



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

23 February, 2024
Week 4, Term 1

COMING EVENTS

Monday 26 February

Board meeting, 6pm in the staffroom

Friday 1 March

Whānau Group barbecue 6pm at Tangi Te Keo

Tuesday 5 March

McEvedy Memorial Shield Athletics at Newtown Park

Wednesday 13 March

NCEA Information Evening 6pm in the college library

Monday 18 March

Rongotai College Pasifika Parents' Asosi meeting at 6pm in the staffroom

Monday 18 to Friday 22 March

Summer Tournament Week

Friday 29 March

Good Friday

2024 TERM DATES

- Term 1** Wednesday 31 January to Friday 12 April
- Term 2** Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July
- Term 3** Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September
- Term 4** Monday 14 October to Friday 13 December

We are now well into what is already proving to be a busy Term One. The boys are settled and working well in class; several visitors to the school have commented on the very calm atmosphere around the school.

It was great to see so many parents at our recent Year 9 Parents' evening, where they got to meet their son's core curriculum teachers.



ACADEMIC NEWS

NZ SCHOLARSHIP

NZQA has released NZ Scholarship results for 2023. Two boys were awarded scholarships - **Ahmad Diab** was awarded a scholarship in History and **Thibault Dunkin**, gained a scholarship in English. Congratulations to both students!

ACADEMIC AWARDS

At assembly two weeks ago, we celebrated the NCEA performance of our students in 2023. 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. 2023 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 **Jamie Butler, Alvin Cho, Ahmad Diab, Jonas Glaudel, Flynn Gowans, Beck Halliday, Kano Hill, Mikey Lemon, Douglas Miller, Oliver Ng, Blake Shepherd** (all Year 13 2023 – Level 3), while the following 2023 Year 12 students were also awarded Academic Honours – **Timothee Ausseil, Callum Baker, Otis Baker, Nicolas Ball, Sean Ballara, Anatole Bodeux, Tom Bollinger, Charlie Crawford, Harry Cregeen, Suavek**

Goodfellow, Luke Hardy, Joseph Hilawi, Edward Hoben, Jack Leong, Connor McCorry, Jimmy McKirdy, Manawa Mitcalfe Matthews, Hayden Poad, Markus Quarrie, Nysi Soulis, Quentin Stark, Oliver Stewart, Sam Streeter, Rico Taylor, Otto Wanwimolruk and Ayman Zewada

Year 11 students from 2023 who were awarded Academic Honours were: **Ahmed Abdi, Alexander Beggs, Oliver Brooke, Sebastien Chow Worn, Thomas Collier, Fletcher Cowan, Henry Dickson, Nico Halasz, Oliver Hunt, Bilal Khan, David London, Joshua Matatia, Fraser O'Regan-Smith, Leo Powdrell, Leo Stein, William Witcombe, Ben Young and Anas 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.

Our NCEA results highlighted something that we have long believed as a school – that success is significantly impacted by effort and attendance. Last year, our Weekly Engagement Reports measured student effort in class each week.

Coupled with attendance data, a clear picture emerges on what it takes to succeed as the data below shows. **There were significant differences in average attendance and effort grades between students who gained NCEA Level 1 last year and those who did not.**

	Attendance (%)	Av Weekly Effort / 5
Gained NCEA	90	3.95
No NCEA	77	3.05

These differences were similar at both Level 2 and Level 3, highlighting the simple equation for success:

Achievement = Attendance + Effort

STEVENSON MEDAL

Congratulations to **Ben Young** who was awarded the Stevenson Medal at assembly last week. The Stevenson



Medal is awarded annually to the top student in Level 1 Science. It is named after Rongotai College Old Boy, David Stevenson, an Astrophysicist at CalTech in the USA.

NCEA INFORMATION

By now, your son should have received an Assessment Statement in either paper or digital form from each of his teachers if he is studying for NCEA. These outline when all assessments are taking place. Copies of all the Level 1, 2 and 3 statements are able to be downloaded from the website.

Please check that your son enters all his assessments in his diary or year planner. Alternatively, you can download a blank 'assessment calendar' from our website (<https://www.rongotai.school.nz/academic/senior-qualifications-assessment-guide/>). Please encourage your son to look at his diary or calendar often and help him to organise himself to prepare for his assessments.

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 especially now that Level 1 has changed. To ensure that you are informed, Mr Reddy (Deputy Principal) will be hosting an NCEA Information Evening for parents on **Wednesday 13 March** 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.

PARENT PORTAL

The Parent Portal allows you, via a secure log-in from the website, to check your son's attendance, personal details, results and groups with which he has registered. Daily notices are also found on the Parent Portal. Login information regarding our Rongotai Parent Portal for parents of Year 9 students was sent to you early in February.

