



# RONGOTAI COLLEGE

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 5, Term 4 (12 November), 2024

### COMING EVENTS

**Friday 15 November**  
Year 8 testing day

**Monday 18 November**  
Asosi meeting, 6pm in the college's staffroom

**Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 November**  
Junior Exams

**Thursday 28 November**  
Board meeting 6pm in the staffroom

**Friday 29 November**  
Teacher Only Day

**Monday 2 December**  
Fiafia Night

**Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 December**  
Year 10 Camp

**Wednesday 4 & Thursday 5 December**  
Year 9 Survivor

**Friday 6 December**  
Year 9 Social Action Day

**Monday 9 & Tuesday 10 December**  
Year 9 and 10 students in class

**Wednesday 11 December**  
Full school assembly – seniors return

**Thursday 12 December**  
Prizegiving 7.30pm at the Indian Centre, Kilbirnie

**Friday 13 December**  
Teacher only day

**Friday 20 December**  
School office closes

### 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

It has been an extremely busy Term 4 to date. NCEA external exams for Years 11-13 students are in full swing, while Year 9 and 10 students will sit their exams starting Wednesday 27 November.



To help all our students prepare for their upcoming examinations, some Study Skills material, looking at a range of revision techniques, including a blank revision timetable, are available on our website.

**Examinations for Year 9 and 10 students** are scheduled for **WEDNESDAY 27 & THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER**. An examination timetable will be sent out shortly and your son can begin his preparation for these important exams by ensuring that all his notes are complete and up-to-date. Teachers will be giving students advice on what material will be in the exams.



### HELPING YOUR SON TO STUDY

Whether your son is in Year 9 or 10 (or is indeed studying for NCEA), he should have a Study Timetable for the time leading up to his exams. These can be downloaded from our website or a copy requested from the college office.

The following suggestions are useful ways to help your son to study:

- **Make sure that your son has set his routines from now until the time of examinations.** It is a good idea to do the same things at the same time each day e.g. meals, chores, and **STUDY**. Make sure your son has filled in his Study Leave Timetable and help him to keep to the times on it.
- **Help your son to organise the information he needs to study.** His teachers will have given him a clear indication of what to study for each Standard / exam. Help him to organise this information.
- **Ask your son to get out the notes he has been given in his classes and help him organise them.**
- **Ask your son questions about what he has learned.** Explaining something to someone else is a good way to confirm what you have learned.
- **Encourage your son.** Confidence comes from having learned material and then remembering it. Once your son has gone through this process he should be confident that he can cope with the examination.

There are some excellent websites for tips on how to study, such as [www.how-to-study.com](http://www.how-to-study.com). Another website that I would recommend, which has on-line practical help with revision techniques and methods, is <https://getrevising.co.uk/make>.

Our teachers have also made revision material available by sharing through GOOGLE Classroom.

As we get closer to Junior exams, Teachers will be running study and revision classes for students during normal class time. Please encourage your son to seek help from his teachers in areas where he is unsure.

### END-OF-YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

We expect all 2024 students to attend school on **WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER**. That Wednesday will be our last full school assembly, and will start at 8.55am in the Renner Hall. At this special assembly we will farewell leaving staff and read out the prize list for Prizegiving. Senior students will be free to leave after assembly. Year 9 and 10 will remain for the whole day.

The last official day for all students is **THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER** when we will go to the Indian Centre for prizegiving rehearsal. Senior students will be dismissed at the conclusion of rehearsal.

Year 9 and 10 students will return to school after the rehearsal. They will go to their form room and be given their school report to bring home.

### PRIZEGIVING

Prizegiving is the culmination of our year's study and activities and is a full school event. It will be held this year on **THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER** in the Indian Centre, starting at 7.30pm.

Please note this date in your diary and we invite you to attend this enjoyable celebration with us. Please also read the "Important Dates and Events" notices carefully and instruct your son to attend at the times when he is required. **All students must attend Prizegiving.**

At Prizegiving, Year 13 students will receive Graduation Certificates. Testimonials will be posted in due course.

