



# RONGOTAI COLLEGE

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 5, Term 4 (7 November), 2025

### COMING EVENTS

**Friday 14 November**  
Year 8 testing day

**Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 November**  
Junior Exams

**Friday 21 & Monday 24 November**  
Teacher only days – no students

**Thursday 27 November**  
Board meeting 6pm in the staffroom

**Monday 1 to Wednesday 3 December**  
Year 10 Camp

**Monday 1 & Tuesday 2 December**  
Year 9 Survivor

**Wednesday 3 December**  
Year 9 Social Action Day

**Thursday 4 December**  
Full school assembly – seniors return  
Prizegiving 7.30pm at the Indian Centre, Kilbirnie

**Friday 5 December**  
Teacher only day

**Friday 12 December**  
School office closes

### 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

It has been an extremely busy Term 4 to date. NCEA external exams for Years 11-13 and a few Year 10 students are in full swing, while Year 9 and 10 students will sit their school exams starting Wednesday 19 November.



**Examinations for Year 9 and 10 students** are scheduled for **WEDNESDAY 19 & THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER**. An **examination timetable is attached** for those in Years 9 and 10. Your son can begin his preparation for these important exams by ensuring that all his notes are complete and up-to-date. Teachers will be giving students advice on what material will be in the exams.

These exams will be followed by two curriculum teacher-only-days on Friday 21 and Monday 24 November.

## ACADEMIC NEWS

### HELPING YOUR SON TO STUDY

Whether your son is in Year 9 or 10 (or is indeed studying for NCEA), he should have a Study Timetable for the time leading up to his exams. These can be downloaded from our website or a copy requested from the college office.

The following suggestions are useful ways to help your son to study:

- **Make sure that your son has set his routines from now until the time of examinations.** It is a good idea to do the same things at the same time each day e.g. meals, chores, and **STUDY**. Make sure your son

has filled in his Study Leave Timetable and help him to keep to the times on it.

- **Help your son to organise the information he needs to study.** His teachers will have given him a clear indication of what to study for each Standard / exam. Help him to organise this information.
- **Ask your son to get out the notes he has been given in his classes and help him organise them.**
- **Ask your son questions about what he has learned.** Explaining something to someone else is a good way to confirm what you have learned.
- **Encourage your son.** Confidence comes from having learned material and then remembering it. Once your son has gone through this process he should be confident that he can cope with the examination.

There are some excellent websites for tips on how to study, such as [www.how-to-study.com](http://www.how-to-study.com). Another website that I would recommend, which has on-line practical help with revision techniques and methods, is <https://getrevising.co.uk/make>.

Our teachers have also made revision material available by sharing through GOOGLE Classroom.

As we get closer to Junior exams, Teachers will be running revision classes for students during normal class time. Please encourage your son to seek help from his teachers in areas where he is unsure.

### END-OF-YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

We expect all 2025 students to attend school on **THURSDAY 4**

**DECEMBER.** That Thursday will be our last full school assembly, and will start at 8.55am in the Renner Hall. At this special assembly we will farewell leaving staff and read out the prize list for Prizegiving. All students the go to the Indian Centre for prizegiving rehearsal. Senior students will be dismissed at the conclusion of the rehearsal.

Year 9 and 10 students will return to school. They will go to their form room and be given their school report to bring home.

### PRIZEGIVING

Prizegiving is the culmination of our year's study and activities and is a full school event. It will be held this year on **THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER** in the Indian Centre, starting at 7.30pm.

Please note this date in your diary and we invite you to attend this enjoyable celebration with us. Please also read the "Important Dates and Events" notices carefully and instruct your son to attend at the times when he is required. **All students must attend Prizegiving.**

At Prizegiving, Year 13 students will receive Graduation Certificates. Testimonials will be posted in due course.

Prizegiving is the last official school event for all students, who are then free to go on holiday at its conclusion. Parents of Year 13 school leavers are cordially invited to a Leavers' Supper following Prizegiving.



### LEAVERS' BALL

The highlight of the college social calendar, the annual Leavers' Ball, was held on Friday 19 September at The Pines.

It was an excellent event, attended by 130 senior students and their partners. The behaviour of students was outstanding and I would like to congratulate them on the manner in which they conducted themselves.



