



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 5, Term 3 (August), 2022

COMING EVENTS

Friday 26 August

NCEA Teacher only Day

Monday 29 August to Friday 2 September

Winter tournament week

Wednesday 14 September

McEvedy Shield (athletes only)

Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 September

Kapa Haka nationals

Thursday 15 – Thursday 22 September

Senior Exams

Wednesday 21 September

Parents' Association meeting

Friday 23 September

Leavers' Ball

Thursday 29 September

Board meeting 6pm in the staffroom

Friday 30 September

Last day of Term 3

Monday 17 October

First day of Term 4

2022 TERM DATES

Term 3 Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September

Term 4 Monday 17 October to Friday 9 December

2023 TERM DATES

Term 1 Monday 30 January to Thursday 6 April

Term 2 Monday 24 April to Friday 30 June

Term 3 Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September

Term 4 Monday 9 October to Friday 8 December

We are now half way through Term 3, and entering a very busy period of assessments for senior students, including senior examinations.

SENIOR EXAMINATIONS

Our school examinations for Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be held

during the week **Thursday 15 September to Thursday 22 September** inclusive. For your information, the examination timetable is included with this newsletter.

These exams are an important signpost of your son's current progress towards NCEA. Your son may tell you that he does not have to revise for these examinations because they are unimportant and don't mean anything. **Don't believe him - these examinations are very important and they are compulsory!** The main purpose of the examinations is to assess your son's current progress towards NCEA (highlighting strengths and areas of concern) and to give him a practice run at externally assessed Achievement Standards. Please assist your son with his study and revision programme.

A further consideration is that, as we have seen, there is the potential for COVID-19 to cause disruption to external exams. These exam results may be needed to provide the basis of standards-specific decisions if we need to provide Unexpected Events Grades.

For some boys there may be a health issue, family or other circumstance that prevents him from sitting the external examinations. The school examinations provide us with evidence to support your son with any consideration he may need, for a derived grade, later in the year.

Also included as part of our examinations are some external assessments. The Level 1 Maths exam on Thursday 15 September includes the Level 1 Mathematics Common Assessment Task (MCAT), which is worth 4 credits.

TEACHER ONLY DAY

Friday 26 August is a **Teacher Only Day** for most secondary schools in our local area. Consequently, there is no school for all students on that day.

The focus of the day will be to review proposed changes to NCEA Level 1. As part of the day, Rongotai teachers will be collaborating with teachers from other colleges.

On Thursday 22 and Friday 23 September, some Year 10 and Year 11 students will sit Digital Literacy and Numeracy examinations. Your son will have been told if he is sitting these exams. You should also have received notification.

Visual Arts, DVC and Materials Technology Students

Senior students completing NCEA in Visual Arts (including Art Design and Photography), DVC and Materials Technology students should liaise with their teachers to organise a time to come in to work on their assessments with the deadlines rapidly approaching.

NEW STAFF

At the start of Term 3 we welcomed **Ms Alyss Sturgeon** (Teacher in Charge of Geography) to Rongotai College. Alyss comes to us from Christchurch.

We also welcomed back **Mr Nick Tully** for the next two terms, and also **Mr Simon Romijn**. Both Mr Tully and Mr Romijn have been relieving in Terms 1 and 2.

STUDENT BOARD

REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS

Nominations were called for the Board Student Representative.

Those nominated will address the school assembly on 23 September prior to voting by students on 28 and 29 September. The student representative on the Board is a one year position. The successful candidate will be announced next term.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Congratulations to Rongotai College Deputy Head Prefect **Jamal Howell**, who spoke in the Youth Parliament's General Debate during the past school holidays. His eloquent speech focused on the March 15 terrorist attacks, diversity, and the importance of strengthening relationships. Jamal acknowledged the positive changes that have come from this and has challenged us to be courageous and examine our own prejudices and biases, as he believes that New Zealand can lead the way for diversity and inclusion.

Congratulations Jamal!



for university taking place. Most scholarship applications are now closed, but halls of residence applications are still open. However, students who are interested in submitting a halls of residence application must advise of their intention to do so before 2 September, to enable us to prepare the required reference.

This year, we arranged one-on-one course planning between our students and university liaison staff. University of Otago, University of Auckland, and Victoria University of Wellington have completed one-on-one course planning for 2023 and the University of Canterbury will be here on 28 September.

Gap Year Opportunity We have an excellent relationship with Iizuka High School (Japan). They are offering a fully-funded 10-month scholarship for 2023, for a student wanting to have a Gap Year in Japan. This includes airfare and accommodation. The applications will be open soon and a Zoom interview is required in November for interested applicants. Please see Ms Wilson for further details.



2020 Scholarship students who worked at Iizuka High School (from left) Tom Cole, Devin Cho, Japanese student and Ihaka Haenga-Sutton

as always. We can all be very proud of them.



