team Trinity College. They batted first and scored 179-8. A very challenging score but Hargest was ready for the challenge. The team managed to tie the game and unfortunately lost a wicket when the score was tied. A special mention must go to Will Godsall-Folster who scored the most runs in the tournament with 193 in three innings and scoring 95 in the final. A big thanks must go to Mr Brodie for

coaching the team and Kelly Godsall-Folster for managing the team.

It was great to see again the number of children increasing in rep teams from Hargest with 11 making the teams this year. Well done to Elliot Duncan for getting the most improved player from his team. Zander Muller for outstanding effort and Will Godsall-Folster for most valuable player at the Southland prizegiving. Well done to Cooper Goad. Alex King and Will Godsall-Folster who travelled to Dunedin to take part in the Otago pathways day.

In term 4 we are looking at entering a team in the senior reserve men's competition. This will be the first Hargest team that has played in this grade in over 20 years. With this comes some big challenges especially financially with balls costing \$90 each week. If you want to get behind this team in any way please contact me at [gfolster@jameshargest.school.nz](mailto:gfolster@jameshargest.school.nz).

Geoff Folster

## Otago Pathways day



Year 9/10 Cricket team first equal at the Southland/ Otago Year 9/10 tournament



left to right Cooper Goad, Will Godsall-Folster and Alex King

# Hargest Hockey

The hockey season is underway!

It has been a great start to the hockey season. For the first two Tuesday afternoons of this term, there was a Super 6 competition with teams from James Hargest College, Southland Girls High School, Fiordland, Menzies and Central Southland. Our school entered six teams across three divisions.

The Hargest Red boys had a dominant performance and secured a 5-1 win in their finals. It was a close final game for the Hargest Red girls, falling short with a 3-1 loss to Girls High Purple.

By Charlie Wright and Ella Neylon

The 11 aside competition is kicking off and Hargest is entering eight teams into the Invercargill competition with four teams in the Junior High competition and four teams in the Senior High division. It is great to see that there is an equal split between boys and girls teams.

There is a sense of pride seeing students give back to their sport through umpiring and coaching teams in various grades and within the community.

Hockey is a fabulous team sport and we have some great student leaders and role models helping to grow our younger players.



# Aoraki Boys Hockey Preseason Tournament

At the end of holidays, the JHC Boys 1st XI participated in a valuable 3-day tournament in Timaru against strong opposition from secondary schools around the South Island.

The focus was on development, putting pressing on and maintaining outlet structures under pressure. The team held their own out on the hockey turf, despite a third of the team being new to this experience. The future is bright for these young players.



## Rugby

Hargest Intermediate Boys had a great preseason hit out against CSC. Hargest came out on top 33-5. It was a great team performance and everyone contributed. Well done lads! Thank you too to JJ Morgan who again stepped up to help the club and referee the match.

Good luck to all of our teams for the start of the season this weekend.



## Basketball - Yr 7 and 8

WOW! What an awesome season of basketball we have had at the Junior Campus!

A total of 8 teams, 87 students were entered this season! This is a massive effort and it has been awesome seeing so many students out enjoying the sport! All teams consistently displayed 'The Hargest Way' both on and off the court, worked well together as a team and most importantly wore smiles along the way!

In finals night we had 5 teams playing in their grade final! Unfortunately, it wasn't the night for us, all fighting hard but pulling up second.

### Teams in the finals

JHC Hoopers

JHC Slammers

JHC Fastbreakers

JHC Crossovers

JHC Defenders

A special mention to the following students from the Senior Campus who dedicated their time to coach the teams this season:

Will Brown	Lucy Cook
Carter Oliver	Lucy Raines
Mia Ronald	Lauren Smolenski
Ashlee Clay	Alyssa Dakers
Albashiq Elfaki	Imogen Burdon
Benrick Ramos	Jasmine Caudwell

## Football Success

### Congratulations to Charlotte Robinson

who is off to Wellington as part of the Phoenix Woman's U18's Development team.

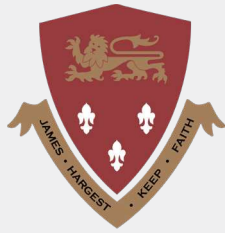
She will be attending school at the NZ Performance academy. This is an awesome opportunity for Charlotte to play at the highest level and we are very proud of her. Previously Charlotte has played for the Old Boys Youth Development Team and the Southland U15,U16 and U19 Womans teams.



### Congratulations to Zoe Beck

Zoe has been selected by Bowls New Zealand selectors in the New Zealand Under 26 squad. This is an awesome opportunity for Zoe where she will gain fantastic coaching and learn a lot as part of the high performance environment.





JAMES HARGEST  
COLLEGE

## Brigadier James Hargest

CBE, DSO & TWO BARS, MC, VD, MP

1891 – 1944



The foyer photo of Brigadier James Hargest shows a calm, middle-aged leader preparing to serve in World War II at age 48. As commander of New Zealand's 5th Brigade, he led troops through difficult campaigns in Greece, Crete, and Libya, where Allied forces often faced setbacks but earned respect for their resilience.

Born in Gore in 1891, Hargest grew up in Southland and developed a passion for soldiering early. He served with distinction in World War I, fighting in major battles

such as Gallipoli and the Somme, and earned several high honours. After the war, he became a farmer near Invercargill, raised a family, and later entered politics as a Member of Parliament. In World War II, Hargest again volunteered for service. Captured in Libya in 1941 after a battle with German forces led by Erwin Rommel, he was held as a prisoner of war in Italy. He successfully escaped and made his way back to England in 1942. Refusing a safer role, he returned to active duty and was killed in France in 1944 by

a sudden shell burst. Hargest is remembered as a brave soldier, dedicated leader, and committed public servant. James Hargest Memorial High School, opened in 1958, honors his legacy, reflecting his values of courage, service, and faith.

