

JHC

JAMES HARGEST COLLEGE KEEP FAITH

4 September 2026



Polyfest 2026

Principal's Comment



Anna McDowall
Principal

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to Spring! The arrival of September brings a wonderful sense of energy, new growth, and fresh possibilities to James Hargest College. This season of renewal provides the perfect backdrop for our students to reflect on their journeys, embrace new challenges, and continue growing as learners and individuals.

Our school community is still buzzing with immense pride following last week's incredible performances at Polyfest. Our Junior and Senior Campus Kapa Haka roopu and Pasifika groups were absolutely stunning. Watching our students perform with such passion, skill, and dignity was a powerful reminder of the strength of our kura. They showed profound pride in who they are, beautifully sharing their culture with the wider community and representing Hargest with distinction.

As we approach the business end of Term 3, many of our students are entering a critical phase of their academic year. With senior Evidence Exams and round two of the Literacy and Numeracy Common Assessment Activities coming up fast, focus and consistent study are more important than ever. Making the most of tutorials, class time, practice papers and the Study Centre are all valuable ways to make sure you are as prepared as you can be for each exam session.

Simultaneously, we have many of our sports teams away this week for Secondary Schools Tournament Week, testing themselves against the best from around the South Island. We wish all of our athletes, coaches, and managers the very best. Play hard, play fair, and wear the Hargest colours with pride. We are all behind you.

Recently, we held our Open Day, which for me, highlighted the cyclical nature of education. It was my first Open Day as Principal of James Hargest College, and it was a true privilege to see the immense excitement on the faces of the Year 6 students looking toward their futures. Our fabulous Year 7 and 8 Junior Campus is a unique environment where the teachers, facilities, and timetables are directly tailored to meet the developmental and educational needs of this specific age group. Seeing those young students eager to step into secondary school was a reminder of the importance of our decisions and processes. Our current JHC students who took on the roles of guides and demonstrators in classrooms were an absolute credit to our place and their whānau. Their ability to connect with younger students and share what they enjoy at JHC celebrated the best aspects of our kura. These students were

fantastic ambassadors and we were very proud of them all.

Witnessing students in action from Year 6 to Year 13 all in one space felt like an imperative to reflect on the JHC seven year journey. After 13 years of schooling, what do we hope our young people leave with?

I think if we can look at students when they leave us and know that they have:

- The ability to think critically and solve problems.
- A strong work ethic and the determination to strive for excellence.
- Deep respect for others, learning that different perspectives and worldviews are genuinely worth listening to and considering.
- A well-rounded sense of self, nurtured by a school environment that values context, community, and holistic growth,

then we know we have a place that makes a difference. We want JHC to stand as a school that is inherently a place for learning, not just academically, but socially and culturally too.

This is a school we can all be immensely proud of, capable of guiding students seamlessly from childhood to young adulthood. To achieve this, parental support and open communication remain vital. By working together, we can continue to foster an inclusive community that understands, appreciates, and celebrates diversity. This partnership is essential in growing young people who can live up to our core Mission: to equip all our students to create the best possible future for themselves and their world.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we head into a busy and productive Spring.

Kā mihi nui,

Anna McDowall

Board of Trustees Report



Nic Raines
Board Chair

We have numerous sports teams away for tournaments in the first week of September which deserves a big thank you to the coaches and managers. This is usually teachers who have coached all winter and now take the team on a road trip which is going above and beyond for the love of sport and our students. Thank you!

Kate Webster presented the Year 7 and 8 mid year achievement data to the board in August. Parents of these students will have noticed that a more advanced curriculum and different measurement of success has resulted in an overall drop in achievement. Due to the bar having been raised, students who have historically achieved are often now below and it's a tough adjustment

to the new curriculum. In time this will improve, but the sudden change can be a shock.

The board has started on a masterplan for the redevelopment of the concrete courts beside the gym and the courts by Racecourse Road. A new covered turf beside the gym will be a special new area creating more spaces for play. B Block will eventually get demolished and even more space will become available. This plan won't come cheap and will be a few years in the making but is a great investment into making new facilities to keep kids active (and out of the rain and wind).

PTA Report



Jo Wilson
PTA Chairperson

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.

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Kia ora from the PTA,
Hasn’t August been super busy and just flown by in a blink of an eye? The PTA met this month and were excited to approve funding towards 3 applications:

1. Fencing, which has seen an increase the interest of students signing up and learning a new skill set. We were able to help provide ‘kits’ so our rangatahi have the safe and correct gear and equipment whilst they training and for future events.
2. Football, another sport that has seen an increase especially with girls. Having enough gear for all students to be able to have a sense of pride wearing their uniform and enough balls to practice and craft their skills is key.
3. Technology, upgrading the schools orb ball kits. These are fascinating little balls that the students programme to move without even touching them. It’s about learning how to set the internal programming to make them move.

We are currently working on setting dates for the end of year uniform buy in and sell out. Keep an eye out in next months newsletter for dates to mark on your calendar.

Ngā mihi
Jo Wilson and the PTA team



Whānau Report



Matua Neitana Tane

Pai tū pai hinga nā wai, nā oti!

Through trials and tribulations the work will be complete.

Miharo Murihiku Polyfest karanga mai!
Effort, heart, commitment, and teamwork culminated in our Junior and Senior Campus Kapa Haka performances at the 2026 Murihiku Polyfest Performances this week.
The Junior Campus stood on Tuesday afternoon with an outstanding performance. The joy in seeing the kapa celebrate and execute such a polished performance was definitely a memorable experience.

On Wednesday night, the Kapa Haka o Hēmi Hākena (Senior ‘A’ kapa) performed an emotional, demanding bracket which required sensitivity and skill.
At the time of writting this report, the Kapa Haka Tuākana o Hēmi Hākena will be getting ready to take the stage for an entertaining performance, including ngahau classics to pick up the spirits and once again celebrate the wondrous art form which is Kapa Haka.
It is with emotion and gratitude that this performance celebrates our hearty and committed Year 13 students. These students have given their time and energy to make sure all who come to Kapa Haka are noticed, appreciated and encouraged. Neiā te mihi o te ngakau ki a Amelia-Jayne de Thierry-Curry, Meah Ayto, Scarlet Rooney, and Ethan Stark.

Prize Giving Trophies

Please return trophies to Reception. If you are now in Year 9 and have trophies from the Junior Campus, they can be dropped off at Senior Campus Reception.

Mōhio te mana o te whakapono! Uia mai, ‘ko wai au?’, māku e kī atu, ‘he kākano i ruia mai i Rangiātea’.
Hei kona mai.



Student Representatives Corner

Board of Trustees



Ben Hargest

Kia ora. This could be my last student report to share with the Hargest community, as we are currently going through the election process for the 2027 student representative. I've decided to put my name forward again, so you might still be stuck with me for another year.

It's been an incredible experience so far; you learn so much, meet lots of new people, and get to be a part of some huge

decisions in our school even though most don't happen overnight.

My highlight on the board so far has been the recruitment process for our new principal and being an interviewer for that. It was a very enjoyable experience that you won't get the chance to do again any time soon.

In student life this month, we are beginning to wrap up the year with winter tournament week, sports prizegivings, Year 8s touring the Senior Campus, and school exams. Teachers have put huge amounts of effort into preparing us for these, and most give up their break time or after school whenever they can to take extra lessons, as they want to see us achieve to our best. The most basic advice you can be given is to show up to your exams on time and bring your equipment, especially your calculator. Mock exams start next week. Do your best, Seniors!

Māori Prefect



Amelia-Jayne de Thierry-Curry

Polyfest this year was something truly special, we saw clear demonstrations of pride and unity. Across our kura there were five performing rōpū from both campuses, performing a variety of different cultures, with three of these groups being Kapa Haka rōpū. Every performer demonstrated so much dedication, pride and discipline. I am incredibly proud of every single one of our performers and the great amount of commitment to their rōpū and cultures.

For the competitive Kapa Haka rōpū, we began the week with a three-day, two-night Noho Mārae, where we worked hard, demonstrated patience, worked on whakawhanaungatanga and created many meaningful memories.

This Polyfest held particular significance for me and the other Year 13 students, as it is our final major performance with Te Kapa Haka o Hēmi Hākena. Standing with our kapa for the last time was a very emotional and meaningful moment. This kaupapa has taught us so much about ourselves, our whakapapa and our connection to our tīpuna and culture.

Watching all five groups represent our kura with complete pride is an indescribable feeling. Every rōpū showcased talent, strength and unity. Every performer should feel immensely proud of their achievements and the way they contributed to this year's exceptional Polyfest.

Next year will be the year to watch for!

Head Student Librarians on Library Week

Who knew the library could be this exciting? Library Week in Week 5 saw our library come to life, we saw much love for the library as students ran around for the Amazing Race, hunted and solved riddles, and as the Year 13s dressed up as characters ranging from Oompa Loompas, to superheroes and pirates on Dress Up Day. We also ran a variety of activities during breaks such as a book quiz, Headbanz, owl hunts, guess the weight of the books and more! It was awesome to see so many people get involved with our Library Week activities, and a celebration of all that our lovely library has to offer!



Saranya Sarisa



Hasi Hewa Babaranda



Emma Steele



Desandi Fonseka

Head Students



**Alex Sandiford
Elly Baird
Lilah Jack
Benjamin Wyatt**

It's been great to see the amazing participation during the House Dodgeball competition, congratulations to Hamilton who took out the girls competition and to Thompson who took out their respective boys competitions.

As we now look forward to exam season we encourage everyone to study hard and ask for help if you need it. Evidence exam season can be a stressful time so make sure you revise properly but also look after yourself! If it's all feeling like

too much, a wee break will probably be better for you than powering on through when you are knackered. Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei, seek the treasure you value most dearly: if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain!

As a group, we are now turning our focus to the end-of-year formalities, such as planning our final assemblies. We enjoyed seeing everybody getting behind Daffodil Day on Friday, and we would

also like to wish everybody who is away on Tournament Week all the best - make sure you represent our school with pride!

