



19th January 2026

Ngā mihi o te tau hau //happy new year

Welcome to 2026. I hope that you and your whānau have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer so far.

Overleaf are the key dates for the start of 2026 at Nelson College. This follows the letter sent in December last year and is the same as the information available on our website. You can find this information at [general Information | Nelson College](#), on our website.

I look forward to seeing your son(s) at the college and getting the most of his time at Nelson College through 2026.

Ngā mihi nui,

Richard Washington
Principal/Tumuaki

School Dates

website: [Nelson College General Information](#)

Week 0: Course Confirmation

Senior students (years 10-13) may need to attend one of the course confirmation days to finalise their course selection (timetable) for 2026 if they have a clash of subjects. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to provide all students with their preferred subject choices.

To assist with this process, we will set up in-person or online interviews using the online parent-teacher interview system we used last year. You would have been sent booking instructions last week if an interview is required. We ask that you and your son use this to book an appointment on Thursday 22nd January, Friday 23rd January, or Monday 26th January 2026.

Monday	19 th January	School Office open
Tuesday	20 th January	School Office open
Wednesday	21 st January	School Office open
Thursday	22 nd January	Course Confirmation (years 10-13) ... 9.40am – 3.40pm
Friday	23 rd January	Course Confirmation (years 10-13) ... 9.40am – 3.40pm

Week 1: First Week of School

Monday	26 th January	Staff Only Day, Course Confirmation (years 10-13) ... 10.00am – 1.00pm
Tuesday	27 th January	Staff Only Day, Kaitaunaki Training Camp Day 1
Wednesday	28 th January	Staff Only Day, Kaitaunaki & Tētē Kura Training Camp Day 2
Thursday	29 th January	Staff Only Day
Friday	30 th January	Year 9 & Kaitaunaki & Y13s Big Day In <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Students to wear full uniform & bring casual clothing for activities. Year 13s attending & Kaitaunaki to wear No. 1s for mihi whakatau.▪ 8.45am – Year 9 and new staff mihi whakatau▪ 10.00am - Kaitaunaki/Year 9 students whakawhanaungatanga▪ 2.00pm - Students dismissed (Please note – buses will run on the regular bus timetable)

Week 2: Second Week of School

Monday	2 nd February	Nelson Anniversary Day (school closed)
Tuesday	3 rd February	All students in for Ārahi Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students to wear full uniform (Please note – buses will run on the regular bus timetable)
Wednesday	4 th February	Full timetable
Thursday	5 th February	Full timetable
Friday	6 th February	Waitangi Day (school closed)

Tuesday 3rd February 2026 – Ārahi Day timetable

Time	
9.00am	All students at school – report to their ārahi group
10.00am	Interval
10.20am	Ārahi group time continues
11.00am	House Meetings
Noon	Full School Assembly
12.30pm	<p>Students dismissed - services available as below (Supervision available for students until 3.15pm)</p> <p>Drop-in available in library:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 x Leadership Team on rotation- 1 x Deans on rotation- Careers- IT Services- 1 x Learning Support Coordinators on rotation- Sport registrations- Co-curricular signups <p>Available in offices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Counsellors

Uniform Shop

All students must wear the correct school uniform at all times to, at and from school.

Where to buy

Nelson College no longer has a uniform shop onsite. Uniforms can be purchased at:

NZ Uniforms Nelson

8/38 Estuary Place

Richmond

Phone: 03 928 0757

Email: nelson@nzuniforms.com

Website: [NZ Uniforms](https://nzuniforms.com)

Opening Hours

Monday – Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Saturday: 9.00am – 1.00pm

BYOD

website: [Technology in the Classroom | Nelson College](#)

Nelson College is a BYOD school with all students expected to bring a device to school to support their learning. If you're planning to buy your child a new device over Christmas, you can go to our website to get our recommendations for what to purchase. Please note that we don't specify a particular brand or model.

Be aware that our students get Microsoft Office 365 for free while they study at Nelson College. You don't need to buy this for your son(s).

Buses

website: [School Bus Timetable](#)

There are a number of buses for students to travel to and from school each day.

Ministry funded bus routes (Atawhai & Hira) are free and do not require a ticket.

Public bus tickets (Ebus) using a Bee Card can be purchased at the NCC, Public Libraries and Motueka I-Site. Information is available [Bee Card FAQ: Nelson's new electronic bus card explained - Our Nelson](#)

Nelson Coachlines routes (Motueka, Mapua, Wakefield, Brightwater) Smartcards can be purchased from the Nelson College Finance Office and topped up via the Smartcard app.

[Code-of-Conduct-Bus.pdf \(nelson.school.nz\)](#)

Stationery

website: [general Information | Nelson College](#)

Our student stationery lists for 2026 are now available. Follow the 'stationery' link for each Year level on the 'General Information' page. You can purchase these at any local stationery shop or online at Paper Plus or Office Max. Links to these websites are available under the stationery lists on the same page.

School Canteen

website: [Canteen-Menu.pdf \(nelson.school.nz\)](#)

The college sells a range of healthy and well-priced food for students. The canteen will open on Friday 30th January. It opens during morning interval and lunchtime. Please note students are not allowed off the school grounds during school hours.

Learning Support

website: [Learning Support | Nelson College](#)

The school Learning Support Coordinators support students with learning differences. The majority of students requiring extra learning support are identified at school – either by the college or by the student's contributing school. If you have any questions please contact Robert McHardy by email (ry@nelson.school.nz) when school resumes in January 2026.

Co-curricular

Music

Music lessons are available through the school. Please complete [this Enrolment Form](#) if you would like to sign up for music lessons or join one or more of our co-curricular ensembles for 2026. Year 9 - 13 Nelson College students only.

At Nelson College we want to see all students involved in a range of co-curricular activities. We believe that this is an important part of their development and education. There are a wide range of opportunities in sports, arts and service/leadership to get involved in. Contact our staff on the co-curricular page to find out more.

Class Placements & Timetable

Students will receive their 2026 timetable from their Ārahi teacher at the start of the year.

School Lockers

There are a limited number of lockers available for purchase at a cost of \$15.00 for the year from the Finance office. We would encourage your son to bring his own lock for extra security.