



A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

# Morrinsville College



3 February 2025 Issue No. 1

PRINCIPAL  
MR S JENKINS, B.A (HONS), PGDIPEDLD, DIP.TCHG

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDING MEMBER – MRS NGAIRE TE AHO



### Welcome to 2025

On behalf of the Board I would like to welcome back all staff, students, parents/caregivers and also a big welcome to all new staff and families of our school.



Rita Bhandari

I would like to introduce our current Board of Trustees: Deputy Presiding Members – Mrs Tia Wikaira-Wilson and Mrs Catherine Young, and Board members Mr Matthew Judge, Mr Marcus Taupo and Mr Jarrod Hunt. The Staff representative is Mr Kevin Rae and the student representative is Rita Bhandari.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL – SCOTT JENKINS



Welcome back to school life to all students, especially those who have newly arrived at Morrinsville College, and welcome too to you, their parents and caregivers.

Currently, our school roll sits at over 800 students and this morning we welcomed in over 170 Year 9 students to their first day of college life. This is the largest roll that we have ever had at our school and our roll has

grown over 150 students in the last two years. This year we have had to turn away any student that is not within our enrolment zone. It is a very nice situation to have so many people wishing to enrol with us but it can lead to growing pains as we negotiate new classrooms with the Ministry of Education and try to find new staff from a very small pool of teachers across the country.

Our staff began the year with a Teacher-Only Day and some fun team-building games to get to know our new staff and catch up after the Christmas break. Pics at the end of this newsletter.

Our first term is already full with events and opportunities for our students to take part and connect with the culture of our kura. In two weeks' time our new Year 9 students will head to their camp in Pauanui and tomorrow our Year 13s head to camp for two days as they work with our senior leaders to map out their final year of school.

### NCEA Results

Our initial NCEA results from 2024 were superb. Our Year 11 students exceeded expectations. The pattern of their results matched the rest of the country with a significant drop. However, they still managed to retain the 15% above the national average result that their 2023 peers produced which was a very significant achievement. I want to congratulate our Year 11 teachers and Year 11 students who worked together to navigate all of the changes that were thrown at them last year.

Our Year 12 results were the best that our school has ever produced. Their 86% pass-rate was again well above the national average of 72%. At Year 13 our students improved 20% on our own 2023 results with a 72% pass-rate, again well above the national average. Our university entrance results again lifted considerably, and we were 1% below the national average, but well above those schools in our similar socio-economic index grouping. Overall these results highlighted a very successful academic 2024 and I am especially proud of the work of our teachers and students.

### Welcome Powhiri

This morning, we welcomed our new Year 9 students and new international students alongside our new staff members. This was



guided by our kaumatua Te Mapi Haimoana and Tauwhi Mark and our kuia Te Ao Marama Maaka and was well-attended by a number of parents and past students. I want to acknowledge Mr Shay Noonan, Principal of Morrinsville School and Mrs Jenny Clark, Principal of Morrinsville Intermediate School, who both spoke with real passion for the students that they were entrusting to us.

### New Staff

New teachers welcomed to our school this year are:

- **Mrs Jocelyn Mitchell** – Teacher of English
- **Ms Amy Peters** – Teacher of Agricultural Science
- **Mrs Heather Furniss** - Librarian

### International Students

We would like to welcome our international students to Morrinsville College. This year we have 24 students who will be here for different lengths of time. We would like to acknowledge the excellent efforts of Mrs Julie Radice and Mrs Philippa Fryer who have worked tirelessly to arrange homestays and complete documentation to enable these students to attend our school.

### Year 9 Parent Welcome Event

Parents and Year 9 students are invited to attend our Year 9 Parent Welcome Event which is to be a BBQ 'meet the teachers' event. This will be held on **Wednesday 19 February at 5pm in the A Block Quad area**. Sausages and refreshments will be provided. This is a great opportunity for our families to connect with the teachers of their Year 9 students.

### Contact Between Home and School

As a contact guide, the following may be helpful:

**The best person for you to get in touch with in the first instance is almost certainly your son's/daughter's Learning Coach.** Each Learning Coach takes on responsibility for the academic and pastoral needs of each of the 17 or 18 students in their Learning Hub. They help our students to set goals for themselves each year and monitor progress towards these and they track each student's learning and mentor their students in their Hub. They maintain contact with you as parents, especially if there are any issues with your son/daughter.

Each House also has a Kaitiaki leader who plays a very important role as guardian of our school culture, dealing particularly with the pastoral needs and guidance of our students. They are also responsible for leading our staff and students with our Contribute, Listen, Engage, Achieve and Respect (CLEAR) values which we teach to our students to endeavour to produce good learners and citizens. Our Kaitiaki can be contacted by you when there are ongoing issues at school, particularly if there are more serious issues which need to be addressed.

