Rotorua Lakes High School

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

NEWSLETTER ISSUE # 4 – THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

Kia ora tātou,

Once again, another really busy fortnight at Rotorua Lakes High School and plenty to celebrate.

Winter sports are in full swing with our hockey, football and other codes performing well in their respective competitions. It's also great to see some individual stand out performances in Mountain Biking and Chess (see page 11 and 6 respectively).

This week we have started assessing our Literacy and Numeracy co-requisites. These are really important assessments as they are necessary for a student to achieve NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3. This will affect some students in Years 10,11 and 12. All students involved have been preparing for these assessments for some time and will know if they are involved. They are formal exams that are held in our Auditorium. We understand that this can be a bit daunting for some students but hope that with the support they have had from their teachers, they are able to perform at their best.

Last week we enjoyed a Performance Assembly (See Page 10) - it was again extremely positive to see the passion and talents of our students on show. All the students did a great performance. Especially positive was seeing our school choir out there bringing back a recently missed element of our performing arts. Across the board, our performing arts are going from strength to strength. This week our student leaders held a Student Led Assembly - it's never easy to stand in front of your peers and run an event. Our students demonstrated that they are growing fantastic capacity as leaders within our school community creating a dynamic and entertaining forty minutes for all our students and staff. Thanks to Whaea Haana for supporting them through the lead up to this assembly.

As you will be aware, we ran a very successful Lock Down Practice a short while ago. Whilst we hope we never have to do this for real, it is really important that everyone is clear about what we have to do in this sort of situation. I want to congratulate the students and staff for the way in which they conducted

themselves during the practice. A reminder, should we have to conduct a lock down for real, all messaging will be done through our website. Emails will also be sent but sometimes the interface is slow between our Student Management System and the email system. We will always do our best to expedite any information to whānau and our school community.

Another positive was our History and Economics trip to Wellington last week. From everything I have heard the students and staff had a very informative and enjoyable time. Thank you to Ms Chemis and Mr Meredith for supporting our students in the metropolis of Wellington. (See Page 8)

I had the pleasure of accompanying Declan Lesheid to the Rotary Speech Competition with Ms Hodge. He is most certainly a rising star in the theatrical and speech making arena. I look forward to seeing where his talents take him.

It's that time of year when the bugs are flying around. I am aware that there have been several flare ups of Covid outbreaks in other Rotorua Schools. We understand that it is a fine balance between wanting students to be attending school and making the decision to keep them home if they are not one hundred percent. We ask that if your child is exhibiting flu-like symptoms or stomach upsets, please do a Covid test and keep them at home if positive or symptoms are persisting. That way we can collectively keep our community safe.

Finally, a big shout out to all our parents and volunteers who support our sports codes. Without your help we would not be able to offer the wide range of sports that we have at RLHS. I know Whaea Lisa McFarlane, our sports coordinator, massively appreciates everyone who puts up their hand, as do I. If you feel you can help with anything from managing a team, coaching a sport or just being available to drive a van or car please contact her on email (mcfarlanel@rotorualakes.school.nz).

All that remains is for me to wish you a very pleasant weekend. Thank you for your continuing support of Rotorua Lakes High School and entrusting us with your tamariki.

Ngā mihi,

Jon Ward, Principal/Tumuaki

STUDENT INFORMATION

NCEA – LET'S MAKE IT SIMPLE - A REMINDER

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

How NCEA works video, English - NZQA

ASSESSMENTS

Corequisite CAA Exams will be held in Week 4 and 5 this term. Students who are sitting these will need to have logged into their NZQA accounts beforehand to check access. This will be done in class, but can also be checked from home. Please encourage students who are entered to revise and study at home over the coming weeks.

