



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER Week 7 (June) | Term Two, 2026

TERM DATES 2026

Term One	Monday 26 January to Thursday 2 April
Term Two	Monday 20 April to Friday 3 July
Term Three	Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September
Term Four	Monday 12 October to Friday 4 December

UPCOMING EVENTS

3 June	Traditional v Wellington Coll. (H) Rongotai BEST Academy Banner Unveiling Function for Old Boys
5 June	Rongotai Experience (School Closed)
9 June	Pasifika Programme (to 11th) Open Evening @ 6.00pm School Closed from 12.35pm
11 June	The Big Sing
12 June	CSW Swimming Champs
15 June	Asosi Meeting @ 6.00pm
16 June	Think Tank @ St Patrick's College
17 June	CSW Squash Regionals Traditional v Silverstream (A)
18 June	Road Safety Workshop
19 June	40 Hour Challenge Walkathon
20 June	NZSSAA Cross-Country (to 21st)
25 June	Board Meeting @ 6.00pm Y9 'Have a Go Day'
26 June	Tu Tagata Leader' Workshop
3 July	Term Two Ends Reports issued and mailed
20 July	Term Three Starts

Keep in Touch.

RONGOTAI COLLEGE

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-  www.youtube.com/RongotaiCollegeNZ

Weather events earlier this term certainly made their presence felt, closing the school for one day.

While the disruption created some unavoidable challenges for families and staff alike, it was encouraging to see how quickly students adapted to the change, and by Wednesday it was very much back to business as usual around the college. Our thoughts remain with those members of our community who are still dealing with the clean-up and ongoing impacts of the severe weather.

The change in conditions to cooler days has also served as a timely reminder that the winter sports season is now fully underway. With an eleven-week term underway, there are plenty of opportunities for our boys to become involved - whether competing, performing, supporting from the sidelines, or representing the College in other ways.

It has been pleasing to see the majority of students making a strong start to the term by arriving on time, correctly dressed, and prepared for the day ahead, helping set a positive tone across the school.

We are now at the halfway point of Term Two, and overall it has been a positive and productive start. Attendance, has slipped slightly to 88% so far this term, and there are still too many boys arriving late to school

in the mornings. We will continue working closely with students and families to reinforce the importance of punctuality, regular attendance, and establishing good routines, all of which play a significant role in student success and well-being.



NCEA RESULTS: 2025

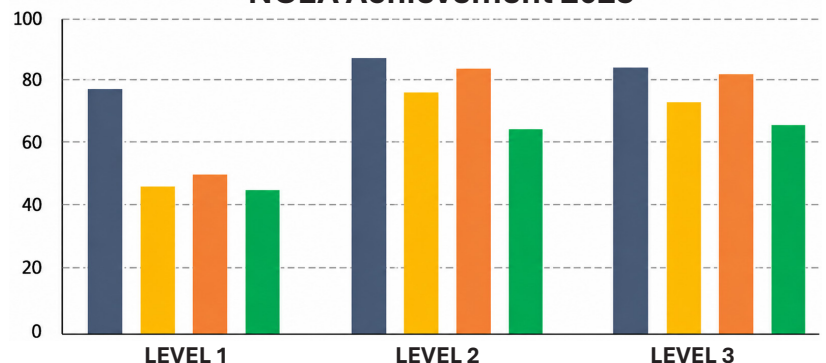
NZQA has now released the confirmed NCEA results for 2025. As parents/caregivers, you will be pleased to know that NCEA results for Rongotai College exceeded the overall results for boys attending schools in Wellington, and also exceeded the achievement of boys in similar schools nationally and also all boys nationally.

We are delighted with the continued improvement in achievement of our students across all NCEA levels, and I congratulate our 2025 cohort and their teachers for the excellent results.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

With the cooler winter months approaching, this is an appropriate time to remind families of our expectations regarding school uniform. Students are expected to wear their uniform correctly and with pride at all times.

NCEA Achievement 2025



	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
■ Rongotai	77.8	88.1	85
■ Wellington Boys	46.4	75.8	72.6
■ EQI Boys	50.4	84	82.1
■ NZ Boys	45.6	64.3	66.2

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Please note that only plain black jackets are permitted to be worn to and from school. Hoodies of any description, including those with Rongotai College logos, are not permitted as part of the school uniform. Official Rongotai College puffer jackets and school jackets are available for purchase through the College Shop.

■ PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM

All Year 9, 10, and 11 students must wear the correct Physical Education uniform for PE lessons. This consists of the official Rongotai College PE top and blue shorts.

It has been pleasing to see the majority of students wearing the correct uniform consistently. Students who have not yet purchased the PE uniform are asked to do so as soon as possible through the College Shop. If there are any difficulties in meeting this expectation, please contact your son's PE teacher or Dean so that support can be provided where necessary.

I also encourage all boys to ensure their clothing is clearly named to assist with lost property identification.

■ SEISMIC ASSESSMENT

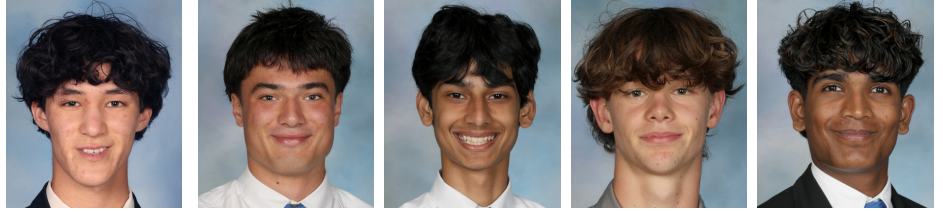
As part of a review of a number of Wellington schools, the Ministry of Education undertook a seismic assessment at Rongotai College. The draft assessment found all our buildings are safe to use and there are no known problems with normal day-to-day activities.

Strengthening work has been recommended for some structures to increase resilience. That includes parts of the main block, and aspects of the library and staff room.

The safety of our students and staff is paramount so it is important to reiterate that none of the buildings have been declared earthquake-prone and the Ministry has no safety concerns. We are able to continue using the buildings

We are pleased Rongotai College will have this work funded as it will ultimately give us more resilient buildings.

The next step is for the Ministry's engineers to complete a detailed assessment and strengthening designs. We will keep you updated as we learn more.



(L-R): Ollie Earley, James Ririnui, Faizaan Saiyad, Dylan Anderson, and Krishan Lala

New Prefect Appointments

At a recent assembly, I was pleased to announce five new additions to the 2026 Prefect team: **Ollie Earley, James Ririnui, Faizaan Saiyad, Dylan Anderson, and Krishan Lala**. Congratulations to each of these young men on their appointments.

■ ACADEMIC NEWS

Level 2 Geography Field Trip

Our Level 2 Geography students recently participated in a three-night field trip to Tongariro National Park, with two international students joining the experience.

The trip provided a valuable opportunity to explore diverse natural landscapes and observe real-world geographical processes. Students examined the impact of last year's significant fire event and studied the early stages of plant succession in affected areas.

Highlights of the trip included scenic sunset walks and a challenging trek to Taranaki Falls, where students demonstrated resilience and teamwork despite demanding weather conditions. The trip successfully brought classroom learning to life and created lasting memories for all involved.

Level 1 Geography Trip

Our Level 1 Geography students recently visited the Wellington waterfront to investigate how people interact with and use the environment.

Despite a chilly start to the day, the weather improved and the boys enjoyed the opportunity to gather information and speak with members of the public. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to assist with student interviews and discussions.

Level 1 Commerce Market Day

Thursday 14 May saw the annual Y11 Commerce Market Day held in Renner Hall as part of the boys' internal

assessment programme. Students formed their own companies and brought their chosen products to a real-life market setting.

There was a fantastic variety of food available, with each group showing creativity, teamwork, and strong entrepreneurial thinking. Thank you to all staff and students who contributed to making the event such a success.

International Student Programme

Our international students have been enjoying a range of unique and enriching learning opportunities through specialist classes.

In Māori studies, students participated in a pōwhiri and learned about haka, Māori customs, values, and traditional games, helping deepen their understanding of New Zealand culture.

Hospitality classes have focused on practical cooking skills and food preparation, while in Material Technology students designed and created their own phone cases, developing creativity and problem-solving skills through hands-on learning experiences.

These opportunities continue to provide meaningful learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

■ ARTS AND CULTURAL NEWS

NZSO Emerging Artists Selection

Congratulations to **Liam Whatman** on his selection for the prestigious 2026 New Zealand Symphony Orchestra Emerging Artists Programme.



Liam will have the opportunity to work alongside members of the NZSO and perform at the Michael Fowler Centre later this year.

