JHC

JAMES HARGEST COLLEGE KEEP FAITH

2 April 2026

Sir Peter Beck Science and Innovation Centre

is officially open!

Principal's Comment

Mike Newell
Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

A lot has been packed into this 9 week term. Last week, our Major Production; The Olympians, was performed over 4 nights. This year's cast is very young which bodes well for the years ahead. A massive team effort from the cast, crew and staff involved. The students performed wonderfully and clearly had a great time doing so. Some special staff cameo appearances were a great surprise. Also last week the annual summer tournament week took place with teams representing JHC in golf, cricket, softball, volleyball and rowing. Our sports Facebook page has some great updates on their performances.

The highlight for this last week of term was the opening of our new Science and Student Support block. The building has been named the Sir Peter Beck Science and Innovation Centre. Sir Peter is a distinguished alumnus and is well known for his world leading work as founder of Rocketlab. We were honoured to have Sir Peter make the special trip back home to formally open the building. Our students will be taught in the new building from the start of term 2.

With this being my last pānui to parents, whānau and our wider community, I can say it has been a huge honour and privilege to lead this great school. 6 years seems to have flown by and the start of my tenure was right at the beginning of the Covid years, a time where there were plenty of rules but no clear plan book. Schools in a lot of ways are change agents, some of the changes are forced upon us and others we choose. At the forefront of all of this though are our students. We have made some changes to the pastoral system, the curriculum and and our reporting systems; all with a view to fulfilling the JHC mission - "To equip all our students to create the best possible future for themselves and their world." Whilst change is inevitable and needs to be embraced there are many Hargest traditions and our values, The Hargest Way that remain at our core. There are many people to thank, the Board, my amazingly supportive SLT, our hard working teaching and support staff and you, our parent community.

To our students, the school years are a very short but influential time in your life. Make the most of all of the opportunities that are presented to you, some of these are wrapped up and disguised as hard work. Be proud of your school and strive to be the best version of yourself everyday.

I wish Mrs McDowall all the best as she leads JHC into what is an exciting future for the college. Her passion and commitment to JHC are obvious and she is a strong leader and educational professional.

Ko te mutunga o tēnei haerenga, a, te tīmatatanga o tetahi haerenga anō'.

"When one journey has ended - another journey begins"

Have a great Easter break everyone.
Ngā mihi
Mike Newell
Principal

A special gift

At the farewell assembly for Mr Newell, he was gifted something very special.

Mr Newell was presented with a JHC rugby jersey so he can take a little bit of JHC with him wherever he goes.

Board of Trustees Report

We farewell our Principal Mr Mike Newell at the end of this term. There has been a special farewell assembly and staff and board farewells which wraps up 6 years of service and leadership at our school. It was nice to hear of the emotion at JC with a fine Haka send off.

Nic Raines
Board Chair

Mr Newell started on 1 April 2020 just as we were locking down for covid so it would have been a strange experience running a school without students regularly present. In that time he oversaw a changing of the guard where we had retirements from numerous senior staff so Mike was instrumental in appointing almost all of the senior leaders we have today which has set the direction for the school for the next 15 years. He will be remembered as an honest communicator who fought hard and obtained funding for our newly built science block. He was committed to developing other staff and seeing them take on new challenges which is evident when we transition to a new Principal with such a solid leadership team at both campuses.

Mr Newell moves to Auckland were he takes up a role with the Ministry of Education in their property team. Lets hope he smiles at us from Auckland when we apply for our next big property project.

PTA Report

Jo Wilson
PTA Chairperson

Kia Ora from the PTA

Term one is coming to an end, and there is no slowing down. The students and staff are all so busy with a variety of activities, locally, nationally and internationally. For the PTA we are taking stock of our uniform supply. Please note that you can at any time of the year pop along to the Senior Campus and chat with Ainslie if you have any questions around purchasing or selling 2nd hand uniforms. Our next meeting which will be our AGM will be held on Thursday 22nd May. If you have considered joining the PTA pop along and hear about all we do - remember NO FUNDRAISING!! The PTA wishes you all a very happy Easter and safe and fun school holidays.

Kia haumaru, kia ngahau ngā hararei

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.

Thursday 22 May (AGM & meeting)
Thursday 21st August
Thursday 6th November

Whānau Report

He taonga nui te aroha ki te tāngata.
Goodwill towards others is a special treasure.
Ngā mihi o te wā ki a tātou te whānau o Hēmi Hākena.

This term has been packed with special events and occasions. On the 14th of March, our Kapa Haka performed during the Relay for Life at the ILT Stadium. The Kapa was well recieved and their solid, polished performance left the crowd feeling energised and in good spirits for the final few hours of the relay. Two days later, on the 16th of March, many of our students were involved in the dawn blessing and awakening of our new building, the 'Sir Peter Beck Science and Innovation Centre'. This was followed on the 31st of March with the official opening of the building where the visiting dignitaries, including Sir Peter Beck were welcomed with a fierce Haka Pōwhiri, and celebrated with a warm, full rendition of 'Hēmi Hākena'. The day previous saw the first ever hosting by James Hargest College of the Year 5 and 6 inter-school Ki-ō-rahi tournament. Congratulations to the inaugural winners, Hato Hōhepa, St Joseph's School. Some of our students are now preparing for the annual Ngā Manu Kōrero Speech Competition. This is scheduled for the 10th and 11th of June here in Invercargill.

Hei kona mai.

Matua Neitana Tane

Farewell Mike!

Thank you from JHC

Cast your minds back to the beginning of Term 2 2020. Many JC students were just 5 or 6 years old. Seniors might have been in Year 7 or 8. We were all in lock down and the new term started at James Hargest College with a new Principal. We all met Mr Newell in an online google meet when we were learning and working from home.

