



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 1, Term 1, 2018

COMING EVENTS

Monday 5 February

Student ID photos taken

Tuesday 6 February

Waitangi Day holiday

Thursday 8 February

Athletics Day 1 at Newtown Park

Friday 16 February

Athletics finals day at Newtown Park for selected students

Tuesday 20 February

Year 9 Parents' Evening 7pm

Thursday 22 February

NCEA Information Evening 6.30pm
Board of Trustees' meeting at 6pm in the Mackay Library

Monday 5 March

Class photographs taken

Tuesday 6 March

McEvedy Shield at Newtown Park

Friday 9 March

Interim reports posted home

Saturday 17 to Sunday 18 March

Relay for Life

Monday 19 to Friday 23 March

Summer Tournament Week

Wednesday 27 & Thursday 28 March

Parent Interviews

Thursday 29 March

Board of Trustees' Meeting at 6pm in the Mackay Library

Friday 30 March

Good Friday

Monday 2 & Tuesday 3 April

Easter Holidays

Friday 13 April

Last day of Term 1

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 29 January, we celebrated the arrival of over 170 new students and eight new staff members 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.



Year 9 students at the powhiri

In welcoming our new students, I pointed out that to get the most out of their time at Rongotai College, our boys should:

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

ACADEMIC AWARDS

At full school assembly earlier today (Friday 2 February), we celebrated

2018 TERM DATES

Term 1 Monday 29 January to Friday 13 April

Term 2: Monday 30 April to Friday 6 July

Term 3: Monday 23 July to Friday 28 September

Term 4: Monday 15 October to Friday 7 December

the NCEA performance of our students in 2017. While I will give a detailed review when NZQA releases the final results to the public in April, you will be pleased to know that our students continue to do themselves and the school proud in NCEA.

In general terms, our students now consistently perform well above our benchmarks and ahead of many other local schools.

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, and also awarded certificates to Merit students.

Academic Honours for gaining NCEA with Excellence were awarded to **Daniel Gibbs, Tom Hughes, Rian Lee and Sathvik Panda** (Year 13 2017 – Level 3), while the following 2017 Year 12 students were also awarded Academic Honours – **Jake Brownlie, Angad Chauhan, Andrew Eng, Ollie Galvin, Henry Hollis, Eric London, Ethan Mills, Sampson Mollan, Taine Murphy, Luke Purves, Adam Rybinski.**

Year 11 students from 2017 who were awarded Academic Honours were **Dean Banks, Bede Brown, Jacob Chadwick, Devin Cho, Stefan Jenkins, Sean Lane-Turnbull, Lufi Lene Isara, Robbie Spooner,**

Welcome to my first newsletter for the 2018 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 mailing or emailing newsletters

Thomas J Moore, Ruhaan Saiyad, Charlie Symon, Cameron Young.

Congratulations are also due to the large group of boys who gained Merit endorsements – over 50% of all students who gained Level 1 were awarded an endorsed certificate, while over 40% of Level 2 and 3 certificates were endorsed. Well done boys!

2017 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

We welcomed the following staff to our school at the powhiri on Monday 29 January:

- **Mr Monty Asare** (Maths) joins us from Hutt Valley High School.
- **Mr Ezra Burt** (Hospitality) joins us after returning from a period of time teaching in the UK;
- **Mr Jordan Carey** (Health & PE) rejoins us after having been a long-term reliever at Rongotai College prior to travelling overseas;
- **Mr Paul Cutler** (Guidance Counsellor) joins the staff from St Bernard’s College;
- **Mr Pemerika Leiataua** (Social Sciences) joins us from Evans Bay Intermediate;
- **Ms Anusha Naran** (Art) returns to teaching after some time away;
- **Mr Jack Stewart** (Health & PE) joins us from Victoria University College of Education as a newly qualified teacher;
- **Ms Virginia Wilson** (Vocational Studies) returns after nine years at Wanuiomata College;



From left: **Mr Asare, Mr Cutler, Ms Naran, Ms Wilson, Mr Leiataua, Mr Burt, Mr Carey and Mr Stewart**

I am sure that all these staff members will make a significant contribution to our school over the years ahead.

Within the school, Mr Matt Eagle (Year 11), Ms Anne Brailsford (Year 12), Mr Bill Baird (Year 13), have been appointed as Academic

STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2018

At a special assembly on Thursday 1 February, we acknowledged our student leaders for 2018. 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 2018:

Head Prefect

Adam Rybinski

Arts Captain

Ethan Makisi

Sports Captain

Sajan Patel

Prefects

Jake Brownlie

Andrew Eng

Henry Hollis

Alex Lowcay

Tim McKibbin

Deputy Head Prefect

Luke Purves

Academic Leader

Eric London

Seamus Durkin

Ollie Galvin

Charles Lave

Finn McClure

Sam Mycock



Academic Leader, Eric London, Arts Captain, Ethan Makisi, Head Prefect, Adam Rybinski, Sports Captain, Sajan Patel and (in front) Deputy Head Prefect, Luke Purves.

Mentors for 2018. 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 20 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 - THURSDAYS

To provide time for staff professional learning again this year, we will be starting slightly later on **Thursdays**. 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 – Operations) will be conducting an NCEA Information Evening for parents on **Thursday 22 February** in the college's Renner Hall at 6.30pm.

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 2018, 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

STUDENT ID PHOTOS

On Monday 5 February students will have their ID photograph taken. Please ensure that your son's uniform is in good order and he is clean shaven.

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.

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 Phil Sparks
Year 12 Dean – Mr Kit Norman
Year 11 Dean – Mr Justin Gray
Year 10 Dean – Mrs Sheridan Mackenzie
Year 9 Dean – Mr Nick O'Halloran

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 2018 is to be held in the college's staff room on Wednesday 21 February at 7.30pm.

Any questions, please email Roz - rozandkurt@xtra.co.nz or Michelle – mckibbin@xtra.co.nz

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- *Instant school messages
- *Absentee
- *Newsletters
- * Permission Slips

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ATHLETICS SPORTS

Our Athletics Days will be held at Newtown Park on Thursday 8 February and Friday 16 February.

Thursday 8 February will be for the whole school and participation of all students is strongly encouraged.

Friday 16 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 on **Tuesday 6 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 and there is truly something for everyone.

Sport Registrations

Sport registrations are now open for summer codes and must be completed via the online link below. Please ensure you have enrolled your son for a Term 1 sport as soon as possible as many competitions start the first or second week of term. The last day registrations will be accepted is 9 February.

<http://www.rongotai.school.nz/sports-registration>

Athletics Training

All boys wanting to improve their general fitness and strength are encouraged to attend athletics training. Any boys hoping to make a premier winter sport side (football, hockey, rugby, etc) are expected to use athletics training for preseason conditioning. Times and days will be communicated via morning notices and the Rongotai College Athletics Facebook Page.

Rowing Coach

A rowing coach is needed for the 2018 Rongotai crew. Is there a parent, old boy or senior student with rowing experience who would enjoy coaching? We've

got keen interest from Year 10 and 11 students, a team manager, fundraising support, and interested parents; all we need is the most important adult of all! Please get in touch with the Sports Department if you or someone you know may be interested.

Parent Support

Rongotai College has an amazingly supportive parent community and this is key to the school being able to provide sporting opportunities to our young men. We continue to strongly encourage parents to assist with their son's team by managing, coaching, umpiring, refereeing, fundraising, joining a committee and generally supporting the side during the season. Not only does this ensure everything runs smoothly, it is just plain good fun watching sport and meeting other parents.

It has been a busy yet satisfying start of the school year. Thank you for your part in helping your son settle into the 2018 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 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 4.30pm.

STUDENT LOCKERS

The Parents' Association provided funding for over 90 new lockers for student 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.