Rotorua Lakes High School

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

NEWSLETTER ISSUE # 7 – THURSDAY 24 JULY 2025

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

Welcome to Term 3 – traditionally one of the busiest terms of the year, and this one is no exception. As Acting Principal while Mr Ward is on sabbatical, I feel privileged to step into this role and support our ākonga, staff and whānau through what promises to be a rewarding and action-packed few weeks.

At the end of last term, our kapa haka rōpū represented us with pride at the regional competition. While they didn't place overall, they achieved recognition in a number of categories and gave a powerful performance that resonated across the kura. Staff had the livestream playing in the classroom. It was a special moment of shared pride and support. A huge mihi to the external tutors Te Taepa Kameta, Te Aowheoro Hohepa-Gardiner, Hineawa Hohepa-Gardiner, Rhys Hohepa, Turanga Merit, Hori Hapi, and Matua Moli who helped prepare our performers for this important event. A big thank you to the whanau who supported your tamariki in many different ways, throughout the 10 weeks of this journey. Without you we would not have been able to take the stage. It was a privilege for the Maori Department Staff to walk alongside the group and be led by Whaea Merekara, Matua Rhys and their whanau. E kore e mutu te mihi, te koe me te miharo.

We also celebrated a highlight on the social calendar – the School Ball – a night of elegance and fun that reflected the spirit and maturity of our senior students. We thank all the team behind this event led by our Year 13 Dean, Whaea Haana. Beyond these events, there have been many other individual and group student successes that continue to make us proud. To all our students striving in academics, sport, arts and leadership – ka mau te wehi!

We are proud to welcome three new students to our prefect team. Congratulations to - Da'Rell Martin, Madeline Maunder, and Waihuia Te Whata.

A special thank you goes to the akonga who served as ambassadors during our Open Night. Your pride in our school and ability to articulate what makes our kura special did not go unnoticed. It's a privilege to showcase

our people and programmes to prospective akonga and whānau. A reminder of our upcoming Open Day is in the newsletter, the outline of the day's arrangements has been previously emailed out to you.

