



Zayed College for Girls

ZAYED COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

EDUCATE A WOMAN, EDUCATE A NATION

NEWSLETTER

21 OCTOBER

2026

44 Westney Road, Mangere, Auckland. P: 09 2550904 E: admin@zayedcollege.school.nz



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu, nau mai, hoki mai.

We begin by praising Allah Subhana wa Ta'Ala and expressing our deepest gratitude for His countless blessings, Alhamdulillah.

Welcome back to Term 4! I hope all our staff, students, and whānau had a restful break, enjoyed quality time with loved ones and are fully energised and ready for the final term of the year.

Term 4 is a particularly crucial period for our senior students, with only a few weeks remaining until study break and the start of NCEA exams.

To set themselves up for success, it is imperative that our seniors create and follow a structured study plan to guide their exam preparation. For our junior students, it is business as usual as they continue their learning journeys and prepare for their end-of-year assessments and projects.

Alongside our academic focus, we have many exciting activities lined up this term, and I encourage all students to get involved and participate fully. As we navigate this busy and demanding term preparing our students for NCEA exams and beyond, please remember the importance of maintaining a healthy balance between work, rest, and play.

Farewell to Ustadha Nahla

Last week, our school community farewelled Ustadha Nahla, our Assistant Principal (Head of Pastoral Care). We are deeply grateful for her dedication, hard work, and relentless efforts in fulfilling the vision for Zayed College for Girls. We thank her for the time, care, and commitment she has given to our kura, our students' pastoral care and wellbeing, and the wider school whānau. We wish her all the very best for the future. May Allah (SWT) place barakah in all her future endeavours. Ameen.

On a personal note, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who shared kind thoughts, prayers,

and condolences with me and my family during our recent loss. Your support and duas have been deeply appreciated. As Allah (SWT) reminds us:

"So truly where there is hardship, there is also ease. Truly where there is hardship, there is also ease." - (Surah Ash-Sharh, 94:5-6)

May Allah (SWT) bless you all with success, health and His infinite abundance throughout Term 4. Ameen.

Warm regards,

Ustadha Nazmeen Ahmad

Principal

FAREWELL FROM USTADHA NAHLA

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu

It has been a privilege to serve the college in various roles over the years, and I am grateful for the opportunities, experiences and relationships that have shaped my journey.

My commitment has always been to putting our school's special character into practice, supporting the wellbeing and success of our students, and strengthening the implementation of systems and processes that support our school community.

I leave with sincere appreciation for the support, collaboration and shared commitment I have experienced from both staff and management.

I pray that Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala continues to guide and bless Zayed College, its leadership, staff, students and whānau. May the college continue to grow, prosper, and succeed in serving our community. Ameen.

Ngā mihi nui, best regards and lots of aroha to you all.

Fi Amman Allah wa Hifthih

Ustadha Nahla Zaki

~JazakiAllah Khairan Ustadha Nahla for being such a valuable member of our school community. May Allah Subhana wa Ta'Ala surround you with His mercy, guide your steps, place barakah in all that you do and reward you abundantly for everything you have given to our college and community. May our paths cross again, InshaaAllah.

With love, duas and heartfelt appreciation, Ustadha Nahla. You will always be part of our Zayed College whānau.



POST FROM MUSLIMS OF AUCKLAND FACEBOOK PAGE

Congratulations to Zayed College For Girls on winning
WORD – The Front Line 2026!

But beyond this incredible achievement, we want to
acknowledge something deeply meaningful: carrying
the Palestinian flag.

In a world where the Palestinian people continue to
endure unimaginable suffering, your gesture sends a
powerful message of solidarity, humanity and courage.

Thank you for reminding us that young people can use
their voices, talents and platforms not only to achieve
greatness, but also to stand for justice and human
dignity.

The Palestinian flag represents a people, a homeland, a
history and an enduring hope for freedom. Every time it
is carried with pride and solidarity, it reminds us that
Palestine and its people will not be forgotten.

To the students, teachers and everyone at
Zayed College For Girls: be proud of your achievement,
and be proud of standing for what matters.

Your voices matter. Your actions matter. And solidarity
matters.

From all of us, congratulations and thank you for
standing with Palestine.

Free Palestine. Always.

~Maher Nazzal

ZAYED COLLEGE FOR GIRLS WINS THE 2026 SPOKEN WORD — The Front Line (WTFL) Grand Slam.

Our girls proudly performed poems about important
issues in our world and close to their hearts.

- Poem 1: **Build a Bear** – on the dangers of our
overreliance on artificial intelligence and the harm it
poses to our planet and autonomy.

- Poem 2: **Baba** – a beautifully crafted poem on the
blessings of fathers and the sacrifices that often go
unnoticed.

