



Belmont Intermediate School

Newsletter 1 - 5 February 2026
Panui 1 - 5 Hui-tanguru 2026

Leading Excellence in Intermediate School Education

www.belmontint.school.nz
office@belmontint.school.nz
www.twitter.com/bisnewsfeed
www.facebook.com/belmontintermediateschool



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the School,
Tēnā koutou katoa me ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Welcome back to 2026. I trust that you enjoyed your summer break and had some quality time with family and friends.

Having our students back at school to start the new year is fantastic. Hearing laughter in the playgrounds and seeing the students reconnecting with old friends and establishing new friendships is wonderful. I would like to warmly welcome our new families this year - we are delighted you've joined the Belmont Intermediate community. A warm welcome, also, to all our international families who started with us last week.

We are delighted to welcome a number of new staff members to the BIS family; Ms Olivia Goodman, Mr Phil Jones, Ms Emily Lester, Mrs Kayla Joubert, Mr Hayden O'Neil, and Mrs Kate Hawkes, along with Ms Joanna Xiong in the international department, and Mrs Gemma Fellowes, Teacher Aide. We also welcome Tehan Skelton as the first teacher trainee with the New Zealand Teacher's Institute.

All teachers have talked to their students about our Student and Parent Guide for 2026 and its contents. I suggest that you create some time to go through this guide with your child so that they are aware of the standards and expectations of our school. A copy is available for download from our website [here](#) (Parents A-Z). Classroom teachers will review this document regularly throughout the year, however, I would appreciate your support with the expectations and standards associated with our school. This is a much larger school than many of our Year 7 students are used to, and we have many systems and structures in place that both students and parents need to be aware of. Please read further in this newsletter for a number of important messages and updates to start the school year.

From a uniform perspective, we respectfully request that our parent community support the school with the uniform requirements, especially around shoes and jewellery. A single set (one in each ear) of gold or silver plain studs for pierced ears are accepted.

Could I also ask that our parent community read the [link](#) that explains how zone days and sport in general is organised at BIS. If you have any questions please contact our sports co-ordinator, Mr Josh Simpson or refer to the website.

If you need to come onto school grounds to drop something off or deliver a message etc, please can I respectfully ask that you report to the office in the first instance and not go to classrooms or try and find your child yourself. This is to ensure the safety of all our tamariki and our school staff.

From a traffic management perspective, please do not park in the main carpark (Gate 1) or go down the drive (Gate 2) to pick up your child. This has already created a number of issues to start the year. Please park on Winscombe Street or further away from the school. Can I remind everyone that the road rules apply to everyone (no parking or waiting on yellow lines). The safety of your students is our priority. Thank you for treating my staff with respect as they carry out their jobs at the gates, pedestrian crossing and driveways safely. If everyone follows the processes that are in place, abides by our protocols and demonstrates safe and considerate driving, then traffic will flow more smoothly. Extra vigilance, cooperation and patience will be required during peak school traffic times. Remember: it may be easier if you arrange to pick your son up away from the School's main gates or arrive at school 10 minutes after school comes out, as the drive-throughs are usually clear by then.

Due to the TGS pool not being operational we have a contingency in place and will move this year's swimming sports to Birkenhead Pool and Leisure Centre. The date for this event is Friday, 13 February. Because of limited capacity, this year's swimming sports is for registered competitive swimmers only. The date has been specifically set so that we can pick a competitive team to attend the North Harbour Zone Day. It is important to us that we enable our swimmers to have the opportunity to compete at Zone Day level.

It has been an extremely positive start to the year. I have enjoyed visiting classrooms, greeting students at the gate and talking to them about their goals and aspirations for the year. I am sure that 2026 is going to be an exceptional one at BIS.

Ngā mihi nui



Nick Hill
Principal/ Tumuaki



Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

Week 3	Monday, 9 February	Basketball Trials Year 8 Boys
	Tuesday, 10 February	Basketball Trials Year 7 & Year 8 Girls Year 8 Camp Parent Evening 6:30pm
	Wednesday, 11 February	Basketball Trials Year 7 Boys Year 7 Immunisation Talk 1:45pm
	Friday, 13 February	Swimming Sports
Week 4	Monday, 16 February	Formal Assembly (Block 3) Board Meeting 6:30pm Swimming Sports - Save the Day Basketball Trials Year 8 Boys
	Tuesday, 17 February	Netball Trials Year 8 Girls
	Wednesday, 18 February	Netball Trials Year 8 Girls
	Thursday, 19 February	Netball Trials Year 8 Girls
Week 5	Mon 23 - Fri 27 February	Year 8 Camp (Rangitoto)
Week 6	Mon 2 - Fri 6 March	Year 8 Camp (Motuihe)
	Tues 3 - Thurs 5 March	Year 7 EOTC Programme