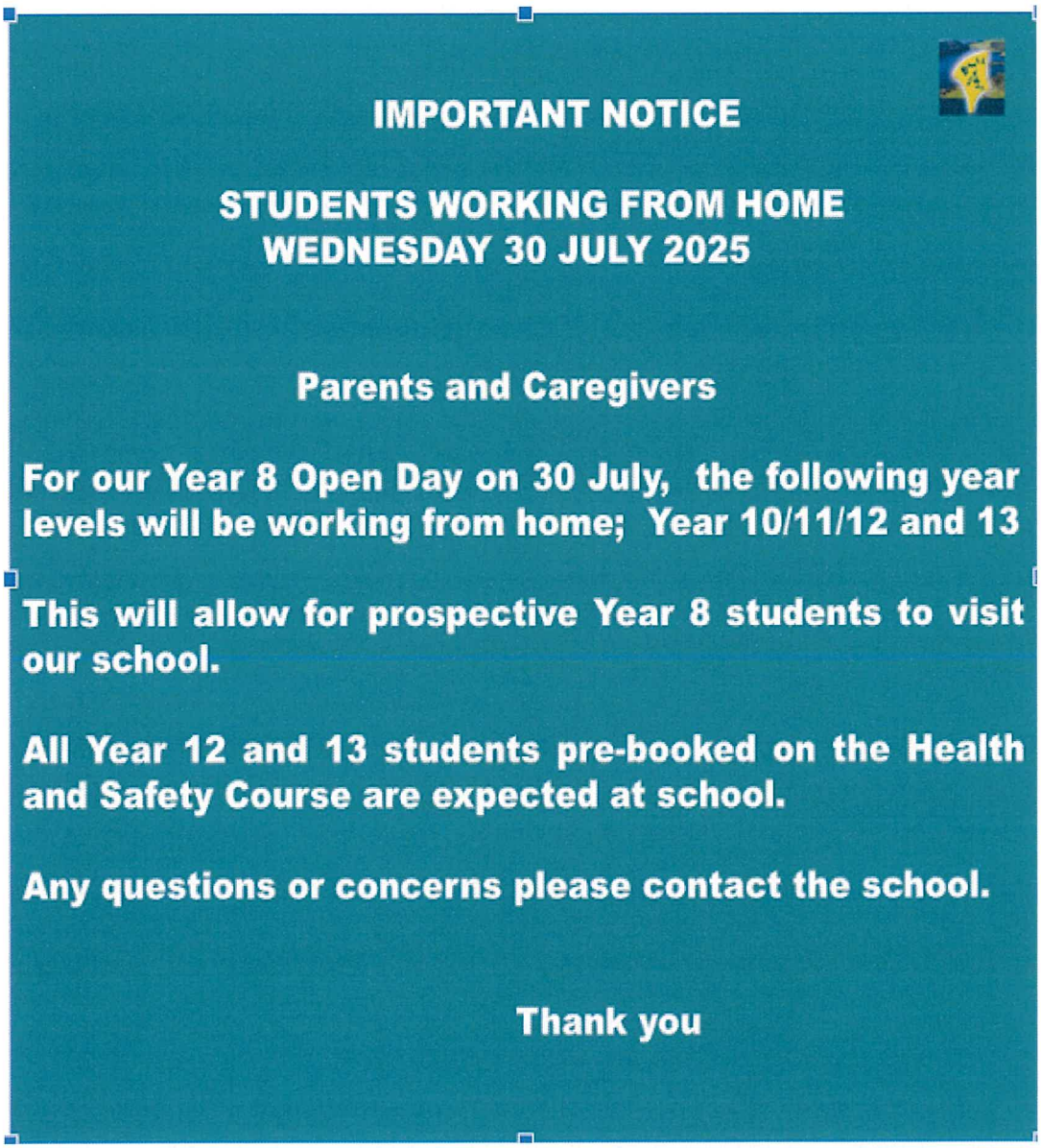
Looking ahead, subject selection is a key focus for akonga in Years 10–12. These decisions help shape future pathways, so we strongly encourage whānau to have conversations at home and to make use of excellent resources such as www.careers.govt.nz. and Tahatu.govt.nz. Planning ahead and knowing the possibilities can make a big difference. We welcome you to our Subject Choice hui, where you and your child will be able to talk to staff to aid your choices. This is on **Tuesday 29th July from 4-6pm.**

You will also see our new signage displaying our school values at both the front of the school and around the school. It's exciting to see each step of the journey of embedding these into our everyday actions taking shape.

Thank you as always for your continued support of our Kura. Term 3 is full of opportunity, and we look forward to seeing our akonga take on the challenges and celebrations ahead with determination and pride.

Nga mihi nui

Jo Sturme,
Acting Principal



SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Rotorua Lakes High School - School Board Elections

Parent Election Notice

Nominations are open for the election of *5* parent representatives to the school board.

All eligible voters will receive a nomination form. Use this form to nominate yourself or someone in your community. You will also receive a nomination cover letter calling for nominations. Information on who is not eligible to be a board member is provided with this notice, and the nomination form.

If you need more nomination forms, contact the school office.

Nominations close at **noon** on *Wednesday 6 August*. You may provide a signed candidate statement and photograph with your nomination.

The electoral roll is held at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

As nominations are received, there will be a list of candidates' names kept at the school up until election day, which you can view.

Voting closes at **4pm** on Wednesday 10 September.

Signed *Eric Yu*

Returning Officer

People who are not eligible to be school board members

The following people are not eligible to be school board members. A person who:

- is an undischarged bankrupt; or
- is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, or the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013, or the Takeovers Act 1993; or
- is a permanently appointed member of the Board staff, unless they are standing for election as a staff representative; or
- contracts or sub-contracts with the Board without the approval of the Secretary of Education and receives payments exceeding $25,000 in any financial year. This would also cover situations where a person has a 10% or more shareholding in the contracting company or a company that controls the contracting company; or
- is subject to a property order under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988; or
- has been convicted of a specified offence identified in Schedule 2 of the Children's Act 2014, unless that person has obtained a pardon or been granted an exemption; or
- is a person in respect of whom a personal order has been made under that Act that either the person is not competent to manage his or her own property affairs, or does not have the capacity to communicate/make decisions relating to his/her welfare/personal care; or
- is a person who has been convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for 2 years or more, or who has been sentenced to imprisonment for any other offence, unless that person has obtained a pardon,

served the sentence, or otherwise suffered the penalty imposed on the person; or

- is not a New Zealand citizen, **and** is –
  - a person to whom section 15 or 16 of the Immigration Act 2009 applies; or
  - a person obliged, by or pursuant to that Act, to leave New Zealand immediately or within a specified time, being a time that was less than 12 months; or
  - deemed for the purposes of that Act to be in New Zealand unlawfully.

