Rotorua Lakes High School

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

NEWSLETTER ISSUE # 10 – FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2025

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

It has been another busy and rewarding fortnight at school, with students shining in many different areas. Our basketball team and both boys' and girls' hockey teams represented us proudly at the Secondary Schools Winter Sports Tournament, showing not only skill and determination but also our values of whanaungatanga and manaakitanga in the way they supported one another and engaged with others.

Alongside sport, many students have been sitting their Literacy and Numeracy exams, while others have taken part in class trips that extend learning beyond the classroom. It was also a pleasure to host university staff who provided valuable guidance to our Year 13s as they prepare for their pathways ahead.

Last week, Todd Cheesman, Presiding Member of RLHS Board, emailed out a notice to our school community advising of Jon Ward's resignation and the process that will get underway for the recruitment of a new Principal. Your input is important and details of how you can contribute in this process will be shared in the coming weeks.

Looking forward, we now turn our focus to NZQA exam preparation, with senior prelim exams taking place next week. This is an important time for our seniors. These assessments play a vital role in providing feed forward for study and revision, as well as potentially contributing to derived grades should the need arise. Also opportunities will be available in practical subjects for catch-ups and further learning. It is essential that students carefully follow the individual timetables provided to them.

As we enter the business end of term, both juniors and seniors are encouraged to bring their best mahi to class and stay focused on their learning. Wearing our uniform with pride, and living out our values of whakapapa, manaakitanga, wairuatanga, and whanaungatanga, are everyday ways our students can show commitment to both themselves and our kura.

Ngā 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

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

A notice from the Hauora Team as we approach pre-lim exams:

Exam time can bring stress to students and parents alike. Remember to eat well, stay hydrated, allow lots of time for sleep and doing things that you enjoy as well as dedicating time to study and revision. Time management is an important element in staying calm and avoiding panic - procrastination can invite worry. A little bit of anxiety and worry is natural, but it shouldn't stop you in your tracks.

If you feel the need to speak to a counsellor or the nurse please make an appointment via the School Bridge app or by visiting us in the Hauora Centre.

Prelim Exams - 8-12 September (Week 9)

Time Table

WEEK 9	Monday 8th Class (# of Students)	Length Hrs	Room	Tuesday 9th Class (# of Students)	Length Hrs	Room	Wednesday 10th Class (# of Students)	Length Hrs	Room
Morning 9am- 12pm	11ENG (106)	3	AUD	11GEO (25)	3	AUD	11HIS(23)	3	AUD
	12BIO (29)	3	Mus & U2	12HIS(29)	3	AUD	13ACC(7)	2	MUS
	13DGT (3)	2	A6	12TRM(7)	2	AUD	13CHE (13)	3	MUS
	13CLS(12)	3	AUD	13ENG (32)	3	AUD	13HED(26)	2	AUD
	12PRD (WY)	2	C7	11PRD (WY)	2	A21			
	12TFD (WB)	2	C5	11ART (MM)	2	C2			
	13PRD (WY)	2	C7	11MMP (HD)	2	C3	11ENI (WS)	2	C9
	13ART (MM)	2	C2	12PPE (HL)	2	G1	12HOF (Rty)	2	C5
				13ORA (PR)	2	R2			
Afternoon 1:15pm- 4:15pm	11HED (13)	3	AUD	11MSC(68)	2	AUD	11TRM(11)	2	U2
	12GEO (16)	2	AUD	12HED(20)	2	MUS	12MAT(51)	2	AUD
	13MAS (42)	3	AUD	12PHY(35)	3	AUD	12MSC(38)	3	AUD
	13TRM (3)	2	AUD				13BIO(10)	3	MUS
	11CRP (MG)	2	C7	12ORA (PR)	2	R2			
	11ORA (PR)	2	R2	13PHO (HD)	2	C3	13TFD (WB)	2	C5
	12SCI (Ey)	2	S2				13DVC (MG)	2	C1

