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February 2026

Tena koutou katoa, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Kia orana, Ni sa bula, Marhaba, Namaste, Mabuhay.

We are now four weeks into the 2026 school year, and the energy across the school is truly inspiring. From leadership camps to academic triumphs, it has been a powerhouse start for our McAuley family.

Our **2026 Prefects** recently returned from a transformative *hiko*i to the Far North. Their passion and commitment since returning have been outstanding, and congratulations on your formal installation at Dedication Mass last week.

We also officially welcomed our 175 new Year 9 students at a powhiri and a successful three-day orientation. A heartfelt thank you to the many parents who joined us for the Year 9 Mass and also our year levels Talanoa evenings. This partnership between home and school is the foundation of your daughter's success.

We are thrilled to share that our 2025 NCEA academic results sit well above the national average. These figures are a testament to the hard work of our students and the unwavering support from you, their parents.

- **NCEA Level 1:** 85%
- **NCEA Level 2:** 97%
- **NCEA Level 3:** 94%
- **University Entrance:** 80%

Special Honors:

- **Lourdes Saolotoga:** 1x Outstanding Scholarship & **Top Scholar in NZ for Samoan.**
- **Linzie Mataafa:** 1x Scholarship in Samoan.

Meet-the-Teacher

This coming Monday. Come along for a casual "face-to-the-name" evening with your daughter's teachers. Athletics Day is Friday February 27th. A highlight of the school calendar!

2027 Enrolments

Applications are now open. **Non-preference** closes at end of Term 1; all others at the end of Term 2 or when the roll is full. If you have a family member wanting to come to McAuley next year, could you please submit your enrolment by due dates. Each year we turn away so many students, because the roll gets closed. We do not want family members to miss out on a McAuley education.

Attendance

Our daily attendance is currently **95%**. To maintain this:

- **Holidays:** Please do not book travel during term time; these are not approved absences.
- **Punctuality:** Students should be at school by **8.30am** for the 8.35am first bell. Arriving late disrupts the calm start to learning.
- **Absences:** Please notify the office at (09) 276 8715 or email office@mcauleyhigh.school.nz

Absences should only occur for medical sickness or a close relative's passing. I notice the patterns of lateness are developing. It is unacceptable to be dropping your daughter off after school begins. Would those families who are habitually late, please look at your routines and routes so that students are not late, and therefore able to start the day in a calm manner, focused for learning. Thank you to the 95% of families who do ensure their daughter is at school on time.

Staff

We are blessed with 11 new staff members who have already woven themselves into the fabric of our school:

- **PE:** Ms Tay-Morrison, Ms Wills, Ms Foliaki
- **English:** Mr De Souza, Ms Williams
- **Maths:** Mr Hua, Ms Chen
- **Dance:** Ms Saeni-Lualua
- **Samoa:** Mrs Etuale, Ms Ioane
- **Health:** Ms Nikki Rikys (School Nurse)

As Lent begins, marking our six-week journey toward Easter - a sacred time to prepare for the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. During this season, we embrace spiritual discipline and sacrifice. Through fasting and simplicity, we mirror Jesus's sacrifice to strengthen our self-control. We also dedicate this time to repentance and reflection, examining our lives, seeking forgiveness, and deepening our focus on faith.

We look forward to seeing families at our events this term.

Domine in te speravi

Jan Waelen
Principal

Special Character

Year 9 Orientation Week and Mass

The annual Year 9 Mass was held on Friday 30 January in Ss Josephs & Joachim Church, Ōtāhuhu, with Fr Kevin Murphy as our main celebrant. It was a wonderful gathering with our new Year 9 students and their families present, and although the weather was very warm, the church was full. Following the Mass families were invited to gather for a picnic on the McAuley High School field. In his homily, Fr Kevin talked about the importance of walking with God on our journey, so that we can all grow closer together, and held in the love of our God.



Dedication Mass

On Friday 13 February Fr Kevin Murphy SM joined us as our main presider to celebrate our Dedication Mass. At this Mass the McAuley High School Prefects were commissioned, and their families came forward in the Mass to pin the prefects' badges on their daughters. The school community proudly gathered in a spirit of prayerfulness and celebration. We congratulate the Prefects of 2026 and pray they will continue to walk in faith, hope and love as they carry out their important responsibilities and duties this year.

