Rotorua Lakes High School

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

NEWSLETTER ISSUE # 14 – FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2025

"Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth"

Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

Our recent Sports Prizegiving event was an excellent occasion which celebrated our talented, successful and dedicated sporting students in their chosen codes. As always, a huge thank you and congratulations for an extremely successful year to our wonderful coaches and managers for their continued commitment and unfailing support. You make it possible to deliver such a strong sporting presence in our school.

Junior exams start 25 and 26 November. I hope that the results the students develop give a fair summary of their efforts through the year. NCEA exams continue, with the last exam being 28 November.

While exams are never "fun" the junior exams give our students a tangible perception of what they are heading towards in Year 11. It also provides students and whānau with clear feedback about their learning successes and areas that need more attention. We often wish students luck going into exams, but in all honesty, it doesn't come down to luck, it comes down to effort, hard work and focus. I look forward to congratulating all our students on the hard work they have put in.

A reminder that we have our electives coming up Week 9. We have had a great response from our students which is very gratifying to see. This is an awesome opportunity for our students to get out and about and just have a great time.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jon Ward
Principal

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

2025 SPORTS PRIZEGIVING AWARDS

Basketball - Junior Boys

McFarlane, Jimmy	Player of the Year
White, Ky-Mani	Most Valuable Player
Yorke, Storm	Most Improved Player

Basketball - Senior Boys

Larsen, Seth	Most Valuable Player
Sydney, Taj	Player of the Year
Ua-Cookson, Hikairo	Most Improved Player

Chess

de Lore, Michael	Most Valuable Player
Hara, Koki	Player of the Year
Lye, Nathan	Most Improved Player
Te Whata, Waihuia	Special Award - Service to Chess

Cricket - Boys

Ford, Joshua	Most Improved Player
McGrath, Owen	Player of the Year and Top Batsman
Thomsen, Archie	Most Improved Batsman

Cricket - Girls

Hutton, Sam	Player of the Year
Warren, Lilli	Most Improved Player

Football - Boys First XI

Dyson, Shai	Most Improved Player

Jones, Oliver	**Player of the Year**
Lescheid, Declan	**Most Valuable Player**

Football - Boys Second XI

Bennett, Jamie	**Most Valuable Player**
Gouws, Emmett	**Most Improved Player**
McGrath, Owen	**Player of the Year**

Football - Girls

Dunn, Claudia	**Most Improved Player**
Gribble, Hayley	**Most Valuable Player**
Price, Renee	**Player of the Year**
Scott, Zoe	**Junior Girls Player of the Year**

Futsal - Senior Boys

Corson, Lucas	**Most Valuable Player**
Grunwell, Chase	**Player of the Year**
Hannah, Jesse	**Most Improved Player**

Futsal - Junior Boys

Bennett, Jamie	**Most Valuable Player**
McFarlane, Jimmy	**Player of the Year**
Waites, Daniel	**Most Improved Player**

Futsal - Girls

Dunn, Claudia	**Most Improved Player (Equal)**
Green, Sophie	**Most Improved Player (Equal)**
Gribble, Hayley	**Player of the Year**
Scott, Zoe	**Most Valuable Player**

Hockey - Boys 1st XI

Cleaver, Preston	**Most Valuable Player**

Hoggard, Lachie	Player of the Year
Wallace, Matthew	Most Improved Player

Hockey - Girls 1st XI

Barry, Brooke	Player of the Year
Field, Freya	Most Improved Player
Gray, Zara	Most Valuable Player

Hockey - Girls 2nd XI

Goddard, Emma	Player of the Year
Maunder, Madelin	Most Valuable Player
Rogers, India	Most Improved Player

Hockey - Mixed Team

Carter, Connor	Player of the Year
Ford, Joshua	Most Improved Player
Hogg, Ruby	Most Valuable Player

Hockey - Team Effort Trophy

Girls 2nd XI

Mountain Biking

Atkinson, Martin	2025 Sportsmanship Award
Croucher, Noah	Senior Male Cross Country
Leuchs, Jasper	Best Newcomer of the Year
Williams, Caleb	Most Improved Rider

Netball - Junior A

Leach, Olivia	Most Improved Player
Paul, Isabelle	Most Valuable Player
Proctor, Hailey-Cruz	Player of the Year

Netball - Junior

Development

Grant, Amaia-Lee	Most Improved Player (Equal)
Kaur, Arshnoor	Most Improved Player (Equal)
Murphy, Larissa	Most Valuable Player
Perkins, Maiah	Player of the Year

