

Welcome to our Head Students for 2024: Head Girl, **Charlotte Ushaw Whittaker**, Head Boy **Baxter Ward**. Deputy Head Boy, **Alex Dewhurst** and Deputy Head Girl **Navyon Hopa**.



A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

Morrinsville College



2 February 2024 Issue No. 1

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

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDING MEMBER – MRS NGAIRE TE AHO



Welcome to 2024

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.

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 rep is Mr Kevin Rae and the student rep is Polina Mzhachikh.



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 775 students and yesterday we welcomed in over 170 Year 9 students to their first day of college life. This is the largest start-of-the-year roll in our school's history and we appreciate the

confidence that our community has shown in us with this significant roll growth over the last two years. This is without a number of students that decided not to enrol with us due to the implementation of a school zone. This also means that we will now have to consider far tighter numbers around zone balloting for the remainder of the year and for next year.

During the first term of the year our staff and students are working with the theme “wellbeing through connection” as our students return to school and with a number of students new to our area. It is really important that we get our young people moving and doing

so alongside their peers. As part of this we have moved forward our Year 9 camp this year and our brand new Year 9s will head off to Pauanui in the next two weeks.

Parents are a key part of this wellbeing strategy. If your son/daughter wants to skip PE or miss swimming sports or athletics, please encourage them participate. While some of our students have genuine barriers in this regard, just being present next to their peers can be enough. If they are unsure whether they should take up a musical instrument, take part in drama or kapa haka, please encourage them to have a go. While this may be difficult as parents in the short-term, in the long-term there is growing academic and anecdotal evidence that this is critical for our young people's mental health and well-being. We need to get them ‘off the couch’ and participating.

Queen's Service Medal (QSM) – TE AO MARAMA MAAKA



Yesterday, we acknowledged our kuia Te Ao Marama Maaka at our powhiri to welcome new staff and new students. Te Ao Marama has been involved with not only our school but many other kura in our area to provide guidance and support for schools around Tikanga and Te Reo Māori. She has acted in a number of governance roles in our community and had a profound impact on our schools and our students for almost four decades. She is a deserving recipient of the QSM and we have been grateful for her dedicated service over a large part of her lifetime.

Welcome Powhiri

At the same time as acknowledging Te Ao Marama, we welcomed our new Year 9 students and new international students alongside our new staff members. This was guided by our kaumatua and kuia 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 spoke with real passion for the students that they were entrusting to us.

Staff Changes

New teachers welcomed to our school this year are:

- **Ms Marnie McMillan** - Learning Area Leader of Science
- **Mr Mike Edwards** - Learning Area Leader of PE & Health
- **Mr Greg Smith** - teacher of PE & Health
- **Mrs Doretta Hall** - teacher of ESOL
- **Mr Garry Galvez** – teacher of Science
- **Mr Tim Low** – part-time teacher of Science
- **Ms Alison Priestley** - Sports Coordinator
- **Mrs Kylie Turner** – Learning Assistant
- **Mrs Brooke Tuira** –Whanau Engagement Officer (Kahui Ako)
- **Miss Wikitoria Beazley** - Te Ao Haka and Learning Assistant
- **Mr Donald Stark** – teacher of ESOL for Term 1.

International Students

We would like to welcome our international students to Morrinsville College. This year we have 23 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 21 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 2024 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 – Ms 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 2024 these people are:

- Year 9 – Miss Kimberley Snowden
- Year 10 – Mr Mike Duncan
- Year 11 – Miss Megan Chambersl
- Year 12 – Mrs Vicky Marshall
- Year 13 – Mrs Kobie Joubert.

Our Guidance Counsellors are **Mr David Baxendine** and **Mrs Anna Kurth**. These people are specialist trained counsellors and are available to any students, who can self-refer or be referred by others, including parents.

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 **Mrs Ria Irle** is our Finance Secretary. Our Business Manager is **Mr Patrick O'Shaughnessy**.