If your son is in Year 10-13 and you do not have access details to the Parent Portal, please email the.principal@rongotai.school.nz or contact the college office staff who will arrange for these details to be sent to you.

Queries can be directed to greg.crayford@rongotai.school.nz

BIG BAND

The Rongotai College Big Band is currently preparing for the national youth jazz competition in Tauranga prior to Easter. The band is looking for new members on trumpet and trombone. If your son already plays the trumpet or trombone, he might be interested in joining.

We are also always looking to the future, so if your son is keen to start learning a suitable instrument see information on the itinerant programme in this newsletter. Standard big band instruments are saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, drums and voice.

2024 PRODUCTION

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" is a vibrant and touching musical based on the story of Joseph and his journey from innocent Canaan shepherd to powerful Egyptian noble. The show will be performed in Term 2, with performances on Wednesday 15, Thursday 16, Friday 17 and Saturday 18 April in the Renner Hall starting at 7pm. The cast consists of 33 of our boys and 17 girls from Wellington East Girls' College, Wellington Girls' College, St Mary's College and St Catherine's College, as well as a choir of boys and girls from local primary schools.

It is a show packed with fantastic dance numbers, fun and humour as well as moving moments. The key themes are brotherhood, revenge and forgiveness.

Make sure you mark your calendar as "Joseph" is definitely a Rongotai production not to be missed!

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, \$50 for a family (2 adults and 2 children). Tickets will be on sale on-line through trybooking.com/nz from 1 March. There will be limited door sales.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Itinerant Programme

Music lessons are available for piano, keyboards, guitar, bass, drums, voice, woodwind and brass. Lessons are \$100 a year. This compulsory fee will be added to your school invoice and must be paid before Term One ends. Lessons have largely started but if you're still interested in signing up, be quick! These are always very popular and from Term Two onwards are usually restricted to Music option students.

If your son would like to be involved in any of this, he should contact Mr Crayford in the Music Department.





SPORTS NEWS

Summer sports are well underway with over 350 boys representing the school in 10 different summer codes.

ATHLETICS

Athletics takes centre stage in Term One. A very successful participation day was held at Rongotai College on Monday 5 February. Participation numbers were good and the students and staff enjoyed a fun day with some great performances.

Heron was crowned House champions, with Lock in second place, and Renner in third. Mackay was fourth.



Athletics Finals Day

A successful day was held at Newtown Park competing against Wellington College athletes.

Congratulations to many athletes who performed well. Highlights were:

- **Gyan Wilson** (Y9) and **Zachary Atkin** (Y9) gaining first and second in the 200m and also finishing first and second in the 100m and the Long Jump. Gyan also won the 400m and was second in the discus, while Zachary finished second in Triple Jump.
- **Codie Tawhiri** (Y10) finished first in the javelin, throwing 31.38m.
- **Remy Boswell** (Y9) came third in both Long and Triple Jumps.
- **Mesi-Junior Sauaga** (Y9) was third in the hurdles, and second in the shot put.
- **TK Malacine** and **Ari Bulman-Johnson** finished first and second in the high jump.
- The team of **Remy Boswell**, **Zachary Atkin**, **JJ Popham** and **Gyan Wilson** won the 4x100m relay.

- **Hemish Patel** (Y10) finished third in 100m and 200m.
- **Hugo Campion** (Y10) was third in 1500m and fourth in the 3000m.

In the senior age group, highlights included:

- **Desmond Reddy** (Y10) winning the 3000m in a time of 9.08.98 which is a new Under 16 school record. He then backed that up with a second in the 1500m.
- **Jona Radravu** (Y10) won the U16 200m and finished second in 100m.
- **Aston Burwell-Garratt** (Y12) fought through niggling injuries to win the Over 16 110m Hurdles and the Over 16 Triple Jump.

In the field events

- **Leo Powdrell** (Y12) won the under 16 Javelin with a throw of 42.67m, a 15m personal best!
- **Fletcher Cowan** (Y12) won the Under 16 Long Jump and finished third in the Triple Jump.
- **Va'a Tui** (Y13) continued his success in winning the Over 16 Shot Put and Discus, while **Xavior Sola** (Y13) finished second in the Shot Put and third in Discus.

Other key results in the Over 16 were:

- **Marius Filo-Smith** (Y13) finishing third in the 100m and 200m.
- **Harrison Clulow** (Y13) finished second in 800m and fourth in the 1500m.
- **Ben Young** (Y12) finishing second qualifying in High Jump.