A returning officer for an election (or by elections) of board members is not eligible to be nominated as a candidate in that election.

For more information:

- see clauses 9 and 10 of Schedule 23 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the list above is a summary of these clauses).
- call NZSBA Advisory and Support Centre 0800 782 435, option 1.

SCHOOL POLICIES

WHERE TO ACCESS THE SCHOOL POLICIES FOR COMMUNITY REVIEW AND FEEDBACK - TERM 3

Rotorua Lakes High works with SchoolDocs to provide a website for maintaining, updating and reviewing our school policies. SchoolDocs updates policies in response to changes in legislation and Ministry guidelines, reviews/requests from schools and regular research from the SchoolDocs team.

Our school board, school staff and wider school community has the opportunity to view changes/additions, and comment on them before they are implemented. At the start of each term there are policies that are up for review. You can take part in the review of these policies during that current term, by visiting:

https://rotorualakes.schooldocs.co.nz

Username: rotorualakes

Password: community

How to Get started

Go to the **Current Review** tab at the top of the site - once you are in this site - you will be able to view which policies are currently under review for Term 3 (if a link is inactive, our school doesn't have this topic available)

To start reviewing, click on a topic name - current policy under review, select - **start your review** - anyone in the school community can submit a review for that policy. Follow the instructions to complete the process for each policy you would like to provide feedback on.

Your feedback will automatically be sent to the SchoolDocs team and to the designated staff and board members of the school. The SchoolDocs team uses content feedback to make changes to policy information as appropriate.

For the full policy review schedule: go to - Home page/Review tab/Current Review and Review Instructions - Review Schedule and Board Assurances

STUDENT INFORMATION

STUDENT SUBJECT CHOICE EVENING - 29 July 2025

Plan Ahead: Subject Choice Evening for 2026 Students

Encourage your rangatahi to think about their future pathways. Join us for the subject choice evening to explore options for 2026 and beyond.

Planning now helps open doors to university, trades, apprenticeships, or the workforce. These choices shape passions and meet future study or career needs.

You can support your young person by discussing their interests and goals. Attend the subject information evening Tuesday 29th July 4-6pm Week 3 Term 3 to learn more about available options.

Encourage your child to chat with teachers, deans, and explore careers.govt.nz. Together, we empower ākonga to make informed, confident choices for 2026 and beyond.

Subject Choice Selection will open in Term 3 - Details to follow.

Subject Choice Selection will be via Schoolbridge and will open on Tuesday 29th for 1 week

IMPORTANT NOTICE

For the students safety, they should use the pedestrian crossing to enter and leave the school at all times.

The dedicated bus parking is for buses only between 3:15 pm-3:45 pm.

The squash court driveway is not to be used for general parking, student drop off or student pick up and any time.

Thank you

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

ASSESSMENTS

The following assessment has 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
L2	PPE - Social Responsibility	**AS2.8**	25/07/2025

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.

KEY DATES AND ACTIVITIES COMING UP

TERM 3	
WEEK 2	
21-22 July	Y9 (opt in only) Hearing Screening
22 July	**School Open Evening**
23 July	NCEA Me Te Whanau Workshops
24 July	11 SPS BMX
24-25 July	Chainsaw Course
25 July	EOTC 12 SPP
WEEK 3	
29 July	**Subject Choice Selection Evening**
29 July	EOTC 13 AOE Rafting Trip
30 July	**School Open Day**
30 July	Student Led Assembly
30-31 July	Health & Safety Drug Course
1 August	EOTC 11SPP
1 August	Snr NCEA Summary
WEEK 4	
4 August	Get to Go challenge
5 August	Y13 Tourism Trip
6 August	Whakapiki Early Exposure Y9-11
7 August	Morrinsville Exchange
10-15 August	HIllary Outdoors Camp
WEEK 5	
12 August	Board Meeting
13 August	11PPE Class Trips

