Rotorua Lakes High School

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #1 – FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2025

CONTENTS

From the Principal – P. 1 - 5
News from Teachers – P.5 - 7
Student Successes - P. 7
Sports – P. 7 - 8
Careers / Gateway – P. 9
Notice Board – P. 9
Sponsors – P. 10

Kia ora Koutou

At school we are developing positive routines for learning, working to support our students back into school after the summer break. Our key focus at this time is supporting students to build strong and positive relationships both with peers and staff ensuring they feel comfortable and safe, to support their learning.

It was a very enjoyable evening greeting our new parents/caregivers at our recent Meet the Teachers evening. Certainly, a great turnout and a very positive hui. Many thanks to everyone for attending and of course to our teachers for their hard work and enthusiasm. (more page 2)

A heartfelt thank you to Matua Paraone Pirika for his meaningful blessing of our new learning space, the Senior Pathways Programme. It was great to see our students actively engaged and taking pride in their classroom. (more pages 2-3)

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new International Students who have started at the beginning of this term and also to thank those families who offer a wonderful, welcoming homestay environment. It really is a great opportunity to embrace other cultures, be part of our wider school community and for students and families to form positive international connections.

For the most part, the students are looking great in their uniforms. They show a sense of pride in themselves and our school environment. A gentle reminder to a minority of students that it is important to have the correct uniform for school. Over the past 2 weeks we have been gently reminding students about appropriate uniform and hope that this will resolve any irregularities. As we move forwards, repeat reminders will start to come with consequences. Thank you for your support in ensuring that our students reflect pride in our school and also the pride we have in them.

We are looking forward to events coming up at the school, in particular our Investiture/Celebration of school Achievement Assembly on Wednesday 19 February. This is a very special occasion where we will recognise and congratulate all our students who were endorsed with NCEA Excellence and Merit in 2024 and to inaugurate and welcome our 2025 School Leaders and Prefects. Invitations to those parents involved have been sent out.

We are also pleased to remind you of our Athletics Day on 21 February, our Year 13 Camp 25 – 28 February and our Swimming Sports on 4 March. Not forgetting that our very successful Kahui Ako School visits will resume shortly.

Have a great weekend.

Ngā mihi

Jon Ward, Principal / Tumuaki

INCREDIBLE EVENING OF WHANAUNGATANGA & COMMUNITY

Our Year 9 Whānau BBQ was filled with connection, kōrero, and kai, with a packed auditorium and an amazing turnout of students, whānau, and staff. The feedback has been overwhelming - whānau shared how welcome they felt, how grateful they were to meet our staff in an informal setting, and how special it was to be connected to and part of our school community. 💙💛

A huge mihi and thank you to:

🙌Our Puketawhero roopu for an outstanding cultural welcome
🙌Our Senior Pathways students for their awesome setup support
🔥Raymond Tai-Nelson, Kauvai Anguna, and Kaea Whakatau, who committed their whole afternoon and evening to running the BBQ
🎸 Troy Backler & Terry Teepa for the music
🍎Our dedicated and passionate teachers for making every whānau feel valued
🧑‍🤝‍🧑And of course, our incredible whānau for supporting and growing our Lakes High community

NEW LEARNING SPACE FOR THE SENIOR PATHWAYS PROGRAMME

On Friday morning, our Senior Pathways Programme (SPP) gathered for a special blessing with Matua Paraone Pirika in their newly dedicated learning space. Once the heart of our school library, this area has been reimagined as an open learning classroom - designed to inspire and empower students on their unique educational journeys. Matua Paraone focused on the students and their potential to enhance this ceremony, ensuring they were an active part of the process. SPP supports students in working towards NCEA Levels 1 & 2, focusing on work readiness, community connections and personal growth. It's all about helping them explore their passions, gifts, and future opportunities in a meaningful way. Rooted in our school uara (values) - Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga,

Wairuatanga, and Whakapapa - the blessing was a powerful start. Students played an active role in the ceremony before coming together for kaitahi (shared food) 🍽, embracing the spirit of connection. We're excited to see our SPP students thrive in this space! 💚✨🙏 A big mihi to Whaea Senila, Matua AJ, Whaea Moe, our Tumuaki Jon Ward and everyone involved in this exciting mahi.