Prizegiving is the last official school event for all students, who are then free to go on holiday at its conclusion. Parents of Year 13 school leavers are cordially invited to a Leavers' Supper following Prizegiving.



## SERVICE NEWS

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The 7 November Board meeting saw the changeover of Student Representatives. **Jack Leong** has represented students on the Board for the past two years. He has done an outstanding job of bringing student views to the Board and representing students in the decision-making process. The governance of our school is enhanced by young men such as Jack and their perspective on progress and school initiatives.

The election for the 2024-2025 Student Representative on the Rongotai College Board has been held, and **Joshua Matatia** of Year 12 was elected as Student Representative.



We are looking forward to his perspective and contribution over the coming year.

### SHAVE FOR A CURE

At the end of last term a number of students and staff had their heads shaved for Shave for a Cure.

Brilliant work boys - you should be very proud of yourselves for raising over \$16,000 for this very worthy cause.



## CULTURAL NEWS

### COMMUNITY SERVICE, PERFORMING ARTS & CULTURAL ASSEMBLY

We celebrated the success of students in a range of activities at our annual Performing Arts and Cultural Assembly on Friday 18 October.

The following students were presented Honours awards at the assembly:

<b>Carlos Morris-Matchitt</b>	Haka Haka
<b>Leo Powdrell</b>	Kapa Haka
<b>Jumarome Matini Ito</b>	Polynesian Club
<b>Jordan Samuelu</b>	Polynesian Club
<b>Xavior Sola</b>	Polynesian Club
<b>Leo Powdrell</b>	Drama
<b>TJ Robinson</b>	Drama
<b>Harry Florentine</b>	Interact
<b>Markus Quarrie</b>	Music
<b>Quentin Stark</b>	Music

We also recognised several students for their Community Service. The following students received Bronze awards:

**Callum Baker**  
**Edward Florentine**  
**Joseph Hilawi**

Joseph also received his Gold award.

### RCBB – Young Jazz Bandit

In June our big band entered the most prestigious jazz competition in the country – Young Jazz Bandit, developed by the late Rodger Fox, and now in its third year. The Rongotai College Big Band were in the top ten of the Big Band performance component. The finals were held in September at the NZ School of Music. Whilst not making the top three places, they played the best they have all year and it was a superb performance. Well done to all members of the Big Band.



## SPORTS NEWS

As we approach the end of the school year, many of our summer codes are underway. This term Rongotai is pleased to be able to offer athletics, cricket, floorball, futsal, rugby 7s, volleyball and water polo (juniors). Thank you again to all the parents and volunteers who have put their hands up this term and have made these offerings a possibility.

With exams in progress, the importance of regular exercise and physical activity becomes evident and while it may seem that sport could be a distraction to academia, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that exercise improves brain function and academic performance.

### SPORTS AWARDS ASSEMBLY

We celebrated the success of students in a range of activities at our annual Sports Assembly on Friday 27 October.

The following students were presented Honours awards at the assembly:

<b>Aston Burwell-Garratt</b>	Athletics
<b>Xavior Sola</b>	Athletics
<b>Max Petherick</b>	Bowls
<b>Bertie McGuigan</b>	Cycling
<b>Harison Clulow</b>	Floorball
<b>Marcus Locke</b>	Floorball
<b>Ben Young</b>	Floorball
<b>Luke Hardy</b>	Football
<b>Harison Clulow</b>	Hockey
<b>Prashaan Ishver</b>	Hockey
<b>Naea Fiu</b>	Rugby
<b>Arron Gollan</b>	Softball
<b>Sam Jones</b>	Surfing
<b>Elliot Mance</b>	Ultimate Frisbee
<b>Aaron Lan</b>	Volleyball

### CSW SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Congratulations to **Harison Clulow** on winning the award for Floorball.



