Rotorua Lakes High School

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

NEWSLETTER ISSUE # 6 – WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2025

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

Kia ora tātou,

As we draw close to the end of Term 2 I want to thank our students, caregivers and staff for supporting the learning that has occurred thus far in 2025. It's been a busy Term 2. Academically with NCEA in full swing and the Literacy and Numeracy Common Assessment Activities; Culturally with our EPIC performance, Showquest and culminating in our Regional Secondary School Kapa Haka competition; and on a Sporting front. The mahi that has been put in across the board is phenomenal. Seeing our students achieve such success has been amazing.

Some of you will be aware but others may not. In term 3 I will be on a study sabbatical over to Australia and the UK. This will mean that Jo Sturme will be Acting Principal for Term 3. I am confident that RLHS will continue to run as normal and that Jo and the staff will support our students to ongoing success through next term. I will be around school from time to time and irregularly picking up emails, but will not be responding to school matters on a daily basis. If you contact the school office they will be able to direct you to the most suitable person.

As we count down to the school holidays I wish you all a safe and positive family time.

Ngā mihi,

Jon Ward,
Principal/Tumuaki

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - ELECTIONS

Board of Trustees Elections – Get Involved

The upcoming Board of Trustees elections are just around the corner, and Rotorua Lakes High School is calling on members of our school community to consider putting themselves forward.

Being a school trustee is a meaningful way to support and shape the future of our school. Trustees play a vital role in making key decisions that affect student achievement, school direction, financial planning, and governance. It's a chance to give back while gaining valuable experience in leadership, governance, and strategic planning.

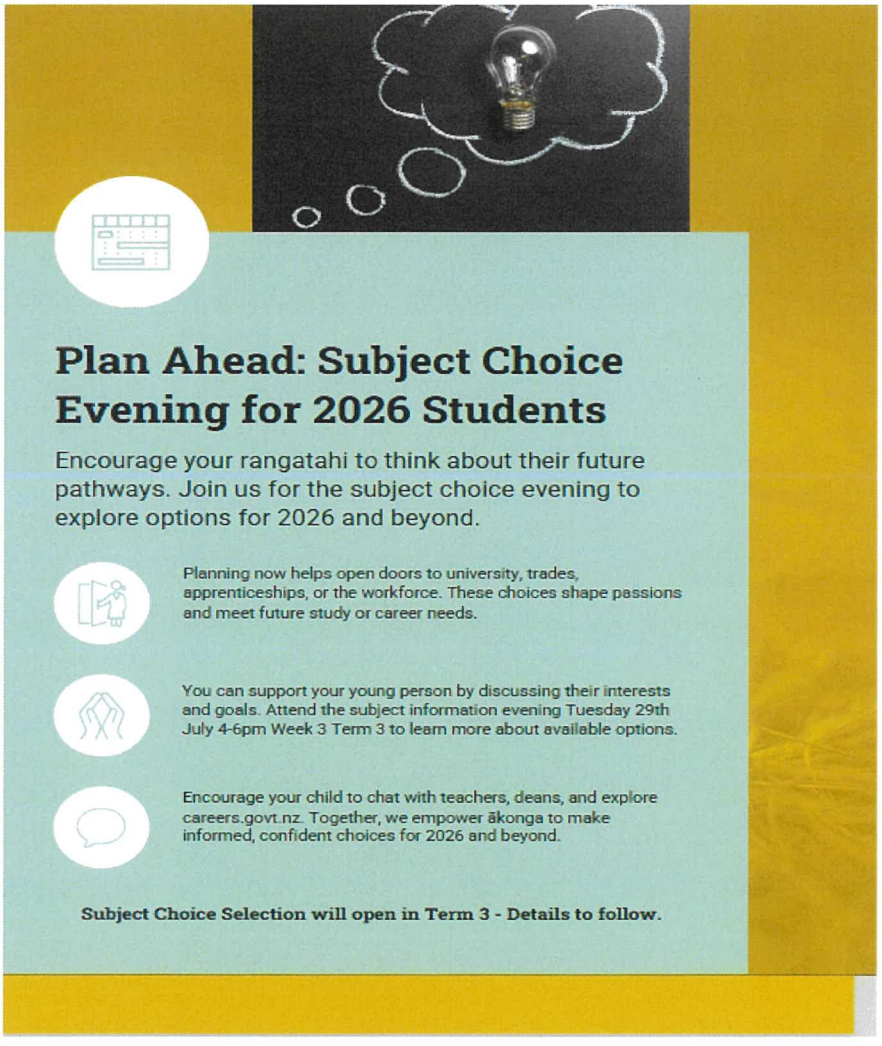
Whether you're a parent, caregiver, or community member, your perspective and commitment could make a real difference. No previous board experience is necessary – just a genuine interest in helping Rotorua Lakes High School continue to grow and succeed. Training and on-going support are provided.

If you want to contribute to the education of our young people and be part of a team that is passionate about student wellbeing and achievement, we encourage you to stand for election.