ASSESSMENTS

The following assessments have been set down. There may be times where, due to unforeseen circumstances, changes will need to occur. This will be done in consultation with the class(es) concerned.

Level	Subject	Standard	Date
3	Maths & Stats	91576	20 February
2	Senior Pathways Programme	US12349	14 March
2	Senior Pathways Programme	US32840	21 March

ATTENDANCE FOCUS

School leadership, boards, parents and the Ministry of Education all play key roles in supporting students to attend school – and addressing absence when it occurs. Lifting school attendance is our shared responsibility.The STAR (Stepped Attendance Response) has been developed in line with the good practice identified in Education Review Office (ERO) evaluations and school indicators. We know that school leadership, board stewardship, quality teaching, and educationally powerful connections will influence positive school attendance.

The STAR:

- sets the direction so that no student will be left to accumulate absences without an appropriate response to return them to regular attendance
- will help us achieve the Government's target of 80% of students present for 90% of the term by 2030
- tells us what should happen when students do not attend school

It sets clear expectations that school attendance is a priority, and that:

- parents will work with the school, the Ministry and other agencies where required, to return children to regular attendance and participate in the supports
- schools and the Ministry of Education will take action when student absence is a concern.

The STAR helps us all to understand what should happen when students do not attend school.
Over the next few weeks, through the Newsletter, our Face Book page and emails, we will be sharing with you the Stepped Attendance Response that Rotorua Lakes High School are implementing. This process requires both Parents/Caregivers and the School to work together to support student attendance and will outline our shared responsibilities.If you have any pātai around attendance, please contact Glenda Curtis – Assistant Principal curtisg@rotorualakes.school.nz

FROM OUR HAUORA/WELLNESS TEAM

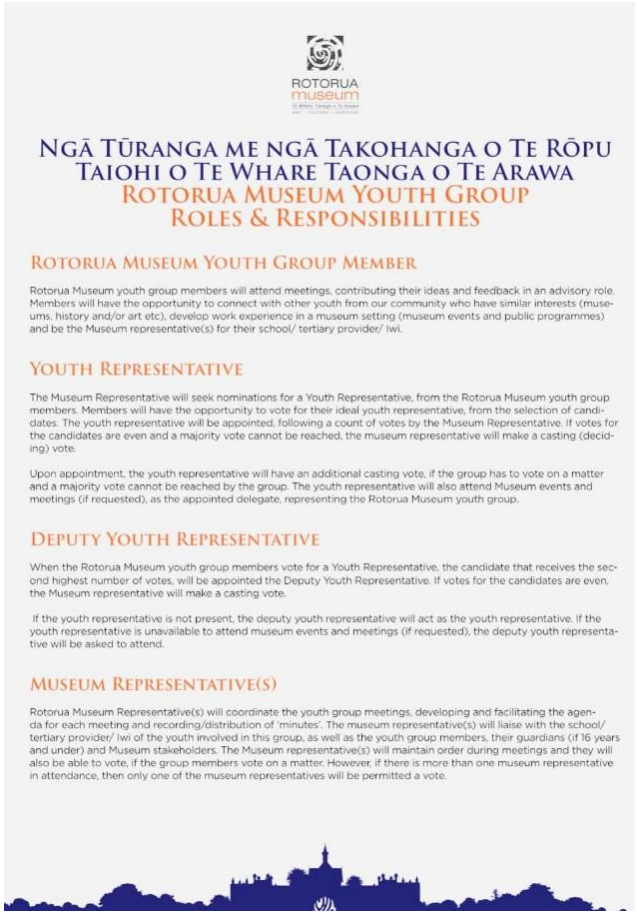
Just a little reminder to students that if they feel unwell please stay at home; and to caregivers if your child feels unwell please do not send them to school. Thank you.