Reminders for the Start of the School Year

Staff Carparks

Please note that the staff carparks, via Gate 1 and Gate 2 on Winscombe Street, are for staff and visitors only. Please do not use these carparks or entrances to drop off or collect students before and after school. Additionally, please do not use the driveway on Lake Road (Gate 3) for dropping off or collecting. This is a safety issue, and is in place to keep all of our students safe.

Reporting Absences

If your child is absent, parents/caregivers are asked to notify the school by either emailing the office at office@belmontint.school.nz and copy in your classroom teacher or using the HERO school app. Please do not email your classroom teacher only, without cc'ing the office. The school office will contact parents/caregivers if there is an unexplained absence.

Returning to School After Illness

As per the Ministry of Health guidelines, if your student has been off school due to vomiting or diarrhoea, they must have a 48-hour period from the last incident of vomiting or diarrhoea before they return to school. This is to help protect the health of our staff and students.

Collecting Students Early

If you need to collect your student early, please let both the office and your classroom teacher know in advance, where possible so we are able to remind the student to come to the office for collection. Due to the size of the school and individual timetables, locating students can not always be guaranteed by the office staff without prior notice.

Updating Changes of Contact Details

It is vitally important that we have the most up to date information, so if any of you or your child's contact details change, please email the office at office@belmontint.school.nz directly with the particular change.

Parents/ Caregivers Coming Into School During School Hours

If you need to come to school to drop something off, get a message to your child or for any other reason, please report to the office in the first instance. Our office staff can ensure that items/ messages are passed on to your child for you. Please do not go directly to your child's classroom during school hours.

School Cap/ Bucket Hat

The school-branded cap or bucket hat is purchased from NZ Uniforms. We encourage students to wear a hat for all outdoor activities, including morning break and lunchtime, however, not compulsory.

Lost Property

Please make sure that your child's uniform is clearly labelled with their surname. When uniforms are labelled, students have a much higher chance of it being returned to them. If students lose something, they are directed to check the classroom, cloak bay and the lost property bin in the hall foyer first.

Any lost property collected from around the school will be initially stored in the bin inside the hall foyer, this is the first stop for trying to find lost items. Lost property is then moved weekly to the Lost Property Room (adjacent to the School Hall) which will be open to students weekly on Tuesday lunchtimes (commencing March onwards). Lost Property is coordinated by external volunteers.

Students are encouraged to take care of their property and search independently for any lost items. BIS staff are unable to search for individual items for students.

Medical Conditions and Allergies

If your child has any medical conditions, allergies or medication that needs to be administered at school please let [Melissa Churches](#) know via email and include the necessary [Action Plan](#) and/or [Medical Administration Form/ Short Term Medical Administration Form](#).

Online Shop & EZ Lunch

All school payments such as the annual activity fee, donations, class trips, activities, sports and extra-curricular activities including permissions need to be made via our [Online Shop](#) facilitated by Kindo, so we encourage you to register or update your Kindo account as soon as possible. Please note that the email address held on our school system, Hero, needs to match the email address used for your Kindo account. If you need to change your email address on Hero, please contact the school office.

The Kindo logo consists of the word "kindo." in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, centered on a solid blue rectangular background.

School lunches can also be ordered from our Online Shop, the lunches are provided by Five Loaves in Devonport (Monday to Friday) and Pita Pit (Monday and Friday only). Log in to our online shop to view the menu for 2026. Orders must be placed by 8am for delivery from Five Loaves and by 9.00am for delivery from Pita Pit.

Choose to pay-as-you-go, or add funds to your account in advance, using internet banking, POLi or Visa/Mastercard (fees apply for credit card transactions). For help and support please contact Kindo directly at helpdesk@ezlunch.co.nz

2026 Activity Fees and Donations

Many thanks to all of our families who have already paid the 2026 Activity Fee and Donation. If you haven't managed to pay yet, both the Activity Fee and Donation have been added to your child's Kindo account and are listed under 'Fees and Donations'. Payment by instalment is welcomed through the Kindo app. If you need more information on how to pay by instalment, please contact Tammy Miles at accounts@belmontint.school.nz

Already paid but need the tax receipt?

