



# RONGOTAI COLLEGE

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

26 February, 2025

Week 5, Term 1

### COMING EVENTS

**Thursday 27 February**

Board meeting, 6pm in the staffroom

**Tuesday 4 March**

McEvedy Memorial Shield Athletics at Newtown Park

**Tuesday 11 March**

NCEA Information Evening 6pm in the college library

**Monday 17 March**

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

**Monday 24 to Friday 28 March**

Summer Tournament Week

**Thursday 3 April**

Board meeting, 6pm in the staffroom

**Monday 7 & Wednesday 9 April**

Parent Teacher Interviews (more info to come)

**Friday 11 April**

Last day Term 1

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 and strengthen the home-school partnership.



## ACADEMIC NEWS

### NZ SCHOLARSHIP

NZQA recently released NZ Scholarship results for 2024. Three boys were awarded scholarships – **Hayden Poad** was awarded a scholarship in Calculus, **Rico Taylor** gained scholarships in Calculus and Physics and **Ayman Zewada** gained scholarships in English, Media Studies and an Outstanding scholarship in Spanish. Ayman was also named the top Spanish student in New Zealand; what a fantastic achievement. Congratulations to these three students on their successes!

### ACADEMIC AWARDS

At assembly three weeks ago, we celebrated the NCEA performance of our students in 2024. 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. 2024 was another good year of achievement with very pleasing results in all measures of NCEA, especially the results of our Year 13 students

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.

Academic Honours for gaining NCEA with Excellence were awarded to **Timothee Ausseil, Callum Baker, Otis Baker, Nic Ball, Charlie Crawford, Harry Cregeen, Angus Galloway, Luke Hardy, Joseph Hilawi, Connor McCorry, Manawa Mitcalfe Matthews, Fred Pilgrim, Hayden Poad, Nysi Soulis, Quentin Stark, Oli Stewart, Sam Streeter, Rico Taylor and Ayman Zewada** (all Year 13 2024 – Level 3), while the following 2024 Year 12 students were also awarded Academic Honours – **Ahmed Abdi, Alex Beggs, Ben Boucher, Oliver Brooke, Thomas Collier, Fletcher Cowan, Jesse Davies, Henry Dickson, Alex Fraser, Alex Gray, Nico Halasz, Matthew Hoffmann, Oliver Hunt, John Kersey, Bilal Khan, Joshua Matatia, Fraser O'Regan-Smith, Leo Powdrell, Leo Stein, Yannick Sternagel-Silao, William Witcombe and Ben Young**. Year 11 students from 2024 who were awarded Academic Honours were: **James Aitken, Lewis Brown, Aakash Dahya, Alexis Dunkin, Oliver Earley, Francois Fourie, Jackson Garland, Sebastian Heaphy, Liam Hendry, Connor Herries, Dion Leslie, JR Martin, Desmond Reddy, Thomas Sadler, Faizaan Saiyad, Billy Smith, George Stannard, Hunter Taylor, Hamish Tukaki-Campbell and Willie Uelese**.

### 2025 TERM DATES

<b>Term 1</b>	Monday 27 January to Friday 11 April
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 28 April to Friday 27 June
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 14 July to Friday 19 September
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 6 October to Friday 5 December

Kia ora koutou.

We are now well into what is already proving to be a busy and exciting 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.



Academic Honour recipients at our school's academic lunch

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. Our Weekly Engagement Reports measure student effort in class each week. Coupled with attendance data, a clear picture emerges on what it takes to succeed. Data below shows that **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	<b>91</b>	<b>4.1</b>
No NCEA	<b>85</b>	<b>3.5</b>

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

**Achievement = Attendance + Effort**

### 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 a NCEA Information Evening for parents on **Tuesday 11 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](mailto:the.principal@rongotai.school.nz) or contact the college office staff who will arrange for these details to be sent to you.



## CULTURAL NEWS

### MUSIC DEPARTMENT 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. Standard big band instruments are

saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, drums and voice.