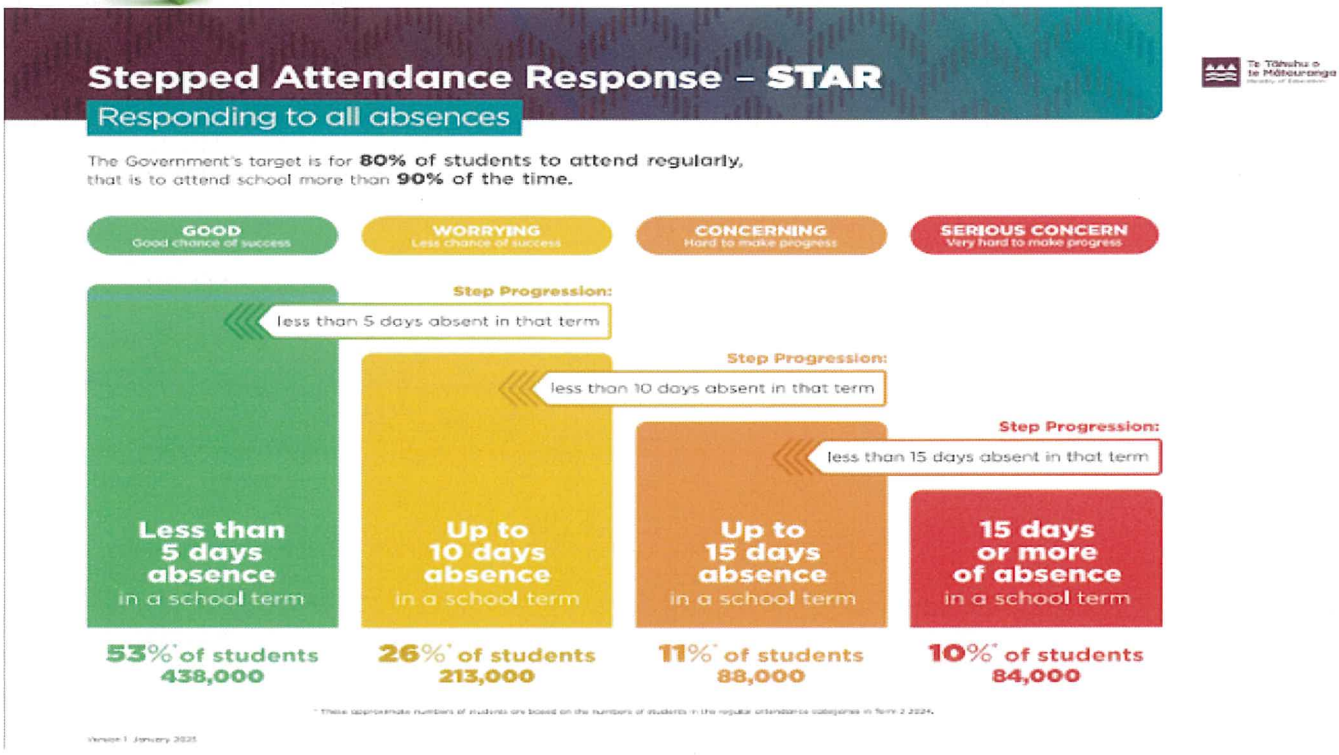
For numeracy exams, please make sure you bring your own pen, ruler and calculator.

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
L3	Physics - carry out a practical investigation	**91521**	12/6 - P1-4

Attendance

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



If you have any pātai around attendance, please contact Glenda Curtis – Assistant Principal curtisg@rotorualakes.school.nz

TERM 2 KEY DATES AND ACTIVITIES

AN UPDATED LOOK AT KEY DATES AND ACTIVITIES COMING UP DURING TERM 2 2025	
WEEK 4	
19-30 May	**CAA Lit/Num Testing**
21 May	Student Led Assembly
23 May	Rockquest Heats
WEEK 5	
26+27 May	Working @ Heights Course
28 May	House Assembly
28 May	Showquest Practice
29 May	Showquest + Toi
30 May	NCEA Summary Report
WEEK 6	
2 June	***King's Birthday (school closed)***
3 June	JNR EPRO8 Heats
4 June	SNR EDROB Heats
4 June	Principals Assembly
4 June	WBOP Cross Country
5 June	11SPS BMX Class Trip
WEEK 7	
9 June	Cans for a Cause Collection
10 June	Rotorua Interschools Chess
10 June	RLHS Board Meeting
11 June	BOPSS Squash Champs
11 June	RYDA Y11 Workshop
13 June	JNR/SNR Reports Issued
13 June	BOPSS Rock Climbing Champs
WEEK 8	
16 June	CBOP Snr Badminton Qual
17 June	BOPSS Squash Girls
17 +18 June	Barista Course
17+18 June	Parent Interviews
18 June	Performance Assembly
19 June	Kapahaka Regionals
20 June	***Matariki (school closed)***
WEEK 9	
24+25 June	EPIC
25 June	Excellence Assembly
26 June	11SPS BMX Class Trip
26 June	Y8 Future Leaders Day
27 June	**Staff Only Day and Last Day of Term 2**

FROM THE OFFICE TEAM - LOST PROPERTY

Parents and Caregivers - please come and check lost property regularly for any uniform or non-uniform items your child may have lost during the term.
At the end of each term, we recycle all lost property items not claimed.

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, and please remember to contact the school as early as possible if your child is away sick. Thank you.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Pink Shirt Day Aotearoa

Our Lakes High staff are rocking their pink today to say NO to bullying and YES to kindness, inclusion, and being Upstanders!

It's more than just a shirt - it's a statement. Let's keep creating spaces where everyone feels safe, valued, and seen.

Be an Upstander, not a bystander — every action counts!

