



Liston College

School Newsletter #1, 2026

5 February 2026

Principal's Message:

Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Malo e lelei,

Liston Man - Man of Presence

A warm welcome to our new and returning Liston families and students as we begin 2026. It has been great to have the boys back, safe and sound after the summer break.

Alongside several important welcoming and induction events over the past two weeks, the year has begun with a calm and engaged focus on teaching and learning. At Liston, we start the year early to emphasise the importance of establishing strong learning habits and routines within the school.

Amongst the learning, we have spoken as a staff and with the boys about what it means to begin the year living our first school value "Presence". We believe Liston is unique and has something special to protect and enhance. Understanding how we can live in the spiritual presence of Christ is the beginning of what it means to be a Liston Man - and live inside Liston's uniqueness.

Parents and caregivers, our deep gratitude for your partnership in education at Liston for your sons, and especially helping us to articulate and model to the boys what it means to live in this "Christ like Presence" as a Liston community member.

- A big congratulations to our 2025 Year 13 students and all of our 55 teachers for securing a third successive year of a University Entrance rate above 90%.
- Thank you to the staff and student leaders for organisation of our start of year events, including the opening of our new Year 7 classrooms.
- Well done to those Year 13 boys named in our 2026 Prefect team.

I te moemoea o Edmund Rice

Steve Dooley

Upcoming Events:

- Friday, 6 February Waitangi Day (No School)
- Monday, 9 February Class Photos – Students must wear full & correct school uniform
- Friday, 13 February Athletics Day – Full School
- Monday, 16 February New Students & Parents BBQ (6.00pm start)
- Tuesday, 17 February Inaugural Mass – Full School (to be held at St Dominic’s College)
- Friday, 20 February Athletics Day – Finals
- Friday, 13 March Study from Home Afternoon (school will close at 12.15pm)
- Monday, 16 March FiaFia Night at Liston
- 18 – 21 March ASB Polyfest
- Thursday, 2 April Term 1, 2026 Ends (3.00pm)
- Monday, 20 April Term 2 Begins (8.45am)

2026 Student Leaders:

Congratulations to our 2026 Student Leaders – we are so proud of you and know you will make an outstanding contribution to Liston College this year.

- Maua Faumuina - Head Boy
- Edward Mafi - Deputy Head Boy
- Riley Wang - Deputy Head Boy
- Kingston Hansell - Deputy Head Boy
- Henry Valete
- Toby Hall
- Seb Grey
- Tuakoi Ahio
- Kaitanu Leota
- William Winter
- Cody Lau
- Valeli Onesi
- Ezra Tevega
- Yohan Vattamkandathil Basil
- Chicco Baldovino
- Keenan Dunn
- Luca Botticelli

2026 Academic Summary:

Liston College's academic results remained strong in 2025 at 91% University Entrance (UE). This consistency is due to our strong teachers and our embedded system of academic tracking.

This is Liston College's third year in a row with over 90% University Entrance rate.

- **91% in 2025**
- 93% in 2024
- 90% in 2023

Within this result is the embedment of graduate outcomes for our Pacific Peoples communities with 92% Pacific students gaining University Entrance. This is more than double the 44.5% national result.

Consistent academic results with embedded systems indicate there is a strong academic culture growing at Liston College, where high expectations, teacher expertise and values-driven messaging are bringing the best out of our young Liston men.

Mihi Whakatau:



On Friday, 30 January, we welcomed our new students, whānau, and teachers with a pōwhiri. The haka pōwhiri was led by our Takai Puni boys, with Beau Stunzner leading the wero and Te Ruia Shepherd leading the Karakia. Many thanks to Matua Gerry for the kaikōrero and Mr Vakauta for his mihi. It was a lovely event enjoyed by all.

Welcome to Liston to all of our new students for 2026.

(Thank you to Toby Hall (Y13) for the photos)

New Classroom Block Opening:



On Wednesday, 28 January, we officially opened our new Year 7 classroom block, named after Liston College's previous long-standing Principal, Mr Chris Rooney. We were very lucky to have our school Chaplain, Father Andrew Matthew blessing the building, along with Aleesha Tia Tauga, who led a mihi on behalf of our local iwi, Te Kawerau ā Maki.

Study From Home Afternoon:

Please note that there will be a Student Study afternoon on Friday, 13 March. This is to allow all Liston College staff to attend an afternoon of professional development with our local Iwi.

School will close at 12.15pm and students will be asked to study from home for the afternoon.