WEEK 9	Thursday 11th Class (# of Students)	Length Hrs	Room	Friday 12th Class (# of Students)	Length Hrs	Room
Morning 9am- 12pm	11SPS (AU)	2	A21	11SCC (55)	2	AUD
	12ENG (46)	3	AUD	12ECO(20)	2	AUD
	12ENV (57)	3	AUD	13GEO(14)	3	MUS
	13ECO(12)	2	MUS	13HIS(20)	3	AUD
	13MAC(14)	3	U2			
	11PPE (DL/TM)	2	G1	11DVC (MG)	2	C1
	11TFD (WB)	2	C5	12MUS (SU)	2	A21
	11/12PP	3	OFFSITE	13ENI (Ws)	2	C9
Afternoon 1:15pm- 4:15pm						
	11SCI (75)	2	AUD	11DGT(13)	3	A6
	12CHE(30)	3	AUD	12DGT(13)	3	A6
	13PHY(18)	3	MUS			
	11/12SPP (SA)	3	OFFSITE			
	12ART (MM)	2	C2	12CRP (MG)	2	C7
	12ENI (WS)	2	C9	11MUS (SU)	2	MUS
	13PPE (TM)	2	G1	12PHO (HD)	2	C3
	13ENI (WS)	2	C9	13SPS (AU)	2	G1

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

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
13	AOE	AS3.7	Due 4/9
	AOE	US32844	Due 18/9
12	PPE	US21794	Due 5/9
	PPE	US7123	During Prelims-WK10

KEY DATES AND ACTIVITIES COMING UP

END OF TERM 3 - START OF TERM 4	
WEEK 9	
8-12 September	NCEA Prelim Exams
9 September	Board Meeting
11 September	EOTC 12SPP Adrenalin Forest Activity
WEEK 10	
16 September	EOTC Yr12 Mount Tarawera Activity
16 September	EOTC Aronui Festival - Tangihanga Production
18 September	EOTC 13PPE/9 Miro- During the Day Activity
TERM 4 - WEEK 1	
9 October	Team Photos
10 October	Junior/Senior Reports Issued
WEEK 2	
14 October	Board Meeting
WEEK 3	
24 October	Te Hiwi o Toroa Event
24-29 October	Spirit of Adventure
WEEK 4	
27 October	Labour Day - school closed
30 October	Senior Prizegiving

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Poppy Croucher - Paddy Avery Award Winner

We are so incredibly proud of our Deputy Head Girl, Poppy Croucher. She is deeply respected here at Lakes High - not only for her talent on the bike, but also for the way she carries herself with humility, positivity, and aroha.

A Big Week in Chess at Lakes High!

Recently, Michael De Lore, Koki Hara, Nathan Lye and Josh Ford competed at the Taupō Chess Regionals and came home with fantastic results:

1st place in the secondary division as a team

Michael – 1st overall

Koki – 2nd overall

Huge thanks to Taemi Hara for taking and supporting our students on the day.

Lakes High proudly hosted the Term 3 Rotorua Regionals, with over 100 students competing from JPC, Rotorua Boys, ACG Tauranga, Whakatane High, Tauhara College, Tarawera High, and Mokoia Intermediate. It was a tough competition, and Lakes High finished 4th place overall.

Taking Learning to New Heights – Aviation Course Update ✈️

Our students are loving the 10-week Aviation Course, held one day a week at Rotorua Airport. Over the past eight weeks they've gained incredible hands-on knowledge, including:

✈️ Cargo operations and hazardous areas

⚠️ Handling dangerous goods safely

🔤 Using the phonetic alphabet and two-way radio systems

👋 Key hand signals and call signs for incoming/outgoing aircraft

A highlight of the programme was a full-day visit to Tauranga Airport, where students went behind the scenes in baggage handling and the Comms Room to see airport operations in action.

With just two weeks to go, they're on track to earn a well-deserved Aviation Certificate. ✨ Huge thanks to JNP Aviation Training for delivering such an engaging and valuable course for our students, and to Mrs Hingston in Careers & Gateway for always seeking real-life opportunities for our precious taonga. 💛

SPORTS

Winter Tournament Week Updates 25 - 29 August

It's a huge week for our Lakes High teams out on the road!

Girls 1st XI Hockey - competing in Tauranga for the Chica Gilmer Trophy (Upper North Island Girls Tournament, Tier 3).

They opened their tournament today against Waikato Dio. It was a tough defensive game, and despite holding strong in the second half, Dio took the win 6–0. The girls settled into their rhythm and are ready to build from here with more matches to come.