Some of Mr Newell's own words help to describe what kind of educator he is and what he sees as important for all learners. When he first started here, he talked about Student Wellbeing and said "Student well-being - This is three-fold. Students need to be safe (digitally, physically, socially, mentally/emotionally, culturally/ spiritually) and have a sense of belonging. They need to be engaged in school outside the classroom (sport, productions, choir, kapa haka, service, leadership). In everything we do, I expect students to set themselves high aspirations, work hard to achieve them and take pride in their own success and the success of others." Mr Newell you are a teacher and a leader who believes in people living their best lives in ALL aspects of their life. You encourage us to never settle for less than the best.

Mr Newell is Hamilton House proud and wears a lot of yellow on House Day. Mr Newell is openly competitive and loves a good win - luckily Hamilton has taken out many competitions in the last six years. He was delighted when H9JHX were announced the winners of the benchball competition this year. Yellow House will miss your parochial and at times one eyed support!

We wish you all the very best for your move to Auckland and working for the Ministry of Education. We know that you'll always keep your eye on how well James Hargest is doing and we look forward to keeping up to date with how things are going for you and fingers crossed you might be involved in future JHC property projects!

ILT Academy
Senior Campus

Congratulations to our four students who have been selected into the 2026 Foundation Year of the ILT Academy Southland programme. Well done Maegan, Ella, Elly and Will!

You are all wonderful athletes competing to a very high level in your sport. We know you will make the most of this awesome opportunity to grow and challenge yourselves to aim even higher!The two-year programme provides a range of supports for promising young Southland sportspeople including strength and conditioning, mental skills, athlete life and nutrition.

Previous athletes have all lauded the academy as a fantastic platform for further success.

Environmental Club
Stars Shine at Regional Council

Our school's commitment to sustainability took center stage recently as Luke Payne and Janet Wei represented our Environmental Club at a Regional Council meeting on the 5th of March.

Speaking in such a formal setting can be daunting, but Luke and Janet handled the pressure with remarkable poise. The feedback from Council staff and community members was overwhelmingly positive. Both students spoke clearly and passionately about the club's current projects. When faced with tough questions from the councilors, they responded thoughtfully. They acted as exemplary ambassadors, proving that our rangatahi have a powerful voice in our community. We are incredibly proud of the way Luke and Janet represented our school values.

Ka pai, Luke and Janet!

Academic Prefects 2026

Our role as academic prefects is to help our peers with any queries or questions about their education.

There are five academic prefects for 2026 and we are available to all students whenever we are needed. We understand the stress that schoolwork can cause when you feel like you are falling behind, so we are here to ease that stress and deepen your understanding of any subject!

You can find us in the Study Centre on Tuesdays where we offer assistance with school work and subjects you may be struggling with. All five of us have different academic strengths to ensure that whatever question you may have can be answered. Year 11's in particular will become familiar with us as we will be in your study classes on Wednesday afternoons.

We will ensure that 2026 is a year driven by academic success as we share our knowledge and study tips to all.

JHC

JAMES HARGEST COLLEGE KEEP FAITH

Study Centre

Get **free** help with Maths, English, Science, Physics and Chemistry, or any subject you need a hand with.

Teachers, Librarian and Peer Tutors available to help with homework, research, exam study, classwork

Senior Campus Library
Tuesdays 3.30 - 5.00pm

Afternoon tea provided by the PTA

JAMES HARGEST COLLEGE

Brigadier's Diploma

In 2024 James Hargest College chose to replace NCEA Level One with our own bespoke qualification to better prepare our students for NCEA Level Two and recognise achievement that is consistent with our values. The Brigadier's Diploma provides a framework for assessing students in Year 11 that maintains and protects academic rigour, while incorporationg wider holistic educational goals. Academic performance is the foundation of the award but students are also judged on their Hargest Way grades for effort and respect and are expected to maintain excellent attendence.

Hannah Dick
TOP SCHOLAR
YEAR 11

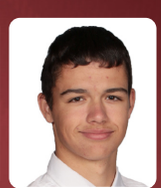
CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Hunter Beck

James Beck

Mercedes Checketts

Enzo Cruz



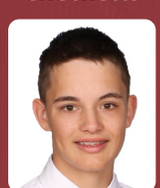
Flynn Cunningham

Haylee Donald

Isaac Elder

Albashiq Elfaki

Zachary Gillies

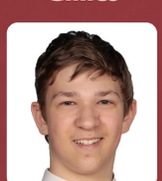


Dexter Mead

Delvern Pillay

Preethi Ravindran

Isabelle Speight



Jonah ten Hoorn Boer

Julia Rodrigues Dantas

The Brigadier's Diploma uses the metaphor of a Tōtara tree to represent the stages of achievement. The premier and highly coveted award is the Tōtara Pounamu. Students were presented with their certificate and very special pounamu badge at a ceremony in front of their peers, whānau and teachers. These students are outstanding in every respect and we are very proud of them.

Celebrating Academic Excellence

In March we held our annual Celebration of Academic Excellence. The formal assembly recognised the highest achievers for our Year 11 students in the Brigadier's Diploma and our Year 12 students in NCEA Level Two.

Brigadier's Diploma 2025

The Brigadier's Diploma is constructed in levels, to acknowledge that at Year 11, many students are still working out what they want to achieve academically, and that this growth can take some time. We have used the metaphor of a Tōtara Tree to represent the stages of achievement. Our beginning diploma, our Kākano is a seed, the beginning of growth, our proficient Diploma, our Mātātipu is beginning to sprout and our Advanced Diploma, our Kōhure, our sapling is growing and changing.

The two Diplomas awarded in front of the Senior School were our Māhuri Tōtara, our outstanding awards and our Tōtara Pounamu awards, the premier award and pinnacle of achievement.

Our Brigadier's Diploma provides the framework against which students are assessed in Year 11. It maintains and protects academic rigour, while incorporating wider holistic educational goals. Students earned consistently high academic grades across the curriculum, they have also kept their Hargest Way Grades for Effort and Respect at the highest levels across all classes and their attendance statistics are superb.