### The Kaitiaki for 2025 are:

- Alexandra – **Ms Charlotte Osborne**
- Campbell – **Mr Callum Flynn**
- Lincoln – **Mr Patrick O'Shaughnessy**
- Studholme – **Ms Nikki Paton**

Each of these Kaitiaki will be supported by a Manukura. These people are our Deputy Principals or the Senior Leader as follows:

- Alexandra – **Mr Bruce Forsyth**
- Campbell – **Miss Elizabeth Ross**
- Lincoln – **Mr Nilesh Prasad**
- Studholme – **Mrs Vicky Marshall**

Our Deans are in charge of any learning/academic concerns and ensuring that students are placed in the right classes. In 2025 these people are:

- Year 9 – **Mrs Cath Spindler**
- Year 10 – **Miss Kimberley Snowden**
- Year 11 – **Mr Daniel McNamara**
- Year 12 – **Miss Megan Chambers**
- Year 13 – **Mrs Vicky Marshall**

Our Guidance Counsellors are **Mrs Anna Kurth** and **Mr Mike Duncan**. These people are specially trained counsellors and are available to any student who can self-refer or be referred by others, including parents. **Mrs Carmen Pene-Hopa, Mrs Shona Edmonds, Mrs Kylie Turner** and **Mrs Raelene Duncan** are our Learning Assistants.

Our Careers Adviser is **Mrs Jane Thomas** and our Gateway Coordinator is **Mrs Stephanie Pickett**. They are very willing to talk with students and their parents about careers, further education and training.

In the Administration area **Mrs Grace Martin** is the Principal's Personal Assistant, **Ms Tania Conder, Mrs Andrea Keightley** and **Mrs Raelene Duncan** are our Office administration team. **Mrs Keightley** is also our Attendance Administrator and **Ms Brooke Tuira** is our Kahui Ako's Whanau Engagement Officer. **Mrs Ria Irlle** is our Finance Secretary and our Business Manager is **Mr Patrick O'Shaughnessy**. Our Librarians are **Mrs Angela Peters, Mrs Heather Furniss** and **Mrs Donna Tomsett**.

**Miss Alison Priestley** is our Sports Coordinator. **Mrs Christa Oosthuizen** and **Mrs Margaret Findsen** are our Canteen Staff, **Mr Roger Harris** is our school Caretaker, **Mr Wally Holt-Pedersen** is our Groundsman, **Mr Red George** is our maintenance contractor and **Mr Vince Crispe** is our mowing contractor.

To contact your son's/daughter's Learning Coach, Kaitiaki, Deans, or Guidance Counsellors, please telephone the school Office (8898308) to arrange a suitable time. If there are what you consider to be very serious issues, please make contact with one of the deputy principals.

**Always telephone the Office firstly to make an appointment with members of the Senior Leadership Team as we are always very busy and you cannot expect that someone will be available if you turn up without an appointment.** We will, however, make every effort to see you the same day if at all possible.

Unless there is an emergency, please do not contact us at home - we appreciate the time that we have with our families.

### Attendance

The higher the percentage of attendance in class the better the learning that occurs for all students. Students' attainment of academic, cultural, social goals and their development of sound habits towards future employment are greatly enhanced. Thank you for supporting your child to attend school regularly and on time, making a huge difference to their education.

If possible, please let the school know in advance of any absence. Students late to school for any reason should supply a signed note of explanation from you, rather than phoning and leaving a message. Due to the high number of phone messages that we receive each morning it is difficult to check all messages before students start signing in late.

For any absence, please contact the school on 889 8308, select 1 or use <https://morrncoll.bridge.school.nz> 'Report Absence' by 9am with a detailed message including your child's full name and reason for absence. For any known periods of leave in term time, please obtain permission by prior application in writing to the principal.

**A reminder that the school day starts at 8.45am and all students are expected to be here at that time.** We encourage parents to help their children to develop routines to ensure that they are at school on time.

### Schoolbridge

All communication, permission and payment can be done electronically. To enable this please ensure to set up our Parent and Student Interface, Schoolbridge. One central location with all your children in one place.

**Set Up Schoolbridge:** <https://morrncoll.bridge.school.nz/> use your own e-mail username and password to log in. Get Our App, easy access from your phone. This can be done once logged in. Please contact the school Office, if you have any problems setting up.

Note: Schoolbridge will be the One Stop Shop for you and any other contacts you named on your enrolment form, to keep up-to-date with your child's daily information, including timetable, attendance, results, reports, goal setting, notices, newsletters, student forms, permission slips, and notifying us of an absence.