Nominations will open soon – keep an eye on our website and newsletters for key dates and details.

STUDENT INFORMATION

2026 STUDENT SUBJECT CHOICE EVENING



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 www2.nzqa.govt.nz

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

REMEMBER - School starts at 8:45am (first period) Monday - Friday

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.

FROM OUR OFFICE TEAM - SCHOOL BALL 2025

Please note, all those students who are going to the school ball **must** have paid their sports fees in full, no later than 27 June 2025.

KEY DATES AND ACTIVITIES COMING UP

END OF TERM 2 + START OF TERM 3	
WEEK 9	
24 June	Yr 12 AOE Mountain Biking - Redwoods
24+25 June	EPIC NIGHT OUT
25 June	Excellence Assembly
25 June	EOTC Maungatautari Sanctuary Mountain 9KOW Project Day Trip
26 June	11SPS BMX Class Trip
26 June	**Y8 Future Leaders Day**
27 June	**Staff Only Day and Last Day of Term 2**
WEEK 1	***TERM 3***
17 July	Y12 Loves me Not
19 July	**Senior School Ball**
WEEK 2	
21-22 July	Y9 (opt in only) Hearing Screening

22 July	**School Open Evening**
24-25 July	Chainsaw Course
WEEK 3	
29 July	**Subject Choice Selection Evening**
30-31 July	Health & Safety Drug Course
31 July	**School Open Day**

Gateway

Rotorua Lakes High School Needs Local Businesses to Get Involved – Help Shape the Future Workforce

The success of the Gateway Programme depends on the support of local businesses like yours. By offering a student a work placement, you're not only giving them valuable experience—you're also investing in the future of your industry and community.

We're actively seeking businesses willing to take on senior students (Years 12–13) for short-term or longer-term work placements. **Placements are flexible** and can be tailored to suit both the student's learning needs and the employer's availability.

Why Get Involved?

- Inspire and mentor the next generation
- Help students gain real-world skills
- Give back to the community
- Promote your industry to future workers
- Help students make informed career choices

What is Gateway?

Gateway is a school-based programme that gives senior students the chance to learn in real workplaces while earning NCEA credits and working towards industry-relevant qualifications. It connects students with hands-on experiences that help guide their career paths in a practical, supportive way.

Students benefit from:

- Real-world work experience
- Insight into different careers
- Credits towards national qualifications (NZQA)
- Confidence in their future choices

But we can't do it without you.

If you own or work for a business that could support a student—even for a short time—we'd love to hear from you. Your support truly makes a difference.

For more information or to get involved, please contact:
Mrs Eva Hingston
Phone: 07 345 6124 ext 258
Email: hingstonev@rotorualakes.school.nz

Students are also welcome to drop by the Gateway Office anytime for more information.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Leadership & Real-World Learning 🌟

Last week we were honoured to welcome our Mayor, Tania Tapsell, to Rotorua Lakes High School as part of the Year 9 Social Studies Government & Leadership unit. 🏛️✨

Mayor Tapsell spoke to 9 Kowhai and 9 Rimu about the work of Rotorua Lakes Council and shared some inspiring life lessons:

💬 "Hard work goes a long way."

💬 "You can be a leader no matter your age or where you come from."

💬 "Be your own brand ambassador."

Our students showed their maturity and curiosity, asking thoughtful questions on everything from mental health and mountain biking funding to homelessness and local issues.

Future Leaders In The Making ✨🎓

A very special moment last week at Rotorua Intermediate, where they celebrated their 2025 prefect team. 💙

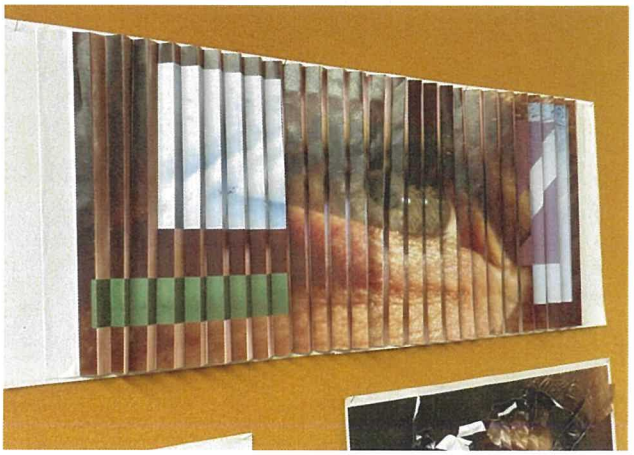
Among those attending was our very own Jack Te Kiri, now Year 9 at Lakes High, who returned to his former kura to speak as 2024 Head Boy of Rotorua Intermediate. Jack spoke beautifully, encouraging the new leaders as they begin their own journey.

Ka rawe Jack - we're proud of the role model you are becoming here at Lakes High!

