



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 10 (March) Term 1, 2025

COMING EVENTS

Thursday 3 April

Board meeting, 6pm in the staffroom

Monday 7 and Wednesday 9 April

Whānau-teacher interviews 2-6pm
School finishes for students at 12.40pm

Friday 11 April

Last day of Term 1

Monday 28 April

First day of Term 2

Monday 19 to Wednesday 21 May

CAA Exams

Monday 19 May

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

Thursday 29 May

Board meeting at 6pm in the Staffroom

Monday 2 June

King's Birthday holiday

Friday 6 June

Rongotai Experience

Tuesday 10 June

Open Evening

These weekly reports will be followed up this term by two nights of Whānau-Teacher interview events.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

We have scheduled our first parent teacher interviews for 2025 on Monday 7 and Wednesday 9 April from 2pm to 6pm. These interviews are designed for you to discuss your son's progress to date and will be conducted on-site, in the Renner Hall.

To book appointments with subject teachers go to the website (rongotai.school.nz), 'Sign In' (top far right on the front page), go to 'Conferences', and you will be able to book five minute appointments with each of your son's teachers. Our teachers are looking forward to meeting with you and your son to discuss his progress. Once you have made the appointment, you will receive and email confirming the date and time for your appointment.

School will finish at 12.35pm on both days (7 and 9 April) to allow staff to prepare for these meetings.

PREFECTS

We added a further four prefects to our Student Leadership Team at our most recent assembly.

Congratulations to **Henry Dickson, Alex Gray, Ollie Hunt** and **Fraser O'Regan-Smith** and on their appointment as Prefects.



Henry Dickson



Alex Gray



Ollie Hunt



Fraser O'Regan-Smith

YEAR 9 OPTION CHOICES

During Term 1, Year 9 students have had the opportunity to experience the range of our option subjects, prior to selecting their two option choices for the remainder of the year. These option subjects will start at the beginning of Term 2. If you have any questions about options or wish to discuss your son's choices, please contact the Year 9 Dean (Mr Ikonomakis) or your son's form teacher.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

With the cooler months approaching it is timely to remind you that it is expected that your son will wear his uniform in a correct manner and with pride. This means that only black jackets are permissible and **NO HOODIES** of any description (including those with Rongotai logos on them) are allowed. Rongotai College puffer and school jackets are available for purchase from the college shop.

PHYS ED UNIFORM

All Year 9, 10 and 11 students are required to wear the Physical Education uniform. This consists of the school PE top and blue shorts. It has been pleasing to see the majority of students are wearing theirs. Students who have yet to purchase the Physical Education uniform are required to purchase theirs from the college shop as soon as possible. If there are any issues in meeting this expectation, please communicate this to your son's PE teacher or Dean. I encourage your son to label their uniform so that it is easily identifiable.

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

As we come to the end of Term 1, it is a good time to reflect upon how most students settled down to work well during Term 1 and have made good progress to date.

Teachers have been reporting on your son's progress each week. These reports are designed to provide you with a snapshot of your son's attitude and engagement in class from week to week.

ACADEMIC NEWS

STEVENSON MEDAL

Congratulations to **JR Martin** who was recently awarded the Stevenson Medal at assembly. The Stevenson Medal is awarded annually to the top student in Level 1 Science the previous year. It is named after Rongotai College Old Boy, David Stevenson, an Astrophysicist at CalTech in the USA.



NCEA INFORMATION

If your son is studying for NCEA he should have received an Assessment Statement in either paper or digital form from each of his teachers. These outline when all assessments are taking place. A book containing 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. Please encourage your son to look at his diary or calendar often and help him to organise himself to prepare for his assessments.

REWARDING READING

Literacy is a big concern across the country and has had significant media attention recently. One of our strategies to help is through encouraging boys to read – something you can also do at home.

Our Year 9 students have started the year well with our Rewarding Reading programme. Many of them have earned the first reward of the school water bottle and hopefully you have seen some of these at home! This reward can be earned all year by our boys.

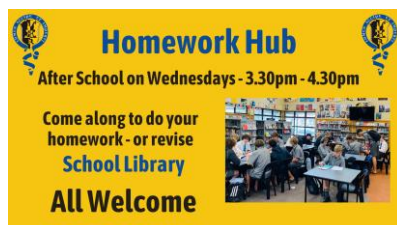
The end of Term 1 reward is a pizza for each boy who completes three texts and their Bingo sheet. The pizzas are cooked at school by the wonderful Hospitality department

and served to our Year 9 students by prefects.