If your son is not able to study at home on this day, please email Sam Knowles (Assistant Principal) (sam.knowles@liston.school.nz) and we will try and work with you to make an alternative arrangement.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Polyfest 2026:

Liston College has done very well at Polyfest in recent years, and we are very excited for Polyfest 2026!

If you are interested in being a part of a Polyfest group, please contact Mr Hickey for the Samoan Group (johannas.hickey@liston.school.nz) and Mr Manu for the Tongan Group (limi.manu@liston.school.nz) asap.



Year 7 Class of 2026:

It's been two successful short weeks for our new Year 7 students who recently joined our school community. They've connected with their new classmates alongside their form teachers; Mr Nofoaiga (7J), Mr Gayfer (7K), Mr Miller (7L), Mrs Pascariu (7M), Ms Sharp (7N) and have been immersed in their various subject areas.

I'd like to commend the boys on their level of engagement throughout this week. Seeing them beginning to learn and act upon our school values is a testament to their commitment to their personal journey to becoming a Liston man.

Many boys have signed up to be involved in extra-curricular or are eagerly keeping an eye on our school notices for trials, lessons or when their season begins. It's a great start to embracing everything that Liston College has on offer during the next seven years of their school career.

A few reminders for parents/caregivers:

- Please name all student property and uniform.
- We encourage you to support your son to organise himself for the school day by checking his timetable and diary daily.
- Class and ID photos on Monday, 9 February. Please be prepared wearing correct school uniform. Year 7s will be taken from 8:55am in the gym.
- Your son will be assigned a schoolhouse and PE teachers will confirm uniform requirements on Monday next week.
- New Parent BBQ begins at 6pm on Monday, 16 February. Further details will be sent shortly.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Noho ora mai,

Miss Andrews - Intermediate Dean

(Thank you to Toby Hall (Y13) for the photos)



Mr Nofoaiga (7J)



Mr Gayfer (7K)



Mr Miller (7L)



Mrs Pascariu (7M)



Mrs Sharp (7N)

International Department:

We welcome new and returning internationals from various parts of China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Japan this term, from years 7-13.

Our long-term students are busy setting goals for the year and our short-term students are learning to interpret English spoken with a 'Kiwi' accent (which can be tiring on the brain)!



A big thank you to our 'at-school' buddies, and homestay families in the community who are helping these students to adjust to life in New Zealand, to explore Auckland, and to join in activities at Liston College.

If anyone would like to be a host family for future students, please email tanya.corrigan@liston.school.nz

Sports Notices:

Football:

- Senior Football Trials are Monday, 16 February, 3.15pm - 4.30pm for the 2nd XI, Under 15, Under 14 and Under 13A teams
- Year 7 and 8 Football Academy Trials are Monday, 9 February, 3.15pm - 4.30pm. The AIMS team will be selected from this academy.

Rock Climbing:

- If you would like to join the Liston College Rock Climbing team this year please sign up in PE1/ Sports Office.

Waterpolo:

- If you would like to play for the Senior Waterpolo team for Term 1, please see Mr Baker in the Sports Office to sign up.

Wrestling:

- Wrestling training in the gym every Thursday, 3.00pm - 4.30pm starting 12 February.
- It is a great way to stay active, improve your rugby tackling, and improve your fitness. No experience needed. Just come to a training and give it a go.

Intermediate Rugby:

- AIMS and Academy trials Tuesday, 10 February and Thursday, 12 February, 3.15pm - 4.30pm.

Futsal:

- Anyone wanting to play junior or senior Futsal to come and see Mr Uhlmann in PE1.

Lawn Bowls:

- If you would like to enter the upcoming Lawn Bowls Pairs tournament, see Mr Semmons to register your interest.
- There is a Lawn Bowls session on the Turf at Lunchtimes on Thursdays starting this week.

Power Lifting:

- Power lifting sessions are on in the weights shed on Wednesdays and Fridays after school at 3.10pm.
- If you are interested in being in the power lifting group, please contact either Dr. Dawson or Mr. Semmons. No experience necessary. We will teach you the correct form and help plan a program for you. Come along and see what we do, you are welcome to check it out!

Property Growth Updates:

The gymnasium build has made significant progress over the holiday break. Cassidy Construction continues work on the structural ground beams, preparing the building for concrete floor pours and precast panel installation.

Significant progress has also been made around the existing pavilion and the new landscaped area leading to the gym. Once completed, this transformed space will provide a usable area year-round, featuring water fountains, turf, bench seating, and louvre shelters.