## SERVICE NEWS

### BLOOD DONATIONS

Once again, a very successful blood drive as held at Rongotai College last week. As part of our service to the community, we had NZ Blood Service at the college for the first time this year. Staff and students (16 years or older) were invited to donate blood, and 75 donated, beating our record by two. These 75 donations help 225 people. This has now become a regular event at Rongotai College.



*Tui Howe makes his donation*



## SPORTS NEWS

Summer sports are well underway with over 200 boys representing the school in different summer codes. Term 1 has lots of opportunities to participate in weekly sport, but also in many other sports and tournaments.

### ATHLETICS

Athletics takes centre stage in Term One. A very successful participation day was held at Newtown Park on Friday 31 January. Participation numbers were good and the students and staff enjoyed a fun day with some great performances.

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



### Athletics Finals Day

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

Congratulations to the many athletes who performed well. Highlights were:

#### Sprints:

- **Gyan Wilson** (Y10) - first in the U15 100, 200, and 400m events.
- **Brooklyn Boyd** (Y11) – second in the U16 100m and third in 200m.
- **Oscar Politini** (Y10) – second in the U14 200m.
- **JJ Popham** (Y10) - second in the U15 100 and 200m events.
- **Zachary Atkin** (Y10) – third in the U14 100 and 200m.
- **Fraser O'Regan-Smith** (Y13) – third in the Senior 200m.

#### Jumps:

- **Zachary Atkin** (Y10) – first in the U14 Long Jump.
- **Remy Boswell** (Y10) – first in the U15 Long and Triple Jumps.
- **Isaiah Winiata** (Y11) – first in the U16 Long Jump.
- **Aston Burwell-Garratt** (Y13) – second in the Senior Triple Jump
- **Finn Collier** (Y11) – second in the U15 Triple Jump.
- **Caeden Ioapo** (Y12) – second in the U16 High Jump.
- **TK Maladina** (Y11) – second in the U15 High Jump.
- **Taua Telea** (Y10) – second in the U14 High Jump.

#### Track:

- **Aston Burwell-Garratt** (Y13) – first in Senior Hurdles.
- **Desmond Reddy** (Y12) – first in Senior 3000m.
- **Gyan Wilson** (Y10) – first in U15 Hurdles.
- **Harry Barton** (Y9) – second in U14 3000 and 1500m
- **Theo Bray** (Y13) – second in Senior 3000m.
- **Seb Campion** (Y10) – second the U15 3000m

#### Throws:

- **Soni Sola** (Y13) – first in Senior Shot Put.
- **Codie Tawhiri** (Y11) – first in the U15 Javelin, second in Discus.
- **Denzel Aliva** (Y12) – second in the U16 Shot Put.
- **Mataio Davidson** (Y10) – second in the U14 Javelin.
- **Ngatoa Mullane-Ronaki** (Y10) – second in U14 Shot Put.

### CRICKET

Our 1<sup>st</sup> XI is once again playing in the College Sport Wellington Premier Youth Grade and is poised to continue what has been a successful campaign.

Standout performances so far this summer include:

- **Hunter Taylor**: 82 runs vs St Patrick's.
- **Aston Burwell-Garratt**: 83 runs vs St Patrick's, 55 vs Wellington College.
- **Toby Randall**: 4 wickets vs St Patrick's.
- **Roman Day**: 59 runs vs Hutt International.

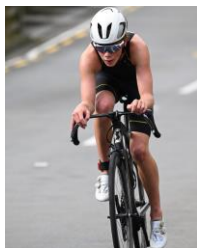
### SOFTBALL

Congratulations to **TK Maladina** who has been selected in the U15 Developing Sox Squad. Initially the team will attend a training camp in April.



### TRIATHLON

Congratulations to **Theo Bray** who won the Wellington Secondary Schools Triathlon in early February.



Theo finished the 500m swim, 20km bike, 5km run course in a swift 58:30. Well done Theo!

### McEVEDY 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 101<sup>st</sup> McEvedy Shield event will be held

**Tuesday 4 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 100m start 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.

The event will take place no matter what the weather is. If it is raining, please make sure he has appropriate rain protection gear (no umbrellas). 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 2,000 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.

### 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.

## RONGOTAI COLLEGE

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