The high level of performance was the result of a huge effort by the boys and the many hours of practice. Staff and tutors have high expectations that the boys remain on top of their schoolwork and other activities, as well as committing to practices for Poly Club.

I would like to thank the staff, parents and Old Boys involved with the group for the hours they put in – it is much appreciated.

Special thanks should go to Mrs Fiu for her hard work in bringing the boys together and finalising their routine.



KAPA HAKA

Our combined Rongotai / Wellington East Kapa Haka Group will be competing at the Nationals in mid-September in Whanganui. They have been training hard for this event, and from what I have seen of their rehearsals, they sound and look fantastic. Best wishes for the event.

MUSIC

Music students have recently been involved in several national-level competitions. RockQuest and three versions of Jazz Bandit – a new competition led by NZ's premier jazz musician Dr Rodger Fox. It is in three parts: band, composition, soloist. We had some very pleasing results.

ACADEMIC NEWS

SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to the following students who will represent Rongotai College at the NIWA Wellington Science Fair: **Ben Young, Stan Bough, Thomas Wilson, William Hassed, Alex Fraser, Joshua Bethell, Francois Fourie, Liam Hendry, Dion Leslie, Flynn Gordon, Edward Holben, Alexis Dunkin, Lucas Rongo, Hamish Tukaki-Campbell, Yannick Sternagel-Silao Oliver Brooke and Fletcher Cowan.**

CAREERS

This is a busy time of the year with scholarships, halls of residence applications, and course planning

CULTURAL NEWS

POLY CLUB

Wednesday 27 July saw our Poly Club perform at the TuTagata Festival at the TSB Arena.

The large crowd was entertained by the 50+ boys in the Rongotai College Poly Club, who performed superbly

Rockquest

There were five entries which included Rongotai students: Bright Sky (Edward Holben), Loose Heads (Beck Halliday), Antiphonal Riot (Cameron Grice, Rex More), Illness (Thomas Waddington, Rhys Hicks, Lyric Brodrick), Dawn Patrol (Hamish Smith, Timothy Honiss, Ish Nightingale). Two of these bands made the regional final (Loose Heads and Bright Sky) and one is in the national semi-final. We congratulate **Edward Holben** and his group, Bright Sky, for putting in a superb effort and we wish them luck in the event. Details here: <https://www.smokefreerockquest.co.nz>

Jazz Bandit

Our Big Band entered this and several students for composition and soloists. The Rongotai College Big Band is a finalist in the national event for the band competition and **Liam George** tops the list for jazz soloist finalists. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the event at the New Zealand School of Music, Victoria University of Wellington on Saturday, 1 October from 10am.

RC Old Boys Dinner

The Big Band was honoured to be asked to perform at the recent dinner hosted by the Old Boys Association and had a great time playing a range of different music. Thank you to members of Capital City Big Band who helped out on the night.



Liam George performing trombone solo

LEAVERS' BALL

Our Leavers' Ball for Year 13 students will be held at The Pines on **Friday 23 September**. We observe strict yet sensible conditions at our ball and if your son is intending to attend, he must take a letter home regarding these conditions. He must return a signed slip from you. Please remind him to do this before he purchases a ball ticket. Ball

tickets will be on sale for Year 13 students (who will have preference for the first two weeks of sales) from Monday 29 August. Any remaining tickets will then open to Year 12 students on Monday 12 September. However, due to health and safety requirements, there are a limited number of tickets available for sale, so boys should purchase their tickets as soon as possible. All tickets must be purchased by Friday 16 September and will be handed out at a special assembly at 12.30pm on Friday 23 September.



SERVICE NEWS

SHAVE FOR A CURE

On the last day of Term 2 we welcomed guest speaker Jake Bailey, who spoke about resilience and his experience with cancer.

Shave for a Cure was our focus at assembly with a number of boys, several staff and Jake shaving their heads to raise funds for Leukaemia and Blood NZ.

Brilliant work boys - you should be very proud of yourselves for raising over \$14,000! Thanks also to our Old Boy barbers - Ken and Jabo!



Old Boy Ken Aperila shaving Head Prefect Jude Sneddon.

CAN COLLECTION FOR WOMEN'S REFUGE

A huge thank you to the students who organised a can collection for

Women's Refuge. This food will be much appreciated those in need.



Delivering the collection were (from left) Jamal Howell, Jude Sneddon, Jack Harris and George Crouch



SPORTS NEWS

Terms 1 and 2 of 2022 have seen sport almost return to normal. It has been great to see so many teams take to the field as we head into finals.

BASKETBALL

Congratulations to our Senior C team who were crowned Champions on Friday after they beat Tawa College 40-39 in an epic encounter. Our Seniors will play in the final this coming Friday before heading off to regionals.

FOOTBALL

It was another great season for football with a number of our teams working their way into play-off contention.

Our 1st XI has again qualified for the Elite Lotto Premiership which will be help in Napier during Winter Tournament Week. The team has performed well over the season finishing 5th in the Premier Youth Division and just last week played out a draw of for the Rufer Cup in our Annual Traditional against Palmerston North Boys' High School.