Kindo sends out an acknowledgement for each payment, but to print the IRD approved tax receipt, log into your Kindo account and go to 'My Orders' on the top right hand side of the page. In the Record Type, select Donations from the drop down menu. Here you should be able to see all your donations and you can download the relevant tax receipt.

Purchases through the Online Shop

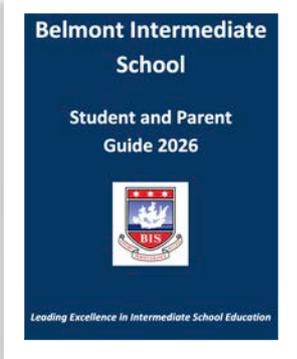
Not sure if you have already purchased lunch or registered your child for their favourite after school sport? With so much going on at the start of the year, it's easy to forget what has been paid for and what hasn't. Rather than pay twice, you can check whether you have already paid by logging into your Kindo and clicking on 'My Orders' to review your purchases. Please note any refunds for duplicate payments may incur an administration fee.

School App - Hero, Facebook and School Website

The school communicates with parents and caregivers using a range of media with our SMS [HERO](#) being the primary method. School newsletters and other correspondence are notified via HERO. If parents/caregivers are not receiving notifications, after checking your spam folder, please email Charlie Vorster principalsea@belmontint.school.nz for assistance. You can select if you would like to receive notifications via email or push notification in your app settings (it is defaulted to push notifications).



Belmont Intermediate School uses [Facebook](#) for 'good news stories' and updates on our students and their achievements. We also post reminders, but the main port of call is Hero for our communication system. The school website www.belmontint.school.nz also has a wealth of information for parents and caregivers.

The cover of the "Belmont Intermediate School Student and Parent Guide 2026" is dark blue. At the top, it says "Belmont Intermediate School" in white. Below that, "Student and Parent Guide 2026" is written in a smaller white font. In the center, there is a small version of the school crest. At the bottom, the tagline "Leading Excellence in Intermediate School Education" is written in a small white font.

Student and Parent Guide 2026

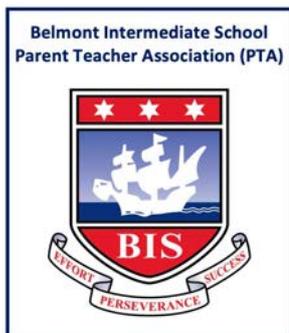
Year 7 teachers will go through the Student and Parent Guide with their classes, however it is a great source of answers to many common questions and good for a refresh for Year 8's and their parents. Please find the guide at any time on our [website](#) under 'Parents A - Z'.

A yellow rectangular sign with a red circle containing a white dot on the left side. To the right of the circle, the words "LOST PROPERTY" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Call for Lost Property Volunteers

We are seeking enthusiastic parent volunteers to assist with managing our school's lost property. Your involvement would require a small commitment of just 45 minutes to an hour, two or three times each term.

Your help would be greatly appreciated and would make a significant difference in keeping our school environment organised and ensuring that lost items find their way back to their owners. If you are able to lend a hand, please contact pta@belmontint.school.nz for more details.



BIS PTA - Call for Members

The Belmont Intermediate School PTA is a group of hardworking (but fun!) parents who organise events to fundraise for various items that support the school. They meet about twice a term to organise events such as the Disco, Quiz Nation, Pie Days and Athletics Day/Cross Country sausage sizzle and iceblock sales. They are in need of new members and would love you to join! If you'd like to join, please email Catherine on pta@belmontint.school.nz

PTA events include:

Swimming Sports Sausage Sizzle and Juicies, Pie Days, Sushi Days, Movie Nights, Cross Country Icecreams and Juicies, Disco Night, Athletics Day Sausage Sizzle and Juicies, Quiz Nation, Golf Day.

PTA funds have paid for:

Astro turf courts, blue shade sails, school camp tents, blue branded BIS gazebos, sports uniforms, hall curtains, hall AV upgrade, art block resources upgrade.

SchoolDocs and Policies for Review

Our school policies and procedures are facilitated by SchoolDocs. SchoolDocs was established in 2006 as a user-friendly policy platform for schools in Aotearoa. Based in Ōtautahi Christchurch, the SchoolDocs team partners with schools across the motu to develop policies and procedures that keep pace with the changing educational environment. SchoolDocs sites make policy information accessible to the whole school community. Each site contains a set of policies and procedures that is tailored to the school.

