



# RONGOTAI COLLEGE

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 3, Term 3, 2018

### COMING EVENTS

**Monday 13 August**

Subject selection for 2019 begins

**Friday 17 August**

Last day for subject selections for 2019

**Monday 20 August**

Pasifika Parents' Asosi meeting 6.30pm in the staffroom

**Tuesday 21 August**

Music Evening 6.30pm - Drama Room

**Wednesday 22 August**

Parent Interviews 4.30pm to 8pm

**Thursday 30 August**

School starts 10.15am due to Staff Professional Learning & Development

**Monday 3 September**

Mid Term Break

**Monday 3 September to Friday**

**7 September** - Winter Tournament Week

**Friday 14 to Thursday 20 September**

Senior Exams

**Monday 17 September**

Pasifika Parents' Asosi meeting 6.30pm in the staffroom

**Friday 21 September**

Leavers' Ball

**Thursday 27 September**

Board of Trustees' meeting 6pm in the Mackay Library

**Friday 28 September**

Last day Term 3

**Monday 15 October**

First day Term 4

### 2018 TERM DATES

**Term 3** ends Friday 28 September

**Term 4** Monday 15 October to Friday 7 December

### 2019 TERM DATES

**Term 1** Monday 28 January to Friday 12 April

**Term 2** Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July

**Term 3** Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September

**Term 4** Monday 14 October to Friday 6 December

Welcome to the vital third term of the school year. We have had a positive first half of the school year and we trust our boys are refreshed and ready to put in another great effort this term.

Term 3 is always characterised by hard work for all, and it is particularly important for senior students, as it is a term of **internal assessments for NCEA** and also of **school examinations** in preparation for NCEA externals. Boys will not be able to rely on the time in Term 4 to catch up on work missed, and must make this term count.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise a number of upcoming events and highlight some recent student successes.

Amongst these successes are a record 20 Rongotai College students who to date, have been selected for national representation in a range of activities ranging from sport to the National Youth Orchestra. Our national representatives are shown on the last page of this newsletter. I would like to offer the school's congratulations to all these students.



## ACADEMIC NEWS

### REPORTS

Term 3 Interim Reports are included with this newsletter. An NCEA Record of Learning for students in Years 11-13 is included as part of the report.

**Parent-Teacher Interviews**, where you can discuss your son's progress face-to-face with his teachers, will be held on **Wednesday 22 August**.

### LATE START – THURSDAY 30 AUGUST

So our staff can attend a seminar as part of their Professional Learning and Development Programme, school will not start on Thursday 30 August until 10.10am.

Unfortunately, school buses will run on their usual timetable.

A letter with information for booking your appointments is also enclosed. I strongly encourage you to attend these interviews with your son's teachers, particularly if you have concerns regarding his progress.

For your convenience, the College Shop will be open on the evening of the parent-teacher interviews to enable you to purchase items of uniform or to pay outstanding accounts. NZQA fees will also be able to be paid at the shop.

### NZQA FEES

A reminder that NZQA assessment fees for all students in Years 11, 12 and 13 must be paid by **Friday 24 August**.

The fees are not just for students sitting examinations – they are a registration fee to have all credits earned this year recognised by NZQA. Non-payment results in your son not receiving any of the NZQA credits he may gain this year, and he will not receive any qualifications that might result.

## SUBJECT SELECTION

All students in Years 9-12 have been given Subject Selection books for 2019. These are also available on our website. Students can make their subject selections for 2019 via the Parent Portal at home or during form time at school over the next week. All subject entries for 2019 must be completed by Friday 17 August.

Heads of Department and Deans are available to talk with students regarding their choices during this time.

We begin the process of putting our 2019 timetable together after subject choices are made. Choices made by students have implications for forming the option lines and staffing, so it is important to get selection as accurate as possible.

## STUDENT BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Nominations for the Board of Trustees Student Representative will open on 27 August. Students can nominate on the appropriate form, available from the office. Nominations close on Friday 12 September.

Those nominated will address the school at assembly on 21 September prior to voting closing on 26 September.

The student representative on the Board of Trustee is a one year position.

## STAFF NEWS

Welcome to **Dalila Quiroz**, who has replaced Maria Villanueva as our Spanish teacher.



**Eoghan Sheridan** (who taught Materials Technology and Design) left us at the end of last week to return home to Ireland after ten terms teaching at Rongotai College. We wish him and his family all the best for the future.



## CULTURAL NEWS

### TU TAGATA FESTIVAL

Friday 27 July saw our Poly Club perform at the TuTagata Festival at the Michael Fowler Centre. The TuTagata has become a significant event on the school calendar.

The large crowd was entertained by the 50+ boys in the Rongotai College Poly Club, who performed superbly as always. We can all be very proud of them.

High expectations are set by teachers and tutors and students are encouraged to remain on top of their schoolwork and other activities, as well as committing to practises for Poly Club.



The high level of performance was the result of a huge effort by the boys and the many hours of practice. I would like to thank the staff, parents and old boys involved with the group for the hours they put in – it was much appreciated.

Special thanks should go to Mrs Fiu for her hard work in bringing the boys together and finalising their routine, and a number of other staff who helped in various ways.

### LEAVERS' BALL

Our Leavers' Ball for Year 12 and 13 students will be held at The Pines on **Friday 21 September** this year. 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 and return a signed slip from you. Please remind him to do this before he purchases a ball ticket. Ball tickets will be on sale from Monday 3 September for Year

13 students (who will have preference for the first week). Ticket sales will open to Year 12 students on Monday 10 September. All tickets must be purchased by Friday 14 September. However, due to health and safety, there will be a limited number of tickets available for sale so boys should purchase their tickets as soon as possible. Tickets will be handed out at a special assembly at 12.30pm on Friday 21 September. Those going to the ball will then be dismissed for the afternoon.



