



# Excellere College

Whaia te Maramatanga o Te Karaiti

Newsletter - Panui

May 16 2025 Term 2 Week 3

## Upcoming Events

19 May Monday	Level 1 Commerce - YES Challenge 2 The Pitch (9-10am)
22 May Thursday	Renew Sports Exchange
22 May Thursday	CCA Literacy Reading P1-5 (Y10-13) NZQA Co-Reqs
23 May Friday	NSSSA Cross Country Year 7-13
26 May Monday	CAA Literacy writing P1-5 (Y10-13) NZQA Co-Reqs
28 May Wednesday	Winter sports tournament Year 5&6
28 May Wednesday	CAA Numeracy P3-5 (Y10-13)- NZQA Co-Reqs
29 May Thursday	Table Tennis—novice Year 9-13
2 May Monday	<b>King's Birthday - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
5 June Thursday	Table Tennis—championship
6 June Friday	Matariki assembly 11:30 in school gym
27 June Friday	<b>Teacher Only Day - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>

## Excellere College Success at Northland Show Quest



On the 1st of May, Excellere College proudly took two teams of passionate and talented students to perform at ShowQuest 2025, held at Forum North. With a group of 60 incredible tamariki involved, our students contributed in a variety of ways – from performing on stage to running lighting, hair and makeup, public speaking, and behind-the-scenes roles.

We are so thankful for the heart, effort and commitment shown by every single student. You made us immensely proud, not just with your results, but with your teamwork, energy and creativity.

Performing arts continues to grow at Excellere, giving students an exciting outlet to express themselves, build confidence, and

discover new talents. Opportunities like ShowQuest are building strong leadership, teamwork, and creative thinking in our young people – and it's inspiring to see how this is lifting the culture of our school. From the stage to backstage, our students are thriving, and we can't wait to see what's next.

Results over the page:

## From the Principal

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

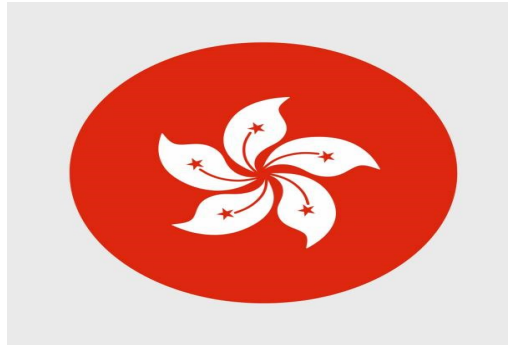
It seems unbelievable that we will be at the halfway mark of the school year at the end of this term. There is so much joy, faith and change happening within our school. We have welcomed many more new families and we look on gratefully at the progress DHS are making on the new classrooms. Despite the weather they are on target to have the buildings completed before the end of the year.

I wanted to take a moment to say how incredibly proud I am of Mrs Larissa Matheson and Teale Vint in their work on Showquest again this year. Our students were outstanding! Our senior performance was third and our junior group won the Te Tai Tokerau section for the second year in a row. This is such a wonderful way to showcase our Christian values in a secular setting. I often wonder how many lives are touched through this form of outreach.

Our school's student leaders attended a Leadership Summit in Auckland with the organisational prowess of Mrs Jeanne Hill with Mrs Meagan Kelly and Mrs Danielle Smith supporting her. The students reported that the activities and keynote speakers were amazing. We even received an email from a student from another school complimenting us on our incredible students!

We recently had a day visit from 19 teachers and principals from Hong Kong. It was an unexpectedly faith-filled experience. The majority of the educators worked in Christian schools but of course their environment was

very different from our open spaces here at Excellere. One visitor said that their chapel was on the seventh floor of the school. We feel we were able to forge relationships that are likely to lead to other opportunities in the future.



I have just come back inside after spending time on the field watching the students compete in the annual cross country. What a joy! Mr Peter Sa'ena -Brown, our wonderful caretaker, did a wonderful job preparing the grounds. Mrs Alisha du Plessis (our Sports Coordinator) and Mr Ben Keyte also did a great job organising and participating in the cross country events. Thank you to the older students who ran as pace-setters and marshall, thank you. Additionally, it was brilliant to see students from Renew School competing in the events too. As ever, I want to say a massive dankie to all the parents and grandparents who came to support the kids on the day. What a blessing you are.