Brigadier's Diploma – Māhuri Award 2025

Katrine Anqui
Jordan Berkers
Ellie-May Boniface
Pfeiffer Colter
Aston Couper
Lucy Crawford
Samantha Erskine
Mason Evans
Abby Graham
Noah Hackett
Sonny Huang
Movindee Kanattha Kankanmalage
Araya Kilgour-Phillips
Boston Kinloch
Vageesha Kohomange
Harris Lindsay
Ana McWilliam
Sophie Meijer
Sophie Merrilees
Carly Nicholls
Torin Owen-Eales
Alicia Purdon
Alex Samson
Diamond Tendean
Elsie Turrell
Samuel Walker
Hugh Walter
Erin Wilkinson
Luca Willis
Hannah Woodcock

Brigadier's Diploma – Tōtara Pounamu Award 2025

Hunter Beck
James Beck
Mercedes Checketts
Enzo Cruz
Flynn Cunningham
Hannah Dick
Haylee Donald
Isaac Elder
Albashiq Elfaki
Zachary Gillies
Dexter Mead
Delvern Pillay
Preethi Ravindran
Julia Rodrigues Dantas
Isabelle Speight
Jonah ten Hoorn Boer

Top Scholar Year 11 2025

Hannah Dick

Overall Excellence Awards Level 2 2025

Overall Excellence endorsements from 2025 were earned by students who achieved 50 Credits at Excellence Level across the curriculum. This is a wonderful achievment and we are very proud of you all.

Year 12:

Krishia Aday
Madeleine Black
Rohan Brown
Lexie Caudwell
Isabella Collins
Isaac Elder
Rashini Fernando
Hasanli Hewa-Barbaranda
Jack Jia
Lara Kerr
Alex Liang
Samantha Lemm
Gemma Mansill
Tilly McDonald
Roxanne Breetzke
Caitlin Crawford
Roisin Dyer
Maddison Johnston
Louis Smith
Natalie Smith
Payton Walker
Aria Emms
Isabel Frost
Benjamin Geilik
Cissie Lung
Matilda Vincent
Olivia Scarlett
David Hardy
Henry Woodward
Sofia Campbell-Wall
Desandi Fonseka
Annie Tran

100 Club 2025

While the national standard of excellence is 50 credits at excellence, the James Hargest College 100 Club is a celebration of our top students. The students who have earned their place in the prestigious 100 Club have managed to earn almost all, if not all of the credits offered in 2025 at Excellence Level.

Year 12
Annie Tran
Emma Steele
David Hardy
Cissie Lung
(L-R)

Sir Peter Beck Science and Innovation Centre

Is officially open - an exciting day for our kura

It was very exciting this week to officially open the Sir Peter Beck Science and Innovation Centre. This significant addition to our school reflects our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality learning environments that support the aspirations, wellbeing, and achievement of our students.

This new building houses eight Science laboratories, five general learning spaces and four breakout areas. It is also the new home of the Student Support Centre, Whare manaaki.

The official opening included a short formal ceremony, followed by the official ribbon cutting by Sir Peter Beck, JHC alumnus and founder of Rocket Lab, an aerospace manufacturer and launch service provider.

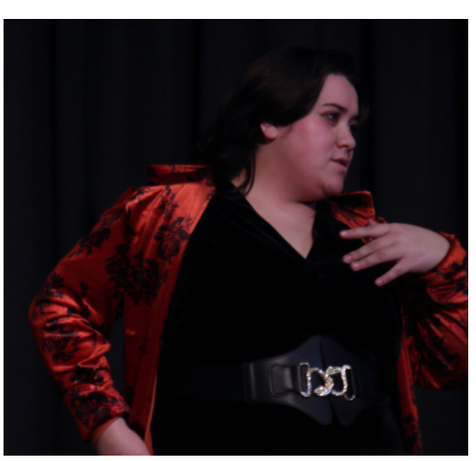
Following the official opening there was an opportunity to share kai and tour the new facilities. An exciting day for our kura now and for the future.

SIR PETER BECK
FOUNDER OF ROCKET LAB
FORMER JAMES HARGEST COLLEGE STUDENT

School Production
Senior Campus

Thank you all for coming and supporting The Olympians 2026!

The show featured a fabulous cast of 60, a live band and lots of great songs from the 80s and 90s and 2000s. The story centred on three goddesses—Artemis, Athena, and Aphrodite—who are frustrated with the male-dominated hierarchy of Mount Olympus and the lack of rights for women in ancient Greek society. To change the narrative, they initiate a competition to identify the greatest tool for female advancement: a top-notch mind (Athena), a loving heart (Aphrodite), or a fighting spirit (Artemis). Each goddess selects a mortal girl to champion and sets these mortals on treacherous quests to prove their respective strengths. Featuring Spartans, Greek scholars, mere mortals, goats and Lotus Eaters, it was a great show!



Kayak Camp
Senior Outdoor Recreation

To wrap up our Outdoor Rec kayak unit, two groups of us headed to Mavora Lakes for an awesome overnight camp. The main mission was earning our credits, which meant we had to intentionally flip our kayaks in the freezing water and prove we could get back up safely.
It was pretty tough, and while some people managed to pass the assessment, others didn't quite get there but built up their confidence.

Our instructor, Nick, led us down the river connecting the two lakes, but the absolute highlight of the trip was at the S-bend. We found a steep dirt hill and spent our time sliding down it at full speed straight into the river. Staying the night was a cool way to finish the topic, and it was a great experience for everyone who went

By Alex Borrie, Case Jordan and Charlie Wright

Ōmaui camps

Year 7

We had a fantastic time at the Year 7 Ōmaui camps and are incredibly grateful to have our new bike trailer, which has enabled all our students to enjoy biking as part of our camp programme. It has also been well utilised by our rowing crew during a recent regatta in Twizel. This fabulous asset was made possible due to the support of our James Hargest PTA, Nemesys South, Phase Control Ltd and Junior Campus fundraising.

