



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 10, Term 3 (19 September), 2025

COMING EVENTS

Monday 6 October

First day Term 4

Friday 17 October

Arts & Cultural Awards Assembly, 12.40pm in the Renner Hall

Food Fair 5pm in the Renner Hall

Monday 20 October

Rongotai College Pasifika Parents' Asosi at 6.30pm in the staffroom

Thursday 23 October

Team photos taken in the Renner Hall

Friday 24 October

Sports Awards Assembly 12.40pm in the Renner Hall

Monday 27 October

Labour Day Holiday

Tuesday 28 October

Pō Whakanui 6pm in the Renner Hall

Wednesday 29 October

Fiafia Night 6.30pm in the Renner Hall

Thursday 30 October

Last day for selected senior students before external exams

Board meeting, 6pm in the staffroom

Tuesday 4 November

NCEA external exams begin

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

Kia ora koutou katoa

As Term 3 is ending it is time for all students to reflect on their progress to date.

Year 9, 10 and a few Year 11-13 students recently sat the Literacy and Numeracy Common Assessment Activities, while Year 11, 12 and 13 students completed formative exams. These exams signpost where they are currently positioned in terms of NCEA external exams. End-of-year reports will be emailed to parents of senior students and should be visible on the parent portal for senior students from the second week of the school holidays; paper copies will be posted by the first week of Term 4.



Year 11-13 students will have just three and a half weeks at school in Term 4 before study leave is granted to some, with NCEA external exams beginning a week later (4 November). For your information, I have included the NCEA exam timetable as an attachment to this newsletter.

ACADEMIC NEWS

NIWA SCIENCE FAIR

Our Junior students wowed the crowd at Victoria University of Wellington with their NIWA Science

Fair projects! After months of research into topics they were passionate about, they presented their findings to a panel of expert judges. Several of our Year 9 teams came away with awards from Engineering New Zealand, Wellington Botanical Society and Measurements Standards Laboratory. These winners include: **Ed Werry, Edgar Watson, Blade Boardman, Jackson Coleman, and Hunter Roche**. The future of science looks bright with the next generation of Rongotai College scientists leading the way!



from left Blade Boardman and Jackson Coleman receive their certificates.



THINK TANK

Our Rongotai College ThinkTank students collaborated with their talented peers from Scots College, St Pat's College, and Wellington East Girls' College recently to explore coding, robotics, and thermodynamics in building design. It was great to see our juniors stepping up and embracing the challenge!



Rongotai boys from left Lucas Hegan and Luke Hussey.

TEDx YOUTH

Lewis Brown (Year 12) was selected to speak at this year's TEDx Youth Paparangi event in early September. He was one of eight individuals selected from a pool of applicants aged 15-25 from all over New Zealand. Lewis demonstrated phenomenal public speaking skills, speaking to this year's topic: "The Power of Now". His speech, titled "Why The Power of Now Lives in the Pause", is a topic close to his heart that has great significance to this generation's young people. In his talk he encouraged people to take a step back to care for their wellbeing in a world that is often pushing for overachievement. Mahi tika ana Lewis!



TERTIARY STUDY 2026

For boys who are planning to study at a university or polytech in 2026, applications for some institutions are already open and others will open soon.

In order to complete an enrolment, proof of identity, proof of citizenship or residency, and previous academic records may be required. If a copy of proof of identity and proof of citizenship or residency are being supplied, these must be certified.

A certified copy must include a stamp/endorsement. The certifying

statement must be clear and legible and completed for each page of the documents submitted. Each page must be correctly witnessed and be stamped with full name, title, signature, and dated.

The website of the university or polytechnic your son is applying to will have details of required documents and their certification.

TESTIMONIALS

If your son is leaving Rongotai College at the end of this year and wants a testimonial, he must pick up the appropriate form from the College Shop; these are due on Wednesday 31 October. We process a number of testimonials each year and time is needed to do this. Late submission of the form means we cannot guarantee that your son will receive his testimonial at the end of the school year.



Our musical ensembles are preparing for two upcoming events; the Musicworks Ensemble Festival of Aotearoa (MEFA) and the prestigious Young Jazz Bandit, started by Rodger Fox a few years ago.

The Young Jazz Bandit is an auditioned competition with the top ten bands in New Zealand participating. The Big Band has consistently been named every year. They will perform on Saturday morning, 20 September at the NZ School of Music. All are welcome to attend.

MEFA will include around 1,000 musical students from all over New Zealand. The RC component will feature three of our ensembles; the RC Big Band, The Funk Ensemble and DoL Combo. Feel free to contact Mr Crayford if you are interested in attending performances.