Sports Prefects



Kyra Savoy



Caitlin Crawford

With winter sports coming to an end we are warmly welcoming in our wide range of summer sports. Sign ups are beginning to open up, with fencing, touch, volleyball, and cricket already open. Keep an eye on the notices for important updates and key dates as we would hate for you to miss out!

We are looking for any interest in NFL Flag Football. Flag Football is a fast-paced, non-contact, and highly inclusive sport that is open to all students, regardless of whether you are an experienced athlete or completely new to the game. If you are keen or have any questions, sign ups are in the sports office now.

There are some opportunities available to coach Year 7 and 8 Basketball. There are no practices, all we need is for you to turn up on the following Fridays (18 and 25 September 2026, 16, 23, and 30 October 2026, and 20 and 27 November 2026). This would look great on your CV!

Great work with the participation in the House Competitions - keep it up! Lastly, good luck to all the players heading away to tournaments across the South Island. We wish you the best of luck - make our school proud!

PTA Reflections



David Hardy

It's a busy time of year, and everyone's feeling it! A big topic of discussion at the last PTA meeting was the Open Day, which was quite the success. The PTA held a sausage sizzle, and the unexpectedly large attendance numbers meant some sausage rationing decisions had to be made last-minute! Both of us as PTA reps were guides at the Open Day, and everything seemed to go smoothly from our side, with guides answering a good few parent questions. Also discussed were funding the fencing club initiative, sports uniforms, and looking towards potentially funding Hargest attendees to go to the Rotary National Science and Technology Forum.

Polyfest 2026

Over the course of the week 5 James Hargest groups took to the stage in Miharo Murihiku Polyfest 2026 and many of our senior students volunteered to ensure this fabulous multi day event ran smoothly, allowing rangatahi across the province to celebrate their culture and shine. We are incredibly proud of all of our Kapa Haka and Pasifika students for their heartfelt performances, and the time spent in rehearsal and practice to get them to this calibre. A huge thank you to all the support that goes into this from staff, ex-students, and whānau creating a network to awhi.

You should check out our performances:

Te Kapa Teina o Hēmi Hākena
watch from 5:10:15



Moananuiākea
watch from 53:48



Te Kapa Haka o Hēmi Hākena
watch from 1:57:31



Te Kapa Haka Tuakana o Hēmi Hākena
watch from 4:34:45



Puna Pasifika o te Apī James Hargest
watch from 5:14:22



Te Kapa Teina o Hēmi Hākena





Te Kapa Haka Tuakana o Hēmi Hākena



Te Kapa Haka o Hēmi Hākena



Puna Pasifika o te Apii James Hargest





Moananuiākea



EVIDENCE EXAMS / LITERACY AND NUMERACY CAA TIMETABLE

MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER - THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

2026 JHC End of Year/Evidence Exam Timetable

Morning exams begin at 9:00am; Afternoon exams begin at 1:15pm. Some afternoon exams will finish after 3:20pm.

	Wed 9th Sept	Thurs 10th Sept	Fri 11th Sept	Mon 14th Sept	Tues 15th Sept	Wed 16th Sept
AM Be at Exam Room at 8.45am Latest finish 12noon	11 ENP 11 ENS 11 ENT L2 DGM L2 MAO L2 SPA L2 FDN L3 ACC L3 FDN	11 SCM 11 SCW L2 ECO L2 HEA L3 MAC L3 MAO	11 MXB 11 FRE L2 DGP L2 MED L3 ENB L3 ENV L3 ENW	11 JAP 11 MUS 11 SPA L2 ENA L2 ENB L2 ENC L2 ENL L3 HIS	11 ECO L2 MXA L2 MXB L2 MXG L3 FRE L3 PHY	11 ACC L2 CHE L2 FRE L3 DGM L3 DGP L3 DRA
PM Be at Exam Room at 1.00pm Latest finish 4.15pm	11 GEO 11DGM L2 GEO L2 MUS L3 GEO L3 JAP	11 MXT L2 ACC L2 BIO L3 CHE L3 MED	11 HIS L2 HIS L2 JAP L3 STA	11 DGP 11 MAO L2 CLS L2 FNT L3 CLS L3 ECO	11 MED L2 BUS L3 BIO	11 DRA 11 MXG L2 DRA L2 PHY L3 MUS

Note: Rooming will be advised closer to the time for the End of Year/Evidence Exams.

Literacy and Numeracy Co-Requisite Tasks

If you have not yet attained these, the second opportunity in 2026 for the Literacy & Numeracy CAA’s will be as below.

All assessments will be sat in the Hall. Please be at your exam 10 minutes prior to it beginning. Ensure you have a fully charged device. You will need a calculator for the Numeracy Assessment.

	Day	Y11/Y12/Y13	Y10
Reading	Monday 7th September	Period 1 & Period 2 (9:00am start)	Period 3 & Period 4 (11:30am start)
Writing	Tuesday 8th September	Period 1 & Period 2 (9:00am start)	Period 3, FT & Period 4 (11:15am start)
Numeracy	Thursday 17th September	Period 1 & Period 2 (9:00am start)	Period 3 & Period 4 (11:30am start)

Evidence/End of Year Exams for Year 11 to Year 13 students run for six school days from 9 September 2026 (which is Wednesday of Week 8) through to 16 September 2026 (which is Wednesday of Week 9.)

All morning examinations start at 9am. All afternoon exams start at 1.15pm. Students should be at their examination room 15 minutes before the exam begins. Students need to sit all of the exams they are entered for in all of their classes. They need to stay for the duration of the examination, even when it ends after 3.20pm. Some exams have earlier exit points.

Students only need to come to school when they have an exam. Otherwise, they should be at home or at school in the library studying. If they take a lot of subjects which do not have an exam, then they should check with their teachers when they can come in during the week to work on internal assessments. Students need to wear uniform at all times when they are at school.

Students can take a plastic bag into the exam room with pens, pencils and a calculator inside. They can also have a

plain water bottle. Cellphones, watches etc need to be turned off and placed in a plastic bag on the floor, or should be kept in bags outside the examination space.

Check the dates and times of exams carefully. If there are any clashes, come and see Mr Forde asap. If students have entered to sit any examinations digitally, they should make sure they have practised accessing digital papers on their device. Make sure the device is sufficiently charged to last the whole exam.

Evidence Exams are very important for many reasons. They are the closest assessment to the External Examinations in November and will allow students the opportunity to practise in a very similar environment and under similar conditions. They will also be marked according to the assessment schedule which will give valuable feedback about how they are tracking for externals. The other reason these examinations are so important, and for some students become essential, is that they can be used for derived grades.

If something significant happens in November and a student is unable to sit an examination, they can apply to NZQA to use a derived grade - which means the grade they earn in the evidence exam becomes their grade for the external examination and they are awarded the credits. Last year we had around 15 students who applied to use a derived grade. They were people who had recently broken an arm, were attending a funeral, or were unwell with tummy bugs and flus.

Students should prepare carefully to give themselves the best chance of success. We recommend setting up a revision schedule to work through practice exam papers.

Some commonly used study strategies:

Flashcards	Mneumonics	Active Recall	Other study strategies:
Flashcards can be great when you have key terms or dates to learn. On one side write the term / date / quote and on the other write the definition, details of the event, or where in the text it was from and why it was significant. Flashcards are best paired with a strategy like testing yourself on all flashcards on a Monday. Those you get right go back in the box for next Monday, while those you got wrong or you were shaky on go into tomorrow’s pile, and you repeat this process with tomorrow’s pile.	Mneumonics are really helpful for remembering lots of connected information. BEDMAS is a good example of a mnemonic - you remember that each letter stands for something, in order (Brackets, Exponents, Division, Multiplication, Addition, Subtraction). You usually take the first letter of each word and turn those into words to recall the set, but sometimes you use words (eg. Every Good Boy Deserves Fruit is a sentence mnemonic to remember the notes on the lines of the treble clef in music.) Make them fun and personal to you - you’ll be more likely to remember them.	Active Recall requires your brain to actively search for information which strengthens memory. It is where you write down everything you can remember about a topic. You then strategically go back through your notes to see what you forgot. This works best when you repeat the process using spaced repetition - the day after the lesson, three days later, then a week after that. This is much more effective than cramming. In fact, Active Recall is proven to be one of the most effective ways of studying and is far superior to Passive Recall (reading over and highlighting your notes).	• Practice Questions or old papers • Teach it to someone • Summarise in your own words • Interleaving - mixing up different topics or problem types in the single study session instead of spending hours focussing on just one subject • Pomodoro Technique - study intensely for 25 minutes then take a 5 minute break. Repeat this cycle four times before taking a longer break.

Getting into Study Habits for Evidence Exams

Tips from our Academic Prefects



Annie Tran:

It's less than a week until Evidence Exams start! By now, I hope that most of you have set goals for what you want to achieve for each

exam. Whether this be to get Merits or Excellences on a particular paper or just understanding a particular concept in preparation for end of year exams, doing this means you'll have something to work towards so that you can plan your study sessions accordingly. I like to assess my ability on each subject and then set a grade that I want to achieve. This gives me a sense of direction instead of just trying to cover everything for all of my subjects which is overwhelming and just ends up stressing me out. You can do as much studying as possible but it is very important to take breaks so that you don't burn yourself out before exams even begin!



Amelia

Cameron:

I know that upcoming exams seem daunting; being anxious just means that you care. But this doesn't mean "study

24/7"; this means take care of yourself, focus on learning, and take breaks. Learning how to revise for exams is the hardest part; I find that setting a timer for 20-30mins and then taking a 10min break in between is ideal for me. If you don't know where to begin, get a blank piece of paper and just scribble down absolutely anything you can remember from the topic - whether you think it's right or wrong - then look back at notes, or Google the answers to see what's missing from your understanding (this method is active recall). Please know that no one can learn a topic just from reading it once; it takes time to remember and connect ideas - your ability to concentrate or the speed at which you learn something is not a reflection of your intelligence.