On June 4th and 5th we are having our Special Character Review. Key people from NZCPT (New Zealand Christian Proprietor's Trust) will visit school and see how we are fulfilling our obligations in the areas of Christian education. They have certain criteria

to follow but it is an exciting opportunity to showcase the faith-based learning that happens here at Excellere College.

As a staff we have been learning more about the Trinity and how to teach this to our students. It has been a fascinating insight. Last Monday Pastor Barry Dunn did a wonderful job of dramatising the Trinity for the whole school to enjoy at our weekly devotion in the gym. There were lots of laughs but I am certain many students gained a greater understanding of the meanings behind this fundamental aspect of our Christian faith.

At the end of Week 3 I want to share Psalm 28:7 ESV

**The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.**

This seems like a great reminder as we go about our busy lives.

Andy Mouat

Tumuaki



## Show Quest Results



**Junior Team**—Our junior team absolutely dazzled, bringing home the following awards:

- \* 1st Place – qualifying for the national finals!
- \* Whetū rangatahi (star of the show) – Sarvag Shankar
- \* Excellence in dance
- \* Excellere in technology
- \* Recognition in music
- \* Teacher spirit award – Larissa Matheson



**Senior Team**—Our senior team impressed with their powerful storytelling and polished performance, receiving the following awards:

- \* 3rd place
- \* Best story
- \* Recognition in dance
- \* Teacher spirit award – Teale Vint



## School Board Presiding Member—Petrus Nel

I'm honoured to step into the role of Presiding Member for the Excellere College School Board for 2025. I have served as a parent representative on the Board since December 2023, holding the Health & Safety portfolio. My wife, René, and I have two beautiful children at Excellere College – Luané in Year 11 and Leander in Year 13, so I have a deeply personal commitment to our school community.

I am a hands-on type of person who genuinely enjoys understanding what makes our school, staff and students tick. This year, I aim to make the Board more transparent and approachable while actively supporting and enabling our principal and staff to do their jobs effectively. Our children are precious; everything we do as a Board should be centred around their well-being, learning and spiritual growth.

With a background in emergency management, cyber security and leadership, I bring a focus on strategic governance, risk management and ensuring a safe and supportive environment for our students and staff. While I acknowledge there are challenges ahead, I firmly believe that the only way we can successfully tackle these is through the Grace, Mercy, and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### What Does the Presiding Member Do?

As Presiding Member, my role is to lead the

Board and ensure that we function effectively as a governance body. This includes holding the Principal and staff accountable to the Board's strategic direction, policies and expectations while supporting them in their roles.

- Providing leadership and oversight to ensure the Board operates within its legal and ethical responsibilities.
- Facilitating Board meetings and ensuring we make informed, strategic decisions.
- Working closely with the principal to support him in his leadership, while maintaining a governance perspective.
- Encouraging community engagement and ensuring the Board remains transparent and accessible.

Ultimately, my job is to help the Board serve Excellere College in the best way possible, providing guidance and oversight while allowing the school's leadership to focus on daily operations. Health & Safety Portfolio – What Does It Cover?

Alongside my role as Presiding Member, I hold the Health & Safety portfolio on the Board.

This means I work closely with the school to:

- Ensure safe environments for students, staff and visitors.
- Oversee risk management and compliance with health and safety regulations.
- Support the school's policies and procedures around student and staff well-being.
- Assist in reviewing and improving incident reporting and emergency preparedness.

Health and safety is about more than just compliance. It's about making sure our school remains a safe, supportive and thriving place for all.

Ngā mihi nui,

Petrus Nel, Presiding Member



## World Vision Ambassador Visit

Last Friday we were blessed by a visit by Asher, one of the four New Zealand World Vision Ambassadors. Asher introduced the focus for the 40 hour challenge this year which is raising money for the Solomon Islands. Growing food has become more difficult with climate change as their crops are often flooded with sea water. The money raised from World Vision will go towards farming supplies to help re-establish crops and help them keep being self sufficient.