### Cellphones


In line with our school's cellphone policy, **all students must have their phones and ear phones/pods turned off and in their bag from 8.45am to 3.05pm.**

**Morrinsville College 'Phones Away for the Day'**

**Your phone must stay turned off in your bag from 8.45 am - 3.05 pm.**

**Inappropriate use at school may look like:**

- Using my phone during class time and break times.
- Getting my phone out after a teacher has asked me to put it away.
- Taking photos or videos without teacher permission.
- NO headphones!



**Step 1: Students will be reminded regularly that their phones must be turned off and in their bags.**

Step Two	Step Three	Step Four	Serious Misconduct
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put the phone in a named envelope</li> <li>Phone is taken to the office with a student pass</li> <li>Office will record in a book for security and phone is stored in the school safe</li> <li>Return to class with a slip from the office</li> <li>Recorded on Kamar</li> <li>Alert sent to parents/whanau</li> </ul> <p><small>The student will be able to collect the phone at the end of the day from the DP on duty.</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put the phone in a named envelope</li> <li>Phone is taken to the office with a student pass</li> <li>Office will record in a book for security and phone is stored in the school safe</li> <li>Return to class with a slip from the office</li> <li>Recorded on Kamar</li> <li>Alert sent to parents/whanau</li> <li>DP on duty will monitor repeat offences</li> </ul> <p><small>The phone can be collected by a parent or caregiver at the end of the day.</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put the phone in a named envelope</li> <li>Taken to the office with a student pass</li> <li>Office will record in a book for security and phone is stored in the school safe</li> <li>Return to class with a slip from the office</li> <li>Recorded on Kamar</li> <li>Alert sent to parents/whanau</li> <li>DP on duty will monitor repeat offences</li> </ul> <p><small>The phone can only be collected by a parent or caregiver at the end of the day. A haul is arranged with the student, parents, whanau and their businesses</small></p>	<p><b>If students refuse to hand in their phones, then the matter will be referred to our Deputy Principals and treated as an issue of defiance.</b> At this step, this is considered to be continual disobedience which could lead to further consequences.</p>

If a parent or caregiver wishes to apply for an exemption to this policy, they must contact the Principal's PA Mrs Martin by email [grace-martin@morrncoll.school.nz](mailto:grace-martin@morrncoll.school.nz), clearly outlining the reasons for the exemption, and Mrs Martin will pass the request on to the Principal who will make the decision.

### Students Requiring Passes to Leave School for Appointments

Students requiring passes to leave school during school hours, for instance to attend a dentist's or doctor's appointment, **MUST** bring a note to the school Office **BEFORE** school so that passes can then be processed and collected by students at interval.

### Uniform

#### PERSONAL PRESENTATION

Every student who attends Morrinsville College is an ambassador of our school. All of our students are expected to observe a high standard of presentation, cleanliness and neatness when they are in uniform, in or out of school.

Uniforms must be well-maintained, cleaned regularly and mended when necessary. Frayed or torn clothing is not acceptable. There should be no graffiti or other markings on any item of school uniform. Wearing alternative clothing with our school uniform is not permitted at or to and from school.

Boys must be clean shaven. Cultural and religious consideration will be given to individual students who write to the Board to request permission.

Please note the next Board of Trustees' meeting is **Wednesday 12 February**. Please email Grace Martin (Board of Trustees' Secretary) [grace-martin@morrncoll.school.nz](mailto:grace-martin@morrncoll.school.nz) with any requests prior to this meeting.

Anything that is not specifically listed below is not permitted. All students, parents and whanau should contact their student's Hub Coach regarding any questions, concerns or challenges regarding the wearing of correct school uniform.

#### SCHOOL UNIFORM YEARS 9 – 12

Blue-grey tartan skirt

Navy-blue regulation shorts

Black regulation dress trousers, NO jeans, track pants, sweatpants, cords, stretch or cargo style pants. [Optional Term 2 and 3 only]

Monogrammed navy-yellow trim polo shirt

Navy-blue soft-shell jacket [Optional]

Navy-blue monogrammed wool jersey [Optional]

#### SCHOOL UNIFORM YEAR 13

Navy-blue regulation skirt

Navy-blue regulation shorts

Black regulation dress trousers, no jeans, trackpants, sweatpants, cords, stretch or cargo style pants. [Optional all year round]

Regulation blue-checked monogrammed shirt

Navy-blue soft-shell jacket [Optional]

Navy-blue monogrammed wool jersey [Optional]

Tie [Optional]

#### FOOTWEAR (Following two options only)

Black Roman Sandals [to be worn with heel strap up and not to be worn with socks]

Plain Black Leather/Synthetic Leather closed in shoes

Please note that in some subjects and classes students will be required to wear closed in shoes to meet Health and Safety regulations.