Desandi Fonseka:

Evidence exams are extremely important as they are your derived grades in case of an emergency during the end of year exam period. However

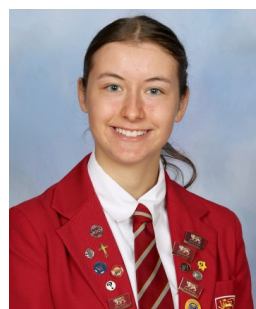
do not let that intimidate you in this time period. Many of you would take classes that have two or three papers each. Instead of panicking about them, a tactic that I use is to start working backwards. Start by what is actually required of you by reading through the assessment standards and schedules, and look at the criteria required for the level you want to achieve at. Then look at what are common question types and what materials are usually well explained by students that achieve at different levels. By working through your material systematically you will set yourselves up for success.



David Hardy:

Exams are stressful and can be quite daunting. One thing I always keep in the back of my mind is that

our brains can be awfully pessimistic about our performance when we're feeling drained. It's easy to have so much approaching with so little time left and just fall into a panicky spiral about what might happen, or even be in the exam room with the horrible feeling that you've massively underprepared or underestimated something. This is just your brain trying to escape a challenge! It takes a little extra grit to work through it when you feel like this, but it's not an indicator of what your best performance will be. It's normal to feel unmotivated. Sometimes you need a break, sometimes you need to push through it; that decision is up to you, but you have to choose one. Linger in a half-trying half-panicking state won't help!



Natalie Snoek:

Don't feel overwhelmed by how many papers or classes you have to sit, instead break them down.

Look at the

exam timetable in advance, and plan your study so that each subject gets as much time as it needs close to the exam. The night before each exam, ensure that you have your stationery, water etc. ready, as this will save a lot of hassle on the day. Eat a good breakfast (i.e. peanut butter toast), and turn up to your exam with plenty of time to spare. I would endorse practice papers as the best form of studying, as they are closest to the exam. And finally, set aside a good few hours on the weekend to take a break from study - your brain will thank you.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

These are issued once a term by email, around the 20th of each month. We welcome Internet Banking payments - **please use your student's name and 5 digit ID number as a reference**

Account Number:

02 0924 0408612 02

Many families find it easier to make regular payments of \$20 per fortnight or \$10 per week for each child.

We also accept payments by cash, eftpos or credit card at both campuses at any time. You can also check your child's account at any time by logging into: <https://jameshargest.school.kiwi>

Artificial Intelligence and its (Mis)use in Education

We hear a lot in the media these days about AI (Artificial Intelligence). While it is not a brand new occurrence, some of its applications and the insidious nature of how it permeates our daily lives has been increasing. So too, for education and the learning that ākongā are experiencing. Unfortunately we continue to face instances where students turn to AI as their first port of call. At school, we have a clear traffic light system to try and communicate to students how AI can be used, especially in relation to assessment work. Teachers will be using this in class to outline the parameters for AI use for any specific task. This is to try and share where within the learning process AI can be used and what types of AI are or are not appropriate.

Situations arise where students find themselves drawn to using AI. Some of these instances include:

- When they have been sick and feel overwhelmed with the catch up that is required
- When they are busy and are not scheduling enough time to their school work
- When the work gets hard

Turning to AI isn't the answer, and in many situations will result in a Not Achieved grade for assessments. When marking assessments and tasks, teachers are needing to find out what a student has learned, not whether they can put a question or two into a search engine and then cut and paste the results, presenting it as their own work. This is not acceptable. Grappling with these challenges, rather than finding easy solutions, will support students to grow and develop grit, skills that will be valued in their life again and again.

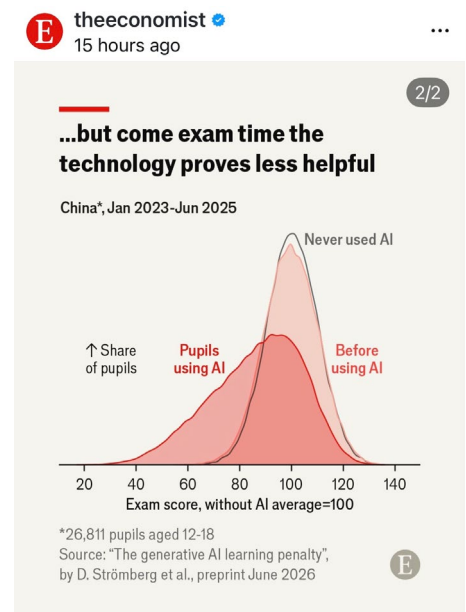
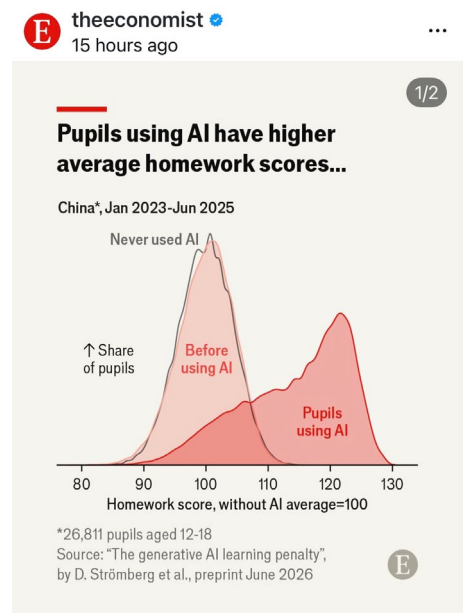
Research from China tracking 26,811 students from January 2023 to June 2025 showed that the immediate impact of using AI might be promising, but the long term impact isn't helpful. The Economist reported that students who were using AI to support them with their homework showed greater results in the initial homework, but when it came to sitting exams or assessments later, the students who did not use AI had the better results.

Alongside this, MIT (USA) studied critical thinking skills alongside use of ChatGPT in 2025, with a small study of 54 subjects ranging from 18 - 39 year olds in Boston. There were three groups who were asked to write several essays using either ChatGPT, Google Search Engine, or nothing at all. Researchers used EEG to record the writers' brain activity. ChatGPT users had the lowest brain engagement and "consistently underperformed" in a range of areas. Over time, with each additional task, ChatGPT engagement dropped, with many using direct copy and paste by the end of the study. "Developing brains are at the highest risk." Essentially, the more we outsource our thinking, the less we will be able to think. It's like turning up at the gym and watching other people lift the weights, thinking we're going to get stronger. We won't. That should be a cause of concern for all of us. <https://time.com/7295195/ai-chatgpt-google-learning-school/>

Our students are still developing the critical thinking skills to fully consider the information they come into contact with. AI requires cross checking. It is pulling from all of the information available out there on the world wide web, whether credible, accurate, or not. We are all aware of the misinformation that can be encountered online. Many students are taking this information as gospel and not questioning where it has come from or how reliable it might be. We understand that as AI becomes more accessible, even built into Google Docs, young students don't always realise they are being prompted to use AI, or that it is AI sitting behind the edits suggested in their work. We want to build capable and strong learners who keep growing their brain, their thinking, their success.

Please keep talking with your children about the growth of AI in our world, and their understanding of what being engaged and authentic in their learning tasks means. We value their original ideas and voice over AI generated content. Please particularly keep an eye on those times when the pressure is on, when they've been unwell or away from school with events, are feeling overwhelmed, when things get busy and things are stacking up, or when the going gets tough.

Students should be seeking guidance from their teachers. However, at the end of the day, if students are unsure about the reliability of a source of information, they shouldn't use it.



How to make Options Decisions

For Year 8 students going into Year 9 in 2027

Year 8 students will be given their Subject Selection 2027 booklets and will have time to go through these with their Homeroom teachers over the coming days. There is also the opportunity to come along to Senior Campus on Tuesday 8 September 2026, from 4.30pm - 6.30pm to meet key staff, see areas in action, and ask your questions. We will also have some tech support on hand to help with entering choices on Kamar if decisions are all made by the end of that evening!

The big question we are hearing is...how do we make these important decisions?!

Year 9 students have 3 full year courses:

- Science
- English
- Maths

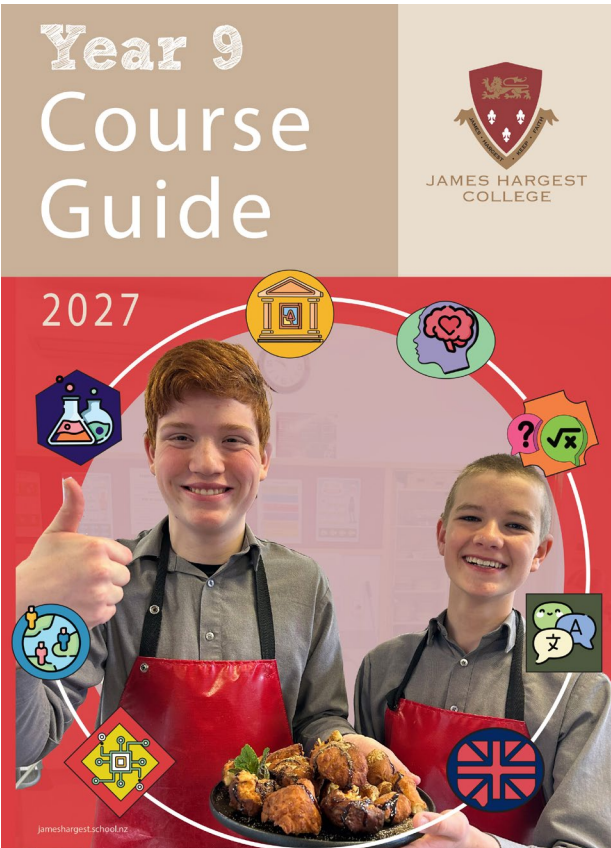
All students take the same Science course.

In English there are four options. Each student picks one. There is no right or wrong choice, it is about picking the one that feels it will meet the student’s needs and interests the best. It is about weighing up how easy or hard they find English with the new curriculum, alongside the kinds of reading and writing they might like to do. The Year 8 Homeroom teacher will be a great person to kōrero with to check your thinking.

There are two choices in Maths. These are strongly connected to ability in Maths and we encourage you to speak with your current Maths teacher to ensure you are making a great and well informed decision based on how things are going in Maths with the new curriculum.