Excellere students can help by signing up to join the 40 hour challenge and getting sponsorship. Information packs are available from Whanau teachers or see Mrs Hill for more information.





# Excellere College Cross-Country

This years Cross Country ran as beautiful as the weather that God blessed us with on the day. The Juniors did a great job of starting us off with a bang, what speedsters we have coming through. It was awesome to see their determination, sportsmanship and willingness to give their best.

There was also an incredible turn out by whanau which was a real highlight of the day. The buzz parents and grandparents bring is very special, so thankyou to all who were able to come.

A special thankyou to Mr Reynolds and his team for running their end and prize giving so well, to all the senior student leaders who helped marshall and lead students around the course, and a special well done to Alisha Du Plessis for organising everything so well in her first year with us. It was great to see the school community across the years, with seniors cheering the juniors on and then vice versa later in the day, we are very blessed with the incredible students we have in this school. Results will be published in the Week 6 newsletter.





## World Vision Conference

Early this term, Excellere College participated in the World Vision leadership conferences. There were two events—1 May for the Year 11-13 and 2 May for the Year 6-9's. Students needed to collaborate to share their 40-Hour Challenge Pitch with other schools. This year, the focus for World Vision is NO SOCIAL MEDIA for 40 hours on the weekend of 13-15 June. Please join us in supporting the children in Solomon Islands to get enough food to eat each day.

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the World Vision 2025 Youth Conference. The conference was a really joyful and thought provoking experience and brought a whole new perspective on how I see the world and

how people are affected by things that they had no part in causing. There were many inspirational words that really stuck with me. One was that “you can’t lead/be like someone else because they are already taken”. It spoke to me about how everyone is their own person with their own strengths and weaknesses. We shouldn't look at someone else's strength and say that I wish I had that but instead discover our own strengths to nurture and grow. The conference was something that brought out the leaders in individuals and the leadership ambassador day we had last Friday taught us how to run the 40 hour challenge in our school and work towards bringing a change in the Solomon Islands.

- Abbinaya Pokiri-Raja, Year 11.



## Souful Dance Group Heads to Dubai!

Earlier this year, my dance crew Souful (part of DDF – Demonstrate Da Flow, based in Auckland) competed at World Supremacy Battlegrounds (WSB) in Hamilton. We proudly placed second, coming just behind the world-renowned Royal Family – a result that qualified us to compete at the World Hip Hop Dance Championship in Dubai this July!

More recently, we competed in Hip Hop International (HHI), the national hip hop competition held in Auckland, where Souful placed 1st in the Varsity Division – making us the official NZ Hip Hop Varsity Champions! We've even been featured in the NZ Herald.

As we prepare to represent New Zealand on the world stage, any support—whether through sponsorship, donations, or simply

spreading the word—would mean so much. If you'd like to help, donations can be made to:

Account Name: [Jenna Watkins]

Bank Account: 03-0155-0478906-000

Thank you for supporting our journey!

Thank you,

- Caylin Watkins, Year 12



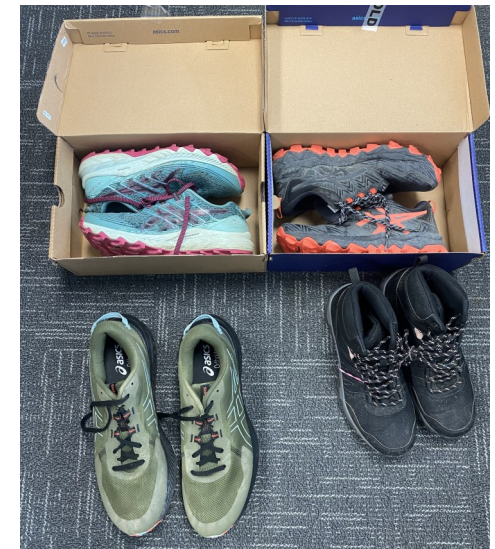
## Tramping Shoe Donation

ReSport kindly donated 4 pairs of tramping boots/shoes to our school. This is a not for profit company that look to help equip and encourage young people to get into more sports. They receive high quality pieces of sports kit and redistribute it where it is needed.

