



Excellere College

Whaia te Maramatanga o Te Karaiti

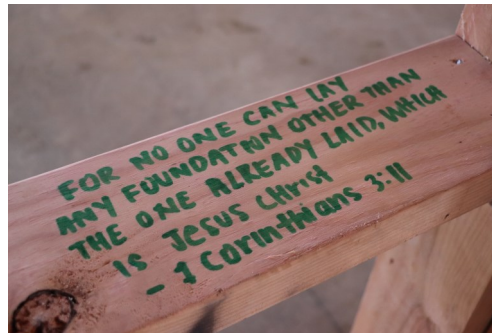
Newsletter - Panui

August 1 2025 Term 3 Week 3

Upcoming Events

4-11 August Mon-Mon	Life Education Caravan Year 0-8
16 August Saturday	Level 1 Commerce YES Trade Fair
22 August Friday	Teacher Only Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
29 Aug Friday	Excellere Vs Renew Junior Netball Festival
1-5 Sept Mon-Fri	NCEA Derived Grade Exams (Y11-13)
4 Sept Thursday	Numeracy (Y10-Y13) -Exam
9-11 Sept Mon-Wed	Education Review Office Visit
9-10 Sept Tues-Wed	Level 2 Barista Course NorthTec
9 Sept Tuesday	LitReading (Y10-13) - Exam
10 Sept Tuesday	LitWriting (Y10-13) - Exam
12 Sep Friday	Whole School Assembly Northland Book Battle (Y5-8)
16-17 Sep Tues & Wed	L2 Barista Course NorthTec

Blessing of the New Buildings



We had the privilege of praying through our four new classrooms last week - some Staff, our Year 13's and Student Council Reps came equipped with Bible verses and permanent markers and had fun writing scriptural graffiti all over the framing! There are promises of God and encouragement 'etched' into the walls as we celebrate this expansion. Please keep this project in your prayers - for safety on site, for finance and provision, and for wisdom in decision making for the inevitable tweaks that come up in the execution of a large project like this. Ki te Atua te kororia.

From the Principal

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

Thank you all for a wonderful start to Term 3. There are so many things to show gratitude for and I will do my best to include them. The cool, clear, frosty mornings are such a rarity for us in Whangārei but of course the rain is not far away at this time of the year.



It was great to be part of the “roof shout” where the builders got to celebrate the milestone of the new classrooms being made weather tight.

Our netball teams are nearing the end of their season and we are so proud of the way in which the students played with so much heart. Thank you also to all the senior students and parents who have supported

them with coaching, managing and being there on the sidelines every weekend literally through rain, hail and shine. Thank you all for coming out for the Learning Conferences (parent Interviews). It was lovely to catch up with so many parents and to hear feedback from you. On that note, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

The School Board elections are coming up in September. If you would like to chat about this, please pop in. It is a great opportunity to sow into our fantastic school especially as we embark on a new period of growth.

Over the next couple of weeks you will see two new school 12-seater vans on site. Thank you so much to the Excellere College School Board for praying into this vision and expanding our transport capabilities. I am so excited for this new season.

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

Gratitude is not just a feeling—it’s a posture of the heart. At Excellere College, we are reminded daily of the goodness of God: new students, new staff, new opportunities to learn and grow. Even in challenges, we have reason to give thanks, because each moment shapes us more into the likeness of Christ.

When we practise gratitude, we shift our focus from what’s missing to what God is doing. We see His faithfulness in a child’s progress, a teacher’s dedication, and a community that walks together in faith.

Let us lead (as parents and as educators) with thankful hearts, modelling to our students that God is present in every season—and that a grateful spirit can be a light to others.



Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the blessings You pour out daily. Help us to recognise Your hand at work in our school, and to respond with grateful hearts. Amen.

Andy Mouat
Tumuaki



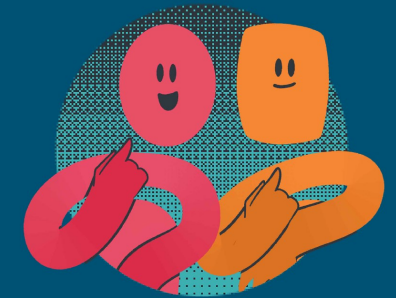
School Board Elections

Nominations are now open! Check your inbox for an email from the Returning Officer.

(1) Check that your details are correct.

(2) You can nominate online at www.myschoolelection.nz/mynomination.

(3) Nominations close at midday on 6 August.



Get on board!

Nominate yourself or someone you know to be a school board member.