Congratulations also to those who were finalists in their individual sports for the College Sport Wellington Sportsperson of the Year Awards. Winners were announced at a dinner on Sunday 3 November.

Other finalists were:

<b>Desmond Reddy</b>	Cross Country
<b>Bertie McGuigan</b>	Cycling
<b>Harison Clulow</b>	Hockey
<b>Naea Fiu</b>	Rugby
<b>Arron Gollan</b>	Softball
<b>Elliot Mance</b>	Ultimate

### GYMNASTICS

Congratulations to **Fletcher Cowan** who recently competed in the National Gymnastics



competition. Fletcher gained bronze in the rings and was named in the New Zealand Development team to travel to Texas in February next year. Well done Fletcher!

### RUGBY

Congratulations to **Naea Fiu** who was selected recently in the Hurricanes U18 Development squad. Naea spent part of the last holidays in camp with the squad, where he says he learnt a lot.



### SURFING

Four students were selected for the surf team representing the Wellington region at the NZ Secondary School National Competition held in Dunedin during the school holidays.

**Zac Brister, Stan Brough, Te Maihi Mitcalfe-Matthews, and Sam Jones** prepared by using a training programme and attending several training sessions held by the Wellington Boardriders Club.

The level of competition was extremely high and while none of the boys made finals in their age categories, they represented the school, club, their families with pride.

We look forward to seeing their development in the upcoming years!



From left Te Maihi Mitcalfe Matthews, Sam Brough, Stan Jones and Zac Brister

### SPORTS UNIFORM and FEES

A reminder that **all winter sports uniforms should have been returned** by now directly to either the coach or the team manager.

It is preferable that uniforms are returned to the coach or manager rather than directly to the school. This way the uniforms can be accounted for and it ensures you are not charged for missing uniforms.

A small number of boys still have sports fees outstanding. Failure to settle these will mean your son may not be able to play sport next year. If you are unsure if you are up to date with your fees please contact the school office.

Finally, with NCEA exams in full swing and Junior exams coming up, I would like to emphasise that it is now the time for your son to really push himself, firstly to achieve his qualification, but also to concentrate on getting the highest level of achievement possible – boys should be pushing for being 'the best they can be' in their academic achievement.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter  
**PRINCIPAL**

# RONGOTAI COLLEGE



## IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

### 2024

**Wednesday 4 Thursday 5 & Friday 6 December**

Year 10 Camp

**Wednesday 4 & Thursday 5 December**

Year 9 Survivor Rongotai

**Friday 6 December**

Year 9 Social Action Day

**Monday 9 & Tuesday 10 December**

Juniors – in class

**Wednesday 11 December****ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND SCHOOL.**

School begins at the normal time of 8.55am.

Seniors will be released at approximately 11am.

**Thursday 12 December****ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND SCHOOL**

The day begins at 8.55am with Form Period at school, then Prizegiving rehearsal at the Indian Centre. All students will be dismissed at approximately 11.30am.

Year 9 and 10 students will return to school after prizegiving rehearsal. They will go to their form room and be given their school report.

**Evening - PRIZEGIVING****ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND IN SCHOOL UNIFORM.**

Students report to the Indian Centre at 7pm.

Prizegiving starts at 7.30pm.

**Friday 13 December**

Teacher only day.

**Friday 20 December**

College office and shop close.

### 2025

**Wednesday 15 January**

College office opens.

Office will be open normal hours (8.15am to 4.30pm)

**Monday 20 January**

Office closed – Wellington Anniversary

**Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 January**

Year 11, 12 and 13 course confirmation interviews (please make appointment by logging on to School Interviews - [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and entering the event code **seebk**)

**Monday 27 January**

All students report to the Renner Hall for assembly at 8.55am.

**COLLEGE SHOP**

Uniform and stationery items are sold in our college shop. Leading up to the start of the 2025 school year the opening hours will be 8.30am to 4.30pm from Tuesday 21 January.

Credit card and EFTPOS facilities are available.

## RONGOTAI COLLEGE

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