



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 4, Term 3 (August), 2025

COMING EVENTS

Monday 25 August
Mid-term break

Thursday 28 August
Board meeting, 6pm in the staffroom

Monday 25 to Friday 29 August
Winter tournament week

Monday 1 – Friday 5 September
CAA Literacy and Numeracy exams

Friday 5 – Thursday 11 September
Senior Exams

Monday 8 September
Rongotai College Pasifika Parents' Asosi
at 6pm in the staffroom

Friday 19 September
Leavers' Ball
Last day of Term 3

Monday 6 October
First day of Term 4

2025 TERM DATES

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

We are now almost half-way through Term 3 and entering a very busy period of assessments for senior students, including senior examinations and CAA Literacy and Numeracy examinations.

SENIOR EXAMINATIONS

These examinations will be held from Friday 5 to Thursday 11 September.

For your information, the examination timetable is included with this newsletter.

These exams are an important signpost of your son's current progress towards NCEA. Your son may tell you that he does not have to revise for these examinations because they are unimportant and don't mean anything. **Don't believe him - these examinations are very important and they are compulsory!** The main purpose of the examinations is to assess your son's current progress towards NCEA (highlighting strengths and areas of concern) and to give him a practice run at externally assessed Achievement Standards. Please assist your son with his study and revision programme.

For some boys there may be a health issue, family or other circumstance that prevents him from sitting the external examinations in November. These school examinations provide us with evidence to support your son with any consideration he may need for a **derived grade** later in the year.

Also included as part of our examinations are some external assessments. The **CAA Numeracy and Literacy exams** will be held from 1-5 September. This is for those students who did not pass the CAA exams held in May and also selected Year 9 students.

Your son will have been told if he is sitting the CAA exams. You should also have received notification from your son's teachers.

Visual Arts, DVC and Materials Technology Students

Senior students completing NCEA in Visual Arts (including Art Design and Photography), DVC and Materials

MID TERM BREAK

Monday 25 August will be mid-term break for Rongotai College. Accordingly, there will be no school for all students on that day.

Technology should liaise with their teachers to organise a time to come in to work on their assessments with the deadlines rapidly approaching.

Year 9 and 10 students will have classes as per their usual timetable during senior exams.

SUBJECT SELECTION

This week has been Subject Selection Week, when students record the course they wish to study in 2026. This was completed by your son on-line; you will receive confirmation of his choices by email at some time over the next few weeks, for you to discuss with him.

It is extremely important that your son has made the correct decisions, as we base our classes in subjects for next year on the numbers signalled by this process. Once the timetable is generated, it is difficult to make changes, for instance adding classes.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Parents – you will receive the voting forms for the parent elections. Ten nominations were received for five positions. You will receive the voting information via email or mail, as you did with the nomination information. Please ensure that you make your vote count.

Staff – Mr Dinesh Bhindi has been re-elected, by the staff, as the staff

representative on the Board, for a further term.

Students – the three nominees will speak to the school assembly on Friday 15 August and voting will take place for students the following week.

The new Board will take office on Wednesday 17 September.

ACADEMIC NEWS

CAREERS

This is a busy time of the year with university scholarships, Halls of Residence applications, and course planning for 2026 taking place. This year we have arranged for four universities to come in to conduct scholarship / accommodation sessions for our Year 13 students.

Most scholarship applications are now closed, but Halls of Residence applications are still open. However, students should have already advised us of their intention to apply so that the reference that is required can be prepared.

One-on-one / small group course-planning sessions between our students and university liaison staff have been arranged. University of Otago has completed their course planning with our students. Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Canterbury, and Massey University will be here before the end of September to conduct their course planning sessions.

CAREERS EXPO

A very successful Careers Expo was held at Rongotai College with 20 providers attending to speak with and guide students where possible.



You may like to visit the Careers Department website for more

information about career planning, tertiary studies, apprenticeships and more.

<https://sites.google.com/rongotai.school.nz/careers-rc/home>

Thanks to our Careers team for organising this excellent event.