From there, students will need to make some choices for their options! They need:

- Two Arts options from the exciting range of courses on offer to suit their interests and passions
- Two Health and PE options - everyone does the same base unit in Semester One, then you should think about your skills, abilities and interests to choose the best option for you in Semester Two



- Two Social Science options - the courses are all fabulous, and students should choose what sounds most interesting to them
- One Language Option from a range of individual language options or one that combines languages!
- Two Technology options from the impressive list of possibilities
- One Bonus choice from all of the above to make up your main timetable for the year.

Finally, students will choose two Kōwhiri options, which run for a semester for one period a week. We strongly encourage students to choose Literacy Support and / or Numeracy Support as first choices if they need a bit of a boost in these areas, otherwise it is all about selecting what will be useful and interesting to them.

To help our timetablers out, we are also asking students to give us an idea of their back ups. This is so that if their first choices don't quite work together on the timetable, the team can look to what is next best to give each student the best possible full timetable for their learning.

The biggest piece of advice we can give students (and whānau supporting them in making these decisions) is **find what makes you excited**. Don't worry about what your friends are doing, figure out what is interesting and motivating to you. Every option in Year 9 leads to more in Year 10 and onwards. Set yourself up for the pathways that are going to help you feel engaged and happy to keep learning throughout your High School career.

2027			
ENGLISH			
MATHEMATICS			
SCIENCE			
Semester 1		Semester 2	
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
5 SEMESTER COURSES		5 SEMESTER COURSES	
KŌWHIRI 1		KŌWHIRI 2	

Semester Choices			
Semester 1		Semester 2	
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
SOCIAL SCIENCES		* CHOOSE 2	
ARTS		* CHOOSE 2	
TECHNOLOGY		* CHOOSE 2	
LANGUAGES		* CHOOSE 1	
HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION		* CHOOSE 1	
1 Compulsory Semester		* CHOOSE 1	
BONUS SEMESTER		* CHOOSE 1	
Social Sciences, HPE, Arts, Languages or Technology			
KŌWHIRI		* CHOOSE	

Thursday 3 September 2026	Miss Pickering will speak in Year 8 Assembly at Junior Campus, talking through the Subject Selection Booklet and options
Friday 4 September 2026	Year 8 JHC students will be given a hard copy of the Subject Selection Booklet to take home to support them in making their choices
Tuesday 8 September 2026, 4.30 - 6.30pm	Subject Selection Evening for 2027 Year 9 Students at James Hargest Senior Campus . An opportunity to meet key staff, see areas, and ask questions
Tuesday 21 September 2026	Year 9 2027 Options due on Kamar

New Zealand Engineering Science Competition 2026

This is an annual competition and this year around 100 teams of students across New Zealand and the Pacific Islands entered.

On Saturday 8th August 2026, three teams of four students met at the Science block with a particular mission/problem to solve. They were given the time period from 10:00 until 18:00.

The Mission was

"If an asteroid was detected today on a collision course to hit NZ in 2029, what is the largest size that could be safely deflected using current technologies?"

The teams were composed of

TEAM RED: Natalie Snoek, Janet Wei, Annie Tran and Boston Kinloch

TEAM BLUE: Jack Jia, Kyle Tian, Alex Liang and Mirek Valosek

TEAM GREEN: David Hardy, Ben Geilik, Samuel Mikkelsen and Henry Woodward

The only hints that they were supplied with were:

- When answering the question, teams were encouraged to use mathematical modelling techniques. The required skills are often taught in mathematics or physics classes. After developing a mathematical model, it should be evaluated (i.e. used to deduce results and draw conclusions).
 - Depending on the model, a computer with a spreadsheet application may be a helpful tool. Or teams may decide to develop their own computer code.
- The most relevant skills required for tackling this problem are
- Mathematics/physics
 - Logical thinking
 - Computer skills (maybe even programming skills - though this is not a requirement)
 - Writing skills
 - Ability to work in a team

The teams were not allowed to seek assistance from their teacher or any other person outside their team. This included asking anyone for information.

They were not permitted to phone, text, message, email or contact anyone in order to gather information.

They were not permitted to seek information by posting questions to public forums.



Picture shows (left to right) Doc Wilkinson, Jack Jia, Mirek Valosek, Kyle Tian, Samuel Mikkelsen, Natalie Snoek, Janet Wei, Boston Kinloch, Henry Woodward and lying across the front David Hardy.

The prizes

The winning team will receive \$1,000 for each team member. The two teams awarded a runner-up prize will receive \$500 for each team member.

All three of our teams worked effectively for the 8 hour duration. They adopted different strategies and came up with different methods of solving the problem. They all submitted reports and are awaiting the final results that

will be made available in early November. The picture below shows most of the team members at the end of the competition.

Senior Campus Southland Science Fair

A large group of Senior Campus students participated in this year's Southland Science Fair, and took home a great many prizes. Congratulations to everyone who participated - the quality of your projects was outstanding, and you can be very proud of your efforts.

Of special note:

Alex Morrison, who won several awards, including the top Science project in Southland for his age group, with "Can You See Me?" A project investigating which type of camouflage is easiest seen by humans - hoping to prevent future hunting fatalities.

Mohammad Ashar Khan, who won the top Technology project in Southland for his age group, with "NeighbourAid" - an app to let people know about their neighbours' special skills, connecting them to people who might be able to help them.

In addition to a large number of commendation, bronze, and silver awards, other special award winners include: Jarred Flowers, Michael Prasad, Georgia Webster, and Avé Valoa-Jack.



Junior Campus Southland Science Fair

We are so proud of everyone who entered the NZAS Southland Science & Technology Fair! Last Friday evening, 18 of our students were recognised at the prizegiving, celebrating their hard work, creativity and scientific thinking. What an achievement!

A special mention goes to Sam Lyness for his Technology entry, "Rain Again," which received Gold, the NZAS Excellence in Technology Year 7 & 8 Award, and the NZAS Premier Technology Award.

Silver Awards

Erika Williamson, Shia Kim and Benjamin Walker
Miheli Liyanage + NZIFST Food Technology & Science Award

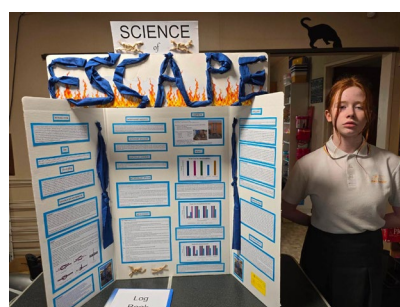
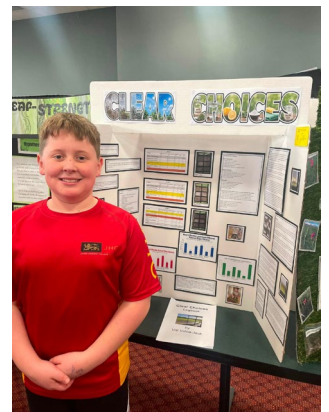
Bronze Awards

Villi Valoa-Jack, Cindy Chen, Indigo Davis, Niamh Fortune-Harris, Enoch Han, Pubuduni Keerthisinghe, Cooper Ward, Ranuli Fernando, Dexter Turner-Fong, Daniel Masters, Hunter Farquhar and Ometh Welengoda

Best Exhibit Related to Automation

Theo Forrester

Congratulations to all our students who took part. Your curiosity, creativity and commitment are something to be celebrated!



Waihōpai Restoration Project

Room 21 planting and weeding down at the Waihōpai Restoration Project as part of their Year 8 Kaitiakitanga Science unit.



Whakataetae reo Māori

Mahuru/September 14-18, 2026

He (pene) tāu?
Do you have a (pen)?

He pātai tāku
I have a question

Waea mai, nē
Give me a call

Kua rite koe?
Are you ready?

Kei te wātea koe?
Are you free?

Kua mutu i a koe (tō mahi)?
Have you finished (your work)?

He aha te wā?
What's the time?

Whakatikahia tēnei wāhi
Tidy this space, please

Āhea te wā kai?
When's lunch time?

Nā wai tēnei?
Who does this belong to?

Kei hea taku ___?
Where is my ___?

Kei te hia āwhina?
Can I help you?





Who ya gonna call? GROSSBUSTERS!

Who ya gonna call? GROSSBUSTERS! Is there a growl at your window? Or if there's a monster under your bed. Hear the howl of the wind blow? Is it real, or just in your head?! This year, James Hargest Junior Campus staged their annual school production, Grossbusters - and it was a blast!



Otago Southland Brass Band Provincial Contest

Congratulations to all the Hēmi Hākena ākonga who took part in the recent provincial brass band contest. Both bands had a number of students from our kura in them who competed in both solo and full band events. Special mention to the following students who placed in their solo categories: Charlie Kim (1st Under 13 Air Varie), Lachie Checketts (3rd Under 19 Air Varie), Jamie Middleton (1st Under 16 Air Varie and Slow Melody), Amelia Watson (2nd Under 16 Slow Melody) and Daniel Li (1st Under 13 Slow Melody). Kaiako Megan Gooding also had some fantastic results gaining 3rd Championship Air Varie, 2nd Premiere Slow Melody, and 3rd Open Duet with her sister Nina.



The Little Mermaid - Year 9 and 10 Production

The cast and creative team of The Little Mermaid JR have been busy rehearsing for our Year 9 and 10 musical production of The Little Mermaid JR. The show is looking fantastic and we can't wait to share it with you! Tickets are only \$10 (for all ages) and we know that you are going to love it so much you will want to come back and see it again.

Performance dates are Monday 19th October till Wednesday 21th October. Tickets on sale from the school office and door sales will be available.



ILT Sing Out

The ILT Sing Out is happening soon on 17 September 2026 and our Junior Campus Choir (along with many other school choirs) will be sharing a variety of massed and school choir performances. This is always a special event, made even more so with the 80th anniversary this year.

Tickets for the 2026 ILT Sing Out Festival are now live!

Tickets can be purchased through Ticketek:

<https://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=ILTSING26>

This promises to be an amazing show, so don't miss out.