Boys 1st XI Hockey - playing in Taupō for the Lower North Island Boys Tournament. They started strong with an impressive 6–0 win over Massey High School this morning!

Senior Boys Basketball - competing in Tauranga at the Regional Qualifying Tournament.

Update from Matua Molimau: Tough day at the office for the boys, losing both games against Rotorua Boys High and Te Puke. We push forward and look to Day 2 to get that win!

A huge mihi to all our awesome parent supporters and everyone is backing our teams this week. Our Lakes High athletes are giving it everything - let's cheer them on as they chase greatness and make us proud!

Winter Tournament Week Updates 25 - 29 August

Boys 1st XI Hockey

(Day 1):

Early 8am start in foggy Taupō, but the boys finished strong:

Krynu Sassenberg opened the scoring from a PC

Finn Griffiths added another before halftime

Second half goals to Finn (again), Matty Wallace, Riley Moulin, and Krynu (another PC)

Final score: 6–0 vs Massey High

(Day 2):

Tough loss against Whakatāne High: Down 0–2 at halftime after another slow start

Preston Cleaver sparked the comeback, driving the circle and creating opportunities

Riley Moulin converted a PC to pull one back, but despite late chances the boys fell 1–2

Winter Tournament Week Updates 25 - 29 August

Boys 1st XI Hockey (Game 3)

The boys fought right to the end in their final pool match against St Patrick's Town.

After going down 0–2 in the first two quarters, they rallied hard with a goal to Matthew Wallace in the 3rd quarter, rewarding some impressive attacking play from him up front. The team pushed relentlessly for the equaliser, with Ayden Atkinson making some outstanding saves in goal to keep them in the contest.

Despite their efforts, the equaliser didn't come, and a late 4th quarter goal to St Pat's saw the final score finish 1–3.

The boys now move forward in the tournament with a 4:00pm Wednesday match-up against Gisborne Boys High School. Let's get behind them as they continue to show grit and determination!

Senior Boys Basketball

On the Tuesday morning, our Lakes Senior Girls made a detour to BayPark to surprise and support our Senior Boys Basketball team during a tough pool play game against Whakatāne.

When they arrived, the boys were down by quite a margin, but they dug deep, started sinking baskets, and defensively shut down Whakatāne with some huge turnovers. Before long, Lakes had taken the lead!

It all came down to a nail-biting final quarter, with Whakatāne fighting hard to stay in it. At the final whistle, our boys went down by only a couple of baskets – an incredibly gutsy effort. You made Lakes proud, boys!

Winter Tournament Week Updates 25 - 29 August

Boys 1st XI Hockey – Winter Tournament Update

Game 4 – Wednesday

The first day of knockouts saw Lakes take on Gisborne Boys High 2nd XI. After a slower start (2–0 at halftime), the boys found another gear and stormed home with a 7–0 win.

- Doubles to Lachie Hoggard and Matty Wallace
- First 1st XI goal for Tyler Kieser
- An all-round strong team performance!

Game 5 – Thursday

Next up was Rangitikei College, and this time Lakes came out firing. Matthew Wallace struck early in the 1st quarter to put us ahead 1–0. The rest of the match was tight and evenly fought, with plenty of chances but no further goals. A gritty, determined win!

Special mention to Alfie Cochrane who ran hard all game, combined well with his fellow strikers, and showed how much he has developed this season.

Friday (Final Game) 29 August

The boys now face Mahurangi College at 11am for 9th place. This is their final game of the tournament – and they've given their all every single match.

Celebrating Lakes Football Club Women! 🩵🖤

A huge congratulations to our Lakes FC Women's team – officially crowned 2025 W-League Champions! 🏆

We're especially proud of our very own Renee Price (Year 12), pictured back row, end left. 💙 Her mahi and commitment alongside her teammates have helped make history for Rotorua women's football.

This incredible achievement means the team now heads to September play-offs for a spot in the NRFL Championship – such an exciting milestone for our city!

Huge congratulations to our Girls 2nd XI Hockey Team! 🏑

Recently, our Girls 2nd XI placed 2nd in the Bay of Plenty Hockey Girls B Grade (Round 2)!