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 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://morrill.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

This year, to make communication a more seamless process for our families, we have introduced *Schoolbridge*. This will allow all communications, trip permission forms, absences and attendance, academic information, including reports and in-school alerts to go through one site. This will also allow payments to be done electronically. This will also replace Skool Loop and many of the functions of Kamar. Importantly, we deliberately selected an App that parents were able to use through their phones. A significant number of people have already set *Schoolbridge* up on their devices.

To Set Up Schoolbridge

Go to –<https://morrcoll.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, or the QR Code for an easy download.



Cellphone Policy

As part of their election platform the current Government made a statement around the banning of cellphones in schools. There has been very little detail provided by the MOE to schools around this policy statement and schools have been left to develop their own interpretation of this policy. The key requirements were that all schools needed to have a cellphone policy by the end of Term 1 this year and that there was a clear intention to include break times as well as class time within this policy.

Each school has interpreted the new Government policy from quite different angles, with many taking a 'waiting' approach. We currently already have a cellphone policy which is focused on their use in class time. **This policy requires all students to have their phones in their bags and out of sight during class time unless they are required to use them by their teachers for an educational purpose.**

In order to extend this policy to include break times, we intend to take our time and consult our staff, students and parent community before finalising any policy change. While this will be a contentious discussion and we will never get 100% agreement, it will be very important that we find some agreement on issues such as cellphone storage and potential consequences for breaking any rules in order for this to be a sustainable and pragmatic school policy. Our staff are being consulted in the next two weeks and then we will go out to our student and parent community with a range of suggestions that we think may work in the middle of this term. Until this point our current policy remains in place and we ask parents who wish to contact their students during the day not to do so during class time. Emergencies can go through the Office who will pass this directly to the student concerned.

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

The start of the term for all students is a timely reminder for all students and whanau about the uniform expectations at Morrinsville College. You will find attached a link to the full College uniform requirements for our students.

https://www.morrcoll.school.nz/files/ugd/fffb88_282ae5005f9c49c9b8a3927132c6267d.pdf

We expect students to wear our uniform with pride and wear it correctly. Should a student have an incorrect uniform item they are required to see the Kaitiaki during Hub time to either get a uniform pass or alternatively borrow a uniform item to wear for the day.

We have worked hard over the last few years to ensure all students feel comfortable with the uniform and the recent addition of trousers has been well received. While this is mainly in winter uniform item we would like to highlight that the trousers are plain black dress trousers which can be purchased at Harry's Surf and Menswear store or the Warehouse. Track or sweatpants, cargo pants, cords and jeans are not considered to be dress pants.

Below are some other areas of the College uniform we wish to highlight before school starts:

JEWELLERY

- Students may wear up to 3 plain studs or sleepers in each ear
- Students may wear a single nose piercing providing that the stud is less than 3mm in size
- No other visible body or facial piercings or spacers are allowed
- One necklace can be worn of religious or cultural significance discretely.
- No other jewellery is permitted apart from wristwatches eg necklaces, bangles, ankle bracelets and rings.

HAIR

- Hair must be kept neat and tidy in a simple style. If necessary, hair should be tied back.
- Hair colour should be natural, muted colours and in a style appropriate for school.
- There should be no large streaks or patches or colour, or stark, bright, contrasting colours.
- Mohawks or shaved designs are not allowed.

MAKEUP

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

COMING EVENTS

Mon 5 - Wed 7 February	Year 13 Camp at Totara Springs
Tuesday 6 February	Waitangi Day Holiday
Mon 12 – Fri 16 February	POET Year 9 Camps
Wed 14 February	Year 9 only NO SCHOOL
Wed 14 February	BOT Meeting, Agri-Centre, 7pm
Wednesday 21 February	Swimming Heats
Wednesday 21 February	Year 9 Welcome BBQ, 5pm
Friday 23 February	Swimming Finals
Tuesday 27 February	Year 12 Bio Trip
Wednesday 28 February	Class Photos
Thursday 29 February	Octathlon
Wednesday 6 March	Athletics Finals
Wednesday 13 March	Year 13 Geo/Bio Trip