CALLING ALL YOUNG HISTORY & MUSEUM, ENTHUSIASTS!

Are you aged 14-18 and passionate about arts, museums, and history? Here's your chance to be a voice for youth and connect with like-minded tauira in our community! The Rotorua Museum Youth Group is looking for new members! 🎨📜 This group works in an advisory role to support the Rotorua Museum, while also providing awesome opportunities to learn more about museums, arts, and history.

📌First Meeting:
📅Wednesday, 26th February
⏰4:30pm - 6:00pm
📌Te Aka Mauri – Rotorua Library (Community Meeting Room)

If you're keen to be involved, grab a registration & consent form from Matua Tim in the Admin Building, fill it out (with a guardian if you're under 16), and email it to Canaan.tuhura@rotorualc.nz by Friday, 21st February. Tag a mate who would love this! ⬇️Let's bring together the next generation of museum and arts leaders! 🌟



ROTORUA museum

NGĀ TŪRANGA ME NGĀ TAKOHANGA O TE RŌPU TAIOHI O TE WHARE TAONGA O TE ARAWA
ROTORUA MUSEUM YOUTH GROUP ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

ROTORUA MUSEUM YOUTH GROUP MEMBER

Rotorua Museum youth group members will attend meetings, contributing their ideas and feedback in an advisory role. Members will have the opportunity to connect with other youth from our community who have similar interests (museums, history and/or art etc), develop work experience in a museum setting (museum events and public programmes) and be the Museum representative(s) for their school/ tertiary provider/ Iwi.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

The Museum Representative will seek nominations for a Youth Representative, from the Rotorua Museum youth group members. Members will have the opportunity to vote for their ideal youth representative, from the selection of candidates. The youth representative will be appointed, following a count of votes by the Museum Representative. If votes for the candidates are even and a majority vote cannot be reached, the museum representative will make a casting (deciding) vote.

Upon appointment, the youth representative will have an additional casting vote, if the group has to vote on a matter and a majority vote cannot be reached by the group. The youth representative will also attend Museum events and meetings (if requested), as the appointed delegate, representing the Rotorua Museum youth group.

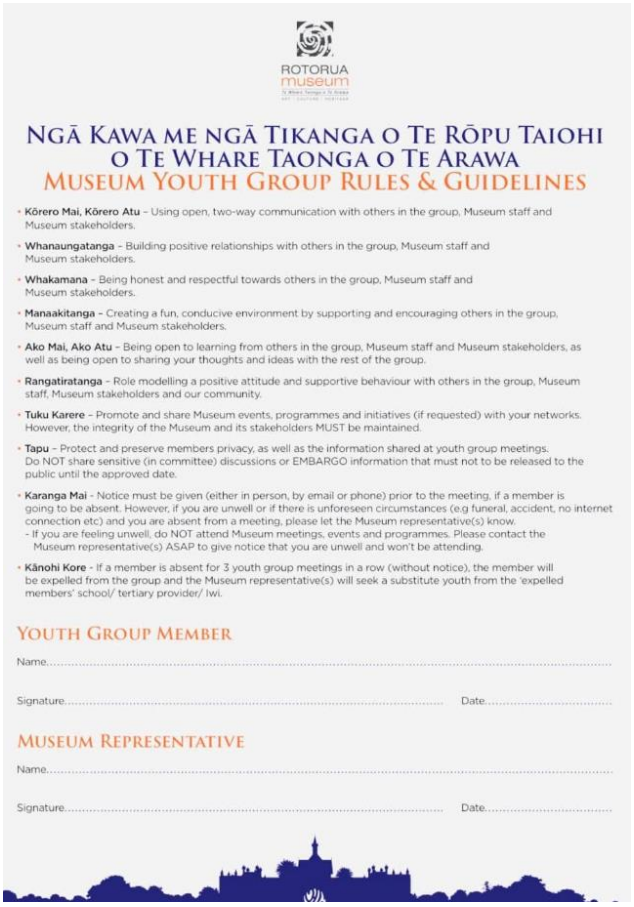
DEPUTY YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

When the Rotorua Museum youth group members vote for a Youth Representative, the candidate that receives the second highest number of votes, will be appointed the Deputy Youth Representative. If votes for the candidates are even, the Museum representative will make a casting vote.