Head Prefects	Omega Aniterea and Fuianina Aoelua		
Deputy Head Prefects	Pai Faasisila and Helina Vaka'uta		
House Prefects	Carlow	- Jeevani Krone	Coolock - Tauiviga Iose
	Stormanstown	- Tracey Paneta	Tullamore - Agnes Matapula
Academic	Sela Mohetau and Alvira Zaia		
Arts & Culture	Vola Ha'unga and Jaylah Ramsay		
Hauora	Charity Aiulupotea and Kristine Wright		
Media & Communication	Eleazar Kenese and Emalata Pouanga		
Social Justice	Ioana Tatireta and Kesia Tony		
Special Character	Franeli Leota and Tupou Tupi		
Sports	Seutatia Aumua and Lata Lokotui		



Prefect camp 2026

This year, we took another visit up north to kick start the year. Our first stop was Tāne Mahutu on the way up, before settling in at Waeparera Marae. On our first night, our prefects had the opportunity to share a taonga they cherish, building vulnerability and kinship with one another. We finished our evening reflecting on our Mercy value for this year, Āwhina, to centre us in our purpose.

The next day, we had the opportunity to visit Totara Point with Manuel Beazley. He walked us through the rich history of the whenua and the story of the first Catholic Mass. We then went to visit the Lady of the Assumption which sits perched overlooking the Hokianga Harbour. Finishing off our pilgrimage at St Mary's to pay our respects to Bishop Pompallier.

The evening was filled with energy and excitement as the prefects finalised their portfolios mapped out their vision for the year. Although our camp was cut short, our prefects returned with a newfound appreciation for our whenua and history, confidence in their new gifts and trust in one another. They are now ready to serve our school and community with heart and purpose for 2026!

A massive thanks to everyone who made this camp possible, our dedicated kaiako, supportive whānau and our incredible prefects.

Ms Tonga, Year 13 Dean

Mā ngā pakiaka e tū ai te rākau - With strong roots a tree will stand.



Congratulations

At our Academic Assembly next week we will celebrate the academic success of our students in last year's exams and acknowledge those who have achieved Merit and Excellence endorsements.

Dates to Note

18 February	Ash Wednesday
23 February	Meet the Teacher
24 February	Academic Assembly
25 February	School Photos Day
27 February	ATHLETICS DAY
2-6 March	Hauora Week
11-13 March	Auckland Volleyball Champs
19 and 20 March	Year 13 Retreat
2 April	END OF TERM 1

Talanoa Evenings

The first year level Talanoa evenings have been held with Deans and parents. They are a good opportunity to know your daughter's Dean, to ask questions and to receive information about her learning, events and the year ahead.

Feedback from Year 12 Dean

Thank you for coming along to our Year 12 Talanoa evening. I appreciate you taking the time to be there and for your thoughtful questions about your daughters' learning. It was also great to see our Year 12 students step up on the night. They showed real leadership and service while supporting the evening. Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Y11 Dean

Thank you to the Y11 Parents that attended the Talanoa. The key goals are:

- 1. Attendance is between 90-100%*
- 2. Literacy and Numeracy pass rate 100%*
- 3. Take up the opportunity to serve*

Being active on the Portal checking your daughters' credits is encouraged. Reach out for support when applicable.

Sports Report

January School Holiday

Senior Touch team trials and selection in preparation for their season - First Game Tuesday 10th February.

The team played a friendly game against St Marys and came away with a WIN, 8 - 0, with outstanding performances from the Year 10 students who are a part of the team.

Training days: Every Wednesday and Friday 3.30pm - 5.00pm, unless students are advised otherwise. All parents will be contacted via email to inform you of any changes to these scheduled dates.

Location: School Field.

Week 1 & 2 Sporting Events

Senior Volleyball Trials and team selection in preparation for their season - First Game Friday 13th February.

Match Dates: Friday 13th February, Thursday 19th February, Friday 27th February, Friday 6th March

Training days: Every Tuesday during Long Break & every Thursday after school 3.30pm - 5.00pm.

Location: School Gymnasium

The Tag Football 1-Day Tournament was held yesterday at Ngati Otara Park. Our team had a brilliant day, winning all of their games and going on to beat Tamaki College 3-1 in the final. They finished 1st overall in Division 2.

Rugby League Pre-season training: Open to all students

Our Rugby League coach has kindly offered to open a Pre-Season Training Camp for all students to attend at Murphy Park, 4.00pm - 5.00pm. In the first session were warm up and fitness drills. These sessions are held every Tuesday and Thursday and open to all students and all fitness levels. The aim is to get our students moving, being active and build their confidence to apply themselves outside of their comfort zone. Our aim is to build their interest in either Rugby or Rugby League.

Upcoming Sport Events

Kilikiti Trials - Held on the week of the 23rd of February, dates to be confirmed. A form will be sent out to all students for registrations. Finer details will be available as we prepare for the Tournament Tuesday 10th of March.

As we prepare for Sports in Term 2, we are looking at holding trials for netball, basketball, rugby union and rugby league in week 5 (2nd - 6th March). A form will be emailed to all students to register, and we will be able to arrange trials accordingly.