Netball - Senior A

Hughes, Stella	Most Valuable Player
Hutton, Sam	Most Improved Player
Morgan, Amy	Player of the Year

Netball - Senior Development

Kingi, Mase	Most Improved Player (Equal)
Morey, Issy	Most Improved Player (Equal)
Valentine-Halbert, Kalani	Player of the Year
White, Raiha	Most Valuable Player

Volleyball - Junior Boys

Paul, Wiripo	Player of the Year
Thomsen, Archie	Most Improved Player

Volleyball - Junior Girls

Marshall, Zoe	Most Improved Player
Napier, Elspeth	Player of the Year

Volleyball - Senior Boys

Delamere, TJ	Most Improved Player
Kautai, Tyrel	Player of the Year

Volleyball - Senior Girls

King, Kahurangi	Most Improved Player

Valentine-Halbert, Kalani	Player of the Year

Rowing

Gainsford, Grace	Rowers of the Year
Graham, Tyler	Most Improved Rower
McIlroy, Ella-May	Rowers of the Year
Parton, Ruby	Rowers of the Year
Sieber, Jasmine	Rowers of the Year
Thompson, Holly	Contribution to Rowing

Waka Ama - Girls

Taipeti-Cribb, Pikihuia	Most Improved Paddler (Equal)
Gorman, Manaia	Most Improved Paddler (Equal)
Gray, Zara	Top Female Paddler and Leadership in Waka Ama
Fitzell, Ariana	Best Junior Girl

Waka Ama - Boys

Hohepa-Gardiner, Te Rangiwahia	Most Improved Paddler
Ua-Cookson, Hikairo	Top Male Paddler

Waterpolo

Gordon, Jade	Most Improved Player
Joy, Tamzin	Most Valuable Player
Shapley, Anna	2025 Player of the Year

SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

Athletics

Collet, Julien	Intermediate Boys Champion
Davies, Georgia	Intermediate Girls Champion
Henwood-Rogers, Liam	Junior Boys Champion
Newcombe, Maddy	Junior Girls Champion

Sinisa, Lia	Senior Girls Champion
Sydney, Taj	Senior Boys Champion

Badminton

Barclay, Fraser	Junior Boys Champion
Martin, Jessica	Senior Girls Champion

Mountain Biking

Croucher, Poppy	Girls Enduro and Senior Girls Downhill Champion, Greatest Contribution to Mountain Biking
Croucher, Noah	Senior Male Cross Country
Jury, Jovarne	Male Enduro Champion
Newcombe, Maddy	Junior Girls Champion
Phipps, Cate	Junior Girls Champion
Wallace, Matthew	Junior Boys and Junior Boys Downhill Champion
Wallace, Nicole	Cross Country

Pickleball

Barclay, Fraser	Junior Boys Singles and Doubles Champion
Wallace, Matthew	Junior Boys Doubles Champion
Martin, Jessica	Senior Girls Singles Champion

Swimming

de Lore, Michael	Intermediate Boys Champion
Joy, Tamzin	Intermediate Girls Champion
Rankin, Leonard	Senior Boys Champion and Swimmer of the Year
Rogers, India	Junior Girls Champion
Shapley, Anna	Senior Girls Champion
Steere, Evan	Junior Boys Champion

2025 SPORTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Atkinson, Ayden	BOP U16 Boys Hockey
Barry, Brooke	BOP U16 and Mid North Island U14 Hockey Teams
Davies, Georgia	BOP U16 Hockey Team
Emery, Whare	CBOP U16 and Maori U16 Rugby and BOP U16 Rugby League Teams
Field, Freya	BOP U16 Hockey A Team
Gainsford, Grace	BOP Rowing Team
Graham, Lydia	U16 Rotorua and U17 Waiariki Netball Teams
Gray, Zara	Central Otago U18 Hockey
Griffiths, Billie	BOP U16 Hockey Development
Garden, Arlo	Lakes Football Club Rep
Grunwell, Chase	Lakes Football Club Rep
Grunwell, Travis	Lakes Football Club Rep
Jones, Oliver	Lakes Football Club Rep
Lei, Ryan	Lakes Football Club Rep
Luca Klomp	Lakes Football Club Rep
Lescheid, Simon	Lakes Football Club Rep
Robson, Luke	Lakes Football Club Rep
McGrath, Owen	Lakes Football Club Rep
Hoggard, Lachie	BOP U18 Hockey Team
Hohepa-Gardiner, Te Rangiwahia	BOP U15 Rugby League Team
Larsen, Seth	Rotorua U18 Basketball
Marshall, Zoe	BOP U16 Hockey Development
McGrath, Owen	Lakes Football Club Rep
McIlroy, Ella-May	BOP Rowing Team
Mills, Paige	BOP U16 Girls Hockey Team
Pahwa, Purnima	Rotorua U18 Basketball
Parton, Ruby	BOP Rowing Team
Porter, Ellie	Rotorua U18 Basketball

