



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 10, Term 3 (27 September), 2024

COMING EVENTS

Monday 14 October

First day Term 4

Friday 18 October

Arts & Cultural Awards Assembly, 12.40pm in the Renner Hall

Food Fair 5pm in the Renner Hall

Monday 21 October

Rongotai College Pasifika Parents' Asosi at 6.30pm in the staffroom

Thursday 24 October

Team photos taken in the Renner Hall

Friday 25 October

Sports Awards Assembly 12.40pm in the Renner Hall

Monday 28 October

Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday 29 October

Pō Whakanui 6pm in the Renner Hall

Thursday 31 October

Last day for selected senior students before external exams

Board meeting, 6pm in the staffroom

Tamatoa Concert 4pm in the Library

Fiafia Night 6.30pm

Tuesday 5 November

NCEA external exams begin

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

Kia ora koutou katoa

As Term 3 is ending it is time for all students to reflect on their progress to date.

Some Year 9, 10 and 11 students recently sat the Literacy and Numeracy Common Assessment Activities, while Year 12 and 13 students recently completed formative exams. These exams signpost where they are currently positioned in terms of NCEA external exams. End-of-year reports will be emailed to parents of senior students and should be visible on the parent portal for senior students from Monday 30 September; paper copies will be posted by the first week of Term 4.



Year 11 students will sit their formative exams from 18-23 October. The timetable for these exams is shown below

Year 11-13 students will have just three weeks at school in Term 4 before study leave is granted to some, with NCEA external exams beginning a week later (5 November). For your information, I have included the NCEA exam

timetable as an attachment to this newsletter.

ACADEMIC NEWS

NIWA SCIENCE FAIR

We had a large and highly successful turnout at this year's NIWA Science Fair. We are extremely proud of the effort of our young scientific thinkers who have exemplified our school value of Striving for Excellence.

Rongotai came ahead again as the top college in terms of number of awards in Wellington. It is a result of both hard work, as well as our students' willingness to "give it a go".

Special prizes were awarded to:

- **Jai Jackson** received the Engineering New Zealand prize for his project 'Dewired' which looked into the feasibility of wireless charging of electric vehicles.
- **Amos Robinson** received the Institute for Environmental Science prize for his project 'Poisonous Pohutukawa' which analysed the effects of Pohutukawa leaves on soil pH and the effects on plant growth.
- **Chris Gray** and **Loukas Winiata** received the Australasian Corrosion Association prize for their project on how bases affect the corrosion of metals.

Year 11 Practice Exam Timetable - 2024

Y11 Practice Exams	AM (8.55-12.00)	PM (1.15-4.15)
Monday 21 October	English (Digital)	History (Digital) Spanish
Tuesday 22 October	Mathematics	Geography (Digital) Samoan
Wednesday 23 October	Commerce German	Music (W1) Te Reo Māori (1.5hrs)

All exams will be in Renner Hall except Music (W1)

- **Marcus Young and Ben Mein** - 4th overall in their Year 10 category and also received the Ballance Agri-Nutrients Sustainable Agricultural Award for their project 'Something's in the Water' which investigated a plant-based removal system of nitrates from water.

Our other representatives who received Highly Commended awards were **James Connolly, Isaac Franklin, Oscar Lyon, James Pointon** and **Gagan Yadav**.

Well done boys!



Ben Mein & Marcus Young receive their award.



Loukas Winiata & Chris Gray receive their award.

UoC KIWI ENGLISH COMPETITION

Ten students from Year 9 participated in the University of Canterbury Kiwi English Competition recently. Well done particularly to **Remy Boswell** and **Liam Whatman** who gained Merit. Congratulations to all those who participated.



*Front: Mick Saunders, Griff Shirtcliffe, Xavier Heaphy, Sebastian Campion, Remy Boswell
Back: Harvey Revell, Liam Whatman, Thomas Hendry, Zachary Lemmon.
Absent: Isaac Franklin*

TERTIARY STUDY 2025

For boys who are planning to study at a university or polytech in 2025,

applications for some institutions are already open and others will open soon.

In order to complete an enrolment, proof of identity, proof of citizenship or residency, and previous academic records may be required. If a copy of proof of identity and proof of citizenship or residency are being supplied, these must be certified.

A certified copy must include a stamp/endorsement. The certifying statement must be clear and legible and completed for each page of the documents submitted. Each page must be correctly witnessed and be stamped with full name, title, signature, and dated.

The website of the university or polytechnic your son is applying to will have details of required documents and their certification.

The Rongotai College Careers website is a useful tool that is updated regularly with current information. It can be accessed on the school website: <https://sites.google.com/rongotai.school.nz/careers-rc/home>

TESTIMONIALS

If your son is leaving Rongotai College at the end of this year and wants a testimonial, he must pick up the appropriate form from the College Shop; these are due on Thursday 31 October. We process a number of testimonials each year and time is needed to do this. Late submission of the form means we cannot guarantee that your son will receive his testimonial at the end of the school year.



CULTURAL NEWS

LEAVERS' BALL

The highlight of the college social calendar, the annual Leavers' Ball, was held on Friday 20 September at The Pines. The theme this year was 'Spring'.

It was an excellent event, attended by 130 senior students and their partners. The behaviour of students was outstanding and I would like to congratulate them on the manner in which they conducted themselves.



