



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 5, Term 3 (August), 2024

COMING EVENTS

Monday 2 September
Mid-term break

Monday 2 to Friday 6 September
Winter tournament week

Tuesday 10 – Friday 13 September
CAA Literacy and Numeracy exams

Monday 16 – Thursday 19 September
Year 12 and 13 Exams

Friday 20 September
Leavers' Ball

Thursday 26 September
Board meeting 6pm in the staffroom

Friday 27 September
Last day of Term 3

Monday 14 October
First day of Term 4

2024 TERM DATES

Term 3 Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September

Term 4 Monday 14 October to Friday 13 December

2025 TERM DATES

Term 1 Monday 27 January to Friday 11 April

Term 2 Monday 28 April to Friday 27 June

Term 3 Monday 14 July to Friday 19 September

Term 4 Monday 6 October to Friday 5 December

We are now half way through Term 3, and entering a very busy period of assessments for senior students, including Year 12 and 13 examinations plus CAA Literacy and Numeracy examinations.

SENIOR EXAMINATIONS

Due to the changes to NCEA Level 1, we have decided that Year 11 exams will now take

place in Weeks 1 and 2 of Term 4 (18-22 October). **Year 12 and 13 exams will still take place at the previously advised time of 16 to 19 September.**

For your information, the examination timetable is included with this newsletter for the Year 12 and 13 exams.

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.

For some boys there may be a health issue, family or other circumstance that prevents him from sitting the external examinations in November. These 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 CAA Maths and English exams will be held from 10-13 September. This is for those students who did not pass the CAA exams held in May and also selected Year 9 and 10 students.

Your son will have been told if he is sitting the CAA exams. You should

MID TERM BREAK

Monday 2 September will be mid-term break for Rongotai College. Accordingly, there will be no school for all students on that day.

also have received notification from your son's teachers.

Visual Arts, DVC and Materials Technology Students

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

Year 9 and 10 students will have classes as per their usual timetable during senior exams.

SUBJECT SELECTION

Last week was Subject Selection Week, when students record the course they wish to study in 2025. This was completed by your son online; you will receive a confirmation of his choices by email at some time over the next few weeks, for you to discuss with him.

It is extremely important that your son has made the correct decisions, as we base our classes in subjects for next year on the numbers signalled by this process. Once the timetable is generated, it is difficult to make changes, for instance adding classes.

NEW STAFF

This week we welcomed **Ms Katherine (Kitty) Batchelar** who joined our staff from the



Porirua Kāhui Ako, as the Head of Learning Support. Welcome to Rongotai Kitty!

BOARD STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS

Nominations have called for the Board Student Representative. Those nominated will address the school assembly on 20 September prior to voting by students on 25 and 26 September. The student representative on the Board is a one year position. The successful candidate will be announced early next term.

ACADEMIC NEWS

CAREERS

This is a busy time of the year with university scholarships, halls of residence applications, and course planning for 2025 taking place. This year we have arranged for four universities to come in to conduct scholarship / accommodation sessions for our Year 13 students.

Most scholarship applications are now closed, but halls of residence applications are still open. However, students should have already advised us of their intention to apply so that the reference that is required can be prepared.

One-on-one / small group course-planning sessions between our students and university liaison staff have been arranged. University of Otago has completed their course planning with our students. Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Canterbury, and Massey University will be here before the end of September to conduct their course planning sessions.



University of Otago course planning



SERVICE NEWS

BLOOD DONATIONS

Once again, a very successful blood drive as held at Rongotai College. As part of our service to the community, we had NZ Blood Service at the college for the second time this year. Staff and students (16 years or older) were invited to donate blood, and 73 donated. This has now become a regular event at Rongotai College.



Alex Gray makes his donation.



Academic Prefect, Rico Taylor makes his donation.



CULTURAL NEWS

POLY CLUB

Friday 26 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 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. The support of the Pasifika Parents' Asosi was much appreciated.

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



MUSIC

Music Performance Evening

A music evening was held earlier this week, showcasing our very talented musicians in a variety of genres and styles, while also allowing some to be assessed for NCEA standards in solo and group performances. Those who attended were treated to an exceptional evening of entertainment.

Congratulations to all the musicians who performed and to the staff who organised the event. It emphasised the talent within the student body

and the outstanding staff who teach them!



Big Band

Congratulations to the Big Band who have been named as a finalist in the nationwide jazz competition, **Young Jazz Bandit**, putting the band once again in the top ten in New Zealand. They are currently working very hard towards the performance at the end of term at the NZ School of Music.