Physio Clinic

Senior Campus

Twice a week SportsMed runs a Physio Clinic at the Senior Campus for injuries covered by ACC. Please contact Jo Bremner in Student Admin to make an appointment: attendance@jameshargest.school.nz

FREE

Period Products

JHC has opted into the Period Products in Schools programme. Students can access these products from sickbay or the front office. If your would like us to prepare a package for you to collect, please email: office@jameshargest.school.nz

Bench Ball

Year 9

The Year 9 Bench Ball Competition is, as always, a highlight for the Year 9 Form Classes as they get to show off their skills against each other. It's great to see the tactics and competition develop over the games.

This is a fun competition as Year 13 Peer Support students and Form Teachers also join in - sometimes it seems like the Form Teachers are more competitive than the students! The competition wrapped up spectacularly with a hard-fought final between W9CSF and H9JHX.

A big congratulations to TH9HX for taking out the overall win! The Year 13s finally got to step in and verse the staff to wrap up what has been an amazing few weeks of Bench Ball.

It was a battle of youthful speed versus veteran strategy.

With sweat dripping, flying teachers, smiles, laughs, and some very competitive people, the Staff held their nerve to secure a hard-earned victory. A huge thanks to the Year 9s for their energy throughout the competition, the Year 13s and Form Teachers.

Will the Year 13s secure victory over the teachers next time? Teachers 1 - Year 13's - 0.

Duke of Ed

Bronze Masters

Huge congratulations to Lucas Masters, Benjamin Elder, Ave Valoa-Jack, Evie Randall and Nathan Alcock on achieving your Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award!

From mastering new skills to navigating the great outdoors, you've shown incredible dedication and resilience. This is just the beginning of your journey—wear that badge with pride!

Huge congratulations to Samuel Walker on achieving your Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award! Stepping up from Bronze is no easy task, and you've shown incredible growth, leadership, and stamina. You should be immensely proud of the impact you've made through your volunteering and the resilience you showed on the trail.

Well done!

Southland Schools Swimming Championships

It was a fantastic morning at the pool for our amazing Hargest swimmers at the Southland Schools Swimming Championships, with some great results you can all be proud of!

Whānau Kōrero

Responding to peer pressure is a natural part of growing up. As children and adolescents place greater importance on friendships and belonging, the influence of peers can shape their choices, behaviour and sense of identity. While this influence can be positive, it can also create pressure to conform or take risks, particularly during adolescence.

In today's digitally connected world, peer pressure extends beyond face-to-face interactions. Social media and online communication expose young people to constant comparison and unspoken expectations about how they should look, act and perform. Understanding how peer pressure works, both on and offline, helps families support young people to build confidence, make healthy decisions and stay connected to their own values.

Here is the link to this Special Report http://jameshargest.nz.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-responding-peer-pressure-nz

New Zealand Marching Championships

Under 13

Ella McMurtrie, Harper Ayto, Skyler Manson, Imahni Vailoaloa de-Thierry and Lilly Garrett and their marching team Southern Stars Under 13, competed at the New Zealand Marching National Championships in Wellington.

Over 30 teams competed across four grades in a two day Championship, all aiming to be crowned the New Zealand champion in their respective grades. Southern Stars Under 13 was awarded Champion Display Team, 3rd champion technical team and 3rd overall New Zealand Champion Team. An achievement reflective of the hard work and dedication these girls have had to the sport of marching.

Footnote Dance Company

Senior Campus

Footnote Dance Company from Wellington came to JHC recently for a workshop with two of their professional dancers, Jemima and Airu. It was a fabulous afternoon of creativity and talent!

Spain Trip

Buen viaje y que se diviertan!

Hola!

Since our trip was confirmed in mid-2025, we have poured our hearts and souls into fundraising for this incredible journey to Spain. What started as a distant goal in March 2026 is finally a reality, and we can hardly believe the time has arrived to set off on our adventure. We are buzzing with excitement to explore Spain's major cities and, most importantly, to spend three weeks immersed in the local culture of Priego de Córdoba, a stunning town famous for its whitewashed walls, flower-filled streets, and world-class olive oil.

Our path to Spain was paved with plenty of hard work - from cheese rolls making to the consistent sausage sizzles, lively Jingo and Housie nights, and brave mornings at the Southland Sunday market selling everything from handmade flowers to cards.
Now, as we prepare to depart, we look back on those wind-swept mornings and marathon cooking sessions with pride. Every dollar raised has brought us closer to our adventure and the chance to experience the heart of Spain firsthand.

We have so many companies and individuals to thank. We could not have achieved this without your support.

Makarewa Lions Club, Agricentre South Ltd, Real Journeys, ILT , Highlands Park, Shotover Jet, Windsor Wines, Mel Larson - Artist, Jump n Fun, South Pole Dance, GAS Petrol Service Stations, Wallacetown Motors, NAPA, Houseworkers Cleaning Service, Uniquely nailed by Mel, Cut the crap, Prime range, Wildwood Sauna - Te Anau, Fonterra, Findex, Rabco, Mitre10 Mega, E Hayes and Sons,Waikiwi Tavern, Exceed Homes Ltd, Escape Glass, Solve it, Splash Palace, Azurite, Vibes, Gordon and Barbara Smith and Ainslie Bruce - Riverton Crib, Dianne Todd. - Mayflower Cottage, Te Anau , Paula King - Rose Cottage, Wanaka, Wayne Harding and Burt Munro Challenge

Nicky Moreton, Lorie McDonald, Donna Henderson and Kris Horton for accounts assistance at JHC. Also, to Señorita Fernandez for the many hours and sleepless nights planning the entire trip. We can not thank you enough.

To all the family, friends and colleagues we thank you for your support.

National Clubsport Championships
Senior Campus

Congratulations Blake Cooper! Blake competed in the National Clubsport Championships held in Ashburton and came away with the National Clubsport Junior Championship title. Awesome mahi Blake!