If the youth representative is not present, the deputy youth representative will act as the youth representative. If the youth representative is unavailable to attend museum events and meetings (if requested), the deputy youth representative will be asked to attend.

MUSEUM REPRESENTATIVE(S)

Rotorua Museum Representative(s) will coordinate the youth group meetings, developing and facilitating the agenda for each meeting and recording/distribution of 'minutes'. The museum representative(s) will liaise with the school/ tertiary provider/ Iwi of the youth involved in this group, as well as the youth group members, their guardians (if 16 years and under) and Museum stakeholders. The Museum representative(s) will maintain order during meetings and they will also be able to vote, if the group members vote on a matter. However, if there is more than one museum representative in attendance, then only one of the museum representatives will be permitted a vote.



ROTORUA museum

NGĀ KAWA ME NGĀ TIKANGA O TE RŌPU TAIOHI O TE WHARE TAONGA O TE ARAWA
MUSEUM YOUTH GROUP RULES & GUIDELINES

- **Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu** – Using open, two-way communication with others in the group, Museum staff and Museum stakeholders.
- **Whanaungatanga** – Building positive relationships with others in the group, Museum staff and Museum stakeholders.
- **Whakamana** – Being honest and respectful towards others in the group, Museum staff and Museum stakeholders.
- **Manaakitanga** – Creating a fun, conducive environment by supporting and encouraging others in the group, Museum staff and Museum stakeholders.
- **Ako Mai, Ako Atu** – Being open to learning from others in the group, Museum staff and Museum stakeholders, as well as being open to sharing your thoughts and ideas with the rest of the group.
- **Rangatiratanga** – Role modelling a positive attitude and supportive behaviour with others in the group, Museum staff, Museum stakeholders and our community.
- **Tuku Karere** – Promote and share Museum events, programmes and initiatives (if requested) with your networks. However, the integrity of the Museum and its stakeholders MUST be maintained.
- **Tapu** – Protect and preserve members privacy, as well as the information shared at youth group meetings. Do NOT share sensitive (in committee) discussions or EMBARGO information that must not to be released to the public until the approved date.
- **Karanga Mai** - Notice must be given (either in person, by email or phone) prior to the meeting, if a member is going to be absent. However, if you are unwell or if there is unforeseen circumstances (e.g funeral, accident, no internet connection etc) and you are absent from a meeting, please let the Museum representative(s) know.
  - If you are feeling unwell, do NOT attend Museum meetings, events and programmes. Please contact the Museum representative(s) ASAP to give notice that you are unwell and won't be attending.
- **Kānohi Kore** - If a member is absent for 3 youth group meetings in a row (without notice), the member will be expelled from the group and the Museum representative(s) will seek a substitute youth from the 'expelled members' school/ tertiary provider/ Iwi.

YOUTH GROUP MEMBER

Name.....

Signature..... Date.....

MUSEUM REPRESENTATIVE

Name.....

Signature..... Date.....

BRIEF LOOK – TERM 1 2025	
21 February	School Athletics
25 - 28 Feb	Year 13 Camp
4 March	Lakes Swimming Sports
5 – 9 March	Crankworx
7 March	Tracking Reports Issued
7 – 9 March	NISS Rowing Regatta
12 March	BOP Athletics
12 March	School Photos
14 March	BOP Swimming
24 – 27	RLHS Summer Tournament
24 – 28 March	Secondary Schools Waka Ama
28 March	**STAFF ONLY DAY (school is closed)**
24 – 29 March	Maddi Cup
11 April	Tracking Reports Issued
11 APRIL 2024	**END OF TERM 1**
14 – 27 APRIL	**EASTER HOLIDAYS**

NEWS FROM TEACHERS

A NEW ERA FOR SINGING AT RLHS!