Randell, Ashleigh	**BOP U18 Hockey Team**
Robson, Luke	**Lakes Football Club Rep**
Sieber, Jasmine	**BOP Rowing Team**
Sydney, Taj	**Rotorua U18 Basketball**
Valentine-Halbert, Kalani	**U17 Waiariki Netball Team**

SPECIAL AWARDS

Student Coach

Alves, Mario	**Contribution to Coaching - Junior Futsal**
Gray, Zara	**Contribution to Coaching - Waterpolo and Girls Hockey**
Grunwell, Travis	**Contribution to Coaching - Football**
Hughes, Stella	**Contribution to Coaching - Netball**
Kiernan, Hannah	**Contribution to Coaching - Waterpolo**
Managh, Izabelle	**Contribution to Coaching - Futsal and Girls Football**
Napier, Dane	**Contribution to Coaching - Climbing**
Price, Renee	**Contribution to Coaching - Futsal and Girls Football**
Schuster, Teuila	**Contribution to Coaching - Netball**
Stewart, Sadie	**Contribution to Coaching - Girls Hockey**

HONOURS BOARD

NZ Representative

Burns, Elena	**NZ Orienteering Team**
Burns, Oscar	**NZ Secondary Schools Orienteering Team and Orienteering Champion**
Cochrane, Alfie	**NZ Secondary Schools Orienteering Team**
Croucher, Poppy	**NZ Mountain Biking Team**
Davies, Harriette	**NZ Artistic Roller Skating Team & World Skate Oceania Champs**

Davies, Georgia	NZ Artistic Roller Skating Team
Taylor, Kate	NZ Artistic Roller Skating Team

NZ Title

Griffiths, Billie	NZ Intermediate Girls Orienteering Relay
Napier, Dane	NZ Sport Climbing Team
Newcombe, Maddy	NZ BMX Champion
Wallace, Matthew	NZMTB U15 Downhill Champion and Overall U15 Champion
Wallace, Nicole	NZ Intermediate Girls Orienteering Relay

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Newcombe, Maddy	Junior Girl Sportsperson of the Year
Wallace, Matthew	junior Boy Sportsperson of the Year
Burns, Oscar	1st Equal Senior Boy Sportsperson of the Year (Equal)
Napier, Dane	1st Equal Senior Boy Sportsperson of the Year (Equal)
Croucher, Poppy	Senior Girl Sportsperson of the Year
Gray, Zara	Contribution to Sport 2025

EXCELLENCE AWARD

2025 Overall Sportsperson of the Year	COUCHER, POPPY

Congratulations to all our amazing students

A special mention to our 2025 Senior Top Scholars:

TOP SCHOLAR AWARDS 2025

Siwan Lloyd-Jones	DUX
Patrick Allen	PROXIME ACCESSIT
Gabby Short	GHA TE AMOKAPUA MĀORI SCHOLAR
Tamzin Joy	YEAR 12 TOP SCHOLAR
Nicole Wallace	YEAR 11 TOP SCHOLAR

Tamzin Joy - Y12 Top Scholar - Photo not available

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

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.

KEY DATES AND ACTIVITIES COMING UP

START OF TERM 4	
WEEK 7	
17-21 November	NZQA Exams
WEEK 8	
24-28 November	NZQA Exams
24+27 November	EOTC Wahine on Water
25-26 November	Junior Exams
28 November	Junior Speech Competition
WEEK 9	
1-3 December	Y10 Camp
2-3 December	Electives
3 December	Y13 Leavers Dinner
5 December	Junior Prizegiving
WEEK 10	***School is open for individual student meetings until 10 December***
9 December	Board Meeting
10 December	**School closed from 2pm - reopens 19 January 2026**

KEY DATES FOR THE START OF TERM 1 2026

TERM 1 - 2026	
19 January	**School Office Opens - all week 8:30-3:30**
WEEK 1	
26 January	**Auckland Anniversary - School Closed**
27 January	**Course Confirmation Day 1 9am-12noon + 1-3pm in Library**
28 January	**Y9 Students starts**
28 January	**Course Confirmation Day 2 9:30am-12noon + 1-3pm in Library**
29 January	**Y9 and Y13 - 8:45am - 3:15pm**
30 January	**ALL STUDENTS- 8:45am - 3:15pm**
WEEK 2	
6 February	**Waitangi Day - School Closed**