ILT SING OUT PROUDLY PRESENTS

PARTY LIKE IT'S THE 80S!

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF ILT SING OUT

SEPTEMBER 17 2026

7:00PM

LOCAL SCHOOL CHOIRS PRESENT A SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION OF THE ICONIC MUSIC OF THE 1980s

Adults \$19
Children \$12

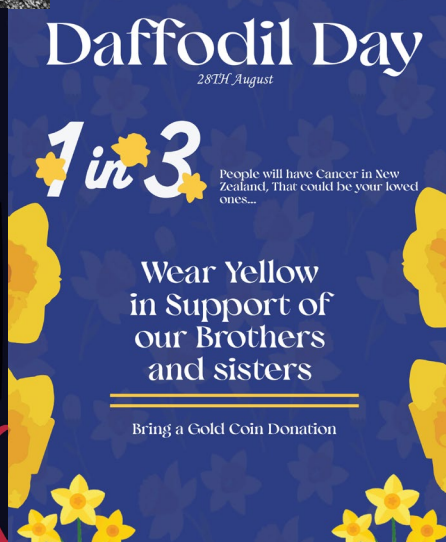
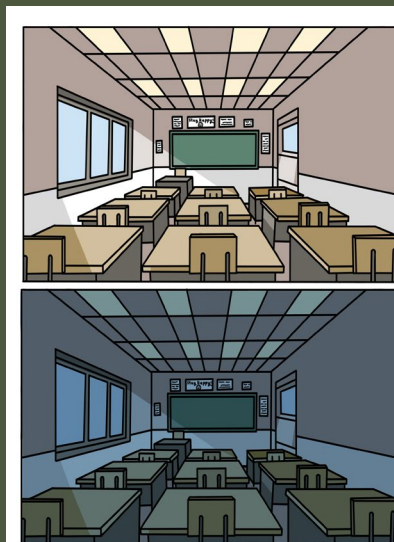
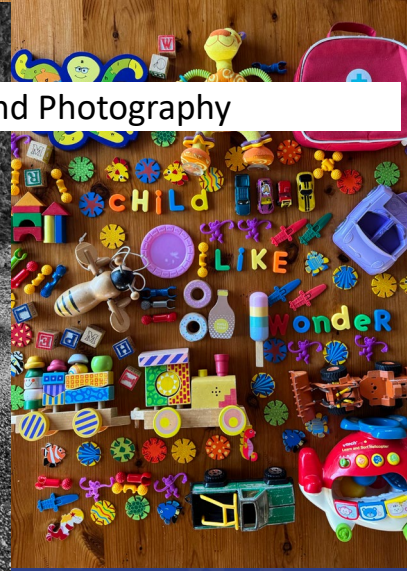
Tickets available at ICC Booking Office or online at Ticketek
Booking Fee Included. Credit Card charges will apply.

Donovan Primary School
James Hargest Junior Campus
St John's Girls' School
St Patrick's School
Wallacetown School

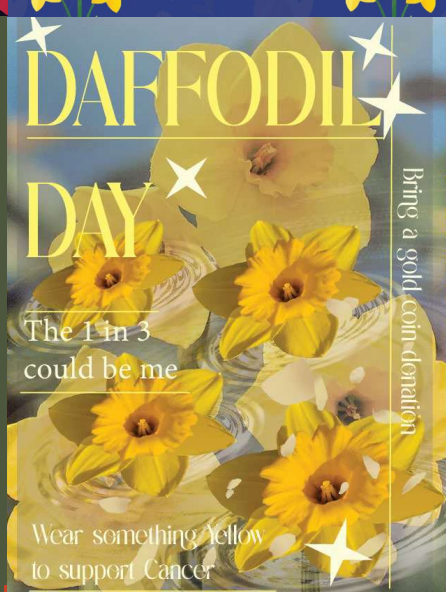
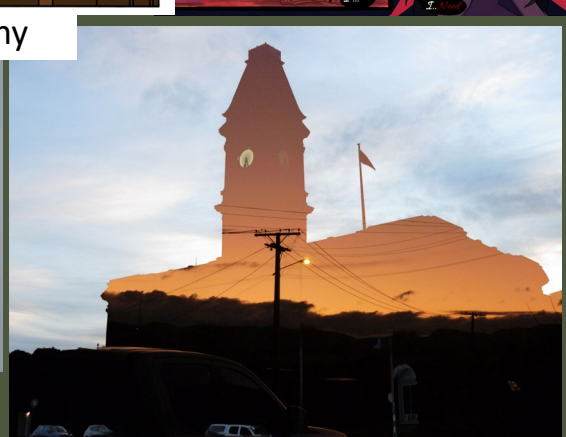
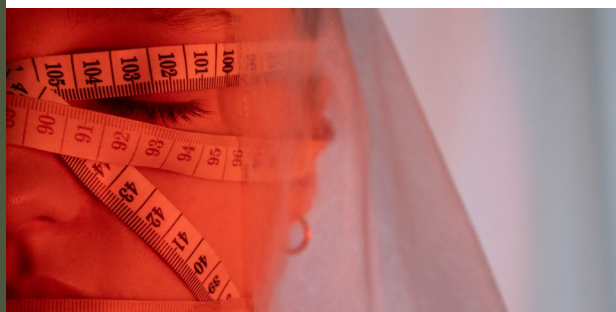
ILT SING OUT

iltsingout.nz

Civic Theatre, Invercargill



Y13 Illustration Design and Photography



Visual Arts

A collection of work students have been developing in Illustration and Photography Classes.





We were thrilled to recently welcome Tash Laurent into the Year 9 and 10 Dance Class. Tash shared her experience working as a professional dancer on cruise ships for ten years, the audition processes she went through, and how to stand out in a competitive field. Tash also taught the students part of a finale dance from a full-scale show, which we are now working on perfecting for assessment. It was a fantastic opportunity for our dancers to learn industry-standard choreography and hear about working as a professional dancer.

On Monday 24 August 2026, we had 27 dancers down at the Civic from across Junior and Senior campuses for Dance NZ Made. Our students took part in

workshops with expert tutors, including Jess Johns, who is a professional dancer and stunt performer for movies such as Avatar. Lots of great questions at the Q&A session about her involvement in movies and being a stunt double for Jenna Ortega. The day finished with a competition in the evening and there were some stunning results:

Year 7 Solos

1st Elizabeth Chong
2nd Sophie Rankin

Year 8 Solos

2nd Abigail Rankin

Year 7 and 8 Duos

2nd Elizabeth Chong & Maci Cousins
3rd Thea Randall & Libby Hodges

Year 10 Solos

1st Johran Dillinger-Waldron
2nd Liam Templeton

Year 9 and 10 Duos/Trios

1st Liam & Johran

Year 11 Solos

2nd Tamzyn Dillinger

Year 13 Solos

1st Tilly McDonald

Overall duo/trio champions

Liam & Johran

Golden Tickets

(invitation only showcase in Palmerston North in January. Students learn fast-paced choreography workshops, and compete in live



elimination auditions to win cash prizes for future dance training)

Abigail Rankin

Scarlet Robson

Liam Templeton

Johran Dillinger-Waldron

She Shines On Awards

(Stand out performers from workshops and the competition are nominated to take part in nationals in Palmerston North, sponsored by She Shines On. The top national winner wins a fully sponsored Los Angeles Dance Tour)

Liam Templeton

Johran Dillinger-Waldron

Tamzyn Dillinger

Sophie Purdon

Elizabeth Chong

Abigail Rankin

NZ School of Dance Invitation Award

Liam Templeton

Congratulations to all involved!

By arrangement with playmarket...

WE'VE GOT THE PERFECT VIEW FOR YOUR NEXT PRODUCTION
PLAYMARKET
AGENT ADVISOR BOOKINGS

JAMES HARGEST SENIOR DRAMA PRESENTS
WHEELER'S
NZ's beloved classic comedy!

LUCK
By: Nigel Collins, Toby Leach & Damon Andrews

REPERTORY THEATRE, INVERCARGILL

WEDNESDAY
23RD SEPTEMBER
START- 7:30PM
END- 8:30PM

KOHA
DOOR SALES
ONLY

Hargest Coders Shine at the NZPC



We are so proud of our James Hargest programming crew who took on the New Zealand Programming Contest on Saturday 8 August 2026!

Competitive coding is a serious challenge: staring down complex logic problems for hours (12pm to 7pm) takes real grit, but every student showed up with a fantastic attitude and crushed their own personal goals.

Huge congratulations to Thomas Bannister and Lucas Whelan (Year 11,

tackling their very first programming competition!) for doing an awesome job working through the problem sets.

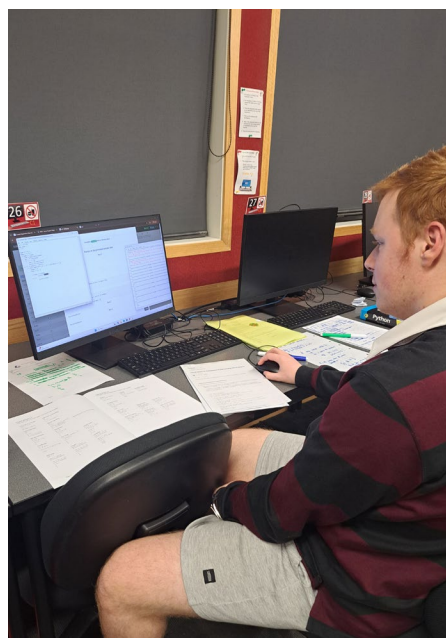
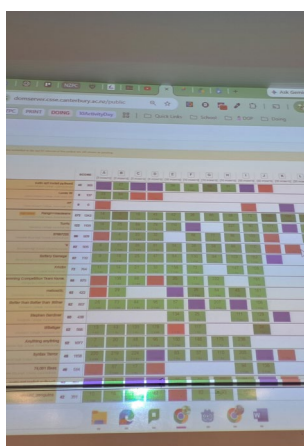
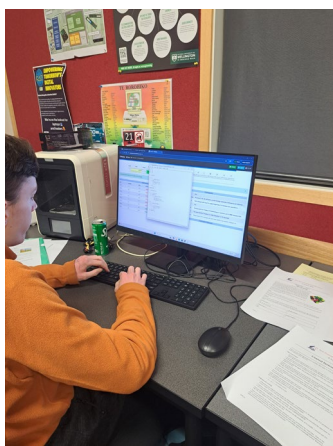
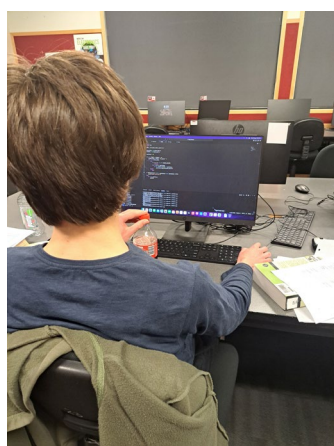
Special props go to Ethan Stark and Rohan Brown. That kind of adaptability and team-first mindset is what real-world coding is all about. Ka pai to you all for your hard work!

