



# RONGOTAI COLLEGE

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 8 (June) 2025

### TERM DATES

- Term 2** last day - Friday 27 June  
**Term 3** Monday 14 July to Friday 19 September  
**Term 4** Monday 6 October to Friday 5 December

### COMING EVENTS

**Friday 20 June**  
Matariki Holiday – no school

**Friday 27 June**  
Last day Term 2

**Monday 14 July**  
First day Term 3  
Reports sent home

**Tuesday 22 July**  
Parents' Association Quiz, 6.30pm at Waitoa Victoria Bar

**Thursday 17 July**  
Board meeting, 6pm in the staffroom

**Friday 18 July**  
Tu Tagata Festival

**Tuesday 22 July**  
Careers Expo at Rongotai College  
Parents' Association Quiz Evening

**Monday 28 July**  
Rongotai College Pasifika Parents' Asosi at 6pm in the staffroom

### 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

Kia ora Rongotai whānau.

Friday 27 June is the last day of Term 2, marking the half-way point of the 2025 school year.

I would like to thank parents for their ongoing support for our teachers.

I would also like to thank our students and all those members of the school community who have worked so effectively to make this term successful, despite the challenges presented by some inclement weather.



## ACADEMIC NEWS

### REPORTS

End of term reports have now been being written by staff. These will report on your son's progress over the first half of the school year, and are in addition to the Weekly Engagement Reports.

Reports have been posted to you this week and will be emailed to you in the first week of the holidays. They will also be available through the portal during the term break.

Please take the time to discuss teacher comments and assessment results with your son over the holiday break so he can start Term 3 with a clear idea of what he needs to do to achieve to his potential in the weeks ahead.

### SUBJECT SELECTION

An important event early in Term 3 is Subject Selection. Your son will receive his **Subject Selection Book** during Week 2 of Term 3. He will subsequently make subject choices for next year. This early notification of his intentions is necessary so that we can begin planning the timetable and staffing needs for the coming year.

Boys will be asked to list the subjects they want to study in 2026 by the end of Week 4 of Term 3. This will be done on-line via the student portal to make this more straight-forward. We will give you more information

### LATENESS and PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality is a habit and habits, either good or bad, are hard to break. We want our boys to develop good punctuality habits, so have been focussing on punctuality this year in an effort to change a growing trend of our boys turning up late to school or class. Arriving late impacts on learning and disrupts the class, so is unacceptable - as it is in the workplace! I recently reported to our Board, boys were only on time 69% of lessons in Term 1 – this is not good enough!

We have two systems to help boys - '**Late Gate**' (where late students report to a Dean or Deputy Principal on duty) and '**Attend to Play**' (where boys who are frequently absent or late are temporarily withdrawn from sport until there is an improvement). Both of these initiatives have had a positive impact so far but there is still work to be done. Your help in encouraging your son to get to school on time would be really appreciated. Beginning the start of the day by getting to school on time sets up the rest of the day. If we can educate and encourage our boys to form good habits around punctuality we are helping them achieve success.

regarding this in the next newsletter. We will follow-up the subject selection process by notifying you of your son's choices.

Students are encouraged to speak to teachers, family and friends about career choices and academic courses. They can access more information by visiting the Careers Office or contacting our Careers Teacher, Ms Wilson.

Ms Wilson is happy to follow up your enquiry with information which specifically targets your questions. You can reach Ms Wilson by email: [virginia.wilson@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:virginia.wilson@rongotai.school.nz). In the meantime, if you have any immediate concerns about your son's schoolwork or issues raised in your son's report, please contact the appropriate year level dean via email.

The deans are:

Year 9 Mr Stavros Ikonomakis  
 Year 10 Mr Sean O'Connor  
 Year 11 Mr Whetu Henry  
 Year 12 Mrs Michaela Johnston Welch  
 Year 13 Mr Pemerika Leiataua

Email addresses for our Deans and teachers can be found on our website.

## ENROLMENTS 2026

Earlier this term, we began our enrolment process with the annual Rongotai Experience and Open Evening. Open Evening was an extremely successful event, with the hall full of parents and their sons. We have had positive feedback from families who attended, with comments about the attitude and manner of the students who guided them, and engagement of the staff and their passion for the school. I would like to publicly thank our staff and the boys who volunteered to help at both the Rongotai Experience and the Open Evening – you are our best advertisement!