With the arrival of our new addition to the music department, Matua Tim Smith, we had our first vocal group practice today at Lakes High! 🎤✨ Amongst the staff, we can't recall the last time we had a school vocal group or choir - so this is the start of something special! Our focus? Singing for fun, mental health, and happiness. 💙💛 No pressure, no auditions - just a safe space where everyone is welcome, no matter their singing ability. 🎶😊 With students from Year 9 right through to Year 13, the energy and positivity in the room were undeniable, and we can't wait to grow this kaupapa! Today, we tackled Seasons of Love from Rent in two parts 🎭🎵 (after some hilarious warm-ups! 🤣). But now, we need your help... What should we call ourselves? Drop your suggestions to the school office@rotorualakes.school.nz 📬 Tauira can join at any time - just show to up to U2 and sing!

CELEBRATING MATUA AJ HARRIS – OUR SENIOR PATHWAYS PROGRAMME LEADER

We are incredibly proud to acknowledge Matua AJ Harris, who has stepped into the role of Teacher in Charge of the Senior Pathways Programme (SPP) 🎓. Matua AJ brings a wealth of experience and knowledge 📚, having successfully led similar programmes at Ōtorohanga College and Te Kuiti High School. He is a visionary educator, known for his strong relationships with students 🤝, creative approach to learning 🎨, and belief in the power of education to open doors 🔑. With a deep commitment to seeing the curriculum differently, Matua AJ has a gift for delivering programmes in ways that create meaningful and lasting learning experiences ✨. His passion, dedication, and belief in every student make him an invaluable part of our kura. We also want to take a moment to acknowledge and thank his whānau 🏡 for their encouragement and support in helping him take on this important kaupapa. 💙 The time, energy, and aroha he gives to our students is made possible by the strength and support of those around him. We are so fortunate to have Matua AJ leading this kaupapa, and we can't wait to see the impact he will continue to make. 🙌💙

NCEA – LETS MAKE IT SIMPLE

We know that NCEA can feel confusing for many students and their whānau, but you're not alone! We want to help you understand how credits, assessments, and qualifications work so you can feel confident on your journey. This video breaks it down in a clear and simple way – check it out with your whānau!

👇click & watch below

https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/publications/nzqa-resources-and-videos/english/

2025 EXAMINATION TIMETABLE					
Examinations available digitally shown in blue.					
Date	**Session**	**Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Scholarship**
Tue 4 Nov	AM		Mathematics & Statistics	Dance	Classical Studies
	PM		Latin	Japanese Making Music Spanish	Statistics
Wed 5 Nov	AM			English	
	PM		Geography		Earth & Space Science
Thu 6 Nov	AM		English		Latin
	PM		Chinese	History	French
Fri 7 Nov	AM			Chemistry	Accounting
	PM		Accounting		Biology
WEEKEND					
Mon 10 Nov	AM	French Spanish	Lea Faka-Tonga Te Reo Māori	Calculus	Samoan
	PM	Commerce	Korean	Agricultural & Horticultural Science Chinese German	Media Studies
Tue 11 Nov	AM	English			Physics
	PM	Gagana Tokelau	Dance	Biology	Art History
Wed 12 Nov	AM	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	Chemistry	Drama	Geography
	PM	Korean	Cook Islands Māori Drama	Digital Technologies Samoan	Psychology
Thu 13 Nov	AM	Mathematics and Statistics	Art History	Statistics	Drama
	PM	History	Physics	Accounting	Agricultural & Horticultural Science
CANTERBURY ANNIVERSARY DAY (Fri 14 Nov)					
WEEKEND					
Mon 17 Nov	AM	Te Reo Māori	French	Latin Psychology Te Reo Rangatira	Chemistry
	PM	Japanese	Biology	Economics	
Tue 18 Nov	AM	Science	History	Physics	Te Reo Rangatira
	PM	Digital Technologies	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	Media Studies	
Wed 19 Nov	AM	Chinese	Te Reo Rangatira	Lea Faka-Tonga	English
	PM	Social Studies	Classical Studies	Art History	Economics
Thu 20 Nov	AM	Physics Earth & Space Science	Media Studies	Te Reo Māori	Calculus
	PM	Vagahau Niue	Education for Sustainability Samoan	Earth & Space Science	Chinese
Fri 21 Nov	AM	Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani		Music Studies	Spanish
	PM	Geography	Music		History
WEEKEND					