Looking ahead, we would love to see an even bigger turnout next year. For anyone interested in joining the action next time, now is the perfect time to start getting familiar with Python. Building up

those daily coding habits over the coming months will make a world of difference when contest day rolls around again.

Keep writing code, tackling those logic puzzles, and building those skills!

Sign up to a Python Grok Learning course and start coding with Python today - <https://groklearning.com/course/python-for-beginners/>

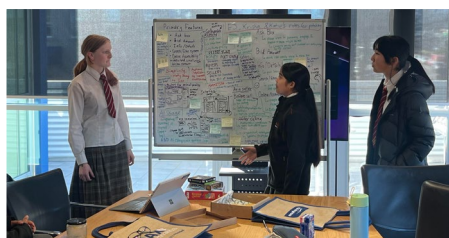


Inspiring Future Tech Leaders with Shadow Tech!

Shadow Tech connects female high school students with industry mentors to tackle real-world tech challenges. We were thrilled to visit **PGG Wrightson in Dunedin**, where our students took on a unique challenge: How might we stop viruses spreading to cattle before an auction?

The solutions ranged from clever physical concepts like specialised transport trailers to a cow breathalyser mask to detect viruses. The standout pitch was **a virtual auction platform**—an app and web platform allowing buyers to view comprehensive livestock details and purchase directly online.

Massive congratulations to the students for their incredible teamwork and exceptional problem-solving skills.



Pauline Smith Visits Junior Campus



We were fortunate to have Pauline Smith, a well known Southland author, come talk to us and a few other students about what it takes to become an author.

Her story on how she became an author captivated all of us and we were given good advice on how to become a better writer. For example, she suggested using your own experiences and dating your work and ideas.

We valued her knowledge and experience and we will use it in our own writing.

Miheli and Meththani
Authors’ Club

Year 8 Speech Competition

Our Year 7 and 8 students have been hard at work for this year’s Speech Competition, delivering an impressive lineup of speeches that entertained, informed, and inspired across every stage of the event.

A massive congratulations goes out to all of our talented speakers who competed through the class, syndicate, and campus finals. Extra special recognition goes to Cooper Ward and Eva Ridley, who took out 1st place at the Cluster Speech Finals!

Cooper delighted the audience with his cleverly crafted and entertaining speech, “The Complete and Specialist Guide to PE”, while Eva presented an exceptional speech on “Tā Moko”, filled with passion, education, and awareness.

Having successfully navigated every round—from class level all the way to cluster champions—Cooper and Eva now head off to represent James Hargest Junior Campus at the Area Finals this Thursday. We wish them the absolute best of luck!



Term Dates for 2026

Term 3: Friday 25 September 2026 - Last day of Term Three

Term 4: Monday 12 October 2026 - First day of Term four



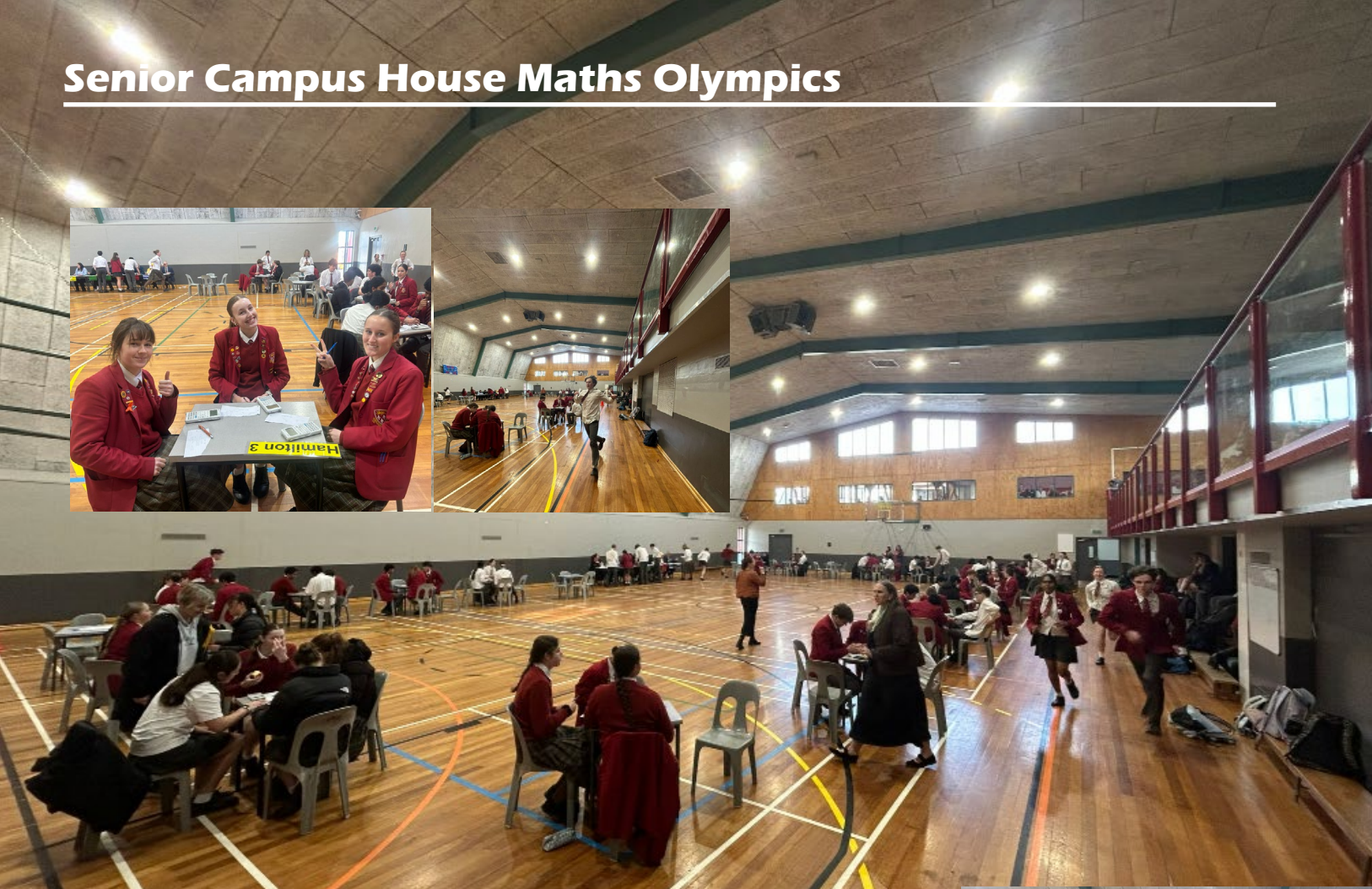
Year 13 Dress Up Day

Library Week 2027

One of the highlights of Library Week is always Year 13 Dress Up Day. There were some impressive costumes and performances this year as part of the annual parade. Judges were particularly impressed by student commitment (with many who had put in considerable effort to bring their costume to life). It was a day of fun. Well done to everyone involved.



Senior Campus House Maths Olympics



House pride and problem-solving collided during Maths Week 2026 with two action-packed lunchtime relays. Junior and Senior teams of four tackled tough Math problems while their runners sprinted back and forth to submit answers. With every house represented, it was fast-paced hilarity, razor-sharp thinking, and serious cardio, leaving plenty of sweaty competitors heading off to Period 5. All those who participated

did an amazing job, making this the best year yet!

The results of the junior and senior competitions were combined to find the Maths Olympics champions:

- 1st Menzies
- 2nd = Watson and Thomson
- 4th Hamilton



Senior Campus House Dodgeball Competition

The annual JHC Senior Campus House Dodgeball Competition delivered its usual mix of athleticism and chaos over 3 weeks at the start of Term 3.

When the dust finally settled, Thomson House lifted the overall trophy. Thomson proved virtually unstoppable in the boys divisions, locking down victories in both the Senior Boys and Junior Boys finals. The battle for the remaining podium spots came down to a nail-biting tie, with Watson and Hamilton finishing 2nd equal overall. Hamilton took out a decisive win in the Girls Competition with a close final against Menzies.

Staff v Yr 13 Showdown: Students Break the Streak

The competitive energy reached a fever pitch on Friday during the highly anticipated Year 13 vs. Staff game. Historically, experience, strategic positioning, and good old fashioned grit and determination have handed the teachers a predictable victory. This year, however, the script was completely flipped.

The Year 13 students played hard from the opening whistle, catching the staff off guard. After years of heartbreak, the students finally broke the curse, eliminating the last remaining staff member to secure a historic win.

Overall Standings

1st Place: Thomson (Senior Boys Champions, Junior Boys Champions)

2nd Place (Equal): Hamilton (Girls Champions) & Watson

4th Place: Menzies.

Congratulations to Thomson on their overall victory, to Hamilton for their stellar Girls' campaign, and to the Year 13s for finally claiming ultimate bragging rights over the teachers!



Year 9 and 10 SMAC Maths

On Thursday 27 August 2026 our Year 9 and 10 Mathematicians competed to find who could gain the glory and go on to represent our Kura at the interschool SMAC Maths competition. We wish our teams well for a fierce competition later in the term.