Recently our students participated in a musical street parade in Hataitai, celebrating 20 years of jazz at The Realm. The weather played its part and the boys thoroughly

enjoyed the experience. You can see video footage here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hfuhaVzZNQ>



ALL BLACKS VISIT

The day before the All Blacks v Springboks test in Wellington we were fortunate to have three All Blacks visit for assembly. Finlay Christie, Peter Lakai and our own, Ardie Savea. Ardie addressed the school and presented one of his All Black jerseys, followed by a Q&A session with the three of them.



As a school, we celebrated Ardie earning his 100th cap for the All Blacks. Check the school's Facebook page for photos and videos of the assembly.



SPORTS NEWS

WINTER TOURNAMENT WEEK

During the annual Winter Tournament Week around 90 students and staff participated in events around the country. Of the staff who were involved with the different teams, six are Rongotai Old Boys!

Badminton

Our **Senior A Badminton** team competed in Division 2 of the NZ Secondary Schools Badminton Championships in Porirua. On their way to a 17th place finish, they recorded wins against Hamilton Boys', Hastings Boys', and John Paul Colleges.

Basketball

Our **Senior Basketball** team travelled to Hawke's Bay for the AA Zone 3 Regionals and placed fifth in their pool (on tiebreaker) after exciting wins against Paraparaumu College and Aotea College. Unfortunately, the tiebreaker placed them in the bottom half of the qualification draw, but great wins against Newlands and Onslow to round out the week finishing in 17th place.

Our **Junior Basketball** team travelled to Hāwera for the Taranaki Y9/10 invitational and recorded wins against PNBHS, Taupo-nui-a-tia, HIBS and Francis Douglas. Two close losses to NPBHS and Napier Boys' meant the team was playing off for 5th place against PNBHS again. The team had an amazing performance winning 80-74, securing a 5th place finish. Well done boys!

Cross Country Road Relay

Our **Year 9 Road Relay** team competed in the NZ Secondary Schools Road Relays in Auckland. The team had an amazing all round performance, improving in each leg to finish 3rd place in New Zealand. Congratulations **Kingsley McGuigan, Harry Barton, Max Baring** and **Lucas Kendrick** on their success!



From left Max Baring, Harry Barton, Kingsley McGuigan, Lucas Kendrick.

Fencing

Four students travelled to Christchurch to compete in the NZ Secondary Schools' **Fencing** championships. Congratulations to **Leonardo Triolo** for becoming **New Zealand Champion** in the Men's Foil. An amazing achievement!



Football

The **1st XI Football** stayed in Wellington to compete in the NZ Secondary Schools Football Trident Tournament and had a very successful week. They progressed through pool play with great wins over Bethlehem College and Taupo-nui-a-tia College, and a loss to eventual winners Christchurch Boys'. Two successful knockout games against Francis Douglas and Tauhara set them up for a semi-final against Whanganui Collegiate where the team won on penalties. They once again came up against Christchurch Boys' in the final, going down 1-0 in a tightly contested match. Congratulations to the team on finishing in 2nd place and thank

you to the support provided by coaches, managers, and supporters throughout the week.



Hockey

The **1st XI Hockey** travelled to Auckland, to compete in the Tier 1 Rankin Cup / India Shield. After two tough games against regional champions Auckland Grammar and Hamilton Boys' the team had a close loss to Marlborough Boys' to finish pool play. The team recorded an exciting win against Pakuranga College in the last play of the game, but lost all further games 2-1 finishing in 28th place.

Rugby

The **U15 Rugby** team competed in Division 2 of the Hurricanes U15 Tournament. They did well in pool play, beating St Pat's Town (64-7) and Christ's College (59-3) after a close loss to Botany Downs (14-18) in their first pool game. A thrilling semi-final win against Scots (43-31) set up a rematch against Botany Downs. The team put on an epic performance, avenging their close loss in pool play with a 64-5 win in the final. Congratulations on your success!



SEASON WRAP-UPS

Rugby

Our U65 Rugby team have won the Ina Hansen Cup this year with an epic 31-30 victory over HIBS. Congratulations on an amazing season boys!

Football

The 2nd XI Football team also made the final of the CSW Division 2 competition, unfortunately going down on penalties after a 1-1 draw at full time. Congratulations to the team for going undefeated throughout the season!

Correction

In our last newsletter, we incorrectly named our Junior Bisons basketball team as the winners of the Junior Boys Division 2 competition. However, we'd like to correct this and name our **Junior Blue** basketball team as champions! They had a close game with the Bisons in the final, winning 37-32. Our apologies to all in those teams for our error.

Cricket

Congratulations to **Hugo Campion** and **Roman Day** on being named in the Wellington Under 17 Boys' Cricket squad and also to **Sebastian Campion** who has been named in the Wellington Year 10 squad. Well done boys!