We really appreciate their donation to the Duke of Edinburgh program and are excited for the adventures this will contribute towards.

- Ben Keyte

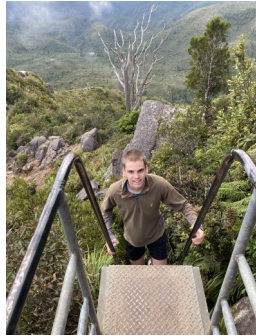
DOE Coordinator & HoD of PE & Health





## Duke of Edinburgh—Pinnacles Hike

Last week on May 7th and 8th the first group of Bronze students in the Duke of Edinburgh program had their tramp at the Pinnacles. After a fun (and loud) drive down to the Coromandel, we arrived with high spirits at the start of the trail. The weather looked great and the kids were quick to admire the beauty of God's creation around us.



games of Taco-cat-goat-cheese-pizza and then bed. We awoke to a drizzly morning but the students made the most of it by jumping in puddles where possible, and

admiring the waterfalls around them. A great first trip for this group, setting the Excellere record to the summit. They can be proud of their mahi and how they represented Excellere College. Special thankyou to Alisha du Plessis for coming on the trip and making it epic.

- Ben Keyte, DoE Coordinator, Hod PE & Health

Students learned some native edible plants, as well as some of the names of our more common species. This tramp is mainly up hill, with HEAPS of stairs, which the students really loved. They worked well as a group, staying together and keeping spirits high while showing care and respect to those they encountered on the trail. On making it to the hut the students quickly dumped their packs and summited the Pinnacles with Mr Keyte and Alisha. Unfortunately, right at the summit there was cloud, so we didn't get to see the immense views up there, but on dropping down a couple of flights of stairs the view opened up enough for us to see the coast.

Next it was dinner time, then into some EPIC



## Renew Sports Exchange

At the end of Term 1 Excellere College and Renew School had a Sports exchange with teams competing in netball and basketball. A great time was had by all with Renew School taking out the honours in both events. Alisha du Plessis, Sports Coordinator



## 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 weekly 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.





## Year 5 & 6 Bikes in Schools

We were blessed to have Chubby and Kevin from Bikes in Schools come to Excellere College. They took the Year 5 & 6 students for two days at the start of the term. We practised our skills, and some people even rode bikes for the first time! We used ramps and even jumped over Mr Reynolds. The games and relays were lots of fun and were a good way to practise our new skills.



## Wheels Wednesday

Wheels Wednesday went wheely well this week! Wheels Wednesday is an opportunity for Junior College students to have fun, engage in physical activity and build confidence and resilience on various modes of wheeled transport.

It started last week, with our year 5 and 6 students showing honing their skills on bikes, scooters, skateboards and skates - there was even a ripstick!! (Remember those). The music was pumping along with the hearts of the riders.

Students must have a helmet to ride!

### Wheels Wednesday Schedule

Week 4 (21st May)	Y0-2 students
Week 5 (28th May)	Y3/4 students
Week 6 (4th June)	Y5/6 students
Week 7 (11th June)	Y0-2 students
Week 8 (18th June)	Y5/6 students
Week 9 (25th June)	Y3/4 students



## 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@excellercollege.school.nz](mailto:julie.hale@excellercollege.school.nz)



Mary Holgate  
Occupational Therapist  
Ph: 0211489382  
[hiddenwingsot@gmail.com](mailto:hiddenwingsot@gmail.com)  
**Hidden Wings**  
Occupational Therapy  
[www.hiddenwingsoccupationaltherapy.co.nz](http://www.hiddenwingsoccupationaltherapy.co.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)  
A: 11A James Street, Whangarei

**Lee Reo**  
Financial Advisor

Helping protect what matters  
INSURANCE | KIWISAVER | INVESTMENTS | MORTGAGES





## Term 1 Easter Assembly



## Teachers as Students & Students as Teachers Dress-up Day

