



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 4 Term 2 (May), 2025

COMING EVENTS

Thursday 29 May

Board meeting at 6pm in the staffroom

Monday 2 June

King's Birthday holiday

Wednesday 4 June

Wellington College traditional sports exchange at Wellington College

Friday 6 June

Rongotai Experience
– no school for most students

Tuesday 10 June

Open Evening from 6.30pm

Wednesday 11 June

1st XV Rugby exchange with St Bernard's College at Rongotai College

Monday 16 June

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

Wednesday 18 June

St Patrick's College Silverstream traditional sports exchange at Rongotai College

Friday 20 June

Matariki public holiday

Thursday 26 June

Board meeting at 6pm in the staffroom

Friday 27 June

Last day Term 2

Monday 14 July

First day Term 3

2025 TERM DATES

- 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

2026 TERM DATES

- Term 1** Monday 26 January to Thursday 2 April
Term 2 Monday 20 April to Friday 3 July
Term 3 Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September
Term 4 Monday 12 October to Friday 4 December

Dear parents and whānau,

We are now at almost half way through Term 2. It has generally been a good start to the term. Attendance has only been satisfactory, dropping from 89% in Term 1 to 83% so far this term, with the attendance of Year 13 students becoming a concern. In addition, a few too many boys have been arriving late in the mornings!

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thank you to all the parents, caregivers, and whānau who attended our recent subject-teacher parent interviews. Your ongoing support and engagement play a vital role in your child's learning journey. It was great to connect and strengthen the partnership between home and school. Together we can continue to support our students to thrive and succeed. We appreciate your time, commitment, and the valuable conversations shared.



STAFF CHANGES

On the last day of Term 1 we farewelled Miss **Esmee McAuley** who has been the Head of the Visual Art Department for the past 23 years. Esmee leaves us to move to Whanganui and begin her retirement.



During her time at Rongotai College Esmee has been involved in a number of areas including the productions that have been staged every second year. Esmee's set design and costuming has been outstanding over

Over the next few weeks there will be some changes to our school days:

RONGOTAI EXPERIENCE

Friday 6 June is Rongotai Experience day so no school for Rongotai students.

OPEN EVENING

School will finish at 12.35pm on **Tuesday 10 June** to allow staff to prepare for Open Evening.

a wide range of productions over many years.

Head of Digital Technology, Mr **Eddie Petersen**

also retired at the end of Term 1, although he left a few weeks early due to the illness and passing of his brother in South Africa.



In addition to his innovative approach to teaching Digitech, Mr Petersen also taught Music and is an accomplished musician in his own right.

To both our retiring teachers - good luck in the next chapter of your lives and you leave with our best wishes.

ENROLMENT EVENTS

The first 2026 enrolment event is **RONGOTAI EXPERIENCE**, when Year 8 boys from our contributing schools come to Rongotai College to experience our school on **Friday 6 June**.

There will be no formal classes for your son(s) on this day although some will be asked to help on the day. If you require your son to attend school on this day he will be supervised. Contact the office

beforehand if this is the case and please tell him to report to the office at 8.55am.

The second important event is **OPEN EVENING** which will be held on **Tuesday 10 June**. The evening begins at 6.30pm and concludes around 8pm.

Departments will be setting up displays for the Open Evening from 12.35pm onwards. Some students will be required to help with this, but if your son is not required **he will be released from school at 12.35pm**.



ACADEMIC NEWS

NZQA TOP SCHOLAR CEREMONY

2024 student **Ayman Zewada** recently attended this event at Parliament, acknowledging him as the Top Student in NZ Scholarship Spanish. It was great to see Rongotai represented at this wonderful occasion.



Mr Carter, with Ayman and his parents

LEVEL 2 BIOLOGY

Our Level 2 Biology students visited Wellington Zoo for a hands-on learning experience! They explored animal adaptations, took part in an

interactive workshop on dentition and digestion, and focused on chimpanzees, sheep, and dingoes for their upcoming assessments. Students observed habitats, behaviours, and relationships—asking great questions and representing the school with pride. It was a fantastic day of learning outside the classroom, facilitated by Charles Wilson, a former teacher at Rongotai College.



CULTURAL NEWS

KOROWAI PRESENTATION

On the last day of Term 1 we welcomed Whaea Nan from Wellington East Girls' College to our assembly to present Rongotai College with a korowai. This taonga was gifted to our school and presented to this year's Head Prefect, Leo Powdrell. It will be worn with pride by future Head Prefects, symbolising leadership and unity. We are truly grateful for this special gift and the connection it represents between our schools.