SUMMER SPORT

Now that the winter sport season has come to an end, our focus turns to summer sport; some teams have already begun their pre-season.

All students who registered for a Summer Sport in Term 1 have been carried over to Term 4. Team lists for Term 4 are currently being finalised and will be emailed and posted on the Sports Noticeboard outside the Sports Department. Please ensure you double check your team and grade. Please ensure you double check your team and grade.

All Winter Sport and Term 1 summer fee **MUST BE PAID PRIOR** to participating in Term 4.

Last Words...

Finally, a reminder that NCEA exams are only five weeks away, while Year 9 and 10 students have their school end of year exams in eight weeks. Materials to support revision will be posted by teachers on GOOGLE classroom. Use the time in the upcoming break as a springboard for the exams.

Have a wonderful Term 3 break, and come back refreshed and rejuvenated for the final run-in to the end of 2025!

Hei konā mai,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

RONGOTAI COLLEGE BOARD

Congratulations to the following candidates who have been elected to the Board:

Louise Carter
Patrick Crewdson
Devon Heaphy
Tania Mullane
Etuale Togia

Thank you to the four other candidates who stood for election but were unsuccessful.

Congratulations to also Mr Dinesh Bhindi who was elected to the position of staff representative and Desmond Reddy who was elected as the student representative.

At a special board meeting, Louise Carter was made the Presiding Member with Devon Heaphy as Deputy.

The first full meeting of the new Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday 30 October.

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



www.rongotai.school.nz

www.facebook.com/RongotaiCollege

www.youtube.com/RongotaiCollegeNZ



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

FOOD FAIR

FRIDAY
Oct

| **17** |

| **5 - 7pm**

Hangi Curry Pasifika
Sweet treats Salads ...and more!

EFTPOS AVAILABLE

170 COUTTS STREET, RONGOTAI, 04 939 3050

2025 EXAMINATION TIMETABLE

Examinations available digitally shown in blue.

Date	Session	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Scholarship
Tue 4 Nov	AM		Mathematics & Statistics	Dance	Classical Studies
	PM		Latin	Japanese Making Music Spanish English	Statistics
Wed 5 Nov	AM				
	PM		Geography		Earth & Space Science
Thu 6 Nov	AM		English		Latin
	PM		Chinese	History	French
Fri 7 Nov	AM			Chemistry	Accounting
	PM		Accounting		Biology
WEEKEND					
Mon 10 Nov	AM	French Spanish	Lea Faka-Tonga Te Reo Māori	Calculus	Samoan
	PM	Commerce	Korean	Agricultural & Horticultural Science Chinese German	Media Studies
Tue 11 Nov	AM	English			Physics
	PM	Gagana Tokelau	Dance	Biology	Art History
Wed 12 Nov	AM	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	Chemistry	Drama	Geography
	PM	Korean	Cook Islands Māori Drama	Digital Technologies Samoan	Psychology
Thu 13 Nov	AM	Mathematics and Statistics	Art History	Statistics	Drama
	PM	History	Physics	Accounting	Agricultural & Horticultural Science
CANTERBURY ANNIVERSARY DAY (Fri 14 Nov)					
WEEKEND					
Mon 17 Nov	AM	Te Reo Māori	French	Latin Psychology Te Reo Rangatira	Chemistry
	PM	Japanese	Biology	Economics	
Tue 18 Nov	AM	Science	History	Physics	Te Reo Rangatira
	PM	Digital Technologies	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	Media Studies	
Wed 19 Nov	AM	Chinese	Te Reo Rangatira	Lea Faka-Tonga	English
	PM	Social Studies	Classical Studies	Art History	Economics
Thu 20 Nov	AM	Physics Earth & Space Science	Media Studies	Te Reo Māori	Calculus
	PM	Vagahau Niue	Education for Sustainability Samoan	Earth & Space Science	Chinese
Fri 21 Nov	AM	Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani		Music Studies	Spanish
	PM	Geography	Music		History
WEEKEND					
Mon 24 Nov	AM	Gagana Sāmoa	Japanese	Geography	
	PM	German	Earth & Space Science		Religious Studies
Tue 25 Nov	AM	Chemistry & Biology	Home Economics	Classical Studies	Te Reo Māori
	PM	Lea Faka-Tonga	German	Home Economics	Digital Technologies
Wed 26 Nov	AM	Religious Studies	Social Studies	French	Japanese
	PM	Health Studies	Business Studies	Health	
Thu 27 Nov	AM		Economics	Korean	
	PM		Health	Business Studies	
Fri 28 Nov	AM		Digital Technologies Spanish	Cook Islands Māori Social Studies	German