Introducing Our New Proprietor Representatives

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Stewart and Ryan Sims as new proprietor appointed representatives to the Excellere College School Board. Appointed by the Whangārei Christian Education Trust (WCET), Sarah and Ryan bring a heart for Christian education, a passion for our school’s mission and valuable experience to our governance team. We look forward to the insight and wisdom they will bring as we continue to steward the vision and special character of Excellere College together.

Congratulations Mrs Matheson

I'm thrilled to share some happy news my Excellere whānau - our daughter, Phoebe Matheson, arrived safely 4 weeks ago! She's doing really well, growing quickly, and already has us completely smitten.

Phoebe, Mr Matheson and I are happy and healthy, and we're enjoying these special early days together. Thank you all for your kind thoughts and support during this exciting time!

— Mrs. Matheson



Welcome Jeana Novaire to Room 7

Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

My name is Jeana Novaire, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new teacher in Room 7 while Larissa Matheson is away on leave. It is a true privilege to step into this space and continue the rich learning and Christ-centred relationships already established this year. I am especially thankful for the opportunity to support tamariki as they grow in their God-given potential here at Excellere College, among such passionate and Spirit-led colleagues!

With three of my own children being students here, this new season has been a double portion of blessing—how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity (Psalm 133:1). I'm looking forward to building strong relationships with our ākonga, whānau, and staff as we journey together in faith and learning.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Jeana Novaire



Congratulations Mrs Howells

On Wednesday, we shared a lovely morning tea as a staff for Sarah Howells, as she and her husband prepared to welcome their first child.

Let's unite in prayer for Sarah and Connor as they begin this journey with their beautiful baby boy, Frederik Howells who was born happy and healthy on Saturday evening.

We are grateful for all Sarah has shared with her students thus far and she will of course be dearly missed while on maternity leave. May this special time be full of God's love, wisdom and joy.



Welcome Amie Garton to Room 5

Kia ora Excellere whānau,

I'm excited to be stepping into the role of classroom teacher in Room 5, taking over from Sarah Howells while she is on maternity leave. Over the past few years, I've had the privilege of working across the Junior College as a release teacher and reliever, getting to know many of the tamariki and staff along the way. I'm really looking forward to the opportunity to teach and learn alongside the wonderful Room 5 students for the remainder of the year.



Welcoming International Exchange Students from China

As our school increases its international community, the school has been working with several agents, discussing what our Special Character school has to offer. It has been great to see the work of several months of organising come to fruition. We hope in the future to have other students from across the globe come and experience life at Excellere College.

We had 5 students arrive from China at the start of Term 3 and we welcomed them and their families along with new staff and students to the school with a mihi whakatau. The students will stay for a month during their summer holidays. Once they return to China, they will have one week remaining of their holidays before school begins. All the students have found it difficult coming from hot summer temperatures to the wind and rain of a typical Whangārei winter!

- Barbie Reynolds, International Director

Sally, 15 years old

Future career: Business

Surprising NZ things: NZ is a very very long way from China. I am not enjoying the food it is very different from Chinese food. I miss rice!

Reason for coming to NZ: To learn English.

Dora, 13 years old

Future career: To be in politics or become a teacher

Surprising NZ things: What I have noticed that is surprising is that there are soooo many sheep. New Zealand people are also very easy going and kind.

Reason for coming to NZ: To experience the freedom living in here has to offer. There are lots of rules and homework in China.

Peggy, 13 years old

Future Career: To be an architect

Surprising NZ things: New Zealand Kiwi are cute we saw one in Queenstown. The air in New Zealand is very fresh.

Reason for coming to NZ: Experience life abroad.

Nicole, 13 years old

Future career: Freedom!!!!

Surprising NZ things: New Zealand ice cream is delicious. Queenstown, NZ burgers are very big.

Reason for coming to NZ: My mother recommended it as a good place to learn English.

Yulia, 12 years old

Future career: A doctor like my parents

Surprising NZ things: In New Zealand I can always see a rainbow, the kiwi is so cute, the school students and staff are so friendly.

Reason for coming to NZ: My goals were to travel in New Zealand and learn English.



Above: Our school mihi whakatau welcoming the Chinese students, new staff and students to Excellere College at the start of Term 3. Below: Visiting the Waitangi Treaty grounds last Friday.



Middle College Speech Competition

Middle College Speech Competition 2025

As our college continues to grow, so too does the calibre of our students' public speaking skills. This year's Middle College Speech Competition presented a wide range of voices—students who were not only confident to take the stage but who also spoke with clarity, conviction, and insight. Whether tackling light-hearted topics or more serious issues, each finalist demonstrated thoughtful structure, persuasive language, and impressive stage presence. It was wonderful to witness such maturity and talent among our young speakers. And they always have us in hysterics.

Congratulations to our finalists:

