Rotorua Lakes High School

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

NEWSLETTER ISSUE # 9 – FRIDAY 22 AUGUST 2025

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

The Secondary Schools Winter Sports Tournament is next week, with some of our teams representing our school. This is always an exciting time in the secondary school calendar, with students testing themselves in competition, building friendships, and creating memories that will stay with them long after the final whistle. Alongside these events, we also recognise and celebrate the many other sporting activities our students are engaged in, both through school and in the wider community. Sport plays an important role in the lives of young rangitahi — teaching teamwork, resilience, discipline, and balance. At our school, we remain committed to developing the whole student, both in the classroom and beyond.

These opportunities would not be possible without the dedication of our staff. Whether as coaches or managers they give countless hours, well outside their job description, to ensure students can take part and succeed. Their contribution is invaluable, and I want to acknowledge and thank them for the passion and energy they bring. In the current climate, where the value of teachers is a topic of national discussion, it is important that we recognise the extraordinary lengths our staff go to for our rangatahi.

We are also equally grateful for the many parents, whānau, and community members who volunteer their time and expertise. Whether driving a van, managing/coaching a team, or supporting on the sideline, your contribution helps us to provide the rich sporting opportunities our students enjoy. We simply could not offer the breadth of experiences we do without you.

Finally, while on the theme of thanking our volunteers I would like to acknowledge our volunteers for the School Trustees. With elections currently underway, we thank those who have put their hands up to play a role in the governance of the school. It is most timely to recognise and thank our outgoing Board members for their governance, support, and commitment to our kura. Nga mihi to Todd Cheesman (Presiding Member),

Bruce Davidson, Aaron Randell, Tony Waites, Anahera Waru, Lucille Yates Wright (Staff Representative) and Divjot Bairagi (Student Representative). Their mahi has made a real difference for our school and our young people, and we are very appreciative of their service.

Nga mihi nui

Jo Sturme
Acting Principal

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

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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.

NCEA

An update on the NCEA announcement from the Minister of Education, which was made 4 August, was recently emailed out to all parents and caregivers. If you would like to review the full details go to: Consultation on proposal to replace NCEA (education.govt.nz)

While we respond to the proposed changes to NCEA, whanau of students currently sitting our national qualification can be assured that NCEA is a good qualification, and we are committed to delivering quality teaching and learning programmes for all students at Rotorua Lakes HIgh School.

We know that NCEA can feel confusing for many students and their whānau, at times, 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

CAA Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite Exams

These important exams are coming up between September 1 to 5.

In Numeracy, all 9 Kowhai, most Year 10 students, and a number of Year 11,12 and 13 students will have another opportunity to sit this.

For Literacy most Year 10 students and those in Year 11, 12 and 13 who need to resit will also sit.

It is important that your child is present for these exams. These are external exams and this is the last chance this year to sit these. The exact dates will be confirmed next week.

For the Numeracy exam, students need a **reasonable calculator, a metric ruler with a clear scale** and a **pen for working**. These things need to be brought to school now so they can use them for the skills practice they will be doing in their classes.

Regular attendance is important as always
Here is some more information about the co-requisites
Lit/Num Guide re Co-Requisites for Parents and Caregivers
Te Reo Version of Lit/Num Guide re Co-requisites for Whanau

Please be in touch with the school if you have any questions or issues.

Prelim Exams

Prelim exams are in Week 9 or Term three, the 8 th – 12 th of September.
There are two exams or sessions per day. Morning exams start at 9am, afternoon exams start at 1.15pm

Where to Go:
Blue exams: Go to the auditorium. Line up with your class — supervisors will direct you.
Red exams: Go to the room your teacher has told you, or check the noticeboard at the front of the school each day.

All students are expected to attend their allocated sessions, and any absence will be followed up. You do not need to sign in or out for exam sessions as rolls will be taken, but if you are at school during a free slot to study or see a teacher, you must follow the normal sign-in and sign-out process. Full school uniform is required at all times unless you have arranged a uniform pass through the correct process.

The exam timetable is split into two colours: Blue and Red

Blue Exams

- You must attend all Blue exams that apply to your subjects.
- You are expected to stay for the full exam session.
- If you have 4, 5, or 6 Blue exams, that is your full timetable for the week.
- Your dean will let you know that you are not required to attend Red slots,
- although you may go if you have no exam at that time.

Red Exams

- If you have fewer than 4 Blue exams, you will also need to attend Red sessions.
- In total, you should be attending at least 5 exam/study slots (up to 6 if possible)

Individual Exam Timetables
You will receive an individual timetable, but you also need to check the large coloured sheets or ask your dean to confirm your Blue and Red sessions. The Blue and Red Sessions will be advertised in the newsletters, on the student notice boards and outside Mrs Butterworth's office.

ASSESSMENTS

The following assessment(s) 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
L11	Music Skills and Styles	**91948**	In Class Week 7
L12	Music Solo Performance	**91270**	In Class Week 7
L12	Music 2nd Solo Performance	**91274**	In Class Week 7
L13	Music Solo Performance	**91416**	In Class Week 7
L13	Music 2nd Solo Performance	**91417**	In Class Week 7

KEY DATES AND ACTIVITIES COMING UP

TERM 3	
WEEK 7	
25-29 August	Winter Tournament Week
25-29 August	Te Kura Practice Exams
28 August	EOTC Rock Climbing 11 AOE
WEEK 8	
1 September	EOTC Dance NZ Made Reg/Nationals
1 -5 September	CAA Lit/Num Exams
4 September	Otago Uni Course Planning
4 September	1 Day Employment Course
5 September	EOTC Rock Climbing 12 AOE
WEEK 9	
8-12 September	NCEA Prelim Exams
9 September	Board Meeting
11 September	EOTC 12SPP Adrenalin Forest Activity
WEEK 10 15-19 September	Last full week of school before the school holiday's start

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

ShadowTech 2025

Last week, a group of our Lakes High students had an unforgettable experience thanks to ShadowTech and the amazing Rotorua Police ICT Team!

Our girls got to:

Explore the evolution of Police technology — from early DOS computers to today's advanced systems.

Try out Police radios and telephone systems.

See the tools that help keep our communities safe.

A real highlight was meeting inspiring female Police IT specialists working in fields like GeoSpatial, Intelligence, Negotiation, Dog Handling, and Search & Rescue. They not only shared their career journeys but also showed how technology supports frontline officers and the wider community.

BNZ Visit 💙💛

A huge thanks to Abbie Franceschini (Senior Partner, Business & Commercial, BNZ Rotorua) and Areesha – a proud Lakes High alumna from the Class of 2021, now at BNZ – for visiting our Year 10 Financial Literacy class.

They shared powerful stories about their career journeys, inspiring lessons from overcoming life's challenges, tips for interviews, insights into money management and budgeting, and even an inside look at how banks help keep communities safe from things like money laundering.

We also heard about the amazing community mahi BNZ is involved in – including supporting basketball 🏀 – and how banking careers can be about helping people as much as working with money.

We're so grateful for their time, generosity, and willingness to inspire the next generation. Ngā mihi nui to both of you – our students will remember this for years to come. 🙌

Year 10 FNT - Healthy Bites, Happy Faces! 🥦🥢

Recently our Year 10 Food & Nutrition students put their knife skills to the test, creating some delicious (and very healthy 😬) Vietnamese Rice Paper Rolls.

Year 10 Hillary Outdoors

Our massive crew of 31 Year 10 taonga are continuing their adventure at Hillary Outdoors, spending precious days away from their whānau to grow, challenge themselves, and strengthen connections.

Below are some photos of the many challenges that have tested their courage, trust, and perseverance under stunning blue skies. Every step along the ropes, every leap, and every cheer of encouragement built not just memories, but qualities they can carry into school and life: confidence, teamwork, resilience, and leadership.

Ka mau te wehi, team - your courage inspires us. We can't wait to see how you build on these qualities back at Lakes High.

Lakes Basketball – August Energy! 🏀

August is huge for Lakes Basketball, and the teams are buzzing!

They smashed the Morrinsville Exchange, came undefeated in their pool at BOP Champs, and nailed a tight win over Bethlehem College to top the group. 💪🔥

Next stop: Regional Qualifiers in Mount Maunganui - and the goal is to finish even higher than last year.

