Kōwhai Team Newsletter

Years 7 & 8

Term 4, 2026

Te Whakatipu me to Honohono Hei Ākonga
Growing and Connecting as Learners

WADESTOWN SCHOOL

Kia ora e te whānau,

As we head into our final term, it is lovely to look back on what has been another busy year at Wadestown. Our students have embraced so many opportunities, including our Term 3 Production, worked hard and made great progress in their learning. It has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence, develop new skills and achieve so much, both in the classroom and beyond.

Although it is a shorter, nine-and-a-half-week term, there is still plenty happening before we finish on Wednesday 16 December. We look forward to making the most of these final weeks, celebrating our students' progress and enjoying the many moments that make school life special. We will also be preparing to farewell our Year 8 students as they get ready to take their next steps at college.

Below is an overview of the key curriculum focuses for the term. As always, further updates, reminders and event details will continue to be shared through the Wadestown School Community Newsletter and on our school website.

Term 4 Curriculum Overview

Literacy (Reo Matatini)

Writing (Tuhituhi):



A key focus for us this term is preparing for the **Kōwhai Speech Competition**. Students will have the opportunity to develop their speaking skills through two different challenges: a one-to-two-minute **impromptu speech** and a three-to-four-minute **persuasive speech**. Before selecting and developing their own topics, they will explore what makes a persuasive speech effective, including how to structure their ideas and engage an audience.

The top four students in each category will progress to the **Kōwhai Speech Finals in Week 7** (Wednesday 25 November). We look forward to seeing our students build their confidence, share their ideas and give speaking a go.

Reading (Pānui)

Our **Book Clubs** begin next week, allowing students to share a novel and explore it together. Students will **meet weekly in small groups** to discuss the story, share their thoughts and make connections, with each person taking on a different role to help guide the conversation. Everyone has an important part to play, so students will need to keep up with the set reading and **come prepared** for their weekly meeting. To make sure everyone can join in the discussions, students must **avoid reading ahead**. Novels can be taken home if extra reading time is needed.



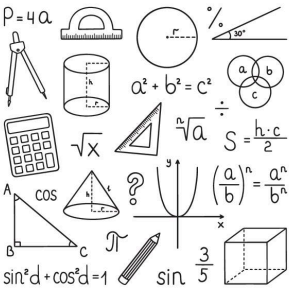
Spelling (Kupu Ako)



We will continue to start the day with a **20-minute session of *'The Code',*** our **structured spelling programme.** It has been great to see students becoming more familiar with spelling patterns and rules. Many have taken the next step in their learning, exploring **morphology** (how words are built) and finding new ways to **grow their vocabulary.** These skills are an important part of **developing strong writing**, helping students express their ideas clearly and choose words with greater precision.

Numeracy (Pāngarau)

This term, our Mathematics programme will focus on the following key areas:



- Week 1 – **Percentages:** Finding percentages of quantities and applying percentage increases and decreases to solve real-world problems.
- Weeks 2–3 – **Probability:** Describing and comparing the likelihood of events and using experiments to investigate chance.
- Weeks 4–5 – **Measurement:** Calculating perimeter, area and volume, and converting between units of measurement.
- Weeks 6–7 – **Statistics:** Collecting, displaying and interpreting data to identify patterns, compare distributions and draw conclusions.
- Weeks 8–9 – **Algebra:** Recognising patterns, using variables and expressions, and applying rules to solve problems.



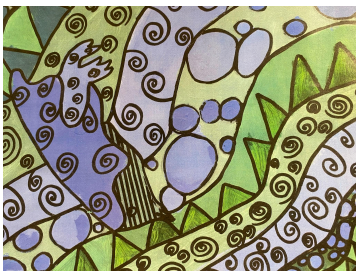
Financial Literacy: The **Money Time** platform continues with a focus on improving students' financial understanding. Students work through a series of modules, including some that they are encouraged to do at home with parents. Topics covered during this term include:

- Property
- Investing
- Entrepreneurship
- Protecting your Money



The Arts (Toi)

Below is a selection of student artwork inspired by contemporary New Zealand artist Shane Hansen, created during our recent art unit exploring his work and style. This term, students are exploring the work of New Zealand artist Darren George, using his distinctive style and techniques as inspiration for their own creative pieces.






Physical Education (Hakinakina)

- **Tupawae Skills and Tournament –** Students will develop their tracking skills, apply game strategies, and strengthen teamwork and communication.
- **Daily Fitness Sessions –** Designed to build teamwork while improving aerobic and anaerobic fitness.

Health (Hauora)



As the term concludes, students will engage in lessons from the **Navigating the Journey** programme, focusing on positive relationships, wellbeing and diversity. This aims to equip them for the challenges of adolescence. Further information will be sent home before the teaching of these lessons.

Te Reo

- Weekly te reo Māori lessons with Matua Alwyn will focus on mihi, conversational language and sentence structures. Students will practise using kupu from our Te Reo-a-thon places in meaningful sentences, for example, Kei te haere koutou ki te … (You are going to the …).
- Kapa Haka lessons with Matua Hemi continue on Thursday mornings. A key focus for our Year 7 students is preparing for their powhiri and waiata for the Year 8 Leavers' Dinner.





Year 8 Leavers' Dinner



Preparation for our Year 8 Leavers' Dinner on **Friday 12 December** is well underway. Many thanks to our current organising committee, who are working behind the scenes to ensure our leavers have a memorable farewell. Further information, including requests for assistance during the evening, will be sent to families in due course.

Homework (Mahi kainga)

During the first three weeks of the term, the students will focus on Action English, Mathletics, and reading activities before moving to Prepared Speech preparation. Weekly updates will be posted in their Google Classroom homework document.

EOTC: Year 7 & 8 Adrenalin Forest Trip, Porirua – Monday 14 December

The students have opted for a day at Adrenalin Forest, where they will challenge themselves physically and mentally while developing confidence, teamwork and resilience as they navigate the high ropes courses.

Students in Action - KWNS Technology







As we move towards the end of the year, we encourage our students to keep giving their best, embrace new challenges and take pride in how far they have come in their learning. We value strong partnerships with our whānau, so if you have any questions about our programme or would like to discuss anything relating to your child, please feel free to get in touch. We are always happy to talk and work together to support your child's learning and wellbeing.

Ngā mihi nui
Cathrine Wilkinson (Team Leader), Mel Beirne, Neil Sargisson, James Shelton and Gretchen Elliott

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Kōwhai Team Activity Donation Breakdown - Year 7 & 8 (Terms 1 to 4, 2026)				
Amount added to Student Statement:	$110.00			
Less:				
Term 1 Costs		$0.00	$0.00	
Term 2 Costs				
• Science Fair Boards		$10.00		
• NZ Playhouse Performance		$6.50	$16.50	
Term 3 Costs				
• Musical Showcase at Wellington College (23 July)		$7.50		
• BLAKE NZVR (visit from Term 2)		$6.50		
• St John's First Aid instructor koha		$2.00		
• Production Rehearsal Buses and Costumes		$20.00	$36.00	
Term 4 Costs				
• Wadestown School Athletic Sports - Return bus trip		$9.50		
• Adrenalin Forest - entry charge		$28.50		
• Adrenalin Forest - Bus fare to and from Porirua		$14.50		
• Dance Workshop		$5.00	$55.50	
			$110.00	
Kōwhai Team Term 4 Balance Remaining				**$0.00**