



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 2 Term 1 (February) 2021

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 10 February

Parents' Association meeting at 7.30pm in the staffroom

Monday 15 February

Athletics Day 1 at Newtown Park

Tuesday 16 February

Student class and ID photos taken

Thursday 18 February

Athletics finals day at Newtown Park for selected students

Tuesday 23 February

Year 9 Parents' Evening 7pm

Thursday 25 February

NCEA Information Evening 6pm
Board of Trustees' meeting at 6pm in the staffroom

Tuesday 2 March

McEvedy Shield at Newtown Park

Friday 12 March

Interim reports posted

Monday 22 to Friday 26 March

Summer Tournament Week

Monday 29 & Wednesday 31 March

Parent interviews

Monday 29 March to Thursday 1 April

Winter sports trials

Tuesday 30 March

Rongotai College Careers Day

Friday 2 April to Tuesday 6 April

Easter

Friday 16 April

End of Term 1

2021 TERM DATES

- Term 1** Monday 1 February to Friday 16 April
- Term 2** Monday 3 May to Friday 9 July
- Term 3** Monday 26 July to Friday 1 October
- Term 4** Monday 18 October to Friday 10 December

Kia ora and welcome to my first newsletter for 2021! On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees, can I welcome parents of students new to the college. Following this newsletter, I will be 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 1 February, we celebrated the arrival of over 170 new students with a powhiri in the Renner Hall. It was great to see so many parents and whānau present.

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



New students assembling for the powhiri

ACADEMIC AWARDS

At assembly on Friday 5 February, we celebrated the NCEA performance of our students in 2020. 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. 2020 was a record year of achievement with results in all measures of NCEA continuing to improve.

Of course, these school-wide results are the consequence of a number of individual successes. At this

STUDENT ID & CLASS PHOTOS

On **Tuesday 16 February** students will have their ID photograph and class photo taken. Please ensure that your son's uniform is in good order and he is clean shaven.

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 **Eli Ballara, Darcy Boardman, Reuben Campbell, Jamal Fiso, Nicholas Gibbs, Rakshit Kumar, Jonathan London, Tobias Maling, Pranesh Patel, Jonathan Reddell, Joseph Renwick** and **Oliver Samuel** (Year 13 2020 – Level 3), while the following 2020 Year 12 students were also awarded Academic Honours – **Henry Allison, Sol Barris, Daniel Gibbs, James Halka, Bradley Henderson, Thomas King, Christian Koeck, Matthew Lauridsen, Hugo Lawrence, Dev Patel, Rohan Patel, Archie Purchas, Grainger Scott, Wilbur Stanley, James Sutton, Marcel Visser** and **Maia Waipara**.

Year 11 students from 2020 who were awarded Academic Honours were **Reuben Ballara, Hamish Black, Thomas Cobden-Cox, Daniel Christie, Flynn Crocker, Liam George, Jack Harris, Jacob Inch, Jaiden Kesry, Epeli Kiloni, Callum Mackay, Quinn Marshall-McCaskey, Liam McCorry, Miha Mitcalfe Matthews, Anaiwan Ojala, Myles Owens, Armin Ruckstuhl, Jude Sneddon, Jacob Timmins, Daniel Turner, Oscar Watson** and **George Wells**.

Congratulations are also due to the large group of boys who gained Merit. Well done boys! 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 five new teachers to the school at the powhiri on the first day of term.

- **Mrs Joanie Erasmus** (Science) joined our staff in Term 4.
- **Ms Nicole Vaughan** (Science & Biology) joins us from Whangaparaoa College (Auckland).
- **Mr John Clark** (Hard Materials Technology) joins us as cover for Mr Greig who is on sabbatical leave for Term 1.



from left: Mr Clark, Ms Vaughan and Mrs Erasmus

Mrs Ashley Rawlings (Geography) will also join the staff in Term 2.