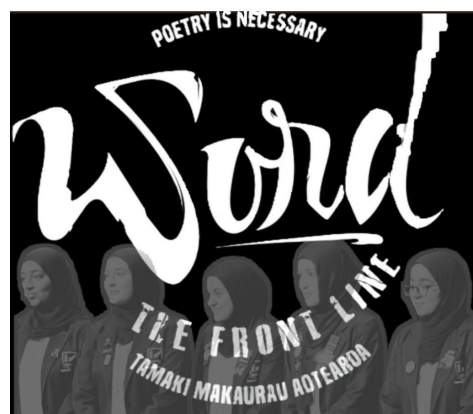
- Poem 3: **Hind Rajab** – the heart-wrenching story of
Hind and the children of Gaza and the hypocrisy
surrounding the genocide.

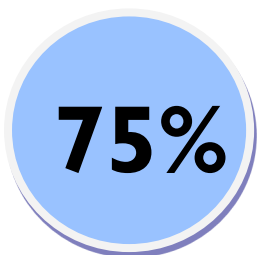
The five girls spent countless hours crafting their poems
and polishing their performances. They showed
dedication and determination and had the
immeasurable strength to speak out against injustice
and share their truth.

We pray that Allah continues to guide them, give them
the strength to keep speaking out against injustice and
bring important matters to light.

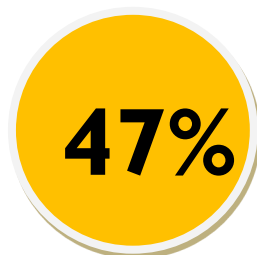
Congratulations **Shifa Ahmed, Sevara Adilova, Safa
Katawazi, Roshaneh Awan and Sumaya Akil.**

*~A special thank you to Ust Rehab for your dedication,
guidance and commitment in helping our girls achieve
this outstanding success. The countless hours spent
crafting their poems and perfecting their performances
culminated in a well-deserved win. More importantly, you
supported them to use their voices courageously to speak
out against injustice and stand for what matters.
May Allah reward you abundantly for your efforts and
continue to guide our girls to use their talents for truth,
justice and positive change. Jazakillahu Khairan!*

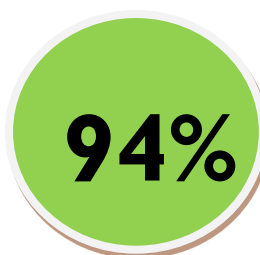




**2026 Regular
Attendance Target**



**Overall Regular
Attendance – Term Three**



**Highest
Attendance Day**



**Lowest
Attendance Day**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

At Zayed College for Girls, every day of learning matters. Being at school regularly helps our daughters build knowledge, strengthen friendships, develop positive routines and feel connected to their learning community.

Year 7 Celebrates Attendance Success

We are proud to celebrate our Year 7 students, who achieved the highest attendance rate of any year level in Term 3, 2026. Fantastic effort, Year 7!

As a reward, they enjoyed a well-deserved pizza lunch on Wednesday, 14 October. It was a very close race, with only a percentage point separating the top form classes, so congratulations to everyone who made showing up a priority.

The Term 4 Challenge: Can our year 7 - 10 year levels reach a combined 90% attendance this term? Every day at school counts, and every student plays a part in getting us there.

What the Term 3 data tells us

Attendance category	Term 3, 2026	Term 3, 2025
Regular (>90%)	47%	56%
Irregular (>80% to 90%)	26%	28%
Moderate (>70% to 80%)	17%	8%
Chronic (70% or less)	10%	8%

The Ministry of Education's provisional Every Day Matters report shows that **47%** of our students attended regularly in Term 3 (above 90% attendance), compared with 56% in Term 3 last year. The proportion of students in the irregular attendance category dropped from 28% to 26%. Moderate absence increased from 8% to 17%, while chronic absence increased from 8% to 10%. These figures are a reminder that we need to work together to rebuild consistent attendance.

Illness was the main reason for absence

Illness or medical absence accounted for 55% of recorded absence reasons in Term 3.

We recognise that students do become unwell, particularly during winter. When a daughter is sick, please keep her home as appropriate and let the school know promptly. When she is well enough to return, helping her get back into her usual routine is important.

Our Term 4 attendance actions

- Aim for every school day: avoid holidays and appointments during term time wherever possible.
- Report absences by 9.00am through Skool Loop, email or phone and provide the reason for the absence.
- Support punctuality: the report indicates that 98% of students are regularly arriving on time and we want to maintain this positive habit.
- Contact the school early if illness, transport, family circumstances or another barrier is making regular attendance difficult. We would rather work with whānau early than wait for a pattern to become established.
- Check attendance regularly and work with your daughter to make a strong start each week.
- Working together

Our goal is not to blame families when challenges arise. It is to notice concerns early, understand what is getting in the way and support each student to attend, participate and progress. Please contact the school if you need to discuss attendance support for your daughter.