THE 2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR YEAR

2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR YEAR		
	START DATE	FINISH DATE
TERM ONE	28 JANUARY	2 APRIL
TERM TWO	20 APRIL	3 JULY
TERM THREE	20 JULY	25 SEPTEMBER
TERM FOUR	12 OCTOBER	9 DECEMBER - TBC

LETTER SENT TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

RLHS SCHOOL BOARD'S OPPOSITION TO THE REMOVAL OF TE TIRITI O WAITANGI FROM SCHOOL BOARD OBJECTIVES

ROTORUA LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

'Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth'

11 November 2025

PRINCIPAL: MR JON WARD
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The Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education

Tēnā koe Minister Stanford,

Re: Opposition to the Removal of Te Tiriti o Waitangi from School Board Objectives

The Board of Rotorua Lakes High School strongly opposes the proposed removal of the requirement for school boards to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within the Education and Training Act 2020.

As a Crown entity, we recognise both a legal and moral responsibility to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This work has strengthened our partnerships with Te Arawa iwi and hapū, deepened student engagement, and fostered a stronger sense of belonging across our diverse school community.

Our commitment to Te Tiriti sits alongside our wider obligations under the Act such as raising achievement, promoting wellbeing, inclusion, and excellence for all learners. Giving effect to Te Tiriti enhances these goals, ensuring fairness and partnership for everyone.

We endorse and support the position statements of the National Iwi Chairs Forum, which affirm that:

1. **As Crown entities, school boards have both a legal and moral duty to understand and give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.**
2. **Strong communities are built through partnership—not by rolling back commitments to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.**
3. **Removing Te Tiriti o Waitangi protections from legislation weakens the Crown's commitment to achieving equitable outcomes for ākonga Māori.**
4. **Iwi and hapū see better outcomes for whānau when Te Tiriti o Waitangi is understood and lived.**

We urge the government to reconsider this proposal and to continue working in partnership with the education sector and iwi to uphold the responsibilities Te Tiriti o Waitangi represents.

Nāku noa, nā

Ben Alton, Presiding Member, on behalf on Rotorua Lakes High School Board

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL YEAR 10 STUDENTS

YEAR 10 CAMP DECEMBER 1-3

Health Forms -

Thank you to everyone who has sent back their health forms.
Students who have not returned their forms have been given new ones to take home. Please fill them out and return to the school office as soon as possible.

Outstanding Camp Fees -

A reminder that camp fees need to be paid in full by the end of next week Friday 21 November.
Thank you to those parents, caregivers and whanau who have already paid.

Students not attending Camp -

Any students who are not attending Year 10 camp are expected to be at school on Monday 1 December and participating in the school elective programme on Tuesday 2 December and Wednesday 3 December.

YEAR 11, CAMERON MOORE WINS NATIONAL INNOVATION AWARD! 🚀

Huge congratulations to Cameron Moore, who has been named a Category WINNER at the 2025 Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Aotearoa Finals! 🏆

Cameron impressed judges with his groundbreaking concept, an inflatable cycling neck-brace designed to detect a fall and instantly deploy to protect a rider's neck and spine. Inspired by Rotorua's mountain-biking culture, this innovation has the potential to save lives on and off the trails.

Last week, Cameron travelled to MOTAT in Tāmaki Makaurau to present his invention alongside the top student innovators in Aotearoa...and came away a champion.

This isn't Cameron's first major success. He has also been recognised nationally for his AI conservation invention aimed at protecting Aotearoa's native forests, proving that his vision and talent are next level.

Could this be the next Shane Legg in the making? Like our legendary AI trailblazer, Cameron is showing that world-changing ideas can start right here in Rotorua.

Cameron, your creativity, courage, and commitment to problem-solving embody the very best of our kura.

We are incredibly proud of this brilliant young mind whose ideas could save lives and protect our environment. Mauria te Pono - keep steadfastly to the truth, and keep shining. 💙💛

SPP Camp – Raglan Vibes & Big Smiles! 🏄‍♂️

Our Senior Pathways Programme (SPP) camp is in full swing, and the energy is next level!

The weather's been stunning, and our ākonga have been incredible, stepping outside their comfort zones and making the most of every moment.

Here's what they've been up to so far:

🌿 **Scenic walk to Bridal Veil Falls to kick things off**

🏫 **Set up base at Raglan Area School (ngā mihi for hosting us!)**

⛳ **Got competitive at mini golf**

🟦 **Closed out Day 1 with a high-energy game of spotlight**

🏄 **Day 2 kicked off with surf lessons, epic instructors and even more epic wipeouts**

🏹 **Archery back at the kura**

We're incredibly proud of this rōpū. Their resilience, leadership, and sense of fun have made this camp unforgettable.