3 Peaks Mountain Race

Lewis Blay won the U20 category in the 3 Peaks 26km mountain run race. He finished 6th overall in a very tough race which covers 26km with 1400m of elevation.

Massive effort!

Named after the three peaks of Flagstaff/ Te Whanaupaki (668m), Swampy/ Whāwhāraupō (739m) and Mt Cargill/ Kapuketaumahaka (676m), the 3 Peaks takes runners and walkers up some of Ōtepoti, Dunedin's most beautiful trails through lush native bush where they are rewarded with incredible panoramic views.

Congratulations Lewis!

BMX Nationals

Recently, Mason Jeffcoate from the Jnr Campus headed North for the BMX Nationals in Te Awamutu.

Mason had a great time competing in 2 full weekends of racing the top Boys in the country. Unfortunately, after 6 points round he just missed the cut for Quarter finals. Mason will keep training and have another go next year!

Did you know that Invercargill has one of the best BMX tracks in the country? BMX is always keen to engage with new riders, so if you are a James Hargest College student who is interested in giving BMX a go, please contact Mr Brodie at the Jnr Campus for more details.

Road Patrol
Junior Campus

Check out the Junior Campus road patrollers getting all equipped and ready for action.

Thank you to those tamariki who have signed up, you make a huge difference and offered to help out with the crossing duties.

First Foundation Scholarships

Every young kiwi deserves the same opportunities. Unleash your potential with life-changing education and support. Socio-economic status shouldn't stop young people from achieving their dreams. Many bright students simply don't have the financial resources and professional networks most people rely on to get started in their careers.
First Foundation provides targeted support in Financial, Mentoring and Paid Work Experience areas.

Visit https://firstfoundation.org.nz/ for eligibility criteria and information.

MAHI that matters

FIRST FOUNDATION

Junior Campus Road Patrol Parent Helpers

Thank you to the wonderful parents who have offered to help our road patrol teams. There are plenty of spots still open for any other parents who wish to help us either before or after school.

If this interests you please contact Kristine Simpson on: ksimpson@jameshargest.school.nz

Visual Art - Module 1
Junior Campus

Great to see our visual artists in action at the Junior Campus!

WANTED -
Clean house-hold plastic containers/packaging just like the ones you would put in your recycle bin! Small cardboard boxes and tubes greatfully received also. Drop off at the Junior Campus office anytime. Just say they are for the art room.

Navigating the Future:

A Community Update on Artificial Intelligence

As we continue to prepare our students for a rapidly changing world, the role of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) has become part of our teaching and learning at Hēmi Hakena.

In 2025, a small staff team began leading and co-ordinating JHC's response to the ongoing challenge of how to manage the rapid development of AI technology, with Miss Laura Turner as the Teacher in Charge. In Term Four we surveyed our students and staff to better understand how they are interacting with these tools and the challenges our community is facing.

What Our Students Are Telling Us

While many students are curious and exploring A.I., two main themes emerged that require our collective attention:

The Authenticity Gap:

Some students, particularly between Year 7 - 10, are struggling to distinguish between using A.I. as a "tutor" to help them learn and instead use it to generate work that they then present as their own.

The Confidence Trap:

A significant number of students are unaware that A.I. can frequently be incorrect. This was most evident between Year 7 - 10. Because A.I. writes with such authority, students often take its "hallucinations" (made-up facts) as truth without cross-checking sources.

Our School Policy: The Traffic Light System

To help students navigate the use of A.I. in assessments we introduced an A.I. Traffic Light System in 2025. This helps give our students guidance into when it is appropriate to use A.I. for classwork. This has been beneficial for our Year 12 - 13 students sitting NCEA assessments, but will be used more widely across the school in 2026.

No A.I. use permitted for this task.

A.I. can be used for brainstorming or structuring, but the final output must be the student's own words and all A.I. use must be cited.

A.I. tools are encouraged to enhance the final product.

A.I. and the Developing Brain

While A.I. is an incredible tool for efficiency, we must be mindful of its impact on young brains. Adolescence is a critical period for developing "cognitive muscle."

When students rely on A.I. to do the heavy lifting of summarising, analysing, or writing, they skip the "productive struggle" that builds critical thinking, memory, and problem-solving skills. Just as a physical muscle needs resistance to grow, a brain needs to do the hard work of thinking to develop the neural pathways required for higher-level learning.

How You Can Help at Home

We want our students to be "A.I. literate," not "A.I. dependent." Here is how you can support your child with their homework and schoolwork:

Ask to see the prompt:

If they are using A.I., ask them what they asked the tool. Encourage them to use it for explanations (e.g., "Explain the Water Cycle to a 13-year-old") rather than for writing the essay.

Fact-Check Together:

If they get information from an A.I., challenge them to find a reliable website or book that confirms it.

Focus on the "Draft"

Encourage them to write their first draft without any tech, using A.I. only at the end to help check for grammar or to suggest ways to make a sentence clearer.

Data/Privacy:

We strongly recommend that if students are using A.I., they only use Gemini while signed into their school Google account. Our school-managed accounts provide a "walled garden" of privacy: student data is not used to train A.I. models, is not human-reviewed, and is not shared with third parties.

Our JHC Authenticity Policy remains clear: work submitted for assessment must be the student's own. For NCEA and internal credits, presenting A.I.generated content as original work is considered a breach of assessment rules and can have serious consequences.
Our staff are committed to model ethical A.I. use and ensure that all communications reflect their authentic voice.