#### ACCESSORIES

Plain Black socks [with no other markings or logos], or Plain black opaque tights

Unisex monogrammed school cap & beanie; alternatively, a plain navy-blue or black cap with no other markings may be worn

**REGULATION PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM**

Navy-blue monogrammed PE Shorts [Compulsory]

Navy-blue monogrammed PE Polo [Compulsory]

For Swimming, appropriate one- or two-piece swimwear, swim shorts or togs. Rash tops may be worn. NO other T-shirts or clothing are acceptable for swimming.

**JEWELLERY**

Students may wear up to 3 plain studs or sleeper earrings in each ear. Nose piercing are to be a single stud of less than 3mm in size. No other form of nose piercings, including hoops and septum piercings, are permitted. No other visible body or facial piercings or spacers are allowed.

One necklace can be worn of religious or cultural significance.

No other jewellery is permitted apart from wristwatches.

**HAIR**

Hair must be kept neat and tidy in a simple style. eg natural in colour. There should be no large colour streaks or patches, or stark, bright, contrasting colours.

Please note mohawk styles or shaved designs are not permitted.

If necessary, hair should be tied back eg food and hard materials technology

**MAKEUP**

Nails must be short and trimmed; well-applied nail polish is permitted. Heavy makeup is not permitted.

**FORMAL OCCASIONS**

Our students are sometimes required to wear formal clothing for special occasions.

All students may wear regulation black formal trousers or navy-blue skirts

Morrinsville College navy-blue school blazers

Year 13 school uniform shirt

Regulation school tie

The school has a small number of blazers, ties, and Year 13 shirts to loan to students if required.

**MUFTI DAYS**

From time to time the school will hold Mufti Days and Year 13 will be permitted to wear Mufti instead of their school uniform. A neat and tidy standard of dress is still required on Mufti Days.

The following are not permitted on Mufti Days:

- Beach wear
- Skimpy singlets
- Low-cut and revealing clothing
- Bare midriffs or cut-away clothing that reveals underwear
- Clothing depicting offensive language, inappropriate gestures or graphics eg skulls
- Clothing with alcohol advertising or drugs

**UNIFORM FOR SPORTS TEAMS & CULTURAL GROUPS**

Every school sports team will wear the uniform issued by the Manager/Teacher-in-Charge of each Sport. Sport team uniforms are from Paladin unless stated otherwise.

Please contact the Teacher in Charge of each sports code for the code sports uniform.

**SCHOOL HOODED SWEATSHIRT**

The plain navy-blue monogrammed hoody is reserved for representation for sports and cultural activities as appropriate and for personal use. This or other sports or cultural jackets and hoodies cannot be worn at school in place of school uniform.

We recommend that our official school uniform items are purchased from Harry's Surfwear, Thames Street, Morrinsville.

**Term dates 2025****TERM 1****Thursday 30 January to Friday 11 April**

Monday 3 February	Year 9 and powhiri
Tuesday 4 February	All students
Thursday 6 February	Waitangi Day Holiday

**TERM 2****Monday 28 April to Fri 27 June**

Monday 2 June	King's Birthday Holiday
Friday 20 June	Matariki Holiday

**TERM 3****Monday 14 July to Friday 19 September****TERM 4****Monday 6 October to Wednesday 10 December**

Monday 27 October	Labour Day Holiday
Wednesday 29 October	Last day seniors/Senior Prizegiving
Tuesday 9 December	Junior Prizegiving. Last day Term 4

**COMING EVENTS**

Tue 4 - Wed 5 February	Year 13 Camp
Thursday 6 February	Waitangi Day Holiday
Wednesday 12 February	BOT Meeting 7pm
Friday 14 February	Swimming Heats
Wednesday 19 February	Year 9 Welcome BBQ 5pm
Thursday 20 February	Swimming Finals
Monday 24 February	Mobile Dentist on site all of Term 1
Mon 24 – Fri 28 February	POET Year 9 Camps
Wednesday 26 February	No school YEAR 9
Thursday 6 March	Octathlon
Sun 9 – Wed 12 March	Year 13 Geo/Bio Trip
Monday 10 March	Class and ID photos
Wednesday 12 March	BOT Meeting 7pm
Thursday 13 March	Athletics Finals
Wednesday 19 March	Parent Interviews 4pm – 7pm
Tue 25 – Sat 29 March	Year 10 Camp 1
Sat 29 March – Wed 2 April	Year 10 Camp 2
Monday 31 March	No school YEAR 10 (Camp 1)
Thursday 3 April	No school YEAR 10 (Camp 2)
Wednesday 9 April	BOT Meeting, 7pm
Friday 11 April	End of Term 1
Monday 28 April	Start Term 2

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR TEACHER-ONLY DAY