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This is a significant achievement and recognition of Liam's musical talent, dedication, and hard work. We wish him every success for this exciting opportunity.

Southern Voices in Harmony

Late last month, at the Lower Hutt Town Hall, the Rongotai College **Southern Voices Chorus** proudly performed two pieces at the *Young Singers in Harmony* NZ Regionals. Competing for the first time, the boys showed courage, pride, and talent on stage. Despite early nerves, they delivered an outstanding performance, earning second place in their section.

Their achievement is a testament to the power of hard work, commitment, and teamwork. Congratulations to all of you - we look forward to seeing what you can do at the Nationals in September, and also at the upcoming *Big Sing*.

Thank you to Bridget, Bessie and Tofiga for their excellent work with the group.

■ SERVICE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Relay for Life

Our Relay for Life team has been working hard fundraising for this year's campaign.

A recent carwash fundraiser helped the team raise more than \$2,550 towards this important cause. We are proud of the boys' efforts and commitment to supporting the wider community.

The Relay for Life itself took place last weekend, with a large team of boys from years 12 and 13 and a smaller team of Year 11 boys running laps of the Hnr Stadium concourse. Collectively, the groups fundraised \$5,700 for this worthy cause.

Giving Back One Donation at a Time

Rongotai College once again hosted a highly successful blood drive, welcoming the NZ Blood Service back to the College for the first time this year.



As part of the College's ongoing commitment to service within the community, staff and students aged 16 years and over were invited to donate blood. An outstanding 51 donations were collected during the visit - enough to potentially help up to 175 people in need.

The blood drives have become a regular and valued part of the school calendar, giving boys an opportunity to make a genuine difference beyond the classroom. Another donation day will be held later in the year, with students encouraged to once again roll up their sleeves and contribute to this worthy cause.

Pink Shirt Day

On Friday, 15 May, we acknowledged and celebrated Pink Shirt Day, promoting kindness, inclusion and respect within our school community.

Thank you to all students and whānau who supported the cause through the gold coin donation for a non-uniform day, and buying cup cakes (thanks to Chef Gabe) at morning break. All funds raised will be donated to Youthline to support the important work they do for young people across Aotearoa NZ.

World Vision Youth Conference

Our Year 12 and 13 student leaders attended the recent World Vision Youth Conference, joining students from schools across the North Island to discuss social action issues and global challenges.



The boys heard from a range of inspiring speakers, including former All Blacks captain Kieran Read, and explored themes of resilience, servant leadership, and activism. It was an excellent opportunity for our young leaders to reflect on how they can make a positive difference within their communities.

Outward Bound

Congratulations to **Lewis Brown** and Academic Captain **Thomas Sadler**, who completed the demanding 21-day Outward Bound NZ scholarship course.

Over the three weeks, the boys were challenged physically and mentally through sailing, hiking, running, swimming, and camping, ultimately finishing the course with a half-marathon. Their resilience and determination throughout the programme were outstanding.

Thanks to the Rongotai College Old Boys' Association for sponsoring the boys to attend this experience.

The Winter Project

The Winter Project took place in April and May. Organised by Samuel Marsden Year 13 students, Rongotai College was invited to take part again this year. **Edward Florentine**, our Community Services Prefect, along with Ms McAteer, organised the Rongotai College winter clothing and blanket contributions.

This year, we had a huge number of items

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donated by students, staff and members of our community. The winter clothes and blankets are being distributed to families in need to keep them warm this winter.

A sincere thank you to everyone who participated.

■ ENROLMENT EVENTS

Our first major enrolment event for 2026 is Rongotai Experience on Friday, 5 June, when Y8 boys from contributing schools will spend the day experiencing life at Rongotai College.

Open Evening will follow on Tuesday, 9 June, beginning at 6.30pm. This remains an important opportunity for prospective families to visit the College, meet staff, and explore the many opportunities available to our students.

Prefect Outreach Visits

Our Prefects have also been actively involved in visiting contributing schools throughout the region as part of recruitment and enrolment promotion for 2027.

Alongside Deputy Principal, Mr Reddy, Prefects spoke with Y8 students about life at Rongotai College and shared their own experiences of the many opportunities available across academic, sporting, cultural, and leadership areas.

■ STAFF CHANGES

At the end of Term One, we farewelled Director of Sport **Alan Carson**, who has left to travel overseas.

