

## Upcoming Events

18 & 19 Mar Tues & Wed	Food & Beverage at NorthTec Year 11 - Group 1
19 Mar Wed	NSSSA Athletics Year 9-13
20 Mar Thurs	Year 5 & 6 Swimming
20 & 21 Mar Thurs & Fri	First Aid Training Matapouri Year 11
25 & 26 Mar Tues & Wed	Food & Beverage at NorthTec Year 11 - Group 1
27 Mar Thurs	Year 5 & 6 Swimming
27 Mar Thurs	University of Otago Visit
3 April Thurs	Year 5 & 6 Swimming
10 April Thurs	Interim Report Year 10-13
2 April	Renew Sports Exchange TBC, April
4 April	Weetbix TRYathlon Years 5-9
11 April	Last Day of School School Assembly School Gym 11:30am,

## Year 7-13 Athletics Day—Trigg Stadium



Athletics day dawned cool and crisp with very little wind at Trigg Athletics stadium. Perfect conditions for our students. However this quickly turned into a VERY hot day, but thankfully our students managed to not let this bother them and had a stellar day.

There was always something going on, whether it was watching one of the running



races with James Walker breaking the 100m record with a time of 11.69s, or the long jump right in front of the stands, or seeing Waldo Potgieter break a 16 year old Javelin record.

It was great to see so many students trying their best and encouraging those around them to do their best as well. A huge thankyou to all the staff has to be said as well for making the



day run so smoothly. A massive congratulations to those in Parakiore whānau who took out the whanau house competition for the day, and well done to all our individual champions as well.

- Ben Keyte,  
HoD Physical Education

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# From the Principal

Kia ora/Kamusta/haai/Annyeong haseyo  
Excellere College whānau/families,

Term 1 has continued at a fast-paced and joyful tempo. Our new staff and students are settling in well and work on the new classrooms is showing great progress. I enjoyed meeting so many new and established families at the school picnic and the weather held off long enough for ice creams and slushies to be purchased. It was so warm that the rain did not matter too much.

I want to share a wonderful conversation I had recently with a senior student who enrolled at Excellere this year. I asked the student how things were going for them and their reply was so very encouraging. They said, "I enjoy the weeks at school more than I enjoy the weekends!" This is a sentiment that many schools aspire to so it is most gratifying to hear it said about Excellere College.

## Student Attendance

The Ministry of Education has a strategy to improve student attendance across Aotearoa/ New Zealand. The goal is to have 80% of students attending school 90% or more of the time. At Excellere College our attendance data is among the best in the region. However, there is always room for improvement. It is interesting to note that when a student has 90% attendance they are actually absent from school for one day every two weeks. That is one full week's absence from school every term and a whole four weeks each year. Obviously, when a student is ill they must stay home but it has been proven that unnecessary absence can dramatically affect a young person's academic achievement.

## School Board Update

I wanted to take a moment to welcome Mr Petrus Nel as the Excellere School Board's new presiding member. Mr Mirko Wojnowski has stepped aside from this leadership role but is still serving as a much-valued board member. Mirko has blessed us with his passion and leadership for many years and I am personally very grateful for his ongoing support. Mrs Vicki Fowke has also stepped down after many years serving on the board in personnel and has been able to share her astute business knowledge along the way. Thanks are also due to Mr Peter Meyer who has been voluntarily assisting Mr Peter Sa'ena-Brown (our wonderful caretaker) in keeping our school looking ship shape. Another mention must go to Anneke Duinkerke for work behind the scenes getting the netball squads organised and the coaches and managers in place for our many teams. We do so appreciate how much time and effort this takes, thank you! Thanks also to all students and parents who have agreed to manage and coach our school teams. What a blessing you are!

## Year 12 Camp

I had the privilege of visiting the Year 12 camp at the Tangihua Lodge and was most impressed by the fun, caring and happy atmosphere I saw there. It is great to see the cooperative leadership opportunities being offered in a safe Christian environment. Thanks must go to Mr Phil Buchanan, Mrs Chantel Minnaar, Mrs Heloise Lotz, Mr Iain McKenzie and others for making the event such a success. Mr Ben Keyte arrived to take the keen runners for a quick hike/run to the trig station up on Horokaka and reported that

the students were "awesome!" On another note, staff, students and families have scrubbed up well for school photos and the Photolife team were very professional and patient with the unruly staff photo.

## EPro8 Challenge

<https://epro8challenge.co.nz/>



This is a quote from their website:  
"The EPro8 Challenge is the inter-school science and engineering competition. Every year over 35,000 students from throughout New Zealand take part. Students participate in a series of events: firstly within their school and then inter-school.

These events are designed to promote science, engineering and problem solving." It was great seeing the Year 5 & 6 classes so engaged in this process and the excited buzz



from all participants was wonderful. Thank you to the teachers for organising this event.

Despite the busy-ness of school life we have a spring in our step and God's joy in our hearts.

Isaiah 40:31 NKJV:

But those who wait on the LORD  
Shall renew their strength;  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
They shall run and not grow weary,  
They shall run and not grow faint.