Pink Ribbon Breakfast - A Morning of Manaakitanga

On 13th May, we gathered in support of a cause close to many hearts - acknowledging the 9 women diagnosed with breast cancer every single day in Aotearoa. Our Pink Ribbon Breakfast was not only a time to kōrero, connect, and share kai - but a powerful reminder of the strength of community when we come together.

A huge mihi to our Pink Ribbon Breakfast generous kai sponsors:

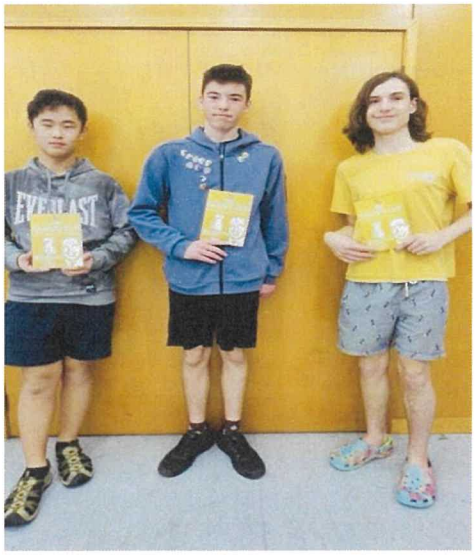
FreshChoice, Fat Dog Cafe and Bar, and Bidfood Rotorua - thank you for helping us nourish our guests with aroha.

To our amazing raffle prize donors - your kindness brought joy and helped raise funds for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ:

Cafe Dynasti, Artisan Cafe , Redwoods Treewalk Rotorua, Rail Cruising, Scope Rotorua, Ciabatta Cafe & Bakery, ZORB Rotorua, Rotorua Canopy Tours, Empower Wellness, Kylie's Beauty Clinic, Bloom Art - Florist Rotorua & BOP, Elegance Nails, Paradise Valley Springs

A special acknowledgement to Mrs Goodrick for driving the organisation of this event, and to all the incredible staff and students who pitched in to help - your mahi made this morning truly memorable.

Checkmate! Chess Success for Lakes High



A huge congratulations to Daniel Parker, Michael de Lore, and Koki Hara who competed in the local Sarapu Cup over this past weekend!

Koki and Michael placed 2nd and 3rd in the top Rooks Division, earning themselves a spot at the National Champions Trophy - what an achievement!

Rotary Speech Contest Champion! 🗣️✨

For the first time in a few years, Rotorua Lakes High School entered the prestigious Rotary Speech Contest hosted by the Rotary Club of Rotorua - and we came away with the win!

Declan Lescheid delivered a powerful and engaging speech on the topic "Are New Zealanders litterbugs?" (a throwback to the contest's original question 60 years ago), standing strong against competitors from RBHS, JPC, RGHS and Reporoa.

Declan not only took first place, but also claimed a cash prize and the Rotary Speech Shield!

TRENZ for Schools - A Taste of the Tourism Industry 🌟

Last week, Mrs Hodge and five of our Year 13 Tourism students had the incredible opportunity to attend TRENZ 2025, New Zealand's premier tourism business event right here in Rotorua!

With over 350 global buyers in town to connect with Aotearoa's leading tourism businesses, our students got a front-row seat to the marketing and business powerhouse behind the industry.

✨Wellington - Year 12 History & Economics Trip ✨

Last week, our Year 12 History and Economics classes travelled to Pōneke/Wellington for an incredible real-world learning experience. Led by Mr Meredith and Ms Chemis, the trip brought our curriculum to life in powerful ways.

Students explored key political and economic institutions that directly connect to their studies and future pathways.

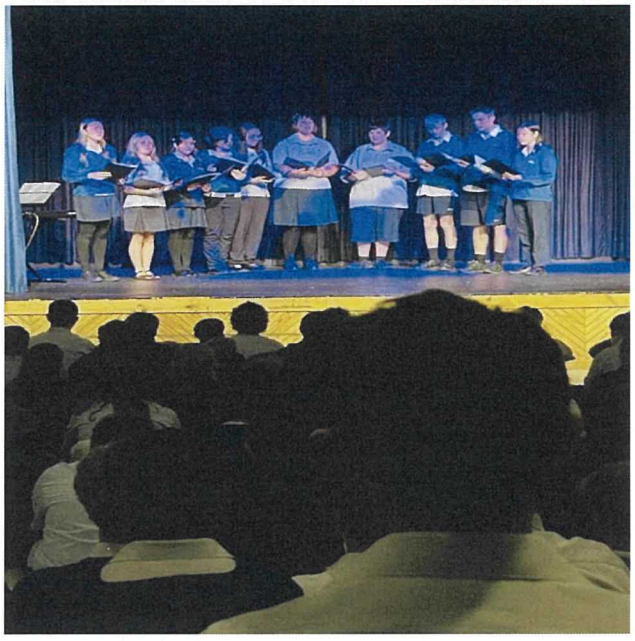
*****Visit our facebook page for more photos and further information on where the students visited.*

Whirinaki AOE Expedition - Mangamate Loop Adventure

Last week, our awesome Year 12 and 13 Applied Outdoor Education (AOE) students set off on a 3-day hikoi through the stunning Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne, tackling the remote Mangamate Loop Track.