Please continue to encourage your son to work towards his reward! Thank you to Mr Armstrong (who leads the Rewarding Reading programme) for organising this.

HOMEWORK HUB

One of our teachers is running a Homework Hub, after school, in the Library, on Wednesdays. All students are welcome to attend, to do their homework or revise, with teachers present to help when needed.



Maths tuitions are also being held:

- Level 2 every Tuesday after school.
- Level 3 every Thursday after school.
- Junior Numeracy every Wednesday at afternoon break.
- Calculus Scholarship every Tuesday morning from 7:30am to 8:50am.



OLD BOYS' NEWS

RONGOTAI COLLEGE OLD BOYS' AWARDS

The Old Boys' Association have introduced the Imperti Awards, recognising outstanding Rongotai College Old Boys who have exemplified the school motto, "Lumen Accipe et Imperti - Receive the light and pass it on".

The recipients were presented with their award at Assembly on Friday 14 March, followed by a Gala Awards Dinner in the evening.

The inaugural recipients of the award are:

- Mr Grant Nisbett – Legendary Sports Broadcaster
- Justice Andrew Becroft – Respected High Court Judge

- Mr John Fiso – Accomplished Businessman and Education Leader

Congratulations to these fine Old Boys.



From left Mr Jamal Fiso (RCOBA President), Justice Andrew Becroft, Mr John Fiso, Mr Grant Nesbit and Mr Kevin Carter



SERVICE NEWS

KAIBOSH

A group of students (organised by Year 12 student Lewis Brown) have been volunteering at Kaibosh - an organisation that takes food donated by supermarkets and sorts it, to be further donated to those in need.

Interact club students completed their induction with Kaibosh recently and have been on a roster to volunteer their time every weekend to this good cause!

Great to see our RC boys making a difference in our community. Special acknowledgement to Lewis for taking this initiative and Edward Florentine and the Interact Club for taking this on!



INTERACT CLUB

The Interact Cub is student-led and has been a special part of the school's culture for many years, with volunteering at the forefront. Every year the club assists at many events and services around the eastern suburbs. The club provides a great opportunity for students to be involved in our local community.

The Weetbix Kids Triathlon is an important annual nationwide event that the Rongotai College Interact Club takes part in every year. Thank you to all the students who volunteered at this event recently.



THE WINTER PROJECT

In conjunction with Samuel Marsden Collegiate, our Prefects and Interact Club members are part of *The Winter Project*.

We are collecting blankets, jumpers, pants, jackets, poly props, beanies, scarves, gloves or anything warm. These items will go to families in need in the Wellington region.

Boys will earn points for their House for each item donated. Items can be brought to room B12 or the college office. This project continues until early May.

Clean out your wardrobe of unwanted winter warmth and help a family in need!

BREAKFAST

We want our boys to be successful every day so we encourage them to "win the day" by being on time and with the right attitude. One way to help achieve this correct attitude is to ensure that they are well 'fuelled' and this is the reason we have restarted the 'RC Breakfast Club'. We are providing the boys who arrive between 8.20am and 8.40am on Tuesdays and Thursdays with breakfast.

This initiative is run by the Prefects and while it has only been going for

two weeks, the numbers have grown with each breakfast. We will continue to encourage boys to come along.

"Breakfast is an opportunity to nourish not just the body, but also the soul."



SPORTS NEWS

At the end of Term 1 it is good to reflect on the Summer Season and celebrate in the successes of our teams at Summer Tournament Week.

ATHLETICS

Although we finished in fourth place at the McEvedy Shield, this year's competition showcased our success in all age groups and our continual push with our juniors. The 101 points scored was the highest since 2007 and only the third time we have exceeded 100 points since 1990. Our Under 14s scored 34 points in total and were led by

Zachary Atkin (1st in Long Jump, 3rd in 100m and 200m)

Mataio Davidson (1st in Shot Put and 2nd in Javelin)

Lucas Kendrick (1st 80m Hurdles and 3rd in 3000m)

Harry Barton (3rd 1500m and 4th 3000m)

Kingsley McGuigan (3rd in 400m and 4th in 800m)

Ngatoa Mullane-Ronaki (3rd in Shot Put)

Oscar Politini (3rd in 800m and 4th in 400m).