Duke of Edinburgh Training at Riverton Camp



Last week, 22 eager students set off for an exciting overnight learning camp, filling their time with valuable life skills, outdoor fun, and community action.

The camp kicked off with a hands-on workshop on practical campcraft skills. Students learned many skills, including how to navigate and thrive outdoors and how to pack a backpack.

Students took part in a litter audit in conjunction with Sustainable Coastlines along the Riverton Estuary. Working together, they surveyed the shoreline, collecting and categorising marine debris. The activity gave everyone an eye-opening look at human impact on local ecosystems and highlighted the importance of keeping our waterways clean.



A handful of brave students weathered the howling winds and spent a memorable night in their tents.

A huge thank you to Miss Thomas, Ms Smith, and parent volunteers who made this memorable experience possible!



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award



Congratulations to Roisin Dyer for gaining the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

The Gold Award is a prestigious and internationally recognised achievement that acknowledges a young person’s dedication, commitment, and personal development. The award involves 52 hours of voluntary service and a 10 Day Youth Development Voyage on the Spirit of New Zealand.

Roisin will now be invited to a ceremony next year to celebrate her achievements and meet the Governor-General. Well done Roisin - a fantastic achievement.



Ski Trip

James Hargest Junior and Senior Campus students had the most amazing day at Coronet Peak on Saturday 29 August 2026. While the wind and rain was howling in Southland, light snow flurries and excellent conditions were waiting for the group. For many this was their first time skiing or snowboarding, so to get up there to these conditions was a real plus. Thanks to the staff and helpers who went along for the day. It will definitely be a highlight of 2026 for many of the students who went along.



McCauley Ford Daffodil Day Fundraiser

On Friday 7 August 2026 McCauley Ford visited our Kura to promote the upcoming Daffodil Day by seeing how many students could squish in a car! It was highly competitive, and much entertainment was provided to the watching crowd. The girls gave it a good go, packing 17 into the car, but the boys were determined to do better eventually taking up all available space with 20 folded inside. They were a bit disappointed not to beat the record – but weren't far off. There's always next year!



Senior Campus Sports Office Update

As the winter season draws to a close, we want to celebrate the huge effort and dedication shown by all our senior athletes, coaches, and supporters over the past few months.

Winter Sports and Senior Tournament Week

Our winter sports season is officially wrapping up this week as our senior teams compete across the South Island in Senior Tournament Week. Best of luck to all our athletes representing the school - play hard, uphold our school values, and leave it all on the field and court!

Looking Ahead:

Terms 3 and 4 Summer Sports: The shift to warm-weather sports is right around the corner!

- **Volleyball Hits the Court:** Volleyball: one of our largest and fastest-growing sports - kicks off next Wednesday. Be sure your gear is ready and you know your match times.
- **Upcoming Registrations:** Keep an eye out over the coming days for registration details for our upcoming summer codes, including Touch, Water Polo, and Cricket. Details on how to sign up will be shared via student notices and online soon.

Celebrating Excellence:

Blues and Sports Awards: It is almost time to recognize our top performers across sports and the arts!

- **Sports and Cultural Blues:** We are looking forward to honoring our high achievers at our annual Blues evening on 27 October 2026.
- **Southland Secondary School Sports Awards:** Nominations for these prestigious regional awards will be opening very soon. Start gathering your achievements and keep an eye out for nomination forms.



SSS Smallbore Target Shooting

Congratulations to Alyssa McGearty, Dexter Mead, Tate Nicolson and William Peddie who competed at the SSS Smallbore Shooting Competition.

Finals Results:

A Team

3rd Alyssa McGearty -183.02
4th Dexter Mead - 177.02

B Team

3rd Tate Nicolson - 183.03
4th William Peddie - 174.05



SSS Senior Netball Champs

Congratulations to our Senior Girls Gold A Netball team for a great effort in the Southland Secondary School Champs. After losing to Wakatipu, the JHC team took the win against St Peter's College, Maruawai College and then SGHS to end up in 3rd place.

The girls showed great sportsmanship and also some fantastic netball skills throughout the day.

Special thanks to coach Mrs Baird, manager Ms Shaw, and our team umpire Mrs Patterson for all their time and commitment shown to this team. It is always much appreciated. The girls now look forward to preparing for the SISS tournament.



SISS Netball Nelson



JHC Senior Campus Hockey 2026 Season

The 2026 Hockey season was another action-packed and successful year for JHC, with four teams representing the school: Boys' 1st and 2nd XI, and Girls' 1st and 2nd XI.

The season began with a special opportunity for the Boys' 1st XI, who were invited to Timaru to compete in the Aoraki Tournament against strong South Island secondary school teams. This experience set the tone for the year, giving the players a chance to test themselves against high-level competition.

In the Invercargill Hockey School Competition, the Boys' 1st XI won all their games except one. In the final, they had a healthy win against SBHS 2nd XI with a 5-0 score. The Boys' 2nd XI also enjoyed a competitive and rewarding season, finishing second in their division. The Girls' 1st XI competed against strong teams in their division with a combination of tight wins and losses, and a couple of draws. The Girls' 2nd XI developed well, showing consistent improvement throughout the year.

In Term 3, the Girls' 1st XI had two additional interschool tournaments with Maruawai and also Colombia. Both games



have been very beneficial in the lead up to Tournament Week.

Both of the 1st XI Hockey teams are competing in Tier 3 tournaments - the boys staying in Invercargill and the girls to Timaru.

A huge thank you goes out to all the coaches and managers who guided the teams, as well as the many student volunteers who generously gave their time to coach and umpire.



Splashes, Speed, and Spirit at the Annual House Swimming Sports!

The pool was buzzing with House pride and fierce competition as our students took to the water for the annual House Swimming Sports. From nail-biting finishes in the lanes to high-energy novelty events, it was a fantastic day of sportsmanship and school spirit, with Menzies House taking out top honors as the overall House champions!

Individual Champions

Congratulations to our standout individual athletes who demonstrated incredible skill across all strokes to earn top honors:

- **Junior Girls Champion:** Alexandria Curtis - A brilliant clean sweep, taking 1st place in Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, and Butterfly.
- **Senior Boys Champion:** Maddox Forrester - Dominated the senior division with 1st place finishes in Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, and Butterfly.
- **Senior Girls Champion:** Caitlin Crawford - Outstanding performance placing 1st in Freestyle, Breaststroke, and Butterfly, alongside 2nd in Backstroke.
- **Junior Boys Champion:** Ben Elder - A strong, versatile effort, claiming 1st in Freestyle and Butterfly, 2nd in Backstroke, and 3rd in Breaststroke.



Relays, Other Events and Overall Standings

The atmosphere peaked as students rallied for the team events and pool novelty challenges:

- **Overall House Champions:** Menzies House
- **Freestyle House Relay:** Menzies carried their winning momentum to take 1st place.
- **Aqua Jogging:** Hamilton demonstrated unbeatable power to claim the victory.
- **Underwater Champions:** Ana McWilliam (Girls), alongside Ben Elder and Theo Paganelli (Boys), held their breath to secure the titles.
- **Best Manu:** Matai Kerr wowed the crowd and judges alike, taking 1st place for the biggest splash of the day!

Thank you to all the staff, House leaders, and student supporters who made the day such a huge success. Congratulations to all our competitors and to Menzies House on their overall victory!

SSS Badminton Champs

Well done to the 32 JHC students who took part in the Southland Secondary Schools Badminton Champs. It was such a great tournament, where JHC got to show off some of the amazing talent we have at school.

Special Congratulations:

JHC Red - 1st Girls Grade

JHC Pandas - 2nd Boys Grade



College League Round Up

The JHC Football program has reached an exciting milestone this season, fielding a total of five teams—three boys' squads and two girls' squads—competing in the local Southland College League. This expanded representation highlights not only the growing popularity of the sport across all year levels, but also the school's commitment to fostering active participation, physical fitness, and healthy competition. Wednesday afternoons have quickly become a highlight of the school week, as players gear up to represent their school colours against secondary schools from across the region.

The three boys' teams cater to a range of age groups and skill levels, providing a structured pathway for budding footballers to develop their game. The Black Team have been setting the standard, playing 8 games and finishing second in the league. Meanwhile, the Gold and Red boys' teams have put up a great battle coming in fifth and sixth in the league.

Equally impressive is the strength and growth of the girls' program, which features two competitive squads making their mark in the Southland College League. Female participation in Football has surged in recent years, and the enthusiasm within these two teams is evident at every training session and match. Demonstrating great resilience, skill, and sportsmanship, the girls' teams have earned praise for their strong



passing play and supportive team culture. Their presence in the league ensures that female athletes at the school have a clear, high-quality avenue to pursue competitive sport. The Blue Team have been competing at the top of the table pushing SGHS Red all the way. The Green Team had a slow start but got stronger as the games went on. The Green Team have been pushing for third in the league competing with SGHS Blue, unfortunately just losing out to come forth.

Competing in the Southland College League offers these five teams far more than just weekly games. Traveling to local grounds, adapting to varying pitch conditions, and testing their skills against regional rivals helps build camaraderie, school pride, and valuable

life skills. Whether it is celebrating a hard-fought victory or reflecting on areas for improvement after a close loss, the players are learning key lessons in teamwork, leadership, and perseverance that extend well beyond the football pitch.

Looking ahead, the future of the school's Football program looks remarkably bright. With five teams regularly taking the field, a strong foundation has been laid for long-term athletic success and community engagement. The dedicated support from staff, volunteer coaches, and cheering parents continues to drive the program forward. As the season progressed all five teams remained focused on developing their skills, supporting one another, and leaving everything on the field.

Rugby

Zach Hughes Breaks Southland Rugby Record

Year 10 Student Zach Hughes delivered a record-breaking performance for the James Hargest College Junior Boys team in their 111–12 victory over Maruawai College. Zac individually scored 69 points through nine tries and kicked 12 conversions in just 70 minutes. His massive haul surpasses the 66 points scored by former All Black Jeff Wilson as a teenager for Cargill High School in 1992. Awesome achievement Zach!