Andy Mouat  
Tumuaki



## Meet the School Board

As part of our commitment to transparency and community connection, we are introducing a new section in the newsletter to help you get to know your School Board. Over the next few editions, we will introduce each Board member, share their role and highlight how we work together to serve the school.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of the school and ensuring that Excellere College provides a safe, supportive, and high-quality learning environment. We work closely with the principal and staff to uphold the school's vision and values.

### How to Contact the Board & Attend a Meeting:

We welcome feedback, questions and engagement from our school community. If you would like to get in touch with the Board, you can do so by:

Emailing the Board Secretary at [board@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:board@excellerecollege.school.nz) - your email will be directed to the relevant Board member or discussed at the next Board meeting.  
Dropping a written message at the school office – Mark it "Attention: School Board."

Our Board meetings are open to the school community, except when discussing confidential matters. If you would like to attend, we kindly ask that you contact the Board Secretary in advance so we can plan accordingly and ensure the meeting space is prepared. Our next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, 24 March 2025.

Minutes from previous Board meetings are available for perusal at the school office.

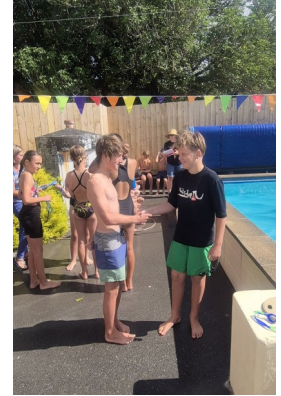
Please contact the Board Secretary if you would like to review them.

### Your School Board Members:

*The Excellere College School Board is made up of elected and appointed members who bring diverse skills and perspectives to support the governance of our school. Here is our current Board:*

- *Petrus Nel – Presiding Member (Elected Parent Representative, Health & Safety Portfolio)*
- *Cherie Hemara – Board Secretary (Administrative Role)*
- *Andy Mouat - Principal (Ex-Officio Board Member)*
- *Vaughan Darby – Proprietor's Representative (WCET, Special Character Portfolio)*
- *[Vacant] – Proprietor's Representative*
- *Mirko Wojnowski – Elected Parent Representative (Curriculum & Personnel Portfolios)*
- *Richard Vigus – Elected Parent Representative (Finance Portfolio)*
- *Ruven Duinkerke – Elected Parent Representative (Property Portfolio)*
- *Danielle Smith – Staff Representative*
- *Abinaya Pokkiri Raja– Student Representative*

## Zone Swimming Years 5-8



On Friday our Year 5 - 8 boys and girls went swimming at Kauriwhore School. I am happy to report that our students did very well. Excellere College students got some 1st / 2nd / 3rd and 4th places on the day. We also came 1st in the relay race by 'a mile', well done. Some of our Year 7 - 8 students are going to represent our school on the 12th March in the swimming championships at Whangarei Intermediate.

**Lydia Johnston** for breaststroke and backstroke.

**Willow Semenoff-Mayall** for freestyle and backstroke.

**Erica Werhan** for backstroke.

**Aron Hugo** for freestyle and breaststroke.





## Year 7-13 Athletics Day — Trigg Stadium

### Under 12 Years

	Girls	Boys
1st	Erica Werhan	Igou Argamosa
2nd	Mialee Boshoff	Le-Ron Joseph Joachim Prinsloo
3rd	Lucy Webster	



### Under 14 Years

	Girls	Boys
1st	Ella Teariki	Eli Hartwell
2nd	Lienka Van Niekerk	Israel Yung
3rd	Lydia Alison	De Wet Volschenk



### Under 16 Years

	Girls	Boys
1st	Lydia Jongkind	James Bradley
2nd	Ella Yung	James Walker
3rd	Jayne Chambers	Waldo Potgieter



### Open

	Girls	Boys
1st	Caylin Watkins	Rhys Howells
2nd	Dehlia Chambers	Malan Volschenk
3rd	Trisha Sta Cruz	Ben Kearney



## Increasing Our International Homestay Community

We are very proud of our Mission Statement where we are educating students to develop and excel in their God-given gifts and talents, according to His Word and purpose. We would like to extend God's Kingdom by opening our doors to hosting more international students in 2025.

Hosting international students is a wonderful way to share and gain a global perspective for the whole family. We are looking for host families for Year 7-13 students for both short stay (2-4 weeks) and/or long stay (up to 1 year+). A \$300 per-week allowance is paid to the host family to reflect the costs of hosting a young person in your home.

Please email our International Director, Barbie Reynolds, if you are interested in this exciting opportunity please contact: [barbie.reynolds@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:barbie.reynolds@excellerecollege.school.nz)

Whāea Barbie would love to hear from you and chat about how you can support our school with this mission.



## Grace After-School Care Program Safe, Fun, and Engaging!

Looking for a safe and enriching place for your child after school and school holidays?

Our After-School Care Program offers a nurturing environment where students can learn, play, and grow while you finish your workday with peace of mind.