2025 SCHOOL PREFECTS

Congratulations to these three new students who join our team of prefects for 2025

Da 'Rell Martin

Madeline Maunder

Waihuia Te Whata

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Future Leaders, Real Voices – Promoting Lakes High

Recently, we had the privilege of taking two of our amazing Year 9 ākonga – Jack Te Kiri and Hayley Gribble – into the MediaWorks Rotorua studios to record our radio ads for this year's Open Evening!

These two were naturals behind the mic and spoke from the heart about what makes Rotorua Lakes High School such a special place. Keep an ear out for them on the airwaves!

2025 LAKES HIGH SCHOOL BALL

FUTURE LEADERS OF LAKES - WHAKATIPU RANGATIRA 2025

An amazing start to a powerful day of leadership, connection, and inspiration here at Te Kura o Ngā Moana – Rotorua Lakes High School.

Our Year 8 Future Leaders were welcomed with a moving whakatau, led by our kapa haka group Te Kura o Nga Moana, Principal Jon Ward, our Deputy Head Boy Lachie Hoggard and our Sports Prefect Teuila Schuster. Aroha nui to the many whānau who came to tautoko this special moment.

Matua Tāmati Coffey opened our day with warmth, cultural grounding, and a deep sense of identity - honouring tikanga as mana whenua of Ngāti Te Roro o Te Rangi, and reminding us that great leadership starts with knowing who you are and where you are from.

The day ahead is packed with inspiring workshops designed to spark confidence, identity, and leadership potential:

Leadership games and storytelling ✨

A powerful student panel of inspirational speakers 🎤

A team bridge-building challenge 🟥

Cultural activities, whānau games, and house identity kōrero 🎯

Adventure-based challenges 🌿

And of course - sausage sizzle at morning tea and a pizza lunch with our Principal and staff, with live music from one of our talented students, Troy Beckler. 🍕

This event proudly reflects our RLHS values:

Manaakitanga – lifting each other through kindness and care

Whānaungatanga – building deep connections and belonging

Wairuatanga – discovering strength through identity

Whakapapa – honouring our journey and where we come from

RLHS KAPA HAKA ROPU

Our Kapa Haka Ropu performed recently at the regional competition and gave a powerful performance that resonated across the kura. They represented us with great pride.

Taking Off Into Aviation! ✈

A group of our Lakes High students are taking part in an exciting 10-week Aviation Ground Handling course through our Gateway Programme, in partnership with JNP Aviation Training and Rotorua Airport.

One day a week, these students are learning the ins and outs of the aviation industry – from two-way radio use and bag handling, to air cargo safety, emergency response, rolling stock, aircraft loading, and more!

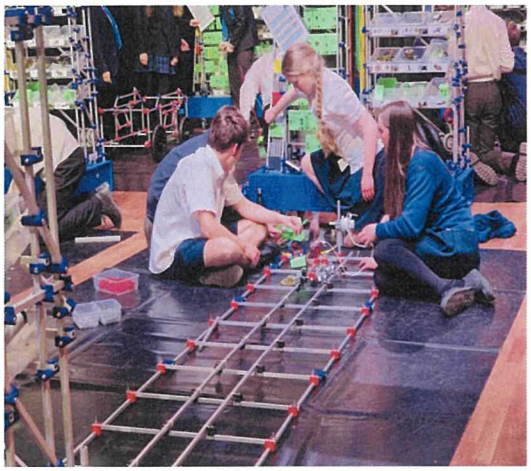
By the end of the course, they'll earn a NZQA Micro-Credential in Aviation Ground Handling along with valuable Level 3 NCEA credits – all while gaining real-world skills and experience.

The success of the Gateway Programme depends on the support of local businesses. 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.... Gateway Co-ordinator, Mrs Eva Hingston

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

Congratulations to our Junior and Senior EPro8 Teams!

Recently, our Junior EPro8 team took 1st place in their semi-final at The University of Waikato! Both the Junior and Senior teams competed in thrilling engineering challenges, showing outstanding teamwork, creativity, and perseverance.