Cambridge International Education

James Hargest College is pleased to be an accredited Cambridge International Education school.

This is our 2nd year of offering this pathway.

We are excited to see our first cohort of Year 11 students gearing up to take their IGCSE exams in October, having sat 10 Mock Exams across their 4 IGCSE subjects over the last fortnight, ranging in time from a 45 minute exam to 2 hour exams. These Mocks are an important part of their preparation efforts, as they learn to navigate the strict Cambridge rules and manage timings within the papers. We wish this group all the very best for their IGCSE Exams, which begin on day one of Term Four.

Our second group began their IGCSE journey as Year 10 students at the beginning of this year and are enjoying the structure of their courses. It is fantastic to hear the students reflect on grappling with Shakespearean language (and seeing them bring scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream to life on the stage was a highlight this term) alongside understanding the skills involved in research, navigating dynamics of group work, and getting to grips with organisation and study skills.

Planning is underway for AS Subjects in 2027 as a continuation of the Cambridge journey beyond IGCSE. Student voice has helped to confirm the subjects we intend to offer: English Language, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. We are able to open up some spots for students to join the Cambridge pathway as Year 12 students in 2027. If your child is currently in Year 11 and this is of interest to you and them, please check your emails for information that was shared on 24 June 2026 and encourage them to contact Miss Pickering (epickering@jameshargest.school.nz). Our current Year 11 students will be asked to lock in their AS choices by the end of this term.

We will again be offering a Cambridge pathway for students who are in Year 10 in 2027. Shortly, we will be seeking expressions

of interest from students and their whānau for this class, who will study the following IGCSE subjects: Mathematics, English, Science, and Global Perspectives. Students will study these subjects instead of the core Year 10 curriculum. They will still be able to study two other optional subjects. We warmly encourage anyone currently in Year 9 who is interested to hear more about Cambridge and how it works to come to an information evening in the Senior Campus staffroom on **Thursday 17 September 2026, from 5.30 - 6.30pm**. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us via curriculum@jhc.school.nz.

If you would like to find out more about how Cambridge works in New Zealand, have a look at their website: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/recognition-and-acceptance/country/new-zealand/>

There are further links on their site, including 'Why Cambridge? A guide for parents': <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/284344-why-cambridge-.pdf>

We are thrilled to be able to offer this alternative pathway and know that the opportunity to gain an internationally recognised qualification will appeal to some of our learners for the aspirations they hold for their future.



CAMBRIDGE

International Education

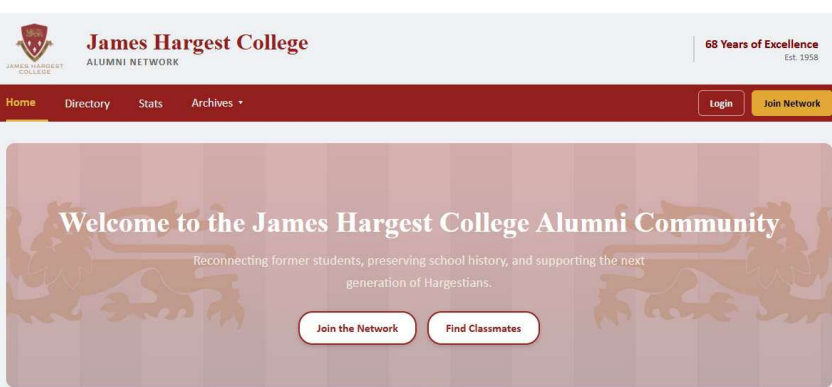
Cambridge International School

Were You a Hargest Student Back in the Day?

Remember the late-night rehearsals for school productions or watching the campus change over the years? Whether you were on stage in the '80s, '90s, or 2000s, or cheering from the sidelines, your Hargest days helped shape the school your tamariki experience today.

Why join now? Since launching on 21 August 2026, we are building steady momentum to get our official Alumni Network fully off the ground, and we owe a massive thank you to our Year 13 Digital Technologies Programming students, who got this platform going!

If you're a parent and a former Hargestian, we'd love for you to join us. Whether you want to reconnect with past classmates, offer career



guidance to senior students, or just stay in the loop with alumni news, setting up your profile takes under 2 minutes.

Join today at: alumni.jameshargest.co.nz

Now available on SchoolTV - ADHD

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a commonly diagnosed neurodevelopmental condition that affects how children regulate attention, impulses and activity levels. While many children can appear restless, distracted or forgetful at times, ADHD involves ongoing patterns that may impact learning, behaviour, organisation and relationships. These challenges can sometimes lead to frustration at home and school, particularly when a child is trying hard but struggling to meet expectations.

For families, understanding ADHD means recognising that these behaviours are not simply a matter of effort or discipline. ADHD is influenced by a combination of neurological, biological and environmental factors that affect how a child's brain processes information and manages self-control. With the right support, structure and



Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

A SchoolTV topic supporting modern-day parenting



strategies, children with ADHD can develop the skills they need to succeed and thrive.

This edition of SchoolTV explores how families can better understand ADHD and support children to build confidence, strengthen emotional regulation and navigate everyday challenges more successfully.

Here is the link to this topic <http://jameshargest.nz.schooltv.me/newsletter/adhd-nz>

Smartphone Readiness Quiz

Deciding when a child is ready for their first smartphone can be a challenging parenting decision. Readiness is not just about age. It also depends on a child's maturity, self-regulation, judgement and ability to manage the responsibilities of being connected online.

The Smartphone Readiness Quiz is designed for parents and adult carers to complete with their child, encouraging important conversations while exploring the key skills that support safe and responsible smartphone use.

Rather than providing a simple yes or no answer, the results highlight areas of strength and where further development may be helpful. Families are also guided through suggested next steps, including a Family Smartphone Agreement and practical guidance on setting up parental controls before introducing a smartphone.

We encourage you to complete the quiz together and use the results as a starting point for ongoing conversations about safe, responsible and healthy smartphone use.

Here is the link to this topic http://jameshargest.nz.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-smartphone-readiness-quiz-nz



Smartphone Readiness Quiz

A SchoolTV topic supporting modern-day parenting



SchoolTV

Empower confidence.

MENU



Whānau Kōrero

IMPORTANT DATES

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Care options for you and your whānau

There are a range of healthcare options available if you can't see your regular GP. Many are available after hours and at weekends.

Healthline 0800 611 116



- Free over-the-phone health advice 24/7 from nurses and paramedics.
 - Māori clinicians are available from 8am to 8pm weekdays.
 - You can send photos or videos to help explain your symptoms.
 - Option to ask Healthline to call you back.
- Visit healthnz.govt.nz/healthline

Online doctor



- Online or over-the-phone appointment with a doctor any time, including after hours and weekends.
 - **Free for children aged 13 and under.**
 - Low-cost appointments for ages 14-17 and Community Services Card holders.
- Find an online doctor at healthnz.govt.nz/OnlineGP

Pharmacy



- Advice on medications and minor concerns including colds, rashes and itchy skin.
 - Many can also help with eye infections, urinary infections, emergency contraception, vaccinations and more.
 - May be able to provide a few days of medication if you run out and need a new prescription.
- Find a pharmacy at healthpoint.co.nz

After hours and urgent care clinics



- After hours or urgent care if your GP isn't available and you need to see someone in person.
 - For urgent medical issues including breaks, sprains, bad cuts, head knocks, minor burns, eye and ear issues, and if you feel really sick.
 - Free appointments for children and low-cost appointments for Community Services Card holders at some clinics.
- Find your nearest urgent care clinic at healthpoint.co.nz

Visit healthnz.govt.nz for health advice and information on services.

Feeling the pinch on groceries?

<https://www.kiwilunchbox.co.nz> is a free tool built by an Auckland parent. It plans a week of school lunches around whatever is on special at Woolworths and New World, shows what the week will cost, and gives you a prep plan. No account needed, nothing for sale.

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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
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

or phone 2176129

or Mrs Cribb (Junior Campus) at
juniorcampus@jameshargest.school.nz

or phone 2179250

E-mail Newsletters

The next newsletter will be issued via
email on Friday 16 October 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



Coming Events for 2026

Senior Campus

September

Mon	7	Literacy / Numeracy exam window open (timetable and information on page 11)
Tues	8	Year 9 2027 Subject Selection Evening 4.30 - 6.30pm
Wed	9	Evidence Exams begin (timetable on pages 11- 12)
Mon	14	Te Wiki o te reo Māori begins
Wed	16	Year 9 easTTle Writing Assessment
Thu	17	Year 9 Cambridge Information Hui 5.30pm for those considering applying for 2027 (see page 35)
Fri	18	Last day for Literacy / Numeracy Assessments Choir / Band Outreach
Tues	22	2027 Senior Subject Selection Evening 4.30 - 6.30pm Talent Show
Wed	23	SMAC Maths Competition Japan Trip departs Senior Drama performance
Thu	24	BOT hui
Fri	25	WOW Trip departs Last day of Term 3
Sat	26	Southland Debating Championship

October

Mon	12	First Day of Term 4
Sat	17	1989 School Reunion Tour
Tues	20	Youthmark Awards
	19-21	Year 9 and 10 Production
Mon	26	Labour Day
Thu	29	BOT hui
Fri	30	Haunted Hargest

November

Tues	10	NCEA Begins
Fri	13	New Entrant Day
Thu	26	BOT hui

Junior Campus

September

Wed	2	Marie Murphy Technology Challenge
Tues	8	Year 9 2027 Subject Selection Evening 4.30 - 6.30pm (at Senior Campus)
Mon- Fri	7-11	Book Cafe in the Library
Mon-Fri	14-18	Te Wiki o te reo Māori
Wed	23	Smac Maths 4.30pm
Thu	24	BOT hui
Fri	25	Last day of Term 3

October

Mon	12	First Day of Term 4
Thu	29	BOT hui

November

Thu	12	Book Day
Fri	13	New Entrant Day
Fri	20	Teacher Only Day - School closed for instruction
Thu	26	BOT hui

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