PERFORMING ARTS

✨ RLHS Performance Assembly Highlights 🌈



Today's assembly was a celebration of the performing arts at Rotorua Lakes High School - and what a showcase it was!

Our Te Ao Haka classes opened and closed the event with powerful kapa haka performances that brought pride and energy to the stage. In between, our new RLHS Choir made their debut with the choral classic "As Long As I Have Music," and one of our senior bands lit up the hall with an electrifying cover of Purple Rain by Prince.

A special shoutout to our amazing Year 13 MC Alana Bennett who confidently and warmly guided us through the programme - tino pai!

****Go onto our facebook page to watch Kapa Haka perform on stage*

SPORTS

Noah Croucher Shreds the National Enduro Series!

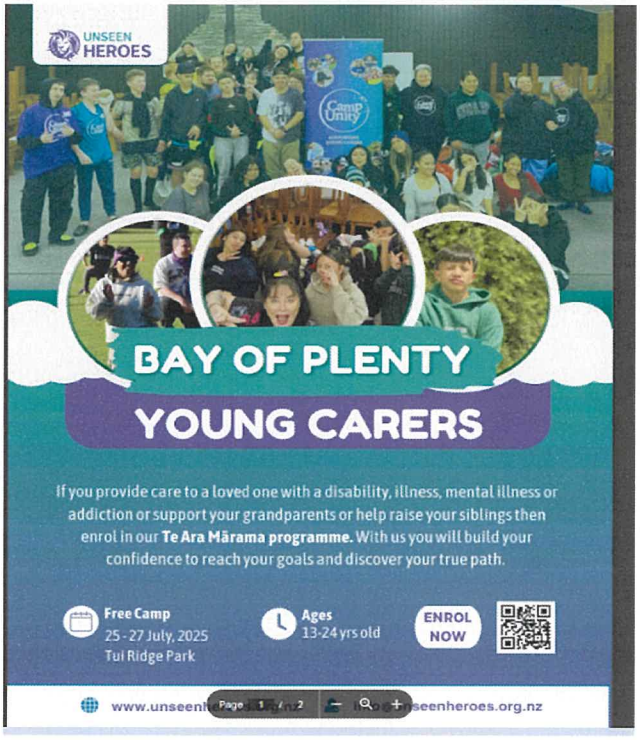
A huge congrats to Year 10 student Noah Croucher, who finished 2nd overall in the NZ National Enduro MTB Series - U17 category... at just 14 years old! First year racing at this level and already on the podium!

Year 11 Sports Science Hits the BMX Track!

Last week our Year 11 Sports Science class spent the morning at Rotorua Bmx Club - and what a ride it was! A huge shoutout to Sam from Rotorua BMX for sharing her time, knowledge and aroha with our students.

It was more than just a lesson - it was an experience in courage, growth, and teamwork. From a competitive BMX rider to students who hadn't ridden in years (some since accidents), everyone pushed themselves.

RLHS COMMUNITY NOTICES



Free workshop for people teaching teens to drive

If you are teaching a young person to drive, or are about to, don't miss this free workshop in Rotorua on the 12 June 2025

We will go through:

- Unlock the Mysteries of the Teenage Brain: What Makes Driving a Challenge?
- Decode Risk Factors for Young Drivers
- Learn the art of Coaching a Learner Driver
- Help you support the transition to solo driving
- Set a plan for collaborating with Driving Instructors
- And much more.

Drive Coach is a practical workshop which updates parents on latest research and road safety approaches, outlines some of the conversations our facilitators have with their children at Ryda and gives them an opportunity to ask questions and get advice from the experts. Drive Coach is routinely organised by a school or community group, generally in conjunction with a Ryda programme being held in the area. Your school has recently attended Ryda or may be about to and so we don't want your parents to miss the opportunity to be involved.

Please forward this email to your school community and feel free to post this on your Facebook page as well. We have attached a flyer with more information and also go to our website for more information:
https://rse.org.nz/our-programs/drivecoach/

Complimentary refreshments provided from 5:30pm

Key details:
Date: 12 June 2025
Time: 5:45-7pm

Location: Rotorua Race Club
274/278 Fenton Street, Arawa Park,

Register for free now

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