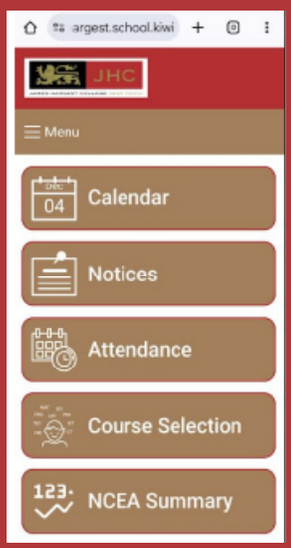
A Message from ERO

ERO's research centre wants to hear from parents and whānau about your experience at the school, as part of a project about supporting schools across the country. Here is the link to a 3-min survey: School supports and interventions - Parent and Whānau survey
Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to ensure our students use technology safely, ethically, and effectively.
The A.I. Lead Team

School App and Portal

Using the portal enables you to keep up to date with the following aspects of your child's education:

- School reports
- Absences and timetables
- School daily notices
- Academic results including NCEA results
- Contact details
- Account information



The portal can be accessed by both apple and android devices, or a direct web address: **https://jameshargest.school.kiwi/**

Instructions for logging in have been sent via email.

Once you are logged in:
On an Android device click on the three bars in the top right and choose "Add to Home Screen"

On a Apple device, click on and "Add to Home Screen".

SchoolAppsNZ is an app that allows you to report your child is going to be absent from school (please remember to give the reason), as well as links to the portal, daily notices, school alerts, and news. Download SchoolAppsNZ and choose James Hargest College.

Term Dates for 2026

Term 1:

Wednesday 1 April: Last day of Term 1
Thursday 2 April: Teacher Only Day - both campuses

Term 2:

Monday 20 April: Start of Term 2

Monday 27 April: Anzac Day – school closed

Monday 1 June: King's Birthday – school closed

Friday 3 July: Last day of Term 2

Term 3:

Monday 20 July: Start of Term 3

Friday 27 September: Last day of Term 3

Term 4:

Monday 12 October: Start of Term 4

JAMES HARGEST COLLEGE

JHC PTA

WANT TO HAVE YOUR SAY?
JOIN THE PTA!

- 1 MEETING PER TERM
- 1 AGM PER YEAR
- 1 OPEN DAY PER YEAR
- 2 UNIFORM 'BUY & SELLS' PER YEAR

NO FUNDRAISING!

JHC PTA IS FUNDED BY A $15 DONATION PER STUDENT, PER YEAR

JHC
JAMES HARGEST COLLEGE KEEP FAITH

2026 NZ Track & Field Championship

James Hargest College athletes were a part of the Southland team at the 2026 NZ Track and Field Championships in Auckland. Congratulations on your outstanding performances!

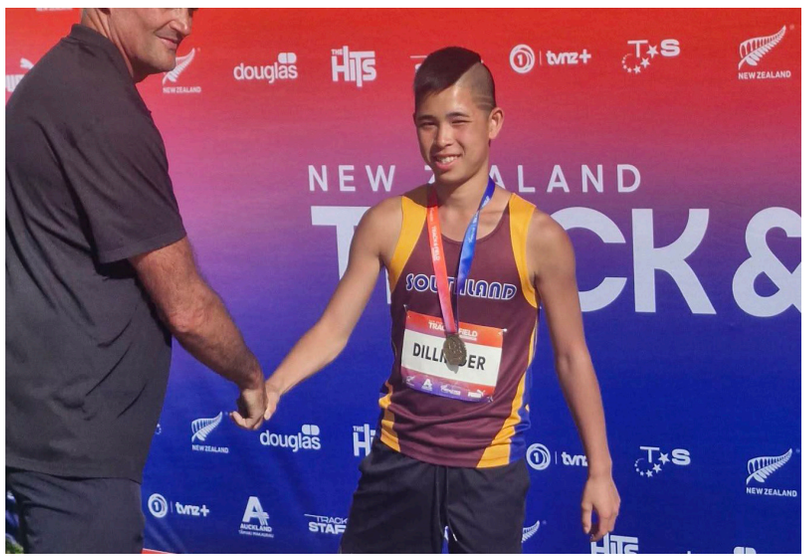
Jonti Dillinger
U17 Para 100m - NZ record
U17 Para 200m
U17 Para LJ
U20 Para LJ, breaking his own NZ record twice.

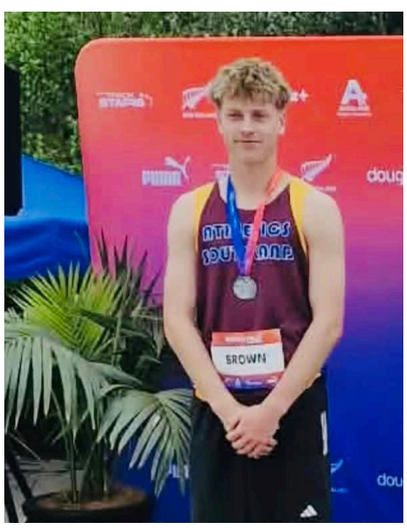
Ashlee Clay
U16 HJ
U16 LJ

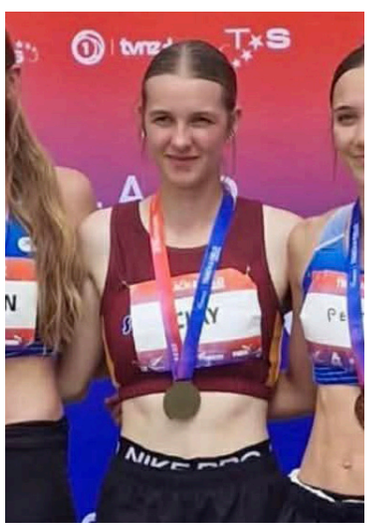
Will Brown
U18 HJ
6th U18 LJ

Cayden Sanginiti
5th U18 2000m Steeplchase
18th U18 3000m

Cora O'Rourke
7th U18 Triple Jump







Sense Rugby

Sense Rugby is specifically designed to support neurodiverse children and those who may find traditional sports environments challenging. The programme focuses on creating a fun, structured, and inclusive environment where kids can enjoy physical activity while building important life skills.