Ngā mihi nui, Whaea Nan and Wellington East Girls' College, for this meaningful and generous gesture.



SERVICE NEWS

RELAY FOR LIFE

In early April, around twenty Year 12 and 13 students participated in the Cancer Society's Relay for Life. After a long 18 hours on the track, they completed 707 laps, covering 212 km and raised over \$4,000. In terms of distance covered, they were third. A huge thank you to those who made donations, to the staff who supported the team, and the boys who were dedicated to raising money and awareness for the Cancer Society.



VOICE FOR CHANGE

Five Year 12 students recently attended the Rangatahi Voice for Change Workshop at Pataka Art + Museum in Porirua. This workshop was run by Te Whatu Ora in conjunction with the Cancer Society.

The day brought together several schools around the Wellington area and enabled students to use their *voice for change* in areas of health, democracy, human rights and civics.

It was a great opportunity for students to network with other young leaders and draft ideas for positive change within their community.



WORLD VISION YOUTH CONFERENCE

Ten aspiring Year 12 leaders attended the World Vision Youth Conference recently. This event brought together over 230 students from schools over the lower North Island. It was a chance to get young leaders together to learn about the challenges disadvantaged communities face globally, with an emphasis on the Solomon Islands. We learnt about the effect of global warming on children like Polyne whose village in the Solomon Islands experiences flooding and extreme weather events, killing their crops and disrupting the fishing that they rely upon for food. This year these students will be organising and running the 40 Hour Challenge, to raise money for aid in the Solomon Islands. The boys represented the school with pride, networking with other young leaders and coming away determined to be change-makers.



YOUTH WEEK VOLUNTEER EXPO

Edward Florentine and **Jackson Garland** (Interact Club leaders) attended the Youth Week Volunteer Expo earlier this week. The event aimed to connect young leaders with organisations that do good in their communities, in the hope of forming school partnerships. It was a great event which included incredible networking opportunities. The boys represented Rongotai College well.



from left **Edward Florentine** and **Jackson Garland**



SPORTS NEWS

Wrapping up sport for Term 1, a huge congratulations goes out to our **Junior A Futsal** team who finished as College Sport Wellington Champions, beating Wellington College in the final.

Winter sport is now underway for hundreds of our boys. All our teams, including premier grades, are playing grading games or have already started their season campaigns.

BASKETBALL

The Senior A Basketball team has played two rounds of grading to date with a first up win against Mana (91-80) and a loss to HIBS (99-75). They play their last grading game tonight with a win needed to qualify for the Premier grade.

The Junior A Basketball team has secured qualification to the Junior Premier grade with two great wins against St Bernard's (81-58) and Scot's (111-57) to start the season.

Congratulations to **Ari Bulman Johnson**, **Finn Collier**, **Te Maihi Mitcalfe-Matthews**, **JJ Popham** and **Kalani Tupu** on their selection in the Wellington Under 16 Boys' representative team.

A special mention to our Junior A head coach Mr **Chris Tupu**, who is also an Assistant Coach with the Wellington Saints for their NBL campaign and has recently been acting as Head Coach.

CROSS COUNTRY

Recently 24 students competed in the College Sport Wellington Cross Country Relays held at Wakefield Park in Island Bay. For many students this was their first competition representing the college.

Congratulations to our Year 9 team of **Max Baring**, **Harry Barton**, **Lucas Kendrick** and **Kingsley McGuigan**, who won the event and are the CSW Junior Cross Country Relay Champions.



Harry Barton also recorded the fourth fastest lap and finished strongly beating Wellington College by one second at the finish line.

The Intermediate Boys finished in 5th place. **Seb Campion** had the team's fastest run and the 7th fastest in the Intermediate Boys' Grade.

The senior boys started the day with a good run from **Theo Bray** on the first lap (fifth fastest overall). The team finished 6th.

Well done to all the boys who competed. It bodes well for the Cross-Country season.

FOOTBALL

A young 1st XI Football team has started the season energised, with two close losses competing against Paraparaumu College and Scots to start their grading rounds. They bounced back against Rathkeale last weekend (5-2 win), with games against Wellington College and HVHS coming up.

The Junior Gold football team has also had a great start to their season, with wins against Scot's (4-2) and Wellington College (7-3).