Enrolments for 2026 are very encouraging at this stage and we will be organising enrolment interviews starting in July. If you have friends who are intending to send their son to Rongotai College next year who have not yet enrolled, please ask them to do so promptly in order to be part of these enrolments.

## ACADEMIC NEWS

### TE ARA A KUPE BEATON SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to **Leo Powdrell** who is the recipient of the Te Ara a Kupe Beaton Scholarship from Crimson Education. This scholarship is awarded annually in celebration of

the outstanding achievements and recognition of the potential of five young Māori and Pasifika high school students from across New Zealand. It is a highly competitive national scholarship with around 200 applicants each year.



Crimson Education is a leading university admissions consultancy, helping Kiwi students gain admission to overseas universities. They have an excellent success rate of students gaining places in famous universities.

This scholarship offers the awardee the opportunity to receive a range of Crimson Education services up to the value of \$25,000 – such as mentoring, assistance with applications, pre-exam tutoring and coaching - that can transform their educational journey and help them gain admission to some of the top universities worldwide. Past recipients of this award have gone on to study at prestigious institutions such as Harvard, Princeton, and Duke Universities in the USA.

We are incredibly proud and excited to have Leo awarded with this scholarship.

### TEDx YOUTH EVENT

Congratulations to **Lewis Brown** (Year 12), who after a lengthy application



process, short-listings, several interviews and a lot of anxious waiting, has been selected to be one of the eight individuals who will speak at this year's TEDx Youth Paparangi event! He was up against a large number of applicants ranging in age from 15 to 25 from all over New Zealand.

He is currently preparing his speech which is titled "When Rest Feels Like Failure", aided by the TEDx writing team, attending rehearsals and preparing to deliver his speech on 18 October.

Well done Lewis!

## CULTURAL NEWS

### MUSIC

Three Rongotai bands (the RC Big Band and two combos) played at the Manawatu Youth Competition over King's Birthday weekend with our students winning two of the major individual awards.

Congratulations to the following:

- **Leo Stein** – Best Trumpeter
- **Junwei Chen** – Best Woodwind

This is the second year both these outstanding musicians have won these awards.

## SERVICE NEWS

### THE WINTER PROJECT

Throughout April and May Rongotai College participated in The Winter Project charity collection. In association with Wellington East Girls' College, our students, whānau and staff contributed warm winter clothing and blankets for those less fortunate in the Wellington area. We collected a large amount and our thanks go out to everyone who helped with this.

A huge thank you to **Leo Powdrell** (Year 13) and **Edward Florentine** (Year 12) who co-ordinated The Winter Project.



Leo Powdrell (left) and Edward Florentine

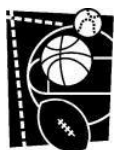
### WORLD VISION WALKATHON

Eight of our Year 12 leaders organised and ran the first Rongotai College World Vision Walkathon. Through this event, 44 boys raised almost \$6,000 for the Solomon Islands. The students walked 4,000 laps (760km) of the upstairs corridor over

the course of 20 hours, eating and sleeping in the Renner Hall in between walking sessions. The students involved demonstrated great determination and brotherhood throughout the event. Mahi tika ana!



*Walkathoners*



## SPORTS NEWS

Term 2 has been another busy one for sport at Rongotai College with badminton, basketball, football, hockey, rugby and table tennis all involved in weekly competitions in and around Wellington. Students have competed both regionally and nationally in cross-country.

### BASKETBALL

The Senior A team has qualified for the Bill Eldred Cup and started the regular season with three solid wins - 95-79 against Naenae College, 115-44 against Wellington High School and 91-88 against Upper Hutt College.

The Junior A team have qualified for the Division 1 Thompson Cup, and have also started well with wins against HIBS (85-46) and Upper Hutt College (142-43). It is great to see the uptake of basketball at school this year, with a near 100% increase in participation.

Well done to all our boys playing basketball.