I would like to thank Ms Brailsford and the Ball Committee for a very well-organised and successful event, enjoyed by all who attended.



COMMUNITY NEWS

FOOD FAIR

Rongotai College Parents' Association Food Fair is being held on **Friday 18 October**. It opens at 5pm and closes at 7.30pm. An amazing range of food will be available - butter chicken & rice, cheese rolls, cakes and desserts, hangi (pre-order information has been emailed to all families), spicy Korean chicken tacos, Dutch pancakes, famous RC snarlers in a bun, famous BBQ mussel fritters, Pasifika food, salads, wood-fired pizzas and Greek souvlaki.

The best RC entertainment will be on show. EFTPOS is available.

Mark the date in your diary and spread the word amongst your family and friends. See you there - rain or shine!



SPORTS NEWS

DIRECTOR OF SPORT

We welcome Allan Carson to Rongotai College as the new Director of Sport. Allan comes from a background in sports management and administration and has been in coaching our 1st XI Hockey team this year.



BASKETBALL

Congratulations to our Junior Basketball team on winning their division of the College Sport Wellington competition, going through unbeaten. Well done boys and coaches!



Junior A Basketball

WINTER TOURNAMENT WEEK

During the annual Winter Tournament Week around 100 students and several staff participated in events around the North Island. It was an awesome week for all involved.

The **1st XI Football** travelled to Auckland to compete in the NZ Secondary Schools Football Premier Tournament and had a very successful week. They progressed through pool play with great wins over New Plymouth Boys and Rangitoto College, and a loss to eventual semi-finalist St Thomas. After a tough Round of 16 loss to St Kentigern (another semi-finalist), they went on to beat Selwyn College. The team finished the week in a close battle with Cashmere High School, ending on the wrong side of a 5-3 scoreline to finish 12th overall in New Zealand - well done boys, coaches and managers!



1st XI Football @ Nationals

The **1st XI Hockey** travelled to Mt Maunganui, as they competed in the Tier 1 Rankin Cup / India Shield. After being placed in the 'Pool of Death', the team knew it would be a tough tournament from the first whistle. After a challenging pool play of 3 losses, the team came up against Otago Champions OBHS, and won in a thrilling 4-2 battle, securing their place in the tournament for 2025. The team recorded further wins against Bethlehem College and Cambridge High School to finish 21st in New Zealand – amazing work!

Our **Senior Basketball** team travelled to Palmerston North for the AA Zone 3 Regionals and placed fourth in their pool after a win against Onslow and many close games that could have gone either way in the last two minutes. The team then played their 9-16 quarter final with a solid performance against Whanganui High School, winning 103-59. Losses to a polished New Plymouth Boys and Francis Douglas in their next two games placed the boys in 12th for the week.

Our **Junior Basketball** team also travelled to Palmerston North for the Zone 3 Regionals and had a tough set of pool games where they couldn't quite get it over the line. However, they finished strongly in their classification matches and put on two great performances against Onslow (92-81) and Palmerston North Boys (79-62) to finish the week strong in 9th place.

The **U15 Rugby** team competed in the Hurricanes U15 Tournament. The U15s did well in pool play, beating Tawa and Bishop Viard before going down in a close 21-19 battle with Francis Douglas Memorial. A close 21-19 loss to eventual winners Manakura and another close game against Ngati

Porou earned the team a 4th place finish.

The **U85kg Rugby** team had a solid week in the U85 Nationals, with wins against St Pats Town, Wellington College, Newlands, and Onslow. They finished the week in 4th place after a close loss to Kings College in the 3/4th playoff.



Under 15s in action

A massive thanks to all our coaches and managers who volunteered their time to create these great experiences for our teams.

SUMMER SPORT

Now that the winter sport season has come to an end, our focus turns to summer sport; some teams have already begun their pre-season.

Team lists for Term 4 are currently being finalised and will be emailed and posted on the Sports Noticeboard outside the Sports Department. Please ensure you double check your team and grade.

All Winter Sport and Term 1 summer fees **MUST BE PAID PRIOR** to participating in Term 4.

Last Words...

Finally, a reminder that NCEA exams are only five weeks away, while Year 9 and 10 students have their school end of year exams in eight weeks. Materials to support revision will be posted on GOOGLE classroom.

Have a wonderful Term 3 break, and come back refreshed and rejuvenated for the final run-in to the end of 2024!

Hei konā mai,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

SCHOOLBRIDGE

From the start of Term 2, we started using a new app called SchoolBridge. If you have not already done so, you can download this app via the app store. From here you will be able to report absences, view newsletters, access the Parent Portal, permission slips and a range of other functions.

Alternatively, for absences you can email the school direct on absences@rongotai.school.nz

RONGOTAI COLLEGE

Download Our App

- Scan the QR Code to download. Or
- Search "schoolbridge" on your mobile AppStore or PlayStore.

Download on the **App Store** GET IT ON **Google Play**

Once you have downloaded the app, you can sign in using your school account information. Please contact the school if you need help with your account details.

RONGOTAI COLLEGE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

FOOD FAIR

FRIDAY **October 18** | 5 - 7.30pm

Hangi Salads Curry Pasifika
Sweet treats ...and more!

EFTPOS AVAILABLE

170 COUTTS STREET, RONGOTAI, 04 939 3050

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