They played their final in Taupō against home team Tauhara and held their own in a tough, close game. The girls fought hard right to the end, almost drawing level with two penalty corners on full time, eventually going down 3–2.

This result is an incredible achievement – coming from C grade to 2nd in B grade this season! The team has shown true determination, teamwork and grit all year, improving hugely as a group.

A special mention to captain Madelin and our Year 13 leaders Alana, Liddy, and Eirwen – your leadership and skill have guided and supported the juniors and helped lift the whole team. You'll be missed as you move on to your next pathways.

A massive shout-out as well to our two amazing Year 13 student coaches, Zara Gray and Sadie Stewart, and manager Katie Simmons, who have done a fabulous job leading the team this season.

Extreme Kayaking World Champions! 🚣🌊

Two of our incredible Rotorua Lakes High School alumni have made waves on the world stage at the Devils Race in the Czech Republic! 🌍

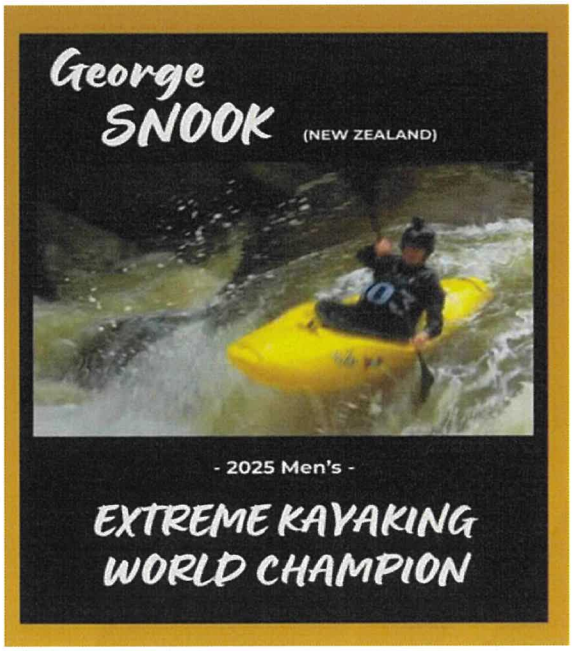
George Snook – 2025 Men's Extreme Kayaking World Champion 🥇

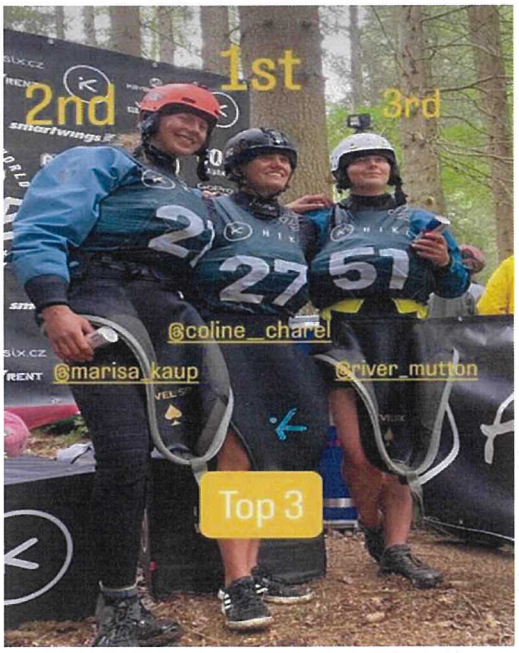
River Mutton – 3rd place in the Women's division, after holding the World Champion title last year! 🥉

These inspirational ex-students show what's possible when passion, resilience, and courage meet opportunity. Both George and River carry the spirit of Te Kura o Ngā Moana, shaped by our unique location alongside Rotorua's lakes, rivers, and forests. This natural environment makes Lakes High one of Rotorua's best-kept secrets - a kura where world-class journeys can begin. 💛💙

And now, we're excited to give the next generation their own outdoor pathway! 🌿🔥

👉 Applications are now open for our new **Year 9 Outdoor Education Academy starting in 2026**. This academy will immerse students in the outdoors — building resilience, leadership, and skills in our natural backyard. Applications close Friday 5th September. Don't miss out!





COMMUNITY NOTICES

RLHS SPONSORS

GHA Chartered Accountants & Management Consultants

BFA BUSINESS ADVISORS AND ACCOUNTANTS

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