Thank you to our students, parents, caregivers and staff for the part you play in building strong attendance habits. Let us make Term 4 a term of renewed commitment, consistency and care. Every day matters.

~Ust Lina



NZMSA YOUTH VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Huge applause to our unstoppable Zayed Junior Girls for smashing their way to the top and bringing home the Youth Volleyball Championship.

From the first serve to the final point our girls owned the court. Well done to the team!

Congratulations and acknowledgement to the Zayed Volleyball teams Net Ninjas and the Maroons.

They delivered an outstanding performance at the NZMSA Volleyball Tournament, displaying our school values, their skills, teamwork and determination on the court.

Both teams received recognition for their strong plays and spirit of competition after impressing the crowd with their enthusiasm and sportsmanship. The school and community are proud of their success, and achievement which is a reflection of effort and commitment they have put into their training.



IWCNZ NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Another proud day for Zayed College Netball, with our girls displaying outstanding performances, determination and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Our senior netball team proudly secured the runners-up position, bringing home a well-deserved trophy. Their hard work, teamwork and commitment were evident on the court, and we congratulate them on this wonderful achievement.

Our junior team also demonstrated tremendous strength and resilience, winning three games, losing one and playing a well-fought draw against Al Madinah School. Their enthusiasm, perseverance and willingness to give their best in every game were a credit to the school.

Beyond the results, what stood out most was the way our students represented Zayed College. The girls displayed excellent sportsmanship, encouraged one another and upheld our school values both on and off the court. Their conduct reminded us that success is not measured by trophies alone but also by character, teamwork and respect for others.

Adding to the day's celebrations, **Ustadha Manalia was awarded The Leadership Trophy**, a wonderful and unexpected recognition of the leadership displayed throughout the competition.

~Thank you Ust Manalia for your dedication, commitment and unwavering support.

Your time, encouragement and mentorship as our P.E teacher has helped our students develop their skills, confidence, teamwork and sportsmanship.

We are truly grateful for the passion and care you bring to supporting our girls and providing them with opportunities to shine.

The IWCNZ Leadership Trophy is well deserved.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

The national theme for Mental Health Awareness Week is Belonging Matters. We explored this important theme in different ways.

We began by acknowledging how many College families are transnational, with family members living in different countries around the world, but we all live under the same sky, even if the stars are different.

We are connected by sharing the same foundation of faith, the Pillars of Islam. Each student was given a star on which they recorded their family names and the countries around the world to which they are connected. We have started to hang these stars above the Atrium as a visual reminder.



The students also enjoyed the opportunity to create Pavement Art, which they thoroughly enjoyed, and to take part in a mindful Colouring Competition, some examples of which are pictured here.

Finally, we aim to photograph the students standing on a huge ZC on the lawn, and to complete the theme at an Assembly with a video made by a group of Year 13 students.



I hope that the students have stopped to think about the many ways in which we belong, and how important this need is to our health and sense of wellbeing.

~Ust Sandy





AYSHA LIMA - THINK KIND FINALIST.

Congratulations to **Aysha Lima (Year 9)**, who is one of 10 finalists in the 2026 Think Kind Competition.

Aysha submitted a poem to this annual challenge, which invites New Zealand students in Years 0-13 to explore caring for animals, protecting our planet and supporting one another through art, writing, photography and other creative forms.

Aysha is now in the running for the People's Choice Award. The finalist with the most public votes wins \$1,000 for their school, generously sponsored by Kiwiherb.

Please show your support and vote for Aysha at [Think Kind Voting](http://www.vegetarian.org.nz/think-kind/voting) by 31 October.



Aysha Lima Finalist Entry Literature

The Lives Behind Our Choices

Behind every product, every meal, every show,
There may be a life that we never know.
A pair of eyes, a beating heart,
A living being from, the very start.

Animals feel pain, they feel fear,
The need compassion, they need us near.
Yet some are harmed, neglected and used,
Their lives controlled, their freedom refused.

Some are forced into races and fights,
Used for entertainment under bright lights.
Some suffer for clothing, some suffer for food,
Some are kept in conditions no animal should endure.

And behind laboratory doors unseen,
Animals may be tested, examined and screened.
They can be used in experiments or trials,
While humans may never see their suffering or miles.

In New Zealand, more than 600,000 animals were used for research, testing and teaching in 2024.
That number is more than a statistic, it represents individual lives.