Some of the key benefits for Kiwi kids include:
- Improved motor skills and coordination through rugby-based activities
- Social connection and teamwork in a supportive setting
  Confidence and resilience building through achievable challenges
- Sensory-aware coaching approaches that support children with different needs

Summer Sports Tournament Week

Softball

It was a tough first day at the office, especially as the team were a mixed team playing in the Boys grade.
The team played really well but sadly the results weren't reflective of how well they played. Flynn had a fantastic day with the bat. A great catch was taken by Angus and top fielding by the team. Theo, Jed and Eden also took catches. Flynn, Jamie and Jed all had a go at pitching. As the tournament continued, the team grew in confidence and the results improved too! Well done team.

Cricket

Well what a game! In the final of the Year 9/10 tournament, Hargest played Trinity from Dunedin. Trinity batted first and were all out for 179. In reply Hargest, led by Will G-F with 95 finished on 179. So the spoils were shared - a tie to finish two great days of cricket. Well done to the team on their efforts!

Surfing

Southland Secondary School Competition

Congratulations to all of the students who competed at the Southland Secondary School Surfing Champs recently, and a big thanks to Marcia Oliver who acted as the Manager for the team at Colac Bay.
The group achieved some great results:

Carter Oliver - 2nd U18 Boys competition and 4th Longboard Boys
Emily Wheeler - 2nd U18 Girls competition
Maggie Kennedy - 1st U16 Girls competition
Emily Hewett - 2nd U16 Girls competition
Well done team!

South Island Long Course Swimming Championships

Christchurch 13th-15th March

Londyn Dillinger - Multi Class female
1st 50m free
2nd 50m back
2nd 50m butterfly
2nd 100m back

Olivia Johnson
1st - 200m Butterfly
2nd - 400m Individual Medley
5th - 200m Individual Medley
8th - 200m Breaststroke
8th - 50m Backstroke

Benjamin Elder 12-14 years male
1st 50m backstroke
1st 200m backstroke
3rd 50m freestyle
3rd 100m freestyle
3rd 200m freestyle
3rd 400m freestyle

Elsie Turrell 15-16 years female
4th 400m
4th 1500m freestyle

Alexandria Curtis 12-14 years female
4th 50m back
5th 200m back
5th 100m back
6th 100m free
7th 50m free

Caitlin Crawford 17 & over female
4th 100m back
4th 100m free
5th 50m free
5th 100m butterfly
7th 50m butterfly

Sam Tengco 12-14 years male 3rd
50m breaststroke
6th 100m breaststroke
6th 200m breaststroke
10th 100m freestyle

Maddox Forrester 15-16 years male
3rd 50m backstroke
4th 100 backstroke
7th 50m freestyle
8th 200m backstroke

Theo Paganelli 12-14 years male
10th 100m backstroke

Southland Primary Athletics

Junior Campus

What an amazing, sunny day out it was on Saturday 21st March watching our JHC students compete at the Southland Primary Athletics Sports Day. All students displayed 'The Hargest Way', giving their events 100% effort, and showing a high level of sportsmanship towards their competitors. We had some amazing results throughout the day, with many placing in the top 3 for their age group. A massive effort from our JHC team. Ka pai!

GOLD
George Ramsay - 800m - 12B
Pyper Wilson - Discus - 11G
George Ramsay - Discus - 12B
Ned Thomson - 200m - 10B
Mia Kerr - Long Jump - 11G
Maia Shanks - High Jump - 12G
Maia Shanks - 100m - 12G
Maia Shanks - Long Jump - 12G
Charlotte Main - Discus - 12G
Jestone Refamonte - Long Jump - 12B
Charlotte Main - Nerf - 12G
Sean Iversen - 1500m - 12B

SILVER
Sean Iversen - 800m - 12B
Oliver Goad - Nerf - 11B
Izzy Grout - Shot Put - 11G
James Low - Long Jump - 11B
Emma-Grace Elder - High Jump - 11G

BRONZE
Cade Maxwell - 800m - 11B
Izzy Grout - Nerf - 11G
Jestone Refamonte - 100m - 12B
Mia Kerr - 100m - 11G
12B Relay team

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 & 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/

NZ Secondary Schools Triathlon

Tauranga

Unfortunately the weather in Tauranga did not allow for our travelling athletes to complete the triathlon this week, however they were able to hold an aquathon. Well done to All the Hargest athletes on your results in these events. No doubt it was testing in those conditions, so much respect to you all for getting out there and nailing it!

HARGEST STUDY

Senior Campus Library
Tuesdays 3.30 - 5.00pm

Get FREE help with Maths, English, Science, Physics and Chemistry, or any subject you need a hand with. Teachers, Librarian and Peer Tutors available to help with homework, research, exam study, and classwork.

Afternoon tea provided by the PTA.

BUSHCRAFT & SURVIVAL SKILLS
Holiday Experiences

CHILD VS WILD [5 Days]
7 to 13 year olds
Invercargill
9am to 3pm
13th April to 17th April 2026
An Adventure quest in different locations. Children spend four days learning and acquiring bushcraft and survival skills ready to be tested on the final day in a teamwork survival challenge.

BUSH KIDS [1 Day]
5 to 16 year olds
Invercargill & Gore
9am to 3pm
Wednesday 8th April - GORE
Friday 10th April - Invercargill
One day of bushcraft and survival skills

Advanced fire starting, knife skills, carving, exploring the bush, finding your way, building shelters, cooking over flames, first aid in the wild, plant uses, foraging.
Every day feels different, shaped by the weather, the place and the season.

NATURAL CREATORS [1 Day]
5 to 16 year olds
Invercargill
9am to 3pm
9th April 2026
A one day **creative cooking** experience on a farmlet preparing nourishing meals from scratch. Children will come home enthused, feeling capable and independent as well as having enjoyed feeding the goats and chickens.

WILD & GAME [1 Day]
11to 16 year olds
Invercargill
10am to 3pm
Saturday 11th April 2026
A day of connection around the fire, preparing and cooking hunted and gathered foods. Learn how to skin and butcher animals, build hands-on bush skills, and taste a range of nourishing kai. A day just for the older children.

www.trueinnature.com Katie: 0226381497

Maadi Cup
2026

It was an exhilarating week on the water for our James Hargest rowing crew at the National Maadi Cup in Twizel from the 23rd-28th of March. Surrounded by the stunning scenery of Lake Ruataniwha, our girls represented the school with immense pride, showing that success is measured not just in finals' results but in resilience and team spirit.