RC Big Band playing at Performance Evening

Congratulations also to **Angus Galloway, Leo Powdrell, Harvey Revell** and **Quentin Stark** who successfully auditioned for the Wellington Allstar Youth Big Band.

LEAVERS' BALL

Our Leavers' Ball for Year 13 students will be held at The Pines on **Friday 20 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 are now on sale for Year 13 students (who will have preference for the first two weeks of sales). Any remaining tickets will then be open to Year 12 students on Tuesday 3 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 13 September and will be handed out at a special assembly at 12.30pm on Friday 20 September.



SPORTS NEWS

We are coming to the end of the winter sports season, with many competitions concluding over the next two weekends and Winter Tournaments starting on 2 September.

BASKETBALL

The Senior team have had a good season and will play off for 5th and 6th place this Friday against Upper Hutt College.

The Senior B and C teams will also play off for 5th and 6th in their respective leagues.

Our Junior A team convincingly beat Naenae College last week to book a spot in the final, to be played at Walter Nash Stadium next Tuesday. Good luck boys!

FOOTBALL

After a bright start in winning their grading pool, the 1st XI have struggled in the Premiership and are currently in 6th place after missing out on the top four.

Our Junior Gold team currently sit 5th in the Junior Premiership and play their last game this weekend against St Pat's, while the Year 9 team plays a semi-final on Saturday.

HOCKEY

The 1st XI have again reached the top four of the Premier division in College Sport Hockey. Having lost on penalties to Wellington College in the preliminary final, the 1st XI lost in a hard-fought semi-final battle against Scots College, 0-1. They play off against HIBS at the NHS tonight for 3rd place.

The Juniors have had a good season, losing to Scots 2-3 in the semi-final, but winning their play-off 1-0 to finish 3rd. Well done boys!

RUGBY

The 1st XV finished their season strongly, with wins over Paraparaumu College and Wairarapa College to finish in 5th position in the Premiership.

Through the season they won traditional fixtures against St Bernard's (Jim Ting Cup) and Wairarapa College (Half Century Cup).

Two rugby teams made the finals of their grades - U65s and the U15s, with both unfortunately losing in the finals. It was a particularly disappointing end for the U65 boys in what was an outstanding, unbeaten season up to that point.

HOCKEY

Congratulations to the Hockey 1st XI's Co-Captain **Harison Clulow** who has been selected in the U18 Men's Future Black Sticks Squad. Harison has been a member of the Rongotai 1st XI since Year 9 and has accumulated well over 100 appearances for the 1st XI. Harison was also selected in the NZ Men's Under 19 Floorball team this year. Congratulations Harison!



SOFTBALL

Congratulations to **Arron Gollan** on his selection in the New Zealand U23 Softball Squad to prepare for the U23 Men's World Cup in 2026. Old Boy **Ciaran Bolger** is also in the squad.



WINTER TOURNAMENT WEEK

This year we will have seven teams participating at various National and Regional events during Winter Tournament Week, to be held 2-6 September. These games will be played at various locations across the North Island.

Basketball - The Senior A team will travel to Palmerston North to attend NZSS Basketball Schick 'AA' Premiership Zone 3 Qualifying Tournament.

The Junior A team will also travel to Palmerston North to compete in the NZSS Basketball Junior Premiership Zone 3 Tournament.

Football - The 1st XI Football team will travel to Auckland to attend the NZSS Football Premier Tournament.

Hockey – The 1st XI Hockey team will play in the NZSS Hockey Boys' Rankin Cup / India Shield in Tauranga. This is the Premier NZSS Tournament in which Rongotai were winners of The India Shield in 2023.

Rugby - The following rugby teams will participate in rugby festivals at different locations around Wellington: U15 (4-7 September) in Silverstream, U85kgs (2-5 September) at Fraser Park.

These tournaments are great opportunities for our students to

experience the next level of sport from their local competitions. Good luck to all our competing teams and be sure to live our school values.

SUMMER SPORTS

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

Finally, it is vital that you continue to remind your son of his study programme and study habits as this term progresses. Year 12 and 13 exams are now only three weeks away, and NCEA internal 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



Fundraising Quiz Night

Wednesday 28th August



11 Tauhinu Road, Miramar

Arrive from 6pm Quiz starts 7pm sharp

Tickets \$20 per person

Tables of 6, 8 or 10 or join a table

For tickets please email: earlegoodfellow@xtra.co.nz

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