Well done to the 2nd XI who played against 1st XIs in the division just below our 1st XI and were the best 2nd XI in Wellington.

Rongotai will again be hosting the CSW Football Finals on 27 August.

HOCKEY

For the first time in five years our 1st XI has made the Top 4 of the Wellington Secondary Schools Competition and have regained entry into the Elite Rankin Cup Tournament since our last visit in 2019.

We have seen some massive gains in our Hockey Programme with the addition of our Colts team and also an U15 team that was invited to the Miskimmin Cup and made it all the way to the final in our first year.

RUGBY

2022 has been an excellent season for our rugby teams, with all five of our teams making semi-finals in their respective grades.

The 1st XV has worked their way back into the Top 4 of the Wellington Secondary Schools' competition. However, a loss to a strong Silverstream team meant they end their season there.

Congratulations to our 2nd XV who defeated Wainuiomata 22 - 15 to win the Premier 3 division and take out the Paul Cameron Cup.



Congratulations also to our U15B team which came away with a tight

13-5 win over Naenae College to win the Ross Findlay Cup.



Paul Cameron is an Old Boy and Wellington sporting legend and Ross Findlay was a former teacher and whose sons are also old boys.

Rugby playing numbers continue to remain strong and buck the national trend. We hope to continue to make similar strides forward again in 2023.

WINTER TOURNAMENT WEEK

This year we will have eight teams participating at various National and Regional events during Winter Tournament Week.

Basketball - The Senior A team will remain in Wellington to attend Regionals for a spot in the Nationals which will be held a week later.

The Junior A team will travel to New Plymouth to compete in the Zone 3 Regional championships.

Football - The 1st XI will travel to Napier to attend the elite Lotto Premiership National tournament where Rongotai teams have, in the past, achieved national glory.

Floorball - Our defending National Champion Senior A team will look to defend their title and will be joined by the juniors in the Junior Nationals.

Hockey - The hockey team have also gained entry into the top tier Nationals and will attend the Rankin Cup in North Harbour.

McEVEDY SHIELD

I recently sent an email to parents regarding the 2022 McEvedy Shield, which has been organised for 14 September. This will be a competitor-only event, and student supporters will not be able to attend.

Rugby - The U15 and U14 teams will attend the Hurricanes Regional Tournaments in Wellington.

These are great opportunities for our students so be proud out there wearing the blue black yellow and ensure you do your B.E.S.T.

SUMMER SPORTS

Summer sports teams are now being confirmed so please check the sports noticeboard for team lists after Winter Tournament Week.

Finally, it is vital that you continue to keep reminding your son of his study programme and study habits as this term progresses. School senior exams are only two weeks away, and NCEA assessments are on-going. Your son's subject teachers, form teacher and year level Dean are available for help and advice and you should encourage him to talk to them. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of these staff members.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

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RONGOTAI COLLEGE



Practice Examination Timetable 2022

All exams will take place in the Renner Hall. Some classrooms, Southward and Ballinger will be used

	Thursday 15 th September	Friday 16 th September	Monday 19 th September	Tuesday 20 th September	Wednesday 21 st September
Morning (8.55am-12.00pm)	1MAAE 27-2H 1MAKS 28-3H 1MQ 25-1H 2GE 12-3H 2MU 3-3H 2SP 6-2H 3BI 16-2H 3DR 15-1H	1EQ 64-2H 1EN 60-3H 2AC 12-2H 2DC 9-3H 3PH 23-3H 3DC 1-3H	1SQ1 26-1H 1SQ2 21-2H 1SC 60-3H 2CS 11-3H 2SA 7-2H 3CH 9-3H 3EC 26-3H 3SP 3-3H	1AC 18-2H 1MR 24-2H 2DR 9-1H 2EC 32-3H 2MD 21- 2H 3AC 12-2H 3GE 11-3H 3MR 5-2H	1DC 20-3H 2BI 20-2H 2MP 5-3H 3EN 34-3H
Afternoon (1.15pm-4.15pm)	1EC 47-3H 2CH 36-3H 3MC 32-3H	1GE 48-3H 2HI 34-3H 2MR 6-2H 3MD 30-2H 3SA 9-3H	1SP 14-2H 1SA 5-2H 2EN 88-3H 2EQ 14-1H 3HI 35-3H	1HI 30-3H 2MQ 18-2H 2MA 93-3H 3CS 17-3H 3MU 1-3H	1MU 9-3H 1DR 12-1H 2PH 38-3H 3MS 46-1H

Thursday 22nd September: Morning – Literacy DCAT -2H

Friday 23rd September: Morning- Numeracy DCAT-1H

Note: The DCAT Literacy and Numeracy exams are for students in 1EQ, 1EY, 1MQ and any Year 10 student who did not attain this in Term 2.

*Digital 3 Hours *Digital 2 Hours