**Location:** Excellere College

**Time:** After school 3:00-5:30pm

School holidays from 8:00am-5:30pm

**Ages:** 5-13 (Yr 0 - 8)

**Starting:** April 2025 School holidays and Term 2 onwards.

**Enrolment:** Limited spots available!

For more information or to register, contact: [graceafterschoolcare@gmail.com](mailto:graceafterschoolcare@gmail.com)



## Save the Bees

Lola, Milla, Da Som and Grace from Room 5 have done a great job and put up some signs in the gardens to raise awareness



## Join Whangarei Girls Brigade

Calling all girls  
5-18yrs!

Do you like the idea of fun, friends, and faith?

**Come join us!**

**2ND WHANGĀREI  
GIRLS' BRIGADE**



Held at Hope Central  
(formerly St Andrews)  
Cnr Bank & Hunt Streets

Thursdays 5.30pm - 7.00pm during term time

Contact Sue 021 260 0792 / [admin@whangareigirlsbrigade.nz](mailto:admin@whangareigirlsbrigade.nz)



## Try-Challenge!!!!



**Excellere College Weet-Bix Try Challenge  
Year 5-9**

**Cost: \$8 includes t-shirt, bag and medal**

**Friday 4th of April at Excellere College  
(Weather Permitting)**

**Parents & Guardians are warmly invited to cheer us on!**



## School Picnic



## Reduce Food Waste Campaign

Kiwis throw away \$1,500 worth of food every year. Together, we can change that by promoting Food Critics' (running 03–30 March 2025) essential steps.

\* Meal planning with our steps can help reduce food waste and save money, help you take action with our free downloadable meal planner or recipe book!

\* Recipe swap or photo challenge – a fun and engaging way to involve your colleagues, tamariki or whānau made easy with our step-by-step guides!

Join us on social media – download social media assets and copy from the toolkit or use it as inspiration to create your own content!

STEP 1.  
CHECK YOUR  
WEEK

WHO'S HOME ON  
WHICH DAYS?  
WHAT DAYS WILL YOU  
BE BUSY OR TIRED?

STEP 2.  
CHECK WHAT  
YOU'VE GOT

CHECK YOUR FRIDGE,  
FREEZER & PANTRY FOR  
WHAT NEEDS USING  
PLAN AN **EAT ME FIRST**  
MEAL

STEP 3.  
CHOOSE YOUR  
MEALS

PLAN EASY &  
FLEXIBLE MEALS  
PLAN IN YOUR  
LEFTOVERS

STEP 4.  
CREATE YOUR  
LIST

AND TAKE IT WITH  
YOU!

## Uniform Hub —Excellere College Half Zip Fleeces

There are now half zip fleeces available to buy from the Uniform Hub.

Check out the website: [www.uniformhub.co.nz](http://www.uniformhub.co.nz)

There are samples in store for sizing. The all new Excellere half zip fleece are now ready for **PRE-ORDER**.

Cut off date for ordering extended to Tuesday 25 March.

Fleeces will then go into manufacture and ready for pick up/delivery 4-6 weeks after the cut off date (25th March). Cost: \$55 (All sizes).





## Yummy Sticker Sports Gear

We are collecting Yummy Stickers again for 2025 so please send them into Room 4 to trade for House Group counters. Yummy Nectarine stickers, Yummy bag cut outs, and Yummy carton boxes all count towards the rewards. If you purchase a bag that doesn't have the sports gear label, please cut out the circle barcode that has the Yummy outline.

Many thanks, Jess Shanks



## Yummy Sticker Rewards!



## Year 9 & 10 Futsal

On Monday our Year 9 - 10 boys and girls went to the Junior Futsal cup. I am happy to report that our students did very well.

The boys and mix teams did so awesome, coming away with 3rd place in their pool. Our girls had some very exciting games, coming away with 4th place in their pool.

This was such an exciting week for Excellere to showcase our students skills and passion for sport. Well done to all our participants, you made our school proud with your skills and respectful behaviour.



## Sports Coaches Wanted

In 2025 I would love to have more team or individual sports on offer for our students at Excellere College. Currently one of our limiting factors are available coaches, so I am just putting it out there, if you have a passion for a certain sport and you are keen to help deliver that sport to our Excellere students, please get in touch with me.

We have students that are keen for more and are willing to learn and I would love to be able to offer our students more options. Please get in touch ASAP.

Email: [alisha.duplessis@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:alisha.duplessis@excellerecollege.school.nz)

## Advertise Here for 2025

Advertise your event or business HERE in the school newsletter.  
\$100 a Year for 12 Newsletters or \$10 per single advertisement.

For more information contact:  
[julie.hale@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:julie.hale@excellerecollege.school.nz)



P: 0800 120 449 M: 022 393 7887  
E: [lee@balanceadvisors.co.nz](mailto:lee@balanceadvisors.co.nz)  
W: [www.balanceadvisors.co.nz](http://www.balanceadvisors.co.nz)  
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