We also said a very sad goodbye to my Personal Assistant, **Debra Honeyman**, whose contribution to the College over many years has been outstanding. A tribute to Debra appears later in this newsletter.

I am pleased to welcome **Steph Kane** to

the College in the role of Personal Assistant to the Principal, while also supporting the Old Boys' Association and Centenary Committee.

We also recently welcomed **Ross Bond** as our new Director of Sport. Ross will already be a familiar face to many through his involvement in sports management, rugby and sports broadcasting circles.

SPORTS NEWS

School Cross-Country

Our annual school Cross-Country event was a tremendous success this year, with just under 200 students taking part, including several international students.

The event showcased determination, perseverance, and school spirit as boys challenged themselves across the course while supporting one another throughout the day. Participation in events such as this continues to promote physical well-being and strengthens connections within our school community.

The junior race was dominated by Mackay House, which claimed eight of the top ten placings, while Renner House performed strongly in the senior event with five runners finishing inside the top ten.

Congratulations to all boys who participated and embraced the challenge.



NZ Warriors Visit

Assembly recently concluded with a special visit from the New Zealand Warriors ahead of their sell-out match at Hnry Stadium.

Team members first spent time with our Pacific Health Academy students discussing physical and mental well-being, discipline, nutrition, and preparation at elite



level sport. It was a valuable opportunity for our students to learn from outstanding athletes and positive role models.

Upcoming Sporting Fixtures

A number of important sporting fixtures are coming up over the next few weeks.

The St Patrick's College Silverstream Traditional will take place on Wednesday, 17 June, hosted by Silverstream.

Behaviour in Sport

As we move into a busy winter sports season, it is important to remember that participation in sport is a privilege and that all members of our community are expected to uphold the Rongotai B.E.S.T values at all times.

This includes showing respect towards teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents; encouraging brotherhood and teamwork; striving for continual improvement; and taking pride in representing Rongotai College correctly, including wearing the proper sports uniform at all times.

I would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the many parents, coaches, managers, and volunteers who give generously of their time to support our sporting programmes. Their contribution is greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kevin Carter'.

Kevin Carter,
Principal

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At the end of Term One, Rongotai College farewelled **Debra Honeyman** as she headed into retirement after more than two decades as the ever-watchful gatekeeper of the Principal's Office.

Since 2004, Debra was the Principal's Personal Assistant and a trusted presence and heartbeat of the College, working alongside both Messrs Jarratt and Carter. In addition to her outstanding work ethic and superb organisational skills, Debra possessed an extraordinary depth of institutional knowledge which not only made both Principals' jobs easier, but also ensured a seamless transition and continuity between administrations.

Throughout her time at Rongotai, Debra showed a genuine affection for the boys and was always willing to go the extra mile to support them. Whether dispensing medication, offering a kind word, sewing ripped pants and shirts, or simply taking the time to listen, she was often the first point of contact for students and whānau - a calm, reassuring and welcoming presence in the front office.

Rongotai College was never just a workplace for Debra; it has long been part of her life. As a child she lived across the road from the school in Mamari Street, and her brother Craig is an Old Boy. She



cares deeply about the College, its traditions, staff and, most importantly, its students. Over the years, she has been a familiar face at 1st XV matches and many other school events, assisted with productions, and regularly helped with First Aid and medical support.

Old Boys hold Debra in great affection - and she them - keeping up with their adventures and milestones long after they have left the College gates.

We are sure Debra will miss Rongotai College, and we know Rongotai College will certainly miss her.

Early Starts, Full Stomachs, Ready to Learn



The College wants every boy to have the best possible start to the day, and one way we can help them "win the day" is by ensuring they arrive at school well fuelled, on time, and ready to learn. With this in mind, the College has recently relaunched the 'RC Breakfast Club', providing breakfast for students who arrive between 8.15am and 8.40am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Run by the Prefects, the initiative has already proven popular, with attendance growing steadily each week since it began. More than simply providing food, the Breakfast Club offers boys a positive and welcoming start to the school day, encouraging connection, routine, and readiness for learning. The RCOBA donated \$300 towards this initiative.