A mouse, a rabbit, a fish, a bird,
Cannot speak our language or make themselves heard.
But silence does not mean they don't feel,
Their pain is real, their lives are real.

So choose products that are cruelty-free,
And ask what lies behind what we see.
Choose kindness instead of needless harm,
Protect the vulnerable from suffering and alarm.

We can choose what we eat.
We can choose what we wear.
We can choose what we buy
And show that we care.

No animal should suffer
Just because we have a choice.
We can speak for the voiceless
And give compassion a voice.

They cannot choose their fate,
But we can choose theirs to matter.

Be kind.
Be compassionate.
Be their voice.

Statistics: New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries reported 602,318 animals used for research, testing and teaching in 2024.

Student description: This project is an original poem raising awareness about animal abuse and animal experimentation.

It explores the suffering animals can experience when they are used for food, entertainment, clothing and scientific testing, while encouraging compassion, cruelty-free choices, and kindness towards all animals.

Kindness to Animals in Islam

Aysha Lima's poem, *The Lives Behind Our Choices*, asks us to think about the animals behind what we eat, wear and buy.

In the Quran, Allah describes animals and birds as communities like human ones (6:38), a reminder that they are living creatures deserving of respect.

The Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), tell of a man who was forgiven for giving water to a thirsty dog and warns against neglecting or overburdening animals.

Aysha reminds us that we cannot speak for ourselves alone: "We can speak for the voiceless and give compassion a voice."

Please show your support and vote for Aysha at [Think Kind Voting](http://www.vegetarian.org.nz/think-kind/voting) by 31 October.

WHATS COMING UP TERM 4

Mon 19 – 23 Oct	Mental health Awareness Week.
Wed 21	Last Date of submission VA-Y11.
Thu 22	Shake out Day.
Fri 23	Rainbows End- Senior Trip.
Mon 26	Labour Weekend - Public Holiday.
Wed 28	Leavers assembly - Farewell.
Fri 30	Last Day for Seniors. Y13 Graduation Dinner
10 November	NZQA Exams Begin
Wed 18	Assembly Y8.
Wed 25 Nov – 2 Dec	Exams Y9&10.
Tue 8	Sport activities- Y10.
Wed 9	Dress up day.
Thu 10	Brother Ali's Leadership Workshop.
Fri 11	Strawberry farm trip – All Juniors.
Mon 14	Prize-giving.
Tue 15	Junior Rainbows End Trip Last Day of School for 2026.

ENROL NOW FOR 2027

Do you have a younger sister of one of our current students, who you would like to see join our school community in 2027?

Now is the time to enrol!

Places are filling fast and enrolling early helps us plan for your family and gives your daughter the best start.

Siblings of current students are warmly welcomed, so don't wait until it's too late.

To enrol, contact the school office on 09 255 0904, email admin@zayedcollege.school.nz or ask your daughter to collect an enrolment form from the office to bring home.

THIS WEEKEND IS LABOUR WEEKEND.

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER IS LABOUR DAY, A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL.

Have a nice relaxing weekend, see you on Tuesday
InshaaAllah

OFFICE REMINDERS

The **school bank account number** is:

BNZ: 02-0124-0100679-00

Reference: Child's Full Name

Code: Year Level

No **Panadol** is available from the school office. Students are allowed to bring Panadol from home if they need to.

Heat packs/wheatbags are not available however a student may bring their own.

No Hot Water bottles are permitted at school for health and safety reasons

Sanitary products are available free of charge.

Students are encouraged to bring a **named water bottle** to school each day, as disposable cups are not provided. A water bottle refill station is available in the atrium.

For health and safety reasons, we are **unable to heat or reheat food brought from home**. Please ensure your child brings food that is ready to eat.

Biryani orders \$8.00 each must be placed and paid for either Thursday during breaktimes or before 8:30am on Friday. **Cash only** as money is collected by our local Masjid.

Remember: The office is a busy workplace; students should wait quietly and patiently for assistance.

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH TRANSPORT?

To and from Avondale Masjid

Arifa - 021 023 26784

Mt Roskill, New Windsor, Mt Albert

Fowzia - 021 2604528

Manurewa, Clendon, Weymouth

Nisha - 021 024 149770

New Windsor, Avondale, Maoro Rd, Mount Roskill, New Lynn, Blockhouse Bay, Hillsborough.

Manar - 021 083 85857

We have students in need of transport from the Glendene, Flatbush, East Tamaki and Papatoetoe close to Papatoetoe Intermediate area. Please contact the school if you can help.

If you would like your daughter to see the health nurse, please email admin@zayedcollege.school.nz.
Confidentiality guaranteed.