## The Hargest Way | Our Core Values

### **We respect each other**

Ka manaakitia tētahi ki tētahi

### **We treat all people fairly**

Ka mihiā tika te iwi katoa

### **We are honest**

Tino mahi pono mātou

### **We work hard**

Tino kaha tō mātou mahi

### **We are responsible for all we do**

Ka whakautu tūtika mātou ki ngā kaupapa katoa

### **We take care of our environment**

Tiakina tō mātou nohonga taiao

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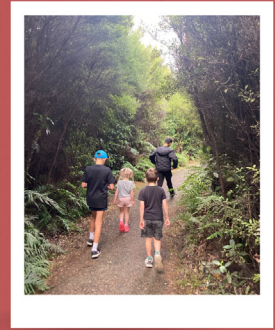
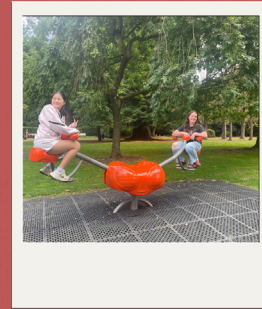
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All orders placed between 27 Apr - 22 May 2026 are automatically placed in the draw.

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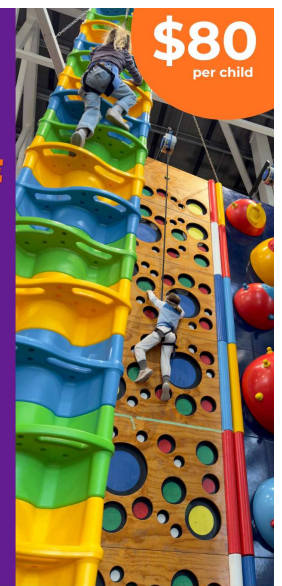
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## Junior Campus

6 Layard Street, Invercargill  
Email: juniorcampus@jameshargest.school.nz

## Website

www.jameshargest.school.nz

Download School Apps NZ and select James Hargest College

## Senior Campus

288 Layard Street, Invercargill  
Email: office@jameshargest.school.nz

## Phone

03 217 6129



## Parent, Caregiver, Whānau and Community Engagement

At James Hargest College we are always interested in engaging with our community and listening to parents, whānau and the wider community. If you have any good ideas or there is something special that has happened regarding Hargest, or there are issues, concerns or complaints we should be aware of,

please contact the school office  
Senior Campus (2176129) or  
Junior Campus (2179250) or via email,  
[office@jameshargest.school.nz](mailto:office@jameshargest.school.nz)  
You will be put in contact with an  
appropriate staff member

## Information Updates

If you have any changes to your details (e.g. address, phone numbers, medical details, emergency contacts, etc), please let the school know as soon as possible in order to keep our records up-to-date.

Please email Mrs Moreton (Senior Campus) with any changes at  
[office@jameshargest.school.nz](mailto:office@jameshargest.school.nz)  
or phone 2176129  
or Mrs Cribb (Junior Campus) at  
[juniorcampus@jameshargest.school.nz](mailto:juniorcampus@jameshargest.school.nz)  
or phone 2179250

## E-mail Newsletters

The next newsletter will be issued via email on Friday 5 June 2026.

Hard copies of the newsletter will be available from either the Junior or Senior Campus office.

You can view the newsletter on the Hargest web site [www.jameshargest.school.nz](http://www.jameshargest.school.nz)



## Coming Events for 2026

### Senior Campus

#### May

Mon	11	RYDA - Year 12s
Wed	13	Southland Cross Country
Thu	14	Author Brian Falkner Visiting
Fri	15	Pink Shirt Day
Sat	16	Year 13 Ball
Mon	18	Literacy, Numeracy Exams Begin
Fri	22	Showquest
Sun	24	Rockquest
Tues	26	Taonga Puoro Presentation
Thu	28	BOT hui

#### June

Mon	1	King's Birthday
Wed	3	Wakatipu Exchange
Tues	9	Big Sing
Wed	10	Law Career Event
Wed	17	Manu Kōrero
Thu	18	Manu Kōrero
Fri	19	Rob Waddell here Japanese Trivia night - Hall 6pm Southland Chess Tournament - Library
Tues	23	AGM and PTA hui
Wed	24	Scholarship Assembly
Thu	25	Haka Competition BOT hui
Fri	26	The Sing Thing
Tues	30	1st XV Australia Rugby Tour Departs

#### July

Fri	3	Last Day of Term 2
Thu	9	Matariki
Wed	22	Taieri Exchange
Wed	29	Love Me Not programme - Year 12
Thu	30	BOT hui

### Junior Campus

#### May

Thu	14	Cross Country (postponement 15 <sup>th</sup> )
Fri	15	Sport and Rec Begins Pink Shirt Day
Fri	22	Showquest and Toi Wearable Arts
Tues	26	Taonga Puoro Presentation
Thu	28	BOT hui

#### June

Mon	1	King's Birthday
Fri	12	Southland Primary Cross Country
Tues	23	AGM and PTA hui
Thu	25	BOT hui
Fri	26	Sing Thing at Stadium

#### July

Fri	3	Last day of Term 2
Thu	30	BOT hui

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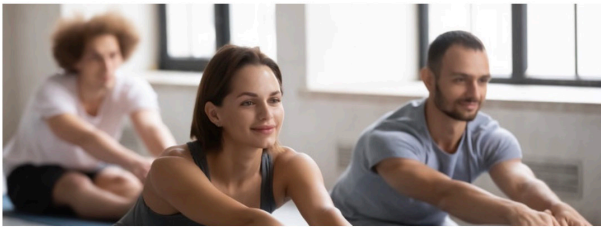
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