BURN BRIGHT

Earlier this term, a group of aspiring Year 12 leaders were chosen to attend a leadership workshop run by Burn Bright.

Through a dynamic program filled with interactive activities, engaging discussions, and motivational videos, students were challenged to reflect on their personal leadership potential and the influence they can have within their school community. The workshop helped students strengthen relationships with their fellow leaders, reinforcing the message that stronger connections lead to stronger performance. Key takeaways included the importance of leading with service (“We not Me”), understanding that leadership is about influence, and knowing and living by one’s values.

Overall, the day inspired students to step into their leadership roles with purpose, integrity, and a greater sense of teamwork, leaving them motivated to make a positive and lasting impact on their school.



SERVICE NEWS

SHAVE FOR A CURE

At the end of last term a number of students had their heads shaved for Shave for a Cure, raising over \$12,000 to support the Leukaemia & Blood Cancer Foundation. Their courage, generosity, and commitment to making a difference was truly inspiring. Whether shaving their heads or fundraising, our boys showed what it means to stand together for a great cause. Thank you to everyone who donated and supported this important initiative.

Thank you to the local hairdressers who helped with this fundraising effort.



LIFE FLIGHT TRUST

During the July school holidays four of our 1st XV Rugby players assisted at the Champions Lunch at Takina in Wellington. This was a fundraiser held prior to the All Blacks test against France in Wellington to raise funds for Life Flight Trust. In excess of \$437,000 was raised.

Joseph Fry-Hall, Dylan Johansen-Sua, Nick Rosenberg and Marco Stevenson-Loboa enjoyed their time and got to meet several well-known sporting identities.



from left: Grant Fox (ex-All Black 1984-93), Nick Rosenbrook, Marco Stevenson-Loboa, Dylan Johanson-Su'a and Kieran Reid (ex-All Black 2008-19)



CULTURAL NEWS

POLY CLUB

Friday 18 July saw our Poly Club perform at the TuTagata Festival at the TSB Arena.

The large crowd was entertained by the 40+ boys in the Rongotai College Poly Club, who performed superbly as always. We can all be very proud of them.



The high level of performance was the result of a huge effort by the boys and the many hours of practice. Staff and tutors have high expectations that the boys remain on top of their schoolwork and other activities, as well as

committing to practices for Poly Club.



I would like to thank the staff, parents and old boys involved with the group for the hours they put in – it is much appreciated.

Special thanks should go to Mrs Fiu for her hard work in bringing the boys together and finalising their routine.



MUSIC

Music Performance Evening

A music evening was held on Thursday of this week, showcasing our very talented musicians in a variety of genres and styles, while also allowing some to be assessed for NCEA standards in solo and group performances. Those who attended were treated to an exceptional evening of entertainment.

Congratulations to all the musicians who performed and to the Music Department staff who organised the event. It emphasised the talent within the student body and the outstanding staff who teach them! Thanks also to Mr Chambers and his students for the excellent kai.



LEAVERS' BALL

Our Leavers' Ball for Year 13 students will be held at The Pines on **Friday 19 September**.

We observe strict yet sensible conditions at our ball and if your son is intending to attend, he must take a letter home regarding these conditions. He must return a signed slip from you. Please remind him to do this before he purchases a ball ticket. Ball tickets will go on sale for Year 13 students (who will have preference for the first two weeks of sales) from 18 August. Any remaining tickets will then be open to Year 12 students on Tuesday 2 September. However, due to health and safety requirements, there are a limited number of tickets available for sale, so boys should purchase their tickets as soon as possible. All tickets must be purchased by Friday 12 September and will be handed out at a special assembly at 12.30pm on Friday 19 September.



SPORTS NEWS

We are coming to the end of the winter sports season, with many competitions concluding over the next two weekends and Winter Tournaments starting on 23 August and running through to 30 August.

BASKETBALL

The Senior A team will finish the round-robin this week against Mana College, while our other senior teams are playing semi-finals.

The Junior A team has had a great season back in the Division 1 competition this year and are currently third, having won six of their eight games this year.

Congratulations to the Junior Bisons for winning the Wellington Junior Boys Division 2 competition.

FOOTBALL

The 1st XI are currently in the top four round robin of the Players Trophy, with a draw against St Patricks Silverstream (0-0) last week. They play Wellington College on Friday evening.

The 2nd XI have been having a great season, and will play a semi-final next weekend.

Our Junior Gold are currently placed third in the Junior Premiership and have two further round-robin games to play.

HOCKEY

The 1st XI is looking forward to their National Tournament and are building momentum with strong results against Paraparaumu and Onslow Colleges.



The Junior Colts have had a great season, unfortunately losing to Newlands 0-2 in the semi-final, and being beaten on shootout in the 3/4th playoff against Scots. They played Feilding High School on Tuesday, losing to a much bigger team.

RUGBY

The 1st XV finished their season 9th in the CSW Premiership.

The 2nd XV play St Pat's Town this week for a place in the final. Their game is at Evans Bay Park at 1pm.

The U65s play in their final on Saturday against HIBS on the Rongotai College #1 field at 11.30am.

Our U55s and U15 teams both play off for 5th/6th this week.

WINTER TOURNAMENT WEEK

This year we will have seven teams participating at various National and Regional events during Winter Tournament Week, to be held 23 August - 30 August. These games will be played at various locations across the country.

Basketball - The Senior A team will travel to Hawkes Bay to attend NZSS Basketball 'AA' Premiership Zone 3 Qualifying Tournament.

The Junior A team will also travel to Hāwera to compete in the Lower North Island Y9/10 Tournament.

Football - The 1st XI Football team will play locally in Wellington, attending the NZSS Football Trident Tournament. Some of their games will be played here at Rongotai College.

Hockey - The 1st XI Hockey team will play in the NZSS Hockey Boys' Rankin Cup / India Shield tournament in Auckland.

Rugby - The following rugby teams will participate in rugby festivals at different locations around Wellington: U15 in Silverstream, U85kgs at Kilbirnie Park.

Cross Country Road Race - Our CSW Champion Y9 team will travel to Auckland to compete in the National Road Race.

Badminton - Our Senior A Badminton team will compete in the national tournament being held at Te Rauparaha Area in Porirua.

Fencing - Our Fencing team will be competing at the NZSS Fencing tournament in Christchurch, having finished second in the recent Wellington event.

These tournaments are great opportunities for our students to experience the next level of sport from their local competitions. Good luck to all our competing teams and be sure to live our school values.

SUMMER SPORTS

Summer sports teams are now in the process of being confirmed so please check the sports noticeboard and Rongotai Sports Facebook page for registration information and team lists after Winter Tournament Week.

Finally, it is vital that you continue to remind your son of his study programme and study habits as this term progresses. Year 12 and 13 exams are now only three weeks away, and NCEA internal assessments are on-going. Your son's subject teachers, form teacher and year level Dean are available for help and advice and you should encourage him to talk to them. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of these staff members.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

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Senior Practice Exam Timetable 2025

Friday 5/9/25		Monday 8/9/25		Tuesday 9/9/25		Wednesday 10/9/25		Thursday 11/9/25	
Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon
1EN (digital)	1SP	1MA	1HI (digital)	1SC (digital)	1COM	1GE 1MU 1SA	1MR	1ES	
2AC 2MR	2EN (digital)	2MD (digital) 2SP	2CH 2CS (digital)	2GE 2MP	2MA 2MS	2HI (digital) 2SA	2PH 2ES	2EC	2BI
3GE 3SP	3AC 3CS (digital)	3MD (digital) 3MP	3MC	3MR 3EC	3PH	3BI 3DR	3EN (digital)	3CH 3HI (digital)	3MS

- Morning exams are from 8.55am to 11.55am
- Afternoon exams are from 1.15 to 4.15pm
- All exams are 3 hours long and will be in Renner Hall unless told otherwise.