



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 6, Term 3 (August), 2020

COMING EVENTS

Monday 31 August & Tuesday 1 September

Under 14 Rugby Festival (to be confirmed)

Thursday 3 September

Parents' Association Quiz Evening
SOLD OUT

Tuesday 8 September

Music Performance Evening, 6.30pm

Wednesday 9 September

Parents' Association meeting, 7.30pm in the staffroom

Thursday 10 to Thursday 17 September

Senior Exams

Friday 18 September

Leavers' Ball

Monday 21 September

Pasifika Parents' Asosi meeting, 6.30pm in the staffroom

Wednesday 23 September

Rongotai College Poly Variety Evening, 6.30pm in the Renner Hall

Thursday 24 September

Board of Trustees' meeting, 6pm in the Mackay Library

Friday 25 September

Last day Term 3

Monday 12 October

First day Term 4

2020 TERM DATES

Term 3 ends Friday 25 September

Term 4 Monday 12 October to Wednesday 9 December

2021 TERM DATES

Term 1 Monday 1 February to Friday 16 April

Term 2 Monday 2 May to Friday 9 July

Term 3 Monday 26 July to Friday 1 October

Term 4 Monday 18 October to Friday 10 December

We are now more than half way through Term 3, a term that has been characterized by hard work for all, and a return to some form of

normality with the restart of sport. The next few weeks are particularly important for our senior students, as they look to complete **internal assessments for NCEA** and also **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.

In this edition of our newsletter, I would like to emphasise a number of upcoming events and highlight some recent student successes.

SENIOR EXAMINATIONS

Our school examinations for Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be held during the week **Thursday 10 September to Thursday 17 September** inclusive. For your information, the examination timetable is included in this newsletter.

These exams are an important signpost of your son's current progress towards NCEA. Your son may tell you that he does not have to revise for these examinations because they are unimportant and don't mean anything. **Don't believe him - these examinations are very important and they are compulsory!** The main purpose of the examinations is to assess your son's current progress towards NCEA (highlighting strengths and areas of concern) and to give him a practice run at externally assessed Achievement Standards. Please assist your son with his study and revision programme.

A further consideration is that, as we have recently seen, there is the potential for COVID-19 Alert Levels to change quickly. These exam results may be needed to provide the basis of standards-specific

A reminder that as from Monday 31 August, students travelling to and from school in buses, trains and taxis must wear face masks and use the QR Code to register each trip.

decisions if we need to provide Unexpected Events Grades.

For some boys there may be a health issue, family or other circumstance that prevents him from sitting the external examinations. The school examinations provide us with evidence to support your son with any consideration he may need for a derived grade later in the year.

Visual Arts, DVC and Materials Technology Students

Senior students completing NCEA in Visual Arts (including Art Design and Photography), DVC and Materials Technology have examination slots scheduled to allow them time at college to work on their Achievement Standards during Examination Week. It is essential in these subjects that the students go to their timetabled slots, with the deadlines for external assessments rapidly approaching.

STUDENT BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Nominations for the Board of Trustees Student Representative opened on 24 August. Students can nominate on the appropriate form available from the office. Nominations close on Wednesday 9 September.

Those nominated will address the school at assembly on 18 September prior to voting closing on 23 September. The student representative on the Board of Trustee is a one year position.

ACADEMIC NEWS

SCIENCE MAKER-SPACE

An innovation this year is the formation of our Science and Engineering Maker-space group. Some of their creations so far have included worm farms to understand soil ecology, mini guitars to explore the physics of sound, rocket ships & coffee cups to understand energy transformations and heat transfer, miniature model homes to unpack the physics of building science, and mouse-trap cars to discover the physics of motion. We will continue to uncover the link between science and society and are looking for the following donations (if you have used tools or otherwise at home that are looking for a better use):

- Aquarium tank and pump
- Carboy for making ginger beer
- Jewellery making equipment (small anvil, vice, torch, needle nose pliers)
- Bike tools and pump for our bike repair clinic (spanner, etc.)
- Mini-fridge for food science work
- Gardening tools (spade, trowels, etc) for cultivating learning around sustainable horticulture.
- Sewing machine.

Please contact Mr Richardson (james.richardson@rongotai.school.nz) if you have donations or ideas to contribute.



Frank Quigley with his entry into the Design (& Float) a Boat competition

CULTURAL NEWS

MUSIC

The Rongotai College Big Band has combined with the Wellington College Big Band and will be going to visit NZSM to work with Dr

Rodger Fox to observe his university-level big bands in rehearsal. They also had the privilege of combining with Capital City Big Band recently, led by Russell Henderson.

Three of the senior jazz combo were finalists in the national jazz solo competition. We are pleased to congratulate **Ryder Smith**, national winner of the drum solo competition, **Ben Parker** in the top five on tenor saxophone and **Darcy Boardman** (guitar) who was sixth on the national list. These high-achieving boys represented Rongotai College superbly.

A new combo has started called '1MU Jazz' comprising **Liam Kingston** (trumpet), **Liam George** (piano), **Jacob Inch** (guitar), **Sonny Callwood** (bass) and **Connor Gourley** (drums).

The **Music Performance Evening** will now be held on Tuesday 8 September from 6:30pm in the Drama Room. As always, it promises to be a wonderful night of entertainment from our talented youngsters.

Lastly, all music tutors have full timetables, with the recent addition of Year 9 option music students. If your son has not yet started his lessons please email Mr Crayford at greg.crayford@rongotai.school.nz

POLY CLUB

Unfortunately, the TuTagata Festival was cancelled for 2020 because of COVID-19. However, the leaders (in consultation with staff) have decided to put on a variety evening for parents on Wednesday 23 September at 6.30pm.



If your son is part of the smaller than usual Poly Group, please mark this date on your calendar. Come and join us to celebrate the end of

what has been a very busy term for all of us in school.

LEAVERS' BALL

Our Leavers' Ball for Year 13 students will be held at The Pines on **Friday 18 September**. 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 are now on sale for Year 13 students (who will have preference for the first three weeks of sales). Any remaining tickets will then open to Year 12 students on Monday 7 September. However, due to health and safety requirements, there are a limited number of tickets available for sale, so boys should purchase their tickets as soon as possible. All tickets must be purchased by Friday 11 September and will be handed out at a special assembly at 12.30pm on Friday 18 September.

If the Ball is forced to be cancelled due to a change in COVID Alert Levels, boys will get a refund.

SERVICE NEWS

BLOOD DONATIONS

As part of our service to the community, we recently had NZ Blood Service at the college. Staff and students (16 years or older) were invited to donate blood. In excess of 100 units of blood were collected on the day – a new record for what has become an annual event at Rongotai College.



Nick Hockley (Year 13) makes his donation.

PUSH-UP-A-THON

Thanks all staff, students and parents who supported our first annual Push-Up-A-Thon. Our boys (and teachers) did over 3,000 push-ups with many pressing over 200 in their hour session. More importantly, the event showcased the kind of Rongotai brotherhood we aspire to with students from all walks of life pledging push-ups (and funds) to support sports and cultural events at the college.



Well done to **Michali Siatiris** and **Eli Kay** who pressed over 200 push-ups each and **Georgio Toulis** who did a great job organising the event. We look forward to holding this event again next year and invite you all to join in whatever way you can.



SPORTS NEWS

While the regular sports programme has been significantly disrupted, it has been great to see so many of our students involved in sport this

winter. They must be commended for how they have coped with the COVID-19 lockdown and transitioning into the 'new normal', with no spectators at Alert Level 2. With Winter Sports Week cancelled this year the focus has been firmly on the local competition with teams looking to lock in their play-off positions.

On Wednesday 19 August we hosted Wellington College in our annual traditional exchange, with fixtures in basketball, football, hockey and rugby. We split the results, with Rongotai winning basketball and rugby, and Wellington College winning football and hockey. With the rugby win came the Heron Cup, which we defended successfully for the first time in 22 years.



COVID restrictions have caused a change to the traditional exchange with St Patrick's (Silverstream), with football and rugby fixtures to be played at Silverstream on Saturday 29 August.

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 two 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

Over the next few days, you will receive another 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(s). One area that the school has spent considerable sums of money in recent years is ICT infrastructure to meet the needs of 21st 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 and sports fees).

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 \$200 for each other son. School donations paid now may be claimed in your 2021 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 happy to help.

RONGOTAI COLLEGE

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School Examination Timetable 2020

	Thursday 10 September	Friday 11 September	Monday 14 September	Tuesday 15 September	Wednesday 16 September	Thursday 17 September
Morning (8.55am- 12pm)	1EQ-D-2hr* 1EN-D-3hr* 2AC-2hr 3PH-3hr 3AP-3hr	1SQ1-1hr 1SQ2-2hr 1SC-3hr 2GE-3hr 3HI-D-3hr*	1HI-D-3hr* 2MQ-3hr 2MA-3hr 3BI-2hr 3MP-3hr	1MQ-3hr 1MA-3hr 2CS-D-3hr* 2EC-3hr 2SP-3hr 3DR-1hr 3CH-3hr 2AD-3hr 3AD-3hr	1AR-3hr 1MU-2hr 2PH-3hr 2DR-1hr 3MD-D-2hr*	2AP-3hr 2MT-2hr 3MR-D-1hr* 3DC-2hr 3AC-2hr 3SP-3hr
Afternoon (1.30pm- 4.30pm)	1EC-3hr 2CH-3hr 2MP-3hr 3MS-2hr	1SP-3hr 1SA-3hr 1AC-3hr 2EN-D-3hr* 3CS-D-3hr* 3AR-3hr 3MU-3hr	1GE-3hr 2MD-D-2hr* 3EN-D-3hr* 3MC-3hr	1DR-1hr 1MR-D-1hr* 1DC-2hr 2BI-2hr 3GE-3hr 3SA-3hr	1MT-2hr 2HI-D-3hr* 2SA-3hr 2MR-D-1hr* 2AR-3hr 3EC-3hr	2DC-2hr 2MU-3hr 2AM-3hr 3MT-2hr 3AM-3hr

D* = Digital exams. All exams will be in the Renner hall unless otherwise stated.

Any clashes with exams, please see Mr Bhindi asap.