Chess Nationals – RLHS Represent!

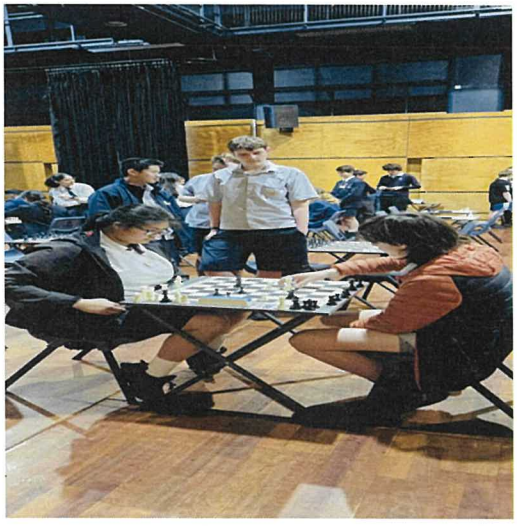
Recently, our Rotorua Lakes High chess team travelled to Auckland to compete in the Chess Power National Secondary Schools Competition at Alfriston College. This is the first time in many years — or possibly ever — that Lakes High has qualified for Nationals, making this a huge milestone for our kura.

Our team went into the tournament ranked 14th and finished 12th out of 16 teams — an awesome achievement, especially with two of our players, Nathan and Josh, attending their first ever national competition.

Special mention to Koki Hara, our top performer in the team event, placing 20th out of 84 players.

Koki and Michael De Lore backed up the next day in the National Champions Trophy individual event — Michael placed 15th out of 56 players and was the second-highest finisher of all Rotorua competitors. Koki had a strong performance too, securing four wins against very tough opposition.

We are also proud of our Eastside whānau — Mokoia Intermediate placing 14th and Lynmore School placing 8th in their divisions. Eastside excellence on the board!



9 Kōwhai Explore Science and Sustainability 🌿🧪

Recently, 9 Kōwhai visited the Bio Economy Science Institute (formerly Scion) and were guided by very knowledgeable staff through the nursery and science labs.

A huge thank you to RLHS dad Matt Dunn and Hilary Corkan from the Science Institute for organising these awesome tours and teaching our students about research and testing, plant types, sustainability, entomology, compost testing, 3D printing, and more!

We finished the day with a walk high up in the trees at the Redwoods Treewalk 🌲🌲🌲

PERFORMING ARTS

World Ballet Day Spotlight ✨

Recently, two of our talented RLHS ballerinas took the stage at Rotorua Library as part of the World Ballet Day showcase, representing the Anne Samson School of Ballet with grace and confidence.

A huge congratulations to Charlotte Woerd and Hazel Herries for your beautiful performances.

Tino whakahī mātou i a kōrua, Charlotte rāua ko Hazel...your performance was full of elegance, skill, and poise.

It was also special to see some of our RLHS dancers in the audience, supporting their friends and showing that strong whanaungatanga spirit. 💙

We are so proud of you. Keep shining and inspiring the next generation of dancers!

SPORTS

Outstanding Success for Lakes Girls Football! ⚽

Our wāhine toa have once again shown incredible talent and determination on the national stage.

Over the weekend, Renee Price (captain), Izzy Managh, and Hayley Gribble represented the Lakes U19 Football Club at the National Tournament in Napier.

They delivered an outstanding performance, finishing 3rd in their age group and 11th overall out of 26 teams, the best result ever recorded by the club. What an incredible milestone for these young athletes...ka mau te wehi!

We also celebrate the Lakes players selected to compete in the U17 Cambridge Cup:

Alice Alton

Jessica Christensen

Claudia Dunn

Sophie Loveless

Caitlyn Lye

Cassie Berndt

Your achievements reflect tremendous talent, hard work, and pride in our kura. You continue to inspire others and represent Rotorua Lakes High School with excellence.

He mihi nui ki a koutou - ka rawe, wāhine mā! 💚💛

Mauria te Pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Calling Rotorua Lakes High Alumni & Former Staff 🌟

We're looking to connect with past students and staff who are interested in being part of building stronger links between our kura and its alumni community. 💛💙

If you'd like to be actively involved in shaping ways to unite and support our wider Lakes whānau, we'd love to hear from you.

👉 Please get in touch with Jo Sturme at sturmej@rotorualakes.school.nz for more details.

RLHS SPONSORS

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