With the forthcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup, delayed matches will also be screened on the large screen during breakfast sessions (featuring our very own Jesse Randall) - certainly a draw-card to encourage a few more boys to arrive bright and early. As the saying goes, *Breakfast is an opportunity to nourish not just the body, but also the soul.*

If any families wish to support this worthwhile initiative, either through donations or assistance, please get in touch with the Deputy Principal, Geoff Hall at geoff.hall@rongotai.school.nz

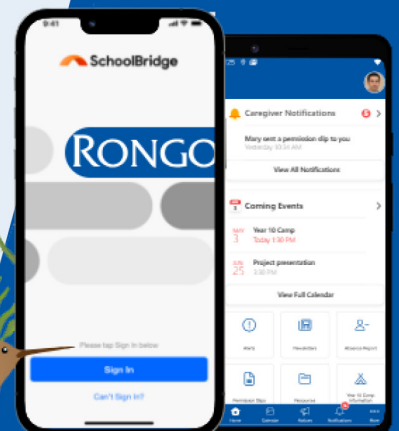
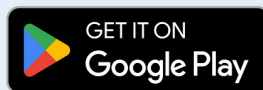
RONGOTAI COLLEGE



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Honouring Service, Sacrifice and Remembrance

Rongotai College marked Anzac Day 2026 with a series of meaningful commemorations that brought students, staff, Old Boys, and the wider community together in remembrance of those who served their country, and especially the 92 former students and staff who gave their lives during the Second World War.

Throughout Anzac Weekend, a Field of Remembrance stood proudly at the front entrance of the school. At its centre were 92 crosses, each representing a Rongotai man who did not return home from war. Crafted by students alongside Dr Richardson and Ms Woodroffe, the display provided a quiet and powerful space for reflection and remembrance.

On the first day of Term Two, the College gathered in the Renner



"You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave"

With around 80 staff at Rongotai College, it is something rather special that 15 of them once walked the same corridors as students. Today, those Old Boys can be found across the College as teachers, teacher aides and support staff - proof that some people simply can't stay away from Rongotai for too long.

We recently managed to gather most of them together for a photo, although a few escaped the camera this time around.

It was a great reminder of the strong connection many Old Boys continue to have with the College long after their school days are over. After all, there can't be too many workplaces where staff still remember where the best short cut across the grounds is - or which classrooms they may once have been sent out of. Clearly, Rongotai still has a habit of calling its boys home.

➤ (L-R): Whetu Henry (TIC Te Reo Māori, Y12 Dean, 1st XV Coach); Eamonn Wilkie (Groundsman); Sam Mycock (Teacher Aide); Matt Carter (Sports Coordinator, 1st XI Football Coach); Blair Florance (HOD Commerce, Head of Renner House, TIC Cross-Country); Harlem Hagen (Teacher Aide); Hamish Elliot (Tamatoa Teacher Aide); Justin Gray (Maths, 1st XV Coach, Academic Mentor); Pemerika Leiataua (Social Sciences, 1st XV Coach, Senior Volleyball Coach); Wayne Nichols (Relief Teacher); Jacob Waipara (Teacher Aide); Chris Tupu (HOD Outdoor Education). Absent: Ross Bond (Director of Sport); Nic Ball, Shannon Lucas and Rex More (all Teacher Aides).



Hall for a special Anzac Assembly. The service included karakia, readings, the laying of wreaths, and the sounding of *The Last Post* by CPL Oscar Laven of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band. A particularly moving moment came during the reading of the Roll of Honour, as students, staff, Prefects, and Old Boys laid pōhutukawa tributes for each of the 92 names remembered.

Deputy Head Prefect, **Desmond Reddy** shared a reading from the Memorial Books, reflecting on the life of Pilot Officer Louis Reginald Jacobsen, while Principal, **Kevin Carter** delivered the Official Address and Dedication. The Assembly served as a reminder to current students of the courage, sacrifice, and service of those who once walked the same corridors and sat in the same classrooms.

On Anzac Day itself, Head Prefect, **Lewis Brown** and Deputy Head Prefect, **Desmond Reddy** represented Rongotai College at the Wellington Cenotaph, laying a wreath on behalf of the College community and standing alongside others in remembrance.

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou - we will remember them.



**RONGOTAI COLLEGE
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS**



QUIZ

★ ★ *night* ★ ★

★ **RAFFLES** ★ **LIVE AUCTION** ★

TUESDAY, 21 JULY | 6 PM



PARROTD OG BREWERY

60-66 Kingsford Smith Street
Lyall Bay



Email for tickets, \$25pp, Doors open @6pm
parents.association@rongotai.school.nz

Create a team of 8-10, or we can place you on a mixed table