### FOOTBALL

The 1st XI finished the grading rounds with a tough play-off loss to Onslow College, which put them in the Players Trophy competition for the season. They started well, with a 3-1 win over HIBS 2nd XI, but lost to Wairarapa College last weekend. The Junior Gold team has had a great start to their season in the Premier Grade (Vaughan Coveny Cup) with a

draw against HIBS (2-2) and win against Onslow (4-2).

### HOCKEY

Congratulations to **Arun Jeram-Inglin** who brought up his 100th game for the 1st XI on Friday night against Wellington College. This achievement emphasises Arun's dedication and commitment to the team. Awesome work Arun!

### RUGBY

The 1st XV have had a tough start to their time in the Tranzit Coachlines Cup, but continue to build on their performances this week. Close losses to HIBS (18-24) and St Bernard's (22-24) have shown a relatively young team can compete well at this level.

It was great to be able to host the first mid-week game of our traditional fixture with St Bernard's College for the Jim Ting Trophy. We hope that moving this traditional to midweek builds it to be one of the best dates on our rugby calendar and we look forward to travelling to St Bernard's next year to reclaim the trophy.

The 2nd XV started their time in Premier 3 (Willie Leota Cup) with two great wins over Upper Hutt College (58-24) and Naenae College (32-26).

Our age/weight grade teams have also been competing well. It's satisfying to see that there is an opportunity for any boy to play rugby with our U55, U65, and U15 teams.

### TABLE TENNIS

Our Table Tennis A team has made it to the Division 2 final against Scot's College. It is good to see the work that Mr Kit Norman put into Table Tennis still showing strong even after his retirement. All the best for the final lads!

### SPORTS LEADERSHIP

Recently, four year twelve students - **James Aitken, Desmond Reddy, Monty Shirtcliffe, and Hunter Taylor** attended the College Sport Wellington Game Changer conference. This event brought students from as far north as Taranaki together to not only hear from inspiring guest speakers (including Ben Sigmund and Taylor Noble), but a chance to make connections with their peers from other schools. The event focused on

themes such as personal growth, resilience under pressure, and developing leadership skills. Our students found the experience highly motivating and appreciated the opportunity to learn from former students and professionals who shared their journeys. They returned with fresh perspectives and are eager to apply what they've learned in their roles at school.



*from left, James Aitken, Monty Shirtcliffe, Hunter Taylor, & Desmond Reddy*

### SILVERSTREAM TRADITIONAL

On Wednesday 18 June, we hosted St Patrick's Silverstream in our annual traditional fixtures. The results were:

**HOCKEY**, 1-0 to Rongotai

**FOOTBALL**, 3-2 to St Pat's

**RUGBY**, 46-12 to St Pat's

**BASKETBALL** 93-64 to St Pat's.

### DRAWS AND RESULTS

The latest Sports Draws can be found on the noticeboard outside the Sports Office, but for all the latest information please download the College Sport app. It is a free app and is the best source for all the draw information you need – download it now!

### SPORTS FEES

Sports fees are now overdue. Thank you to the many parents who responded and either paid the fees directly or have made arrangements to do so. Please contact the Sports Department if you have any questions relating to the fees.

Lastly, be sure to enjoy the well-earned break and I hope to see you on the sidelines supporting our boys next term as they don the blue, black and yellow and compete on the sports fields.

Ngā mihi

Kevin Carter  
**PRINCIPAL**





### UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Students considering university study in 2026 may be interested in attending one or more of the open days. Register now. Dates for these are:

- AUT – 30 August
- Lincoln University – 18 July
- Massey University (Wellington Campus) – 22 August
- Massey University (Palmerston North Campus) – 6 August
- Massey University (Auckland Campus) – 15 August
- University of Auckland – 30 August
- University of Canterbury – 5 September
- University of Otago – was held in May
- Victoria University – 22 August
- Waikato University (Hamilton Campus) – was held in May
- Waikato University (Tauranga Campus) – 25 June

Further information is available from the Careers Office.

University Scholarship applications are now open and information and guidance on these can be obtained from the Careers Office and/or the university websites.

Closing dates for School Leaver Scholarships are:

- AUT - 1 September
- Lincoln University - 15 August
- Massey University – 1 September
- University of Auckland – 13 August
- University of Canterbury - 7 August
- University of Otago - 15 August
- Victoria University - 1 September
- Waikato University - 31 August

### RONGOTAI COLLEGE

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