SPP Students Spread Aiga Vibes at BestStart Lynmore

As part of Samoan Language Week, four of our Senior Pathways Programme students visited BestStart Lynmore for a morning full of connection and fun. 💛💛💛💛

Works by Patrick Allen - Year 13 Photography



Patrick has been exploring macro photography and the human face, producing a stunning and mature body of work that reflects both creativity and emotional depth. Using classmates and whānau as his models, his portraits are rich with connection and care.

This kind of artistic vision shows true growth, and we know his whānau must be incredibly proud - we certainly are. Ka mau te wehi, Patrick!

Interschool Chess at Lakes High - 2025

Rotorua Lakes High School proudly hosted over 100 students on campus for the 2025 Interschool Chess Tournament - held right here yesterday!

The day began with a powerful haka from our very own Puketawhero Kapa Haka roopu, followed by a warm and confident welcome from Teuila and Waihuia. This beautiful expression of manaakitanga set the tone for a day filled with strategy, focus, and connection.

Our Lakes High team placed 5th overall, with just 1.5 points separating us from the top three - an awesome achievement in a competitive field.

Special mention to Michael de Lore, who finished 13th out of 80 players.

We were proud to welcome teams from:

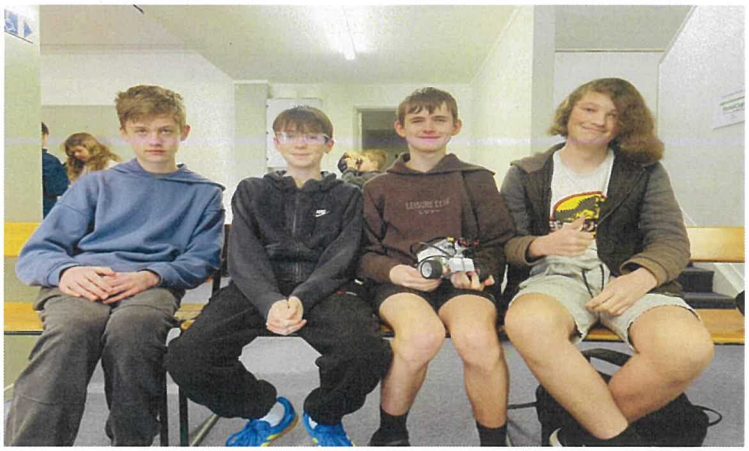
ACG Tauranga /Tauhara College/Trident High School/Western Heights High School/

Rotorua Boys' High School/John Paul College (intermediate & senior teams)/Mokoia Intermediate/Rotorua Lakes High SchooL

RoboCup Junior Regional 2025 - Success for Lakes!

A massive congratulations to our talented Year 10 team - Rory King, Aden Rudd, Dara Wilson, and Jack McGuire - who proudly represented Rotorua Lakes High School at the RoboCup Junior Regional Competition on Sunday 15 June 2025!

Competing as R.A.C. (Robots and Computers), the team placed 2nd in the Secondary Rescue event - an outstanding result after many lunchtimes spent fine-tuning their robot and coding skills in A6.



PERFORMING ARTS

Lakes High Take the Win!

Bay of Plenty Regional Showquest 2025

Recently our students returned to kura tired but proud - with a trophy in hand!

After months of mahi, creativity, and aroha, our Rotorua Lakes High School crew took out 1st place at the Bay of Plenty Regional Showquest 2025!

Their performance, themed around Sonder - the idea that everyone's life is as complex and rich as your own - wowed the judges and crowd alike. Alongside the top spot, they also earned:

- Excellence in Dance
- Excellence in Arts
- Excellence in Technology

SPORTS

❄️ Rowers Take On the Waikato! ❄️💪

On the coldest morning of the year, what did our Lakes High rowers do? They raced, of course!

Six incredible RLHS students took on an epic 11km challenge from Horahora Domain to Lake Karāpiro, joining 50 boats on the river for this icy adventure.

Congratulations to Ella-May, Ruby, Jasmine, Grace, Holly, and Ayden for representing our kura with determination and pride! 🏁🔥

🚴 Poppy Croucher: Flying the Flag for Aotearoa! 🚴🌍

We are incredibly proud of Poppy Croucher, our much-respected Deputy Head Girl and Year 13 student, who is currently on her way to Italy representing New Zealand at two Enduro Mountain Bike World Cup events! 🇳🇿🇮🇹

Poppy is racing in:

- Val di Fassa (Dolomites) – a two-day alpine event
- La Thuile (Alps) – a one-day, multi-stage downhill race

Both events cover 40–60 km of steep, technical terrain - an incredible feat!

Battle of the Kaimai Champions! 🏆⚽

Huge congratulations to our Year 9 students Hayley Gribble and Claudia Dunn for proudly representing Rotorua Lakes High School as part of the Lakes Football Club team, who took out the win at the Battle of the Kaimai's Football Tournament in Hamilton! 🔥

The tournament saw the best U14 girls teams from across the Bay of Plenty and Waikato go head-to-head - and the Lakes FC girls came out on top! 🙌

RLHS SPONSORS

GHA Chartered Accountants & Management Consultants

BFA BUSINESS ADVISORS AND ACCOUNTANTS

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