HOCKEY

During the April holidays, the 1st XI Hockey team travelled to Hamilton to play in the ANZAC pre-season tournament hosted by St Paul's Collegiate. The team played well against traditionally strong hockey schools in the North Island.

Starting the local season, the 1st XI has played 2 games, drawing with Onslow (1-1) and losing to HIBS (1-0), with a game against Silverstream being played this Friday.

Congratulations to two of our Hockey coaches on their appointments to Wellington Hockey Association representative teams. Mr **Levi Loudon** has been appointed as Assistant Coach of the Wellington U21 Men's team and Mr **Allan Carson** appointed as Head Coach of the Wellington U18 Women's team.

RUGBY

The 1st XV have qualified for the Premiership once again after beating a strong Tawa College team 31-24 on Saturday. They play the first round of the Premiership over the hill against Rathkeale College on Saturday at 12.00pm.

UPCOMING TRADITIONALS

The **Wellington College** traditional is on Wednesday 4 June at Wellington College. This will see our Senior A Basketball, 1st XI Hockey, 1st XI Football and 1st XV Rugby teams playing.

The 1st XV Rugby will play **St Bernard's College** on Wednesday 11 June at Rongotai College for the Jim Ting Cup.

The St Patrick's College, Silverstream traditional will be played on Wednesday **18 June** at Rongotai College. This will see our Senior A Basketball, 1st XI Football, 1st XI Hockey and 1st XV Rugby teams playing.

BEHAVIOUR IN SPORT

It is a timely reminder that sport is a PRIVILEGE and, as competitors, coaches and parents, we must live our school's B.E.S.T values at all times. In a sporting context, this means:

BEING RESPECTFUL to your teammates, coaches and to the opposition, their coaches, managers, spectators and their facilities when playing away from home.

ENCOURAGING BROTHERHOOD nobody needs to be put down in order for you to get above them; prop them up and we can all achieve - look out for your brothers and be a good team mate!

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE Championships are not won in May. Look for the incremental improvement in your team as a

collective and work together to achieve goals.

TAKING PRIDE - wear the correct Rongotai College sports uniform and remember the badge on the front of your shirt is who you play for. Boys will not take the field in incorrect uniforms (including socks and shorts) in future matches.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and community volunteers who work tirelessly to provide opportunities for all boys at Rongotai to enjoy and experience sport and other activities. Please make sure, if your son is in a sports team this year, you acknowledge the effort from the people who coach, manage and provide transportation in order for your son to have such wonderful opportunities.

Ngā mihi nui

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL



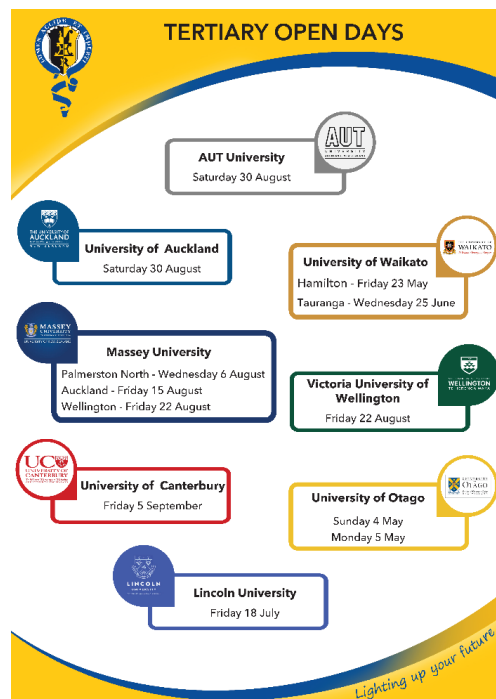
RONGOTAI COLLEGE

Homestay Families needed

We are looking for warm and caring families to host our International Students

CONTACT

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TERTIARY OPEN DAYS

- AUT University**
Saturday 30 August
- University of Auckland**
Saturday 30 August
- University of Waikato**
Hamilton - Friday 23 May
Tauranga - Wednesday 25 June
- Massey University**
Palmerston North - Wednesday 6 August
Auckland - Friday 15 August
Wellington - Friday 22 August
- Victoria University of Wellington**
Friday 22 August
- University of Canterbury**
Friday 5 September
- University of Otago**
Sunday 4 May
Monday 5 May
- Lincoln University**
Friday 18 July

Lighting up your future

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