Our Under 15 athletes scored a total of 35 points and were led by

Gyan Wilson who achieved a triple crown winning the 100m, 200m and 400m. He also won the Long Jump and 100m Hurdles

T K Maladina (2nd in High Jump) and **Codie Tawhiri** (2nd in Javelin)

JJ Popham (2nd in 200m, 3rd in Hurdles and 4th in 100m)

Sebastian Campion (3rd in 3000m and 4th in 1500m).



Gyan Wilson winning one of his races

Our Seniors were led by

Aston Burwell-Garratt (1st in 110m Hurdles, 3rd in Triple Jump and 4th in Long Jump)

Caeden Ioapo (1st in High Jump)

Desmond Reddy (2nd in 3000m and 3rd in 1500m)

Brooklyn Boyd (3rd in 100m, 200m and 400m)

Theo Bray (3rd in 3000m)

Hugo Campion (4th in 3000m)

Fletcher Cowan (4th in Triple Jump)

Roman Fa'atoafe (4th in Discus),

Zion King (4th Shot Put)

TJ Robinson (4th in Javelin)

Ben Young (4th in High Jump).

Topping off our great day we had 4 school records broken:

Aston Burwell-Garratt broke the Over 16 110m Hurdles record with a time of 15.78 seconds.

Lucas Kendrick broke the Under 14 80m Hurdles record with a time of 12.83 seconds.

Gyan Wilson broke both the Under 15 200m record (with a time of 23.31 seconds) and the 400m Record with a time of 53.26 seconds.

WELLINGTON REGIONAL ATHLETICS

We also had a great showing at the Wellington Secondary Schools finals last week, with notable results being:

Zachary Atkin - 1st Junior Long Jump

Mataio Davidson - 1st Junior Shot Put, 3rd Junior Javelin

Caeden Ioapo - 1st Intermediate High Jump

Desmond Reddy - 1st Senior 3000m, 2nd Senior 1500m

Brooklyn Boyd - 2nd Intermediate 100m, 3rd Intermediate 200m

Ngatoa Mullane-Ronaki - 2nd Junior Shot Put

Gyan Wilson - 2nd Intermediate 200m, 2nd Intermediate 400m

Oscar Politini - 3rd Junior 300m

Fletcher Cowan - 3rd Senior Triple Jump

Well done to all our athletes – it has been a very successful summer!

REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Throughout the term, several summer codes have held their senior regional tournaments.

Congratulations to our teams who participated in their regionals:

Senior Futsal finished in 2nd place

Senior Volleyball finished in 8th place.



Senior Futsal Team

We will wrap up Summer Sports (including Tournament Week) in our next newsletter.

WINTER CODES

Winter Sport is now swinging into action and over the next week all teams will be finalised. Just a friendly reminder that you needed to register for the code using the

online portal and you will need to have paid your Summer Sports fees AND your Winter Sports fees to play in Term 2.

SPORTS FEES

Students are expected to pay fees if they represent the college in sport. If you are unsure about the amount of the fee then please contact our Sports Department. The fees are vital to the operation of sport, and can be paid online or at the college shop. All summer codes fees MUST be paid prior to participation in winter sport.

SPORTS COACHES

We would like to acknowledge and thank all the sport volunteers who have helped make sport possible in Term 1. Parent and staff support continue to be the driving force behind sport and, without it, sport simply would not advance. Every parent who coaches, manages, transports or helps in any capacity, is appreciated and we sincerely thank you for your support.

Whether playing sport for fun with friends or competitively, it remains an important part of life at Rongotai

College and it was great to again see such high sport participation rates in Term 1. We hope all boys play at least one sport each year and it is not too late if your son hasn't registered for winter 2024. Please contact our Sports Department (sport@rongotai.school.nz), to discuss what might be a good fit for your son and appeal to his interests.

Thank you to all those who have offered to help in winter too. We still need more volunteers so please contact the sports office if you can coach, referee, manage or help with transport in any of our winter codes.

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday and we look forward to Term 2!

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

SCHOOLBRIDGE

We use an app called SchoolBridge. 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



Download Our App



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





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

170 Coutts St, Kilbirnie, Wellington
PO Box 14-063, Kilbirnie, Wellington, 6022
PHONE: +64 4 939 3050
EMAIL: the.principal@rongotai.school.nz



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