Racing Highlights
The competition was fierce, with our athletes navigating a rollercoaster of heats, repechages, and finals. The girls pushed through some incredibly tough races, achieving several personal bests (PBs) along the way.

Notable performances included:
U18 Double Sculls duo, Lilah and Madison, delivered a dominant performance in their C Final, rowing home comfortably in 1st place.
Lilah (U18 Singles) showed incredible stamina, placing 2nd in her heat and battling through the Quarter and Semi-finals to secure a spot in Saturday's B final.
U16 Coxed Quad, Averil, Tizi, Trinity, Ellie-May, and Sophie, claimed a fantastic 3rd place in their D Final.
Averil and Ellie-May (U16 Doubles) earned a strong 4th place in their C Final.

If there were an official trophy for team spirit, our crew would have won it hands down! Throughout the week, the girls were constantly down at the waterfront, cheering on their teammates and even supporting competitors from other schools.

One of the week's highlights was the Coxswains' Race, which perfectly captured this sense of community. Valerie and Ave teamed up with girls from Waitaki Girls to form a composite quad. With Tizi at the helm as coxswain, the girls showed impressive timing and coordination—a feat made even more amazing given how little time they'd spent rowing together!

A huge thank you to the coaches, parents, and supporters who made this trip possible.

Football Otago Youth Development Academy Trust

Spain

Four James Hargest College students have embarked on a football journey like no other. Part of the FOYDAT (Football Otago Youth Development Academy Trust) they have gone to Villarreal, Spain to take part in the Villarreal CF Easter Yellow Cup. This tournament brings together over 4000 players from 101 different countries from around the world for 4 days of football, friendship and passion. JHC is extremely proud of these young men, who have worked incredibly hard to gain their selection into this squad, and wish them the best of luck as they jet off on an incredible football experience! Pictured L-R Samuel Jack, Cohen Cameron, Joaquim Bortolan and Samuel Ramsay.

Winton Golf Champs

Senior School

What an awesome day at the Winton Golf Champs!

We were treated to stunning weather, a fantastic course, and over 100 enthusiastic players giving it their all.
A huge shout-out to the amazing volunteers and Eagles crew whose passion, knowledge, and support helped make the event run well.

Special congratulations to Corbin James who won the best net score in the 18 hole competition; and Flynn,Cooper, and Lincoln (L-R) who placed second in the Ambrose.

A massive thank you to Winton Golf Club for the use of their beautiful course — it was the perfect venue for such a great day. And of course, thanks to Liam & Simon from Golf Southland for their organisation, and to all the Winton Golf Club member volunteers who helped make the event a success for everyone involved.

Active South

Year 5-6 Kī-o-Rahi tournament

Chloe Savage and Greg Houkamu from Active South came to JHC to work with rangatahi in preparation for in the year 5-6 ki o rahi tournament held at JHC. While it was a little wet, it was so much fun and skills improved dramatically over the day.

JHC Pipe Band

Our JHC Pipe Band providing the goods for the opening of our new Sir Peter Beck Science and Innovation Centre

Lol Corner

Natalie's joke of the month

What do you say to a Llama who wants to go on a picnic?
Alpaca lunch.

Parent Education Programmes

Family Works | Parenting Programme

Parenting and caring for children can be challenging and we all need support and encouragement to be the great parents we want to be. Family Works has a range of free programmes that can do just that.

Our Parenting Programme gives parenting strategies and other useful information in a fun and positive way. For parents/caregivers who have children aged 0 -18 years, 8 sessions.

Where: Family Works, 183 Spey Street, Invercargill

When: Wednesday 6th May – Wednesday 24th June 2026
Total 8 sessions

Time: 6pm – 8pm
Supper provided

Cost: Free

Contact: Nicole, programmes coordinator on
03 211 8272 or 027 223 1417
email pp@familyworkssld.nz

School App
Free download from the respective app stores

Download School Apps NZ and select James Hargest College

Junior Campus
6 Layard Street, Invercargill
Email: juniorcampus@jameshargest.school.nz

Senior Campus
288 Layard Street, Invercargill
Email: office@jameshargest.school.nz

Website
www.jameshargest.school.nz

Phone
03 217 6129

Parent, Caregiver, Whānau and Community Engagement

At James Hargest College we are always interested in engaging with our community and listening to parents, whanau 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 4 April 2025.
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

April

Thurs	2	Teacher Only Day - School Closed
Mon	20	Term 2 begins
Fri	24	International Friendship Club - Ice Skating
Sat	25	ANZAC Day
Mon	27	ANZAC Day Observed
Thurs	30	Culture Day
		Enviro Camp

May

Mon	4	Dunedin Tertiary Day
Fri	8	Taonga Puora preparation
Mon	11	RYDA Year 12 Students
Wed	13	Southland Cross Country
Tues	14	Author - Brian Falkner visiting
Fri	22	Show Quest
Wed	29	JHC Cross Country

June

Mon	1	King's Birthday
Wed	3	Wakatipu Exchange
Tues	9	Big Sing
		Manu Kōrero
Fri	19	Southland Chess Tournament
Fri	26	The Sing Thing

July

Fri	3	Last Day of Term

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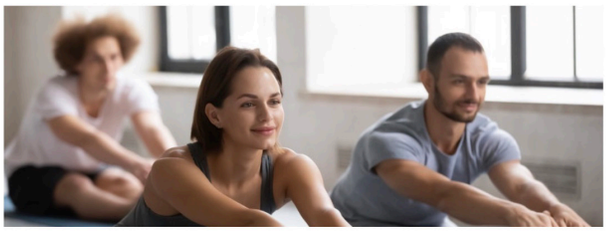

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