I would like to thank Mr Leiatua and the Ball Committee for a very well-organised and successful event, enjoyed by all who attended.



### COMMUNITY SERVICE, PERFORMING ARTS & CULTURAL ASSEMBLY

We celebrated the success of students in a range of activities at our annual Performing Arts and Cultural Assembly on Friday 10 October.

The following students were presented Honours awards at the assembly:

<b>Carlos Morris-Matchitt</b>	Haka Haka
<b>Leo Powdrell</b>	Kapa Haka
<b>Joshua Matatia</b>	Polynesian Club
<b>Carlos Morris-Matchitt</b>	Polynesian Club
<b>TJ Robinson</b>	Polynesian Club
<b>Liko Sialava'a</b>	Polynesian Club
<b>Qlevedon Taotua</b>	Polynesian Club
<b>Leo Powdrell</b>	Music
<b>Leo Stein</b>	Music

We also recognised several students for their Community Service. The following students received Bronze, Silver and Gold awards:

<b>Lewis Brown</b>	Bronze
<b>Jackson Garland</b>	Bronze
<b>Ben Povey</b>	Bronze
<b>James Ririnui</b>	Bronze
<b>Billy Smith</b>	Bronze
<b>Hamish Tukaki-Campbell</b>	Bronze
<b>Lewis Brown</b>	Silver
<b>Edward Florentine</b>	Silver
<b>Jackson Garland</b>	Silver
<b>Edward Florentine</b>	Gold

### SPANISH TRIP

During the September school holidays a group of Spanish students travelled to Spain to undertake an

unforgettable time full of culture, language and adventure — from exploring historic cities to practising Spanish with locals and immersing themselves in authentic traditions. This incredible experience has deepened their appreciation for the language and culture. A huge thank you to everyone who supported them along the way, especially those who helped with fundraising and made this dream of travelling to Spain a reality.



## SPORTS NEWS

As we approach the end of the school year, many of our summer codes are underway. This term Rongotai is pleased to be able to offer 3x3 Basketball, Athletics, Bowls, Cricket, Floorball, Futsal, Golf, Rugby 7s, Tennis, Touch Rugby, Volleyball and Water Polo. Thank you again to all the parents and volunteers who have put their hands up this term and have made these offerings a possibility.

With exams in progress, the importance of regular exercise and physical activity becomes evident and while it may seem that sport could be a distraction to academia, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that exercise improves brain function and academic performance.

### SPORTS AWARDS ASSEMBLY

We celebrated the success of students in a range of activities at our annual Sports Assembly on Monday 20 October.

The following students were presented Honours awards at the assembly:

<b>Lenn Jackson</b>	Athletics
<b>Desmond Reddy</b>	Athletics
<b>Jax Seaborne</b>	Athletics
<b>Caeden Ioapo</b>	Basketball

<b>Joshua Matatia</b>	Basketball
<b>Samuel Jones</b>	Canoe Racing
<b>Aston Burwell-Garratt</b>	Cricket
<b>Hunter Taylor</b>	Cricket
<b>Bertie McGuigan</b>	Cycling
<b>Fletch Gallagher</b>	Disabled Sports
<b>Fletcher Cowan</b>	Gymnastics
<b>Samuel Jones</b>	Surf Lifesaving
<b>Theo Bray</b>	Triathlon

### CSW SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Congratulations to **James Aitken** on winning the Grassroots Trust Student Coach of the Year award for his work with our Junior A



Futsal team. James has led the Junior A Futsal team to 1st Place in the Term 1 College Sport Wellington league, 8th at Nationals, and will be looking to also finish strongly at the CSW Junior Championships later this term.

Congratulations to **Bertie McGuigan** for also being named as a finalist for sportsperson of the year in the Bike category.

For the second year in a row, Rongotai College also received their Bowls pennant at the awards evening, for winning the College Sport senior competition for 2025.

### 3x3 BASKETBALL

Congratulations to our Junior 3x3 team who won the College Sport Wellington competition beating HIBS in the final. Well done boys!