Overall, it was an extremely successful day which showed our athletes the necessary competitive level.

CRICKET

Our 1st XI is currently playing in the College Sport Wellington Premier Youth Grade and has had a pleasing summer of cricket to date.

Last Saturday they defeated HVHS to record their first win of the season. Rongotai scored 265/9 in their 50 overs with a number of players contributing with the bat (**Aston Burwell-Garratt** 55, **Roman Day** 43, **Jai Toma** 34 and **Rishi Patel** 34 not out). In reply, HVHS made 217 all out. Aston had a great game

with 2/27 with the ball while **Fraser O'Regan-Smith** took 4/19.

The previous week they had a good game with Wellington College 1st XI. In reply to an imposing 339/4 Rongotai did well to make 283. Well done to **Roman Day** (59), **Hunter Taylor** (56), **Eddie Hoben** (44) and **Aston Burwell-Garratt** (48).

The high scores of these games were exceeded in our annual game with Wairarapa College played in Masterton earlier this week. Batting



first **Aston Burwell-Garratt** scored an outstanding 200 and **Jai Toma** 80, as Rongotai made 374. In reply, Wairarapa College made 328 with **Rico Taylor** taking 4/88, **Rishi Patel** 3/38 and **Dion Leslie** 2/42. Well done boys!

MCVEVEDY SHIELD

This is a highly anticipated annual athletics competition contested between Rongotai College, Wellington College, St Patrick's College (Town) and St Patrick's College (Silverstream). The 100th McEvedy Shield event will be held **Tuesday 5 March**. All students are required to report to Newtown Park at 8.55am on this day to compete or to support our team. Students are required to wear school uniform.

Students must make their own way to the park; if your son is travelling by bus, he should ask his bus driver to drop him as near to Newtown Park as possible.

Students are required to report for a roll call at 8.55am, and they should report to their form teacher who will be located near the finish line.



Students will be dismissed from Newtown Park at the conclusion of the day (approximately 2.30pm) and are required to make their own way home.

Please make sure that your son wears his uniform appropriately for the weather and, if it is sunny, provide him with sun block. Limited food will be available at the park, so he should also bring lunch and something to drink.

We would ask you to talk to your son about his behaviour both at the ground and on the way to and from the event. With over 2000 students attending the special event, we would hate for your son to be the boy who, through his behaviour, jeopardises the event in the future.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. We understand

that for a range of reasons, boys may not come to school having had an appropriate breakfast. Consequently, we have partnered with Fonterra and Sanitarium (as part of their "Kick Start" programme) to provide breakfast for boys who require it in the Hospitality Room each morning. Boys are able to have breakfast from 8am each morning. Weet-Bix and milk are free.

We hope this allows all our students to have a 'Kick Start Breakfast' each day.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Lastly, staff have commented that some boys are currently not living our school value of 'TAKING PRIDE' in the way they are wearing our school uniform. I would like to remind you that it is expected that your son will wear his uniform in the correct manner and with pride at all

times. This means that only black jackets are permissible and NO HOODIES or sweatshirts of any description (including those with Rongotai logos associated with sports teams). Shoes should be black leather and able to be polished. Crocs are definitely NOT an acceptable item of footwear at school, and socks are not to be worn with sandals.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Rongotai College has Emergency Evacuation Procedures which have been developed with input and feedback from Civil Defence. We hold regular evacuation drills and have outlined our procedures for students.

In the event of an emergency such as major destructive earthquake or fire at the school, students will be held at school and not be allowed to leave the school grounds until dismissed by myself or a Deputy Principal acting on behalf of the Principal, and a decision made if they can go home directly or if they should be collected by their parents or a person listed as an emergency contact. For the safety of all, it is important in these circumstances that parents check with the school office or administration before collecting students and taking them off-site. The school holds stocks of water as well as medical equipment and blankets in case we are required to keep students safe at school and a skeleton staff will remain with the students.

In the case of an evacuation for a tsunami, our procedure will be to evacuate to the west, heading to Melrose Park, where toilet facilities are available. Again, a skeleton staff will remain with students until they are collected by parents.

If and when it is deemed appropriate by the school that students need to be collected from either the school (in the event of an earthquake) or Melrose Park (following a tsunami evacuation), this will be communicated to parents by:

- An announcement that will be made on the local radio stations (Newstalk ZB, The Hits, More FM).
- A message left on the school phone (939 3050) asking parents to collect their children immediately.
- If we have access to our servers, we will send a SMS and/or emails to all parents for whom we have cell phone or email contact details.
- A message sent via the school calendar app.
- A message on the school website and Facebook page.
- A telephone call by form teachers if it is practicable.

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