



# RONGOTAI COLLEGE

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

February 2019

### COMING EVENTS

**Monday 4 February**

Athletics Day 1 at Newtown Park

**Wednesday 6 February**

Waitangi Day holiday

**Friday 8 February**

Student ID photos taken

**Tuesday 12 February**

Athletics finals day at Newtown Park for selected students

**Wednesday 13 February**

Parents' Association meeting at 7.30pm in the staffroom

**Tuesday 19 February**

Year 9 Parents' Evening 7pm

**Tuesday 26 February**

Whānau barbecue at 5.30pm at the Tangi Te Keo

**Wednesday 27 February**

NCEA Information Evening 6pm

**Thursday 28 February**

Board of Trustees' meeting at 6pm in the staffroom

**Tuesday 5 March**

McEvedy Shield at Newtown Park

**Friday 8 March**

Interim reports posted home

**Monday 11 March**

Class photographs taken

**Wednesday 20 & Thursday 21 March**

Parent interviews

**Monday 25 to Friday 29 March**

Summer Tournament Week

**Thursday 28 March**

Board of Trustees' Meeting at 6pm in the staffroom

**Friday 12 April**

Last day of Term 1

mailing or emailing newsletters home at least once each month. Newsletters can also be viewed on our website. School news can also be found on our Facebook page.

On Monday 28 January, we celebrated the arrival of over 150 new students with a powhiri in the Renner Hall. It was great to see so many parents and whānau present.

Hopefully, this allowed both boys and parents to all quickly feel at home and be part of the Rongotai family from their first day at this school.



*New students welcomed with a powhiri*

In welcoming our new students, I offered them the following advice:

- give his best effort and aim to be the best he can be at all times;
- fully embrace and involve himself in all the opportunities the school offers;
- treat himself and others with respect at all times;
- show pride in himself and the school at all times, in particular in how he wears his uniform;
- take advantage of the fresh start that moving to a new school can bring and look to become "the man he would like to be".

### ACADEMIC AWARDS

At a full school assembly earlier today (Friday 1 February), we celebrated the NCEA performance of our students in 2018. While I will give a detailed review when NZQA releases the final results to the

### 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

public in April, you will be pleased to know that our students continue to do themselves and the school proud in NCEA.

Of course, these school-wide results are the consequence of a number of individual successes. At this assembly, we awarded Academic Honours to those students who gained Excellence endorsed certificates for NCEA. We will award certificates to Merit students in the next few weeks.

Academic Honours for gaining NCEA with Excellence were awarded to **Angad Chauhan and Andrew Eng** (Year 13 2018 – Level 3), while the following 2018 Year 12 students were also awarded Academic Honours – **Dean Banks, Devin Cho, Keelan Johnson-Tahu, Sean Lane-Turnbul, Lufi Lene Isara, Ruhaan Saiyad, Regan Sommerville, Charlie Symon and Cameron Young**

Year 11 students from 2018 who were awarded Academic Honours were **Eli Ballara, Charlie Beck, Darcy Boardman, Fares Fawzi, Jamal Fiso, Nicholas Gibbs, Luke Gordon, Kit Jones, Rakshit Kumar, Harvey Linton, Jonathan London, Jonathan Reddell, Oliver Samuel, Evyatar Tabor and Georgio Toulis.**

### STUDENT ID PHOTOS

On Friday 8 February students will have their ID photograph taken. Please ensure that your son's uniform is in good order and he is clean shaven.

Welcome to my first newsletter for the 2019 school year. On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees, can I give a special welcome to parents of students new to the college. Following this newsletter, I will be

Congratulations are also due to the large group of boys who gained Merit endorsements – 45 students who gained Level 1 were awarded a Merit endorsed certificate, a new record for the school. Well done boys!

2018 was another year of academic achievement and success, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to congratulate our Year 11, 12 and 13 students of last year on their achievements, and thank our staff for their excellent work. Striving to be “better than before” is the challenge that I set for students each year.

### STAFF NEWS

**Ms Louise Richards** has been appointed to a new position of “Director of Achievement” and will assume the title of Assistant Principal.



**Mr Chris Tupu** has also been appointed to a new position of Director of Coaching.



Within the school, **Mr Bill Baird** (Year 11), **Mr Matt Eagle** (Year 12), **Ms Anne Brailsford** (Year 13), have been appointed as Academic Mentors for 2019. Congratulations to these staff on their appointments.

### YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING

All parents / caregivers of Year 9 students are invited to the college on the evening of **Tuesday 19 February**. This evening is held to give you the opportunity to understand our college's structures and systems so that you can best assist your son in his learning. You will also be able to meet your son's core subject teachers. The evening will begin at 7pm in the college's Renner Hall.

### TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING - WEDNESDAYS

To provide time for staff professional learning again this year,

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2019

At a special assembly on Thursday 31 January, we acknowledged our student leaders for 2019. Prefects give leadership and provide support to other students in the school. Our prefects have an important role and may well instruct your son to follow proper rules and do the right thing when this is not happening. However, their main role is to be a role model and provide an example to other students. They also assist with the smooth running of the school and organisation of events. We are pleased to announce our prefects for 2019:

#### Head Prefect

Lufi Lene Isara

#### Arts Captain

Thomas J Moore

#### Cultural Captain

Christianlee Tutaki

#### Prefects

Ben Beardsworth

Devin Cho

Leo Griffiths

Sam Marsters

Robbie Spooner

Cameron Young

#### Deputy Head Prefect

Bede Brown

#### Academic Leader

Dean Banks

#### Sports Captain

Sean Lane-Turnbull

Matthew Carter

Satish Cussins

Stefan Jenkins

Regan Sommerville

Jaylin To'o



back from left: Dean Banks (Academic Captain), Thomas J Moore (Arts Captain), Sean Lane-Turnbull (Sports Captain), Bede Brown (Deputy Head Prefect)

in front: Christianlee Tutaki (Cultural Captain) and Lufi Lene Isara (Head Prefect)

we will be starting slightly later on **Wednesdays** (which has changed from Thursdays last year). Instead of 8.55am, school will start at 9.15am. No form time will be held on this day so only five minutes of class time will be lost to allow for this professional development. The school day will finish at the normal time and buses will run as normal. The school will be open at the normal time, of course, meaning that your son will simply have 20 minutes to fill in before classes start if he comes by bus. Students who do not arrive by bus must be at school by 9.15am.

### NCEA INFORMATION EVENING

Parents often ask me about how NCEA operates. I think it is vital that you understand NCEA and what is needed for your son to succeed. To ensure that you are fully informed about this, Mr Simpson (Deputy Principal) will be conducting an NCEA Information Evening for parents on **Wednesday 27 February** in the college's Renner Hall at 6pm.

It is important that all whānau of Year 11, 12 and 13 students who wish to gain a better knowledge of NCEA attend; parents of students in Year 10 are also most welcome.

## BYOD

Rongotai College continues to encourage students to bring their own digital device to school for learning purposes. In 2019, we are again focusing our teaching on using devices, and any student at any level may bring a device to enhance their learning.



We have not specified a device that your son must use – we leave that up to you, but devices should be able to access the internet and have a 7" screen or greater. A device guide provided on our website gives more information for you.

I know security is an important issue for parents. I would like to remind our students that they are responsible for security of their devices. Students can rent lockers from the College Shop for \$20 if they wish.

While the school has a number of devices available for students to use, we cannot provide a device for every boy. Over the past few years, a growing number of boys have made the relatively selfish decision not to bring their devices to school even though they have them. This reduces our capacity to help boys who do not have devices. **If you have a device for your son, please ensure he brings it to school.**

## HOME / SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Establishing and maintaining good communication between parents and the college is essential for your son's learning. If you have any concerns or questions, you should contact his form teacher in the first instance. If further communication is necessary, please contact the appropriate year level dean. Our deans for 2018 are:

Year 13 Dean – Mr Kit Norman

Year 12 Dean – Mr Justin Gray

Year 11 Dean – Ms Esmee McAuley

Year 10 Dean – Mr Nick O'Halloran

Year 9 Dean – Mr Ash Collier

Email addresses for deans and all staff are available on the college's website.

For serious concerns contact should be made with Mr Blair Simpson or Mr Shaun Tavernor, the Deputy Principals, or myself. We welcome contact from you.

## LIBRARY

Any boys who still have library and / or textbooks in their possession from last year (or previous years) are asked to please return them to the library urgently.

## RONGOTAI COLLEGE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

This group of parents meet throughout the year, raising and distributing funds to support the boys in their learning and enjoyment of school life. New members are welcome – this group is a great way to continue to be involved in your son's school. Two popular fundraisers are held each year with tasks distributed amongst the group. We endeavour to share the load and ensure that no job is too onerous.

The first meeting for 2019 is to be held in the college's staff room on Wednesday 13 February at 7.30pm.