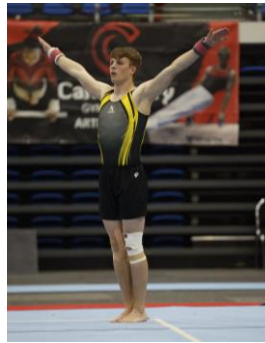
From left: Kalani Tupu, Tawa Telea, Finn Collier and JJ Popham.

They now look forward to the Regional Tournament in a weeks time.

### GYMNASTICS

Congratulations to **Fletcher Cowan**

who recently competed in the National Men's Artistic Gymnastics competition. Fletcher gained gold in the floor, the vault and the rings and was placed fifth in the overall competition (which also included high bar, pommel and parallel bars). Well done Fletcher!



### SURF

Congratulations to our Sports Prefect, Sam Jones who, over the holidays won the U23 National Ocean Ski Championships, completing a challenging 15km race from Petone to Breaker Bay.

Fantastic effort, Sam — a great achievement and an inspiration to others!



### VOLLEYBALL

Our Junior A Volleyball team had a great two days at the CSW Regional Tournament held at Ākau Tangi last week. The boys had good wins against Newlands College, Taita College, and Whitby Collegiate to finish in 11th place. Well done!

### SPORTS UNIFORM and FEES

A reminder that **all winter sports uniforms should have been returned** by now directly to either the coach or the team manager.

It is preferable that uniforms are returned to the coach or manager rather than directly to the school. This way the uniforms can be accounted for and it ensures you are not charged for missing uniforms.

A small number of boys still have sports fees outstanding. Failure to settle these will mean your son may not be able to play sport next year. If you are unsure if you are up to date with your fees please contact the school office.

### JERSEY DONATION

A welcome return recently to the college for Old Boy **JOSEPH TAPINE** to donate one of his Kiwi Rugby League jerseys.

Thank you, Joe for this great donation. Joe was at Rongotai College from 2008 to 2011 and spent two years in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. He is currently the Captain of the Canberra Raiders and vice-captain of the Kiwi Rugby League team.



From left Justin Gray (& Joe's 1<sup>st</sup> XV coach), Joseph Tapine, Kevin Carter.

Finally, with NCEA exams in full swing and Junior exams coming up, I would like to emphasise that it is now the time for your son to really push himself, firstly to achieve his qualification, but also to concentrate on getting the highest level of achievement possible – boys should be pushing to be 'the best they can be' in their academic achievement.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter  
**PRINCIPAL**

# RONGOTAI COLLEGE



## IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

### 2025

#### **Monday 1 Tuesday 2 & Wednesday 3 December**

Year 10 Camp

#### **Monday 1 & Tuesday 2 December**

Year 9 Survivor Rongotai

#### **Wednesday 3 December**

Year 9 Social Action Day

#### **Thursday 4 December**

##### **ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND SCHOOL**

School begins at the normal time of 8.55am. There will be final assembly followed by Prizegiving rehearsal at the Indian Centre. Senior students will be dismissed at the conclusion of the rehearsal.

Year 9 and 10 students will return to school. They will go to their form room and be given their school report.

#### **Evening - PRIZEGIVING**

##### **ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND IN SCHOOL UNIFORM.**

Students report to the Indian Centre at 7pm. Prizegiving starts at 7.30pm.

#### **Friday 5 December**

Teacher only day.

#### **Friday 12 December**

College office and shop close.

### 2026

#### **Wednesday 14 January**

College office opens.

Office will be open normal hours (8.15am to 4.30pm)

#### **Monday 19 January**

Office closed – Wellington Anniversary

#### **Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 January**

Year 11, 12 and 13 course confirmation interviews can be made via the school website ([www.rongotai.school.nz](http://www.rongotai.school.nz)). Sign in at the top right-hand corner using the same username and password as the SchoolBridge log in. Once logged in, click on Course Confirmation and make an interview booking with the dean or academic mentor.

#### **Monday 26 January**

All students report to the Renner Hall for assembly at 8.55am.

#### **COLLEGE SHOP**

Uniform and stationery items are sold in our college shop. Leading up to the start of the 2026 school year the opening hours will be 8.30am to 4.30pm from Tuesday 20 January.

Credit card and EFTPOS facilities are available.

## 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](mailto:the.principal@rongotai.school.nz)



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