From Rotorua to Washington D.C. - Siwan Represents Aotearoa at Aquabots Internationals!

We're incredibly proud of Siwan Lloyd-Jones, who recently travelled to the USA to compete at the Aquabots Internationals in Washington D.C., representing New Zealand as part of Team Tahi from SAGE Engineering Club.

Their journey started right here in the Bay of Plenty with a local Aquabots competition, followed by winning the national title and earning the right to take on the world.

In Washington D.C., Team Tahi:

Completed a comprehensive technical report

Tackled an underwater obstacle course and a mission challenge themed around environmental monitoring

Delivered a presentation on the innovative aspects of their aquabot design

Out of more than 70 teams from across the globe, Team Tahi placed 19th overall, with their technical report scoring an incredible 9th place!

This achievement is a testament to Siwan's leadership, teamwork, and dedication - and to all those who backed the team through sponsorship and fundraising.

PERFORMING ARTS

LAKES HIGH STARS ON STAGE!

Huge congratulations to our incredibly talented students, Year 9 student, Lee DuPavilion, who performed as Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz with Lakes Performing Arts Centre at the Sir Howard Morrison Centre! Alongside Year 10 student Charlee Thornborough who was part of the ensemble - which was her 6th show with the Lakes Performing Arts Centre.

SPORTS

NZSS Orienteering Championships 2025

What a way to finish the holidays! Over the final weekend of July break, 11 Lakes High students travelled to Auckland to take on the New Zealand Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships - and came home absolutely crushing it across the dunes, mud, and forest trails.

From top individual finishes to relay glory, our students showed outstanding resilience, strategy, and teamwork - and proved just how strong our kura is.

BOP Secondary Schools Rock Climbing Success!

A strong crew of RLHS students competed in the Bay of Plenty Secondary Schools Rock Climbing Competition - with over 100 competitors from across the region!

We're thrilled to share some fantastic results:

2nd – Senior Girls: Nicole Wallace (Year 11)

2nd – Senior Boys: Dane Napier (Year 13)

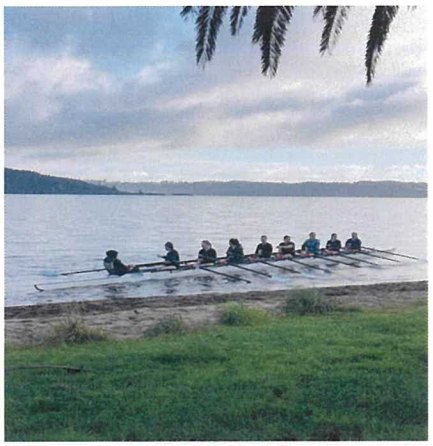
3rd – Junior Girls: Elspeth Napier (Year 10)

Huge shout out also to Lucas Corson, Max Stratford, Fraser Barclay and Jamie Bennett - who all climbed with grit and determination. Ka mau te wehi! Our students climbed with courage, focus, and incredible skill - and we couldn't be prouder!

Matariki Morning on the Moana!

What an incredible way to start Matariki - with 9 of our RLHS rowers taking on the Row Around Lake Rotorua, a 33 km challenge completed in just 3 ½ hours!

In true Rotorua fashion, they experienced all four seasons on the water - sunshine, rain, wind, and everything in between - but that didn't stop them. They finished strong, smiling, and absolutely buzzing with pride in what they had achieved.



Girls 1st XI Hockey – A Season of Growth and Grit

A couple of weeks ago, our Girls 1st XI Hockey team had a standout moment in what has already been an exciting and eventful season. Taking on the top-of-the-table team, Whakatāne High School, our players gave it everything - and came away with a hard-fought 2-1 victory!

Goals came from Chloe in the second quarter and Amelia with 5 minutes to go. The team showed incredible determination, holding off strong pressure and refusing to give up.

While some other games have ended in close losses, this group has grown stronger with every match, showing awesome grit and teamwork throughout.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Rotorua is hosting Cadenza, the annual secondary schools choral festival at the Sir Howard Morrison Centre on **Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th August.** For More information visit: nzcf.org.nz

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