## SPORTS NEWS

It has been a good winter sports season so far, with hundreds of our boys braving winter conditions to represent the college each week. There have been some great successes to date, and while many teams are nearing the end of the scheduled games, the focus continues into September with play-offs and tournaments ahead. Congratulations to our Senior A Basketball, 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football and 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey teams who have qualified in the top 4 of each of their respective Premier Grade competitions, and our Senior Badminton team who are in the Wellington final.

### BADMINTON

The CSW Junior Wellington Champs were held just before the school holidays. Congratulations to the Rongotai A pairing of **Nick Lowcay** and **Liam Kingston**, qualified for the final, before eventually going down to HIBs in a tight encounter in the final.

### GOLF

Congratulations to **Sam Marsters** who won the Wellington Golf U19 Matchplay Championship over the July holiday period. His final match went to an extra hole, but with a par on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Sam won the championship.



## JUDO

**Dean Banks** and **Ethan Campbell-Smith** competed in the NZ Secondary Schools' Judo tournament held over the recent school holidays. Congratulations to both boys – Dean Banks was placed second in the 81kg category and Ethan third. They both finished in fifth place in the Open category.

## RUGBY

During the first week back at school, Kirkham Grammar from the UK visited Rongotai to play three games against Rongotai U15s, 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and 1<sup>st</sup> XV. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV lost narrowly while the U15s and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV won their games. Kirkham was on a three tour of Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand and the feedback from their experience with Rongotai was excellent, saying it was the friendliest and most welcoming school they had been to so far on tour, so thank you to all the boys, teachers and parents who contributed to such a wonderful day.



## TABLE TENNIS

Table tennis is a sport which has grown in popularity at Rongotai College from a lunchtime recreational activity to a competitive sport.

The Rongotai A Table Tennis finished their season in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Division 1 after beating Scots College 4-3 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> playoff match. Congratulations to Rongotai 5 and Rongotai 6 teams who faced each other in the final of Division 3, Rongotai 5 emerging victorious after a 4-3 win.

## WINTER TOURNAMENT WEEK

Good luck to our sports teams who will be competing at Winter Tournament Week from 4 to 8 September.

Teams attending tournaments are:

- **Junior A Basketball**, Zone 3 Regional Premiership, Napier (1-4 September)
- **Senior A Basketball**, Zone 3 Regional Premiership, Palmerston North (5-8 September)
- **1<sup>st</sup> XI Football**, Rex Dawkins Tournament, Napier (3-7 September)
- **1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey**, Rankin Cup Tournament, Tauranga (3-8 September),

- **U15 Rugby**, Hurricanes Regional Tournament, Silverstream, (5-8 September)
- **U14 Rugby**, at Wellington (6-8 September)

Best wishes to all teams attending Tournament Week.

Finally, it is vital that you continue to keep reminding your son of his study programme and study habits as this term progresses. School senior exams are only five weeks away, and NCEA 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**

## FEES AND PARENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

As part of this mail out, you have received an invoice for payment of a range of fees and school contributions. Thanks to all those families who have already paid the fees and donation. Unfortunately, fewer donations have been paid this year than in past years. Your fees and donations are important as our Operations Grant from the Ministry of Education barely covers our running expenses, making your annual donation essential for us to continue offering a high quality education for your son. One area that the school has spent considerable sums of money in recent years is ICT infrastructure, to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. For instance, we have purchased a number of laptops and chromebooks for students to use in class this year.

This invoice includes a number of **compulsory fees** (for example, costs associated with particular subjects, sports fees and the NZQA assessment fee).

The invoice also has a request for payment of the **annual school donation**, which many have already paid. The annual donation at Rongotai College is \$300 for the first son and \$180 for each other son. School donations paid now may be claimed in your 2019 tax return.

Of course, some of our families cannot afford to pay fees, and if you would like to support another family by making a further donation on their behalf, it would be much appreciated.

If you require assistance in setting up an automatic payment, please contact the college office. We are only too happy to help.

# RONGOTAI COLLEGE



## NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVES 2018



**Paddy Blackman**  
*NZ U15 Basketball  
Academy*



**Kurtis Brown**  
*NZ U17 Softball Academy*



**Jack Cobden-Cox**  
*NZ U19 Floorball*



**Liam Fisher**  
*NZ U19 Floorball*



**Karl Gollan**  
*NZ U15 Softball*



**Hamish Goodhue**  
*NZ Youth Orchestra*



**Dylan Jackson**  
*NZ U17 Softball*



**Jackson Lewis**  
*NZ U19 Floorball*



**Riley Manu**  
*NZ U13 Basketball  
Academy*



**Tim McKibbin**  
*NZ U19 Floorball*



**Ben Robertson**  
*NZ U20 Basketball  
Academy*



**Lyric Samu**  
*NZ U15 Basketball  
Academy*



**Louis Scott**  
*NZ U19 Floorball*



**Albert Stanley**  
*NZ Youth Laser Radial  
Yachting*



**Wilbur Stanley**  
*NZ Youth 420  
Yachting*



**Alex Stewart**  
*NZ U19 Floorball*



**Evyatar Tabor**  
*NZ U14 Basketball  
Academy*



**Evander Tere Rongotaua**  
*NZ U16 Rugby League  
& NZ U18 Flag*



**Jaylin To'o**  
*NZ U17 Basketball*



**Ezrah Vaigafa**  
*NZ U17 Basketball  
& NZ U16 Touch*