Any questions, please email Gordon – [gordy.gregory@gmail.com](mailto:gordy.gregory@gmail.com)

### WHĀNAU BARBECUE

Māori whānau are invited to a barbecue at Tangi Te Keo on Tuesday 26 February at 5.30pm. Karakia at 6pm. Please bring a plate.

## ATHLETICS SPORTS

Our Athletics Days will be held at Newtown Park on Monday 4 February and Tuesday 12 February.

Monday 4 February will be for the whole school and participation of all students is strongly encouraged.

Tuesday 12 February will be the finals day, for qualifying students only.

Both Athletics Sports days will take place no matter what the weather is – they will NOT be cancelled.

- Students are required to make their own way to the park and to report for a roll call at 8.55am.
- If your son is coming by bus, he should ask his bus driver to drop him as near to Newtown Park as he can. Students will be dismissed from Newtown Park at the conclusion of the day (approximately 2.30pm) and are required to make their own way home.
- Please make sure that your son dresses appropriately for the weather and, if it is sunny, provide him with sun block and a hat.
- Students may wear clothing in house colours, but may NOT wear bandanas. No face paint is permitted.

Parents are, of course, most welcome to attend our athletic days. We are looking forward to these enjoyable days.

## McEVEDY SHIELD

This is an annual athletics competition contested between Rongotai College, Wellington College, St Patrick's College (Town) and St Patrick's College (Silverstream). This event will be held at Newtown Park on **Tuesday 5 March**. Further information will be advised in our next newsletter.

## SPORT

Welcome back to another exciting year of sport at Rongotai College. Whether you are new to sport, play socially or competitively, there are wonderful opportunities to get involved. Sport is a great way to make friends, build confidence and have fun. We strongly encourage every student at Rongotai College to take part in sport no matter what and there is truly something for everyone. All boys at Rongotai College are expected to participate in sport. With a wide variety of sports on offer from the competitive to the social, there is something for everyone.

### Sport Registrations

Summer sport registrations are now open and will run until 8 February. Please follow the online link below. However, as many sports start during the first or second week back, we encourage you to register as soon as possible to avoid missing out. Summer registrations cover Term 1 and 4 and boys are expected to commit to both parts of the season. Winter sport registrations will open on 6 March.

Registration link;  
[www.sporty.co.nz/rongotai](http://www.sporty.co.nz/rongotai)

Sport fees are due immediately upon registration and can be paid online or at the school office. Automatic payments can be set up by contacting Ms Wilkinson in the school office

([emma.wilkinson@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:emma.wilkinson@rongotai.school.nz)).

### Parent Support

Sport at college is only possible thanks to parental support and volunteers. We expect all parents to be involved and engaged in their sport, whether that be through coaching, managing, scoring, refereeing, helping with transport, joining a committee or fundraising. There is a field on the registration form where you can indicate wau om which you can assist.

### Athletics Training

All boys are strongly encouraged to attend the strength and conditioning sessions as part of the athletics programme run by teachers Messrs Armstrong, Carey, Condliffe and Noble. These trainings

are on Monday and Thursday afternoons at Newtown Park and Tuesday and Wednesday lunch times at school until McEvedy on 5 March. These sessions provide a fantastic base fitness level to assist boys in exceling in their chosen sport.

It has been a busy yet satisfying start of the school year. Thank you for your part in helping your son settle into the 2019 school year so quickly.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter  
**PRINCIPAL**

## NOTICE BOARD

### ATTENDANCE EMAILS

The college has an email address for absences - [attendance@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:attendance@rongotai.school.nz) Please use this address as a means of advising the school of your son's absence. Please also advise the reason for his absence.

### COLLEGE SHOP

The College Shop (selling uniforms and stationery) opening hours, during term time, are now:  
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4pm.

### STUDENT LOCKERS

The Parents' Association have provided funding for lockers for students' use. Students can hire a locker for the year by bringing \$20 to the College Shop. They must provide their own padlock.



### SNAPPER CARDS & STUDENT ID

Students can apply for a Snapper ID card or an ID card, once ID photographs have been taken. Snapper ID cards cost \$25 and ID cards cost \$10. These can be ordered from the College Shop. Payment must be made at the time of ordering. They will take approximately two weeks to arrive.



- ✓ Events
- ✓ Notices
- ✓ Instant school messages
- ✓ Absentee
- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Permission slips



## Have you downloaded our School app yet?

Never miss important school information again!

Simple free download:  
In Google Play and App Store search 'Skool Loop' and choose our school once installed.



## RONGOTAI COLLEGE

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