Within the school, **Mr Matt Eagle** (Year 11), **Mr Ben Koloto** (Year 12), **Mr Bill Baird** (Year 13), have been appointed as Academic Mentors for 2021.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING - THURSDAYS

To provide time for staff professional learning lessons 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

STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2021

Prefects were announced at Prizegiving and, at a special assembly on Thursday 4 February, we acknowledged our student leaders for 2021 and they were presented with their badges. 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 2021:

Head Prefect

Sol Barris

Academic Leader

Dev Patel

Cultural Leader

Bronson Harawira

Deputy Sports Captain

Grainger Scott

Prefects

Jay Aiono

Hugo Lawrence

Nick Lowcay

Oliver Spicer

Jayden Vallabh

Deputy Head Prefect

Jack Pulford

Arts Leader

Milan Sutich

Sports Captain

Sam Brown

Bradley Henderson

Hamish Lindsay

Patrick Moore

Dante Uelese

Zuklifii Yes



do not arrive by bus must be at school by 9.15am.

YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING

All parents / caregivers of Year 9 students are invited to the college on the evening of **Tuesday 23 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.

NCEA INFORMATION EVENING

Parents often ask questions regarding 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 informed, Mr Reddy (Deputy Principal) will be hosting an NCEA Information Evening for parents on **Thursday 25 February** in the college's Library at 6pm.

It is important that whānau of Year 11, 12 and 13 students who wish to gain a better understanding 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 2021, 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. Students are responsible for the security of their devices. They are able to 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 2021 are:

Year 13 Dean – Ms Esmee McAuley
Year 12 Dean – Mr Nick O'Halloran
Year 11 Dean – Mr Ash Collier
Year 10 Dean – Ms Anne Brailsford
Year 9 Dean – Mr Pemerika Leiataua

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

For serious concerns contact should be made with the Deputy Principals, Mr Geoff Hall (Director of Pastoral

Care) or Mr Venkat Reddy (Director of Teaching & Learning), or myself. We welcome contact from you.

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 2021 is to be held in the college's staff room on Wednesday 10 February at 7.30pm. If you have any questions please email Gordon, the Chair of the PA – gordy.gregory@gmail.com

ATHLETICS SPORTS

Our Athletics Days will be held at Newtown Park on Monday 15 February and Thursday 18 February.

Monday 15 February will be for the whole school and participation of all students is strongly encouraged, while **Thursday 18 February** will be the finals day for those students who have qualified. This finals event will be held in conjunction with Wellington College.

Both Athletics Sports Days will take place no matter what the weather – 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 as well as lunch and a drink bottle.

- 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 2 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. With a wide variety of sports on offer from the competitive to the social, there is something for everyone.

Parent Support

Sport at college is only possible thanks to the support of the parents and volunteers. We encourage all parents to be involved and engaged in their son's 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 how you can assist.

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

Hei konā mai

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 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.

SCHOOL BUSES

The school bus service is listed below. Metlink encourages students (and parents) to set up the Journey Planner on their phones. This is so they have this as a first start guide-line to assist with their journeys to and from school. <https://www.metlink.org.nz/>

Mornings

712	7.50am from Miramar	8.10am arrives Salek Street
713	7.45am from Darlington Road	7.58am arrives Salek Street
714	8.00am from Strathmore Terminal	8.20am arrives Salek Street
751 (2 buses)	8.10am from Railway Station (outside Old Govt Building)	8.40am arrives Rongotai College
768	7.50am from Mairangi	8.34am arrives Rongotai College
770	7.50am from Kowhai Park	8.30am arrives Rongotai College
774	7.55am from Houghton Bay	8.40am arrives Rongotai College
782	7.55am from Railway Station	8.22am arrives Troy Street (bottom of Salek St)
791	7.35am from Karori Road (Allington Road)	Rongotai Road

Afternoons

754	3.30pm from Rongotai College	via Hataitai to Railway Station
755	3.30pm from Rongotai College	via Newtown to Railway Station
762	3.30pm from Rongotai College	Miramar - Seatoun
770	3.30pm from Rongotai College	Vogeltown – Kowhai Park
776	3.30pm from Rongotai College	Berhampore – Owhiro Bay

- ✓ 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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