Mon 24 Nov	AM	Gagana Sāmoa	Japanese	Geography	
	PM	German	Earth & Space Science		Religious Studies
Tue 25 Nov	AM	Chemistry & Biology	Home Economics	Classical Studies	Te Reo Māori
	PM	Lea Faka-Tonga	German	Home Economics	Digital Technologies
Wed 26 Nov	AM	Religious Studies	Social Studies	French	Japanese
	PM	Health Studies	Business Studies	Health	
Thu 27 Nov	AM		Economics	Korean	
	PM		Health	Business Studies	
Fri 28 Nov	AM		Digital Technologies Spanish	Cook Islands Māori Social Studies	German

STUDENT SUCCESSES

CELEBRATING NICOLE WALLACE – A TRUE MOUNTAIN BIKE LEGEND

We are so proud to share the incredible achievements of our very own Year 11 student, Nicole Wallace! On February 1st, Nicole took 2nd place in the Giant 2W Enduro Stage 6 under 17 girls category right here in Rotorua! 🚵👏 But that's not all! Over the Summer, Nicole competed in the New Zealand National Mountain Bike Series in Dunedin. She rode hard and fast, ultimately winning her age group in one of the three events of the national mountain bike cross-country series! 🏆 Nicole is truly a legend. We encourage all whānau to help us celebrate and share our school news! 💙Go Nicole! We are so proud of you! 💛

CELEBRATING OUR CHAMPION – MADDY NEWCOMBE

A massive congratulations to our incredible Year 9 student, Maddy Newcombe, who took on over 450 riders from New Zealand, Australia, and Tahiti at the BMX Oceania Championships in New Plymouth on Sunday! 🚴‍♀️💨 Maddy raced with determination and speed across five intense races, winning FOUR of them! An Aussie rider managed to edge her out in one race, but that didn't stop Maddy from claiming the title of Oceania Champion for 13 Girls! 🥇🙌 Next stop: Nationals in Invercargill this March! Let's all get behind Maddy as she gears up for her next big challenge! 💙💛 Kia kaha, Maddy – we are so proud of you!

SPORTS

LAKES HIGH GIRLS FUTSAL

Ready to Take on 2025! Our Junior Girls Futsal whānau kicked off their first training with energy and determination! Led by their tuākana, Izzy and Renee, these talented wāhine are gearing up for an exciting Term 1, competing in the local competition and representing Lakes High at the BOP & EBOP tournaments. Training every Monday after school – Senior & Junior Girls At Lakes High, we stand strong in our uara (values):

🤝Whanaungatanga – Building connections through teamwork
💙Manaakitanga – Supporting and uplifting each other
🌿Wairuatanga – Playing with heart and spirit
🌀Whakapapatanga – Knowing who we are and where we belong

A big mihi to Whaea Christina de Lore for looking after Lakes High Futsal with dedication, passion and commitment! 🙌💙