Call for a PREMIER BASKETBALL COACH! We are currently looking for a reliable, committed coach for our Premier Basketball team. If you or someone you know might be interested in coaching our team this year, please get in touch with our Sports Co-ordinator via email - ltuifua@mcauleyhigh.school.nz.

Careers Department Updates

Year 13 Interviews & Bookings

One-on-one interviews with Year 13 students have begun and will be working our way through each year level. Students are welcome to visit the Careers Room during break time to see either Mrs. Mafi or myself.

Form Class Sessions (Room 10)

Something new for 2026! Careers and Gateway are hosting Form classes in Room 10 throughout Term 1 and Term 2. We look forward to reconnecting with all year levels and outlining the exciting opportunities for the year ahead.

Upcoming Provider Visits

University and course provider visits begin soon. Here is the current schedule with more to be added as they confirm:

THURSDAY	19/02/2026	MIT
MONDAY	23/02/2026	NZ Chiropractic College of NZ
TUESDAY	24/02/2026	NZMA – New Zealand Management Academies
THURSDAY	26/02/2026	NZSE – New Zealand School of Education
THURSDAY	05/03/2026	VUW - Victoria University of Wellington
FRIDAY	06/03/2026	UoA - University of Auckland
MONDAY	09/03/2026	UoO – University of Otago
MONDAY	23/03/2026	AUT – Auckland University of Technology
THURSDAY	26/03/2026	NZDF - NZ Defence Force (Army, Navy, Air Force)
TUESDAY	31/03/2026	Massey University
FRIDAY	15/05/2026	International Travel College - ITC

Mrs Mafi is taking expressions of interest for the Gateway programme. This programme is run during the holidays. Students should see her in the long break for information.

We will also continue with work experience working alongside Mr John Kunitau and the Pasifika Cadetship Careers Pathway programme that we have been a part of for the last 4 years. More information to come later this term.

Communication

We encourage you to use the school website and parent portal. They can be helpful ways to get information about what is happening at school. We also ask that you check your email regularly as this is our main way of communicating with our families.

Attendance Dues

Attendance Dues are a compulsory payment we collect on behalf of the Bishop. Please ensure you have cleared Term one 2026 dues by the end of this term. If you have outstanding fees from previous years, please contact the office as soon as possible. Payment of Attendance Dues is a condition of continued enrolment in a Catholic school.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of Attendance Dues for preference students attending both primary and secondary Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest, or Auckland Common Fund Ltd at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland on 09-360-3040 for further information.

Application forms for this assistance are available from school and parish offices, or can be downloaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools-2/>

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Integrated Schools in the
Catholic Diocese of Auckland.

Mō tātou, ā, mōngā uri ā muri ake – For us, and our children after us.

BYOD

All students are expected to have their own device for lessons and to bring them to school each day fully charged and ready for the day. The specifications flyer is below. I pads do not count as a device at McAuley. It is difficult for students to complete their schoolwork on I pads or tablets.



McAuley High School

Domine in te speravi ~ Lord, in you I have hoped

BYOD – Bring Your Own Device

Recommended Specifications

Bring this sheet to the store to show the sales person and ask them to guarantee each specification is met. This will ensure you are purchasing a suitable device.

McAuley High School has a partnership with PB Technologies, as a courtesy they offer our students access to special deals and pricing.

Please visit <https://www.pbtech.co.nz/education/byod/mcauley-high-school> for a current list of recommended devices. If you decide to use PB Technologies, they can assist you with your purchase.

The minimum specifications for a suitable BYOD device [Please check]:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Screen Size | 11 inches or larger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Built-in Wireless | Wireless AC or better |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Protective Cover | Hard-shell or suitable protective case / rainproof |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Battery Life | 6 hours minimum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Keyboard | Built-in |



The following additional features are also useful:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Accessories: | Earbud headphone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Weight: | Less than 2.5kg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Insurance: | It is recommended that all families insure the device against loss or accidental damage. This may be available through house and contents or through special insurance purchased with the device. You may wish to discuss this with the sales person at the time of sale. [Note that standard warranties do not cover loss or accidental damage] |

Links for the school Facebook page and Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/mcauleyhighofficial/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mcauleyhighofficial>

Kids ride free on weekends!

Did you know children aged 5–15 travel free on buses, trains and ferries* every weekend and public holiday with a registered AT HOP card? It's a great way for families to save money, explore the city and enjoy stress free travel. It's quick and easy to register a child concession and only takes about an hour for the 40% discount and free weekend travel to be available. Google 'kids go free' or visit AT.govt.nz to learn more. * Excludes Waiheke and Rakino ferry services. Conditions apply.



**KIDS
GO
FREE ON
WEEKENDS**

5 to 15 year olds ride FREE on buses, ferries & trains every weekend & public holiday with a registered HOP card. T&Cs apply.

Photos from the first weeks of school





