



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 1 Term 1 (4 February) 2022

COMING EVENTS

Monday 7 February

Waitangi Day Holiday

Wednesday 9 February

Athletics Participation Day – all students

Tuesday 15 February

Student class and ID photos taken

Thursday 17 February

Athletics finals day at Newtown Park for selected students (venue dependent on COVID restrictions being lifted)

Tuesday 22 February

Year 9 Parents' Evening 6.30pm (dependent on COVID restrictions being lifted)

Thursday 24 February

NCEA Information Evening 6pm (dependent on COVID restrictions being lifted)
Board of Trustees' meeting at 6pm in the Staffroom

Tuesday 1 March

McEvedy Shield at Newtown Park (athletes only)

Friday 11 March

Interim reports posted

Monday 28 to Friday 1 April

Summer Tournament Week

2022 TERM DATES

Term 1 Monday 31 January to Thursday 14 April

Term 2 Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July

Term 3 Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September

Term 4 Monday 17 October to Friday 9 December

Kia ora and welcome to my first newsletter for 2022! 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 31 January, we celebrated the arrival of over 180 new students to Rongotai College with a powhiri held outside in front of the whareniui, due to COVID Red Traffic Light restrictions.

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



New students during the powhiri

COVID VACCINATIONS

While COVID vaccinations are mandated by the Government for staff, they are not mandated for students. However, College Sport Wellington has stipulated that only vaccinated students are able to play sport. We are collecting vaccination information through the parent portal. Information on the portal was emailed previously.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

At assembly today we celebrated the NCEA performance of our students in 2021. While I will give a detailed review when NZQA

STUDENT ID & CLASS PHOTOS

On **Tuesday 15 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.

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. 2021 was another good year of achievement with very pleasing results in all measures of 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 **Samuel Brown, Jack Halka, Bradley Henderson, Christian Koeck, Matthew Lauridsen, Rohan Patel, Grainger Scott, Michali Siatiras and James Sutton** (all Year 13 2021 – Level 3), while the following 2021 Year 12 students were also awarded Academic Honours – **Reuben Ballara, Liam George, Jacob Inch, Epeli Kiloni, Quinn Marshall-McCaskey, Liam McCorry, Miha Mitcalfe-Mtthews, Suneel Patel, Armin Ruckstuhl, Jude Sneddon, Jacob Timmins, Daniel Turner, Oscar Watson and George Wells**

Year 11 students from 2021 who were awarded Academic Honours were **Elliot Brown, Alvin Cho, Perry Cooling, Heath Coulter, Ahmad Diab, Jonas Glaudel, Flynn Gowans, Phoenix Hague-Smith, Steve Halasz, Jamieson Harvey-Lawn, Kano Hill,**

Harrison Jarvis, Michael Lemon, Tom Marsters, Arafat Memon, Douglas Miller, Rex More, Oliver Ng, Frank Quigley, Keenan Ranchhod, Alexander Randall, Leo Scott-Lancashire, Blake Shepherd and Robert Stannard.

Congratulations are also due to the large group of boys who gained Merit endorsements. 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 nine new teachers to the school at the powhiri on the first day of term.

- **Mrs Kate Burgess** (Art) joins us having taught here in 2021.
- **Ms Martina Byrne** (Maths & Science) (part-time) has been teaching at St Pat's Town.
- **Mr Blair Florance** (HOD Commerce) also comes to us from St Pat's Town and is a Rongotai College Old Boy.
- **Mr Levi Loudon** (Social Sciences) is new to teaching although he has been our 1st XI Hockey coach in recent years.
- **Mr Eddie Petersen** (HOD Digital Technology) from St Pat's Silverstream.
- **Mr Ethan Smith** (Science) comes to us from Waitaki Boys' High School.
- **Ms Michaela Smith** (Science) joins us from Porirua College
- **Mr Callum Scott** (Social Sciences) has taught at New Plymouth Boys' High School and Scots College.
- **Mr Brendon Simpson** (Tamatoa) has returned from the UK with his family and re-settled in Wellington.

Congratulations to **Mr Scott Dennison** for his promotion to Head of Social Sciences.

Within the school, **Ms Esmee McAuley** has been appointed Year 12 Dean, while **Mr Justin Gray** (Year 11 & 12 and Maori and Pasifika

STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2022

Prefects were announced at Senior Prizegiving last year and, at assembly today, we acknowledged our student leaders for 2022 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 2022:

Head Prefect

Jude Sneddon

Academic Leader

Reuben Ballara

Cultural Leader

Desmond Matala

House Captains

Heron – Epeli Kiloni

Mackay – Kianu Fiamatai

Deputy Head Prefect

Jamal Howell

Arts Leader

Liam George

Sports Captain

Afaese Fa'avae

Lock – Cooper Bell

Renner – George Wells

Prefects

Oscar Cole

Flynn Crocker

Iose McCarthy

Miha Mitcalfe-Matthews

Suneel Patel

Jacob Timmins

Daniel Turner



students), and **Mr Bill Baird** (Year 13), are Academic Mentors for 2022. **Dr James Richardson** will be guiding Gifted and Talented students.

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

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 22 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 6.30pm in the college's Renner Hall. This is, however, dependent on the current COVID restrictions changing. More information will be forthcoming.

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 24 February** in the college's Library at 6pm. Again, this is dependent on the current COVID restrictions changing.

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 2022, 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, while 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 – Mr Phil Sparks
Year 12 Dean – Ms Esmee McAuley
Year 11 Dean – Ms Anne Brailsford
Year 10 Dean – Mr Pemerika Leiataua
Year 9 Dean – Mrs Ainsley Rawlings

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 next meeting will be held in the college's staff room on Wednesday 9 March 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 on Wednesday 9 February and Thursday 17 February. Due to current COVID restrictions the participation day will be held here at Rongotai College.

Wednesday 9 February will be for the whole school and participation

of all students is strongly encouraged.

Thursday 17 February will be the finals day for those students who have qualified. This finals event will be held in conjunction with Wellington College, at Newtown Park, if allowed under COVID restrictions.

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

- 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, unfortunately unable to attend either of our Athletic 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 1 March**. In 2022 this will be an athlete only event. Updated information will be advised in our next newsletter, particularly related to how this will be impacted by current COVID restrictions.

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.

COVID-19 & SPORT

Under the current COVID Protection Framework, **College Sport Wellington have mandated that**

participation in any CSW Competition will require students to be vaccinated and provide proof by their Vaccine Pass. This is compulsory and no exemptions will be accepted. This also applies to all coaches, managers and support staff associated to our teams. We will also be applying a NO SPECTATOR policy for all indoor events such as volleyball and badminton. Spectators are welcome to attend outdoor events such as cricket, but must wear a mask, hand sanitise, scan in and socially distance themselves.

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.

Ngā mihi nui

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

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

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RONGOTAI COLLEGE

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www.rongotai.school.nz

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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
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 and 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
714	8.00am from Strathmore Terminal	8.20am arrives Salek Street
751	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)

Afternoons

754	3.15pm from Rongotai College	via Hataitai to Railway Station
755	3.15pm from Rongotai College	via Newtown to Railway Station
762	3.15pm from Rongotai College	Miramar - Seatoun
770	3.15pm from Rongotai College	Vogeltown - Kowhai Park
776	3.15pm from Rongotai College	Berhampore - Owhiro Bay

N.B. If your son comes to school by train then bus, please encourage him to catch one of the school buses so that he gets to school on time. They leave from outside the Old Parliament Buildings (see picture). This is approximately a 5-10 minute walk from exiting the trains.