LAKES HIGH CRICKETERS SHINE AT HAWKE'S BAY TOURNAMENT

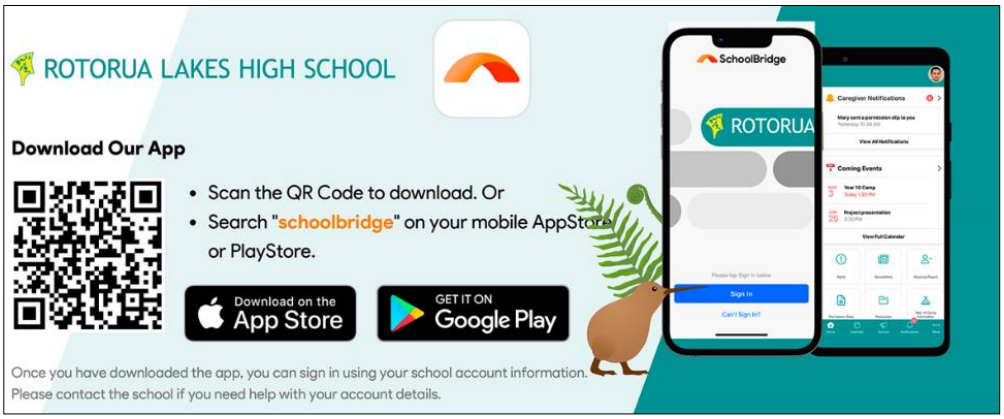
Over the summer, **Jamie Bennett, Owen McGrath, Archie Thomsen, Ryan Lei, and Arlo Garden** proudly represented Rotorua in the Hawke's Bay Cricket Tournament! 🏆 After a tough start with two losses against Wellington club Onslow and the Manawatū rep side, the team showed resilience, finishing with three consecutive wins over Auckland teams. The final match was a nail-biter against a St Kentigern development team, where our Lakes High boys played a key role in securing the victory! 🔥👏 A huge shout out to Cam Bennett, Jamie's dad, who coaches the Rotorua Lakes High team and helped guide them to success. 🙌 Ka mau te wehi, boys! We're proud of your achievements on the field! 💙🏏

COACHES NEEDED FOR LAKES HIGH BOYS FUTSAL TEAMS

We have an amazing group of talented boys ready to shine on the futsal court, but we need your help to take them to the next level! 🏅⚽🦾Calling all parents, whānau, and passionate people from the Eastside or across Rotorua! If you're passionate about developing young futsal players and supporting their growth, we'd love to hear from you.

Our boys will be competing in local, BOP, and EBOP competitions, and with your guidance, they'll achieve incredible results! 🏅✨ As a coach, you'll focus solely on coaching and player development. The Teacher in Charge (TIC) will handle all the organising and support to make it as easy as possible for you to concentrate on the team. 💌 Interested or know someone who could help? Contact Christina de Lore at delorec@rotorualakes.school.nz.

Your support could make all the difference for our boys and their love of futsal!



CAREERS/GATEWAY

CALLING YEAR 12 & 13 STUDENTS - GIRLS

Are you interested in building and construction? This is your chance to gain hands-on, real-world experience and kickstart your career in the industry! 🚧 Rotorua Lakes High School is launching a practical building programme in partnership with industry professionals, giving you the skills and work experience that can lead to apprenticeships. This is a fantastic career option, and we're offering a limited number of places! 🏗️🔨 Girls – this is your industry too! 💪 Whether you're passionate about design, construction, or creating something with your hands, there's a place for you here. We encourage all students, regardless of gender, to take part. If this sounds like the right opportunity for you, come and chat with Eva Hingston, our Gateway Coordinator, in the Gateway office by the library. Eva will be available during intervals and lunchtimes over this next week to provide more info and help with the nomination process. 🛋️💬 Limited spots – don't miss out! ✨

AMAZING HANDS-ON WORK EXPERIENCE IN BUILDING & ELECTRICAL!

Are you a Year 12 or 13 student interested in Building or the Electrical trade? ⚡ 📏 We have limited spots available for work placements – and everything you need is provided! This is a massive opportunity to get real-world experience, build industry connections, and kickstart your career. 🚀 We're looking for 2 students for Building and 2 for Electrical – don't miss out! Come see Eva Hingston in the Gateway Office (by the library) at interval or lunchtime. Let's make this happen! Our team are ready to get you started ASAP!

NOTICE BOARD

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

GHA Chartered Accountants & Management Consultants

BFA BUSINESS ADVISORS AND ACCOUNTANTS

Phone: 07- 345 6124
Email: office@rotorualakes.school.nz
www.rotorualakes.school.nz