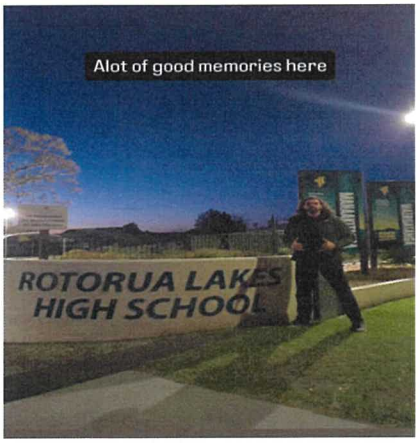
And maybe it's just a coincidence… but with Steven Adams back on the Eastside, there's definitely something in the water. 😉🏀

East Side Pride! 💛💙🏀

Steven Adams - NBA superstar and proud and humble east side local - is back in Rotorua running his Steven Adams Camps 🏀🔥

From Ōwhata Owhata Primary School, to Mokoia Intermediate, to Rotorua Lakes High School, Steven's journey is a huge source of pride for our community.

Ngā mihi nui, Steven - your old schools are proud of you, and we're sending our best to all the tamariki taking part in the camp. Go hard, have fun, and make the most of this incredible opportunity! 🌏💪



We Run the Forest – Team Lakes High! 🏃‍♂️🌳

A huge thank you to this awesome group of students, teachers and parents who braved the cold recently to help out at the We Run the Forest event 💪❤️

Hosted in the beautiful Whakarewarewa Forest, Run the Forest is a celebration of movement, community, and the stunning trails we're lucky to have here in Rotorua. Participants of all ages took on the 10km, 5km, and 1km courses – setting themselves a challenge, seeing it through, and crossing that finish line with pride. Ka rawe to everyone who pushed themselves to achieve their goal!

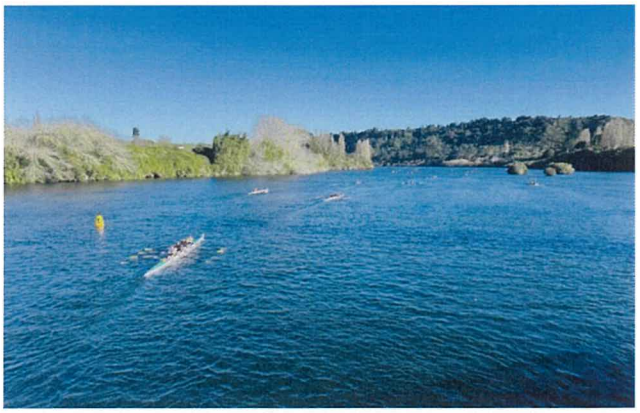
Our Lakes High crew were on hand volunteering to support the smooth running of the day – all while raising funds for our 2026 Vietnam & Cambodia trip.

If you'd like to tautoko our journey, keep an eye here on Facebook for upcoming fundraisers – every bit of support helps get our students closer to this once-in-a-lifetime experience! 🌏✈️

Karapiro Endurance Race – RLHS Girls Represent! 💙🚣‍♀️

On a cold and frosty Saturday morning, our Lakes High girls – representing the Bay of Plenty Interprovincial Team – took on the Karapiro Endurance Race as part of mixed crews.

This was no easy row – the race tested stamina, strength, and teamwork over a long-distance course, and our girls rose to the challenge brilliantly. 💪



Girls' Football Victory! 💙⚽

A couple of weeks ago, our Rotorua Lakes High School Girls' Football team took on Rotorua Girls' High School in a home game we'd been eagerly waiting for — and came away with a 2–0 win! 🙌 Way to go team

ESOL Class Hits the Lake! 🌊🐟

On 17 June, our ESOL class headed out to beautiful Lake Rerewhakaaitu for a hands-on fishing experience with the awesome team from the Rotorua Anglers Association. 🎯🎣

For most of our students, it was their very first time trying spin and fly fishing — and while the only fish of the day was caught by the instructor 🏆🐟 The smiles and laughter were the real catch. A special highlight was James Geng wading right up to the brim of his waders! 😂💦

Ngā mihi to the Rotorua Anglers Association for sharing their skills and making this experience possible. 🙌

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