Should you wish to seek clarification or discuss a school policy or procedure, please email the Principal or the School Board [Presiding Member](#), Kirsty McDonald. Please do not email our teaching staff about school policy.

As we hold all of school policies with SchoolDocs, when they are due for review, our school staff and community are invited to feedback their thoughts. This term the School Board are currently reviewing four policies in the Health, Safety, and Welfare Policy section. If you wish to be part of this process, please follow these steps below.

The policies for review

1. Alcohol, Drugs and Other Harmful Substances Policy
2. Sun Protection
3. Digital Technology and Online Safety
4. Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices

Accessing the Policies

1. Visit the website <https://belmontint.schooldocs.co.nz>
2. Enter the username (belmontint) and password (excellence)
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed to read it
4. Click the red "Under Review" button near the top right-hand corner of the page
5. Select the reviewer type - "Parent" and enter your name (optional)
6. Submit your ratings and comments
7. If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.

Mobile Phones & Smart Watches at School

As a reminder to our school community, mobile phones are not permitted during the school day, in line with the Government's mandate. This expectation helps us maintain focused, connected, and distraction-free learning environments for all students.

This rule also includes smart watches, as they have the same capabilities as phones, including messaging, calling, and internet access. What this means for students:

- Mobile phones and smart watches should be left at home, or
- If brought to school, they must be handed in to the school office before school and can be collected at 3.00 pm.



Mobile phones and smart watches are not to be kept on students during the school day, including in bags or cloakrooms.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing this expectation at home. Working together helps ensure the school remains a place for learning, positive relationships, and wellbeing, free from unnecessary digital distractions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Immunisations

Students are offered immunisations at school as part of the New Zealand Immunisation. BIS will host information talk with students on the following dates:

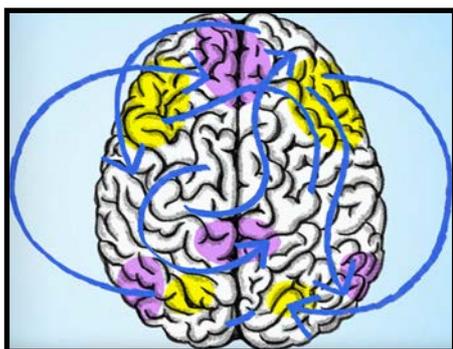
Year 7

Information talk Wednesday, 11 February
Immunisations Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (Boostrix) & HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccinations scheduled for 19/03/2026 then 26/08/2026 for dose 2 HPV

Year 8

Information talk Wednesday, 1 April
Immunisations HPV (human papilloma virus vaccination) scheduled for 21/05/2026 then 12/11/2026 for dose 2 HPV

An information form and consent form will be sent home with students. Please look out for this form, complete it and send it back to the class teacher. For more information on NZ Schedule vaccines please go to <https://info.health.nz/immunisations/national-immunisation-schedule>



The Emerging Adolescent

As we embark on a new year of intermediate school, we want to use our experience and expertise to help guide you and your children through this exciting transition. This starts with knowing and understanding what's in store for our young people.

When they were small, milestones and brain development were a common and recurring part of your relationship. Crawling, pulling up, first words and steps, were all special celebrated moments. What we sometimes forget as our children grow and these milestones become more spaced apart, is there are still some amazing and some challenging changes to come.

Between the ages of 11 and 13, some significant events and hormone surges will occur and you might wake up one morning thinking "Who are you?" - Don't worry, it's not you and it's not them... it's that pesky brain. A great show to watch on Netflix is [The Mind, Explained. Teenage Brain - Season 2, episode 2](#). Some key points are:

That our children's priorities change. Before they may have cared deeply about your opinion but now, they are thinking more about others. They are:

- Risk Taking
- Novelty Seeking
- Valuing peer Relationships above all others

Scientists can now demonstrate that adolescents are immature not only to the observer's naked eye, but in the very fibres of their brains. During the brain renovation, the very last part to develop is the frontal cortex which controls rational thought and reasoning. They develop a constant irrational fear of being watched and judged. This can be very frustrating as a parent but they genuinely can't help it and all we can do is continue to be patient and keep the lines of communication open.

[Here is a link to another great video](#) on the development and changes of the adolescent brain that will help you understand and support your young person.



Community Partnership: New World Devonport

We're delighted to welcome and acknowledge James Varcoe, the new owner of New World Devonport, and to share some great news with our school community. New World Devonport will continue its strong support of local schools, committing \$8,300 in sponsorship to our school during 2026, paid quarterly.

James is passionate about being a true community store and has chosen to direct a significant portion of New World Devonport's sponsorship budget towards schools and children's activities. This generous funding will help support a range of school initiatives throughout the year, including events, activities, and sporting opportunities.

We are incredibly grateful for New World Devonport's ongoing commitment to our students and community, and we look forward to sharing the many "cool things" this support will help make possible. Thank you to James and his team at New World Devonport for their continued generosity and partnership.

Our New Uniform

We welcomed our 2026 students to the BIS whānau. A new year brings new faces, new friendships, and new opportunities — and this year, a new era too!

This year we proudly introduced a refreshed school uniform for our Year 7 students. Designed to be smart, practical, and comfortable for everyday learning, the new uniform reflects both our high expectations and our school's modern identity.

It's been wonderful to see our Year 7s wearing it with pride — they look sharp, confident, and ready for the year ahead.



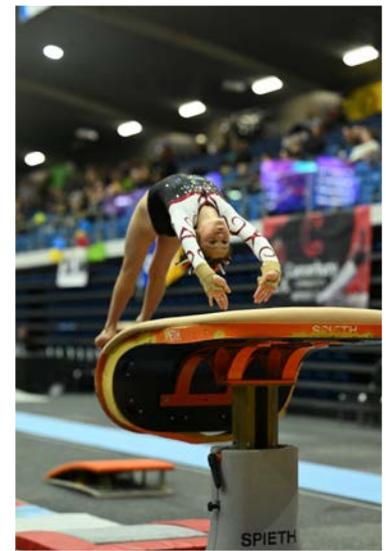
Success outside of school

National Honour for Sophia Edmonds

Sophia Edmonds was invited by Gymnastics New Zealand to attend a two-day national trial in November, held in Wellington at the Hutt Valley Gymnastics Club. Following this trial, Sophia was selected for the Gymnastics New Zealand National Development Squad, placing her among the top 40 athletes in her age group nationwide.

In January, Sophia attended her first four-day national camp at Tristar Gymnastics, where she trained alongside New Zealand Olympians and gymnasts who represent the country on the international stage. She will continue to attend development camps throughout the year.

We are extremely proud of Sophia and congratulate her on this outstanding achievement.



Celebrating Eloise's Success On and Off the Dance Floor

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news about Eloise Brown and her dance partner, Winston. Over the holidays, they achieved an incredible milestone by placing 1st at the DanceSport Champions of Australia, proudly representing New Zealand in Melbourne. This outstanding result reflects Eloise's dedication, discipline, resilience, and the power of true teamwork — teamwork really does make the dream work!

Her parents were also delighted to learn last Friday that Eloise has been nominated as Deputy Class Captain for Room 15 and passed on the following message:

"It's great to see her increasing confidence and readiness to step forward recognised, and we are deeply grateful to Kaitlin and BIS for the opportunities provided to help students grow both academically and personally.

We would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank BIS for the supportive, encouraging, and positive school culture

you provide. Eloise truly feels valued and supported at school, which gives her the confidence to work hard, challenge herself, and become the best version of who she can be. That support means more to us than words can express.

Thank you SO SO SO much for everything you do for Eloise and for creating such an inspiring environment for your students."



Community News



ST MARY'S COLLEGE 2027 Enrolments are now OPEN

Join our Mercy Family

Enrolments for 2027 are now OPEN for Year 7 and Year 9 students
and a limited number of places at other year levels

St Mary's College has no zoning restrictions
We invite you to submit an online application



2026 OPEN DAY

Thursday 26 March 2026

Two sessions available, commencing 2.00pm & 6.00pm
Both sessions deliver the same information

No need to RSVP - just come along to your preferred session

www.stmaryak.school.nz

11 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS - YEAR 7 TO YEAR 13

Yay!!! Pocket Rockets Dance is back!

After school in the BIS dance studio

Leads Musical Theatre 5.00-6.15pm Mondays

Hiphop 3.00-4.00pm Tuesdays

Contemporary 4.00-5.00pm Tuesdays

Check out our full timetable here:

<https://www.pocketrockets.co.nz/class-info>

Enrol or register for a free trial here:

<https://app.classmanager.com/portal/pocket-rockets/register>

Music lessons after school

Guitar & Drums

All levels, spaces available for 2026

Visit heathwatsonguitar.com

Or call 021 256 1308