



# RONGOTAI COLLEGE

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 1 Term 1 (3 February) 2023

### COMING EVENTS

**Monday 6 February**  
Waitangi Day Holiday

**Wednesday 8 February**  
Athletics Participation Day – all students  
Parents' Association meeting, 7.30pm in  
the staffroom

**Tuesday 14 February**  
Student class and ID photos taken

**Wednesday 15 February**  
Athletics finals day at Newtown Park  
for selected students

**Thursday 16 February**  
Year 9 Parents' Evening 6.30pm

**Thursday 23 February**  
NCEA Information Evening 6pm

**Tuesday 7 March**  
McEvedy Shield at Newtown Park

**Thursday 16 March**  
Board meeting 6pm in the staffroom

**Wednesday 22 March**  
Careers Expo at Rongotai College

**Monday 27 to Friday 31 March**  
Summer Tournament Week

**Thursday 6 April**  
Last day Term 1

### 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

Kia ora and welcome to my first newsletter for 2023! On behalf of the staff and the Board, can I welcome parents of students new to the college. Following this newsletter, I will be mailing or emailing newsletters home at least once each month. Newsletters can also be viewed on our website.

School news can also be found on our Facebook page.

On Monday 30 January, we celebrated the arrival of over 150 new students to Rongotai College with a powhiri.

Hopefully this ceremony allowed boys to quickly feel at home and be part of the Rongotai family from their first day at this school.



*New students assembling for the powhiri*

### ACADEMIC AWARDS

At assembly today we celebrated the NCEA performance of our students in 2022. While I will give a detailed review when NZQA releases the final results to the public in April, you will be pleased to know that our students continue to do themselves and the school proud. 2022 was another good year of achievement with very pleasing results in all measures of NCEA.

Of course, these school-wide results are the consequence of a number of individual successes. At this assembly, we awarded Academic Honours to those students who gained Excellence endorsed certificates for NCEA. We will award certificates to Merit students in the next few weeks.

Academic Honours for gaining NCEA with Excellence were awarded to **Reuben Ballara, Thomas Cobden-Cox, Milan Cussins, Jacob Inch, Epeli Kilioni, Burton Mackay, Quinn Marshall-McCaskey, Jude Sneddon, Daniel Turner, Oscar Watson** and

### STUDENT ID & CLASS PHOTOS

On **Tuesday 14 February** students will have their ID photograph and class photo taken. Please ensure that your son's uniform is in good order and he is clean shaven.

**George Wells** (all Year 13 2022 – Level 3), while the following 2022 Year 12 students were also awarded Academic Honours – **Elliot Brown, Alvin Cho, Jamie Butler, Ahmad Diab, Jonas Glaudel, Flynn Gowans, Phoenix Hague-Smith, Kano Hill, Mikey Lemon, Henry McKenzie-Harper, Rex More, Frank Quigley, Alexander Randall, Leo Scott-Lancashire** and **Blake Shepherd**.

Year 11 students from 2022 who were awarded Academic Honours were **Haider Al Khattat, Timothee Ausseil, Callum Baker, Otis Baker, Nicolas Ball, Sean Ballara, Anatole Bodeux, Charlie Crawford, Harry Cregeen, Harrison Florentine, Louis Goodfellow, Luke Hardy, Joseph Hilawi, Edward Hoben, Jack Leong, Connor McCorry, Jimmy McKirdy, Manawa Mitcalfe Matthews, Rishi Patel, Fred Pilgrim, Hayden Poad, Markus Quarrie, Charlie Rapson, Fenn Restieaux, Nysi Soulis, Quentin Stark, Oliver Stewart, Rico Taylor, Otto Wanwimolruk, Riley Weitekamp** and **Ayman Zewada**

Congratulations are also due to the large group of boys who gained Merit endorsements. Well done boys!

On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate our Year 11, 12 and 13 students of last year on their achievements, and thank our staff for their excellent work. Striving to be "better than before" is the challenge that I set for students each year.

## STAFF NEWS

We welcomed nine new teachers to the school at the powhiri on the first day of term.

- **Ms Brooke Chadfield** (English) joins us from Whanganui.
- **Mr Gabe Chambers** (Hospitality) has been teaching at Wellington East Girls' College.
- **Ms Ally Gercken** (English) comes to us from Queensland, Australia.
- **Mr Nikhil Kumar** (Maths) comes to us from Fiji where he has been teaching for a number of years.
- **Mr Sean O'Connor** (Economics) has been out of teaching for several years.
- **Mr Liam Roth** (HOD Science) comes to us from Wellington College.
- **Ms Mckayla Woodroffe** (Art) is a new teacher who completed one of her placements at Rongotai College in 2022.



from left Mr Roth, Ms Chadfield, Ms Gercken, Mr O'Connor, Ms Woodroffe, Mr Chambers & Mr Kumar.

We also welcome the return of **Mr Tim Noble** (Science) who has been on leave in Africa for the past three years.

## TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING - THURSDAYS

To provide time for staff professional learning, lessons will be starting slightly later on **Thursdays**. Instead of 8.55am, school will start at 9.15am. No form time will be held on this day so only five minutes of class time will be lost to allow for this professional development. The school day will finish at the normal time and buses will run as normal. The school will be open at the normal time, of course, meaning that your son will simply have 20 minutes to fill in before classes start if he comes by bus. Students who do not arrive by bus must be at school by 9.15am.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2023

Prefects were announced at Senior Prizegiving last year and, at assembly yesterday, we acknowledged our student leaders for 2023 and they were presented with their badges. Prefects give leadership and provide support to other students in the school. Our prefects have an important role and may well instruct your son to follow proper rules and do the right thing when this is not happening. However, their main role is to be a role model and provide an example to other students. They also assist with the smooth running of the school and organisation of events. We are pleased to announce our prefects for 2023:

### Head Prefect

Flynn Gowans

### Academic Leader

Blake Shepherd

### Cultural Leader

Zayd Adam

### House Captains

Heron – Alvin Cho

Mackay – Jet James

### Deputy Head Prefect

Phoenix Hague-Smith

### Arts Leader

Rex More

### Sports Captain

Alex Randall

Lock – James Morrison

Renner – Ezra Su'a

### Prefects

Jamie Butler

Hagan Macfadyen

Oliver Ng

Frank Quigley

Kea Reid

Felix Steiner



## WEEKLY REPORTING

Beginning Week 3 we will be providing a weekly overview of your son's work at school. Teachers will provide a grade from 1 (poor) – 5 (well above expectations), outlining how your son has worked in class over the previous five days.

These will be emailed to parents on Friday afternoon each week. If your son has been absent during the week, he will not receive a grade. At the end of term, you will receive a report with the average for the term.

We believe by this style of reporting, you should have a better understanding of how your son is working throughout the term, week-by-week, and you will be able to see if his level of performance in class has dropped or has improved.

## YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING

All parents / caregivers of Year 9 students are invited to the college on the evening of **Thursday 16 February**. This evening is held to give you the opportunity to understand our college's structures and systems so that you can best assist your son in his learning. You will also be able to meet your son's core subject teachers. The evening will begin at 6.30pm in the college's Renner Hall.

## NCEA INFORMATION EVENING

Parents often ask questions regarding how NCEA operates. I think it is vital that you understand NCEA and what is needed for your son to succeed. To ensure that you are informed, Mr Reddy (Deputy Principal) will be hosting an NCEA Information Evening for parents on

**Thursday 23 February** in the college's Library at 6pm.

It is important that whānau of Year 11, 12 and 13 students who wish to gain a better understanding of NCEA attend; parents of students in Year 10 are also most welcome.

## BYOD

Rongotai College continues to encourage students to bring their own digital device to school for learning purposes. In 2023, we are again focusing our teaching on using devices, and any student at any level may bring a device to enhance their learning.

While we have not specified a device that your son must use, we recommend that Year 9-11 students have a **chromebook**.

I know security is an important issue for parents. Students are



responsible for the security of their devices. They are able to rent lockers from the College Shop for \$20 if they wish.

While the school has a number of devices available for students to use, we cannot provide a device for every boy. Over the past few years, a growing number of boys have made the relatively selfish decision not to bring their devices to school even though they have them. This reduces our capacity to help boys who do not have devices. **If you have a device for your son, please ensure he brings it to school.**

## HOME / SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Establishing and maintaining good communication between parents and the college is essential for your son's learning. If you have any concerns or questions, you should contact his form teacher in the first instance. If further communication

is necessary, please contact the appropriate year level dean. Our deans for 2023 are:

Year 13 Dean – Ms Esmee McAuley  
Year 12 Dean – Ms Anne Brailsford  
Year 11 Dean – Mr Pemerika Leiataua  
Year 10 Dean – Ms Michaela Smith  
Year 9 Dean – Mr Whetu Henry

Email addresses for deans and all staff are available on the college's website.

For serious concerns contact should be made with the Deputy Principals, Mr Geoff Hall (Director of Pastoral Care) or Mr Venkat Reddy (Director of Teaching & Learning), or myself. We welcome contact from you.

## RONGOTAI COLLEGE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

This group of parents meet throughout the year, raising and distributing funds to support the boys in their learning and enjoyment of school life. New members are welcome – this group is a great way to continue to be involved in your son's school. Two popular fundraisers are held each year with tasks distributed amongst the group. We endeavour to share the load and ensure that no job is too onerous.

The next meeting will be held in the college's staff room on Wednesday 8 February at 7.30pm. All new members are welcome.

## ATHLETICS SPORTS

Our Athletics Days will be held on Wednesday 8 February and Wednesday 15 February.

**Wednesday 8 February** will be for the whole school and participation of all students is strongly encouraged. This will be held at Rongotai College. Students are requested to wear house colours.

**Wednesday 15 February** will be the finals day for those students who have qualified. This finals event will be held in conjunction with Wellington College, at Newtown Park.

Both Athletics Sports Days will take place no matter what the weather – they will NOT be cancelled.

- Please make sure that your son dresses appropriately for the weather and, if it is sunny, provide him with sun block and a hat as well as lunch and a drink bottle.
- Students are encouraged to wear clothing in house colours, but may NOT wear bandanas. No face paint is permitted.

## McEVEDY SHIELD

This is an annual athletics competition contested between Rongotai College, Wellington College, St Patrick's College (Town) and St Patrick's College (Silverstream). This event will be held at Newtown Park on **Tuesday 7 March**. Updated information will be advised in our next newsletter.

## SPORT

I am sure 2023 will be another exciting year of sport at Rongotai College. Whether boys are new to sport, play socially or competitively, there are wonderful opportunities for them to get involved. Sport is a great way to make friends, build confidence and have fun. We strongly encourage every student at Rongotai College to take part in sport; with a wide variety of sports on offer from the competitive to the social, there is something for everyone.

## Parent Support

Sport at college is only possible thanks to the support of the parents and volunteers. We encourage all parents to be involved and engaged in their son's sport, whether that be through coaching, managing, scoring, refereeing, helping with transport, joining a committee or fundraising. There is a field on the registration form where you can indicate how you can assist.

Ngā mihi nui

Kevin Carter  
**PRINCIPAL**



# NOTICE BOARD

## ATTENDANCE EMAILS

The college has an email address for absences - [attendance@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:attendance@rongotai.school.nz) Please use this address as a means of advising the school of your son's absence. Please also advise the reason for his absence.

## COLLEGE SHOP

The College Shop (selling uniforms and stationery) opening hours, during term time, are  
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

## STUDENT LOCKERS

The Parents' Association have provided funding for lockers for students' use. Students can hire a locker for the year by bringing \$20 to the College Shop. They must provide their own padlock.



## SNAPPER CARDS & STUDENT ID



Students can apply for a Snapper ID card or an ID card once ID photographs have been taken. Snapper ID cards cost \$25 and ID cards cost \$10. These can be ordered from the College Shop. Payment must be made at the time of ordering. They will take approximately two weeks to arrive.

- ✓ Events
- ✓ Notices
- ✓ Instant school messages
- ✓ Absentee
- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Permission slips



## Have you downloaded our School app yet?

Never miss important school information again!

Simple free download:  
In Google Play and App Store search 'Skool Loop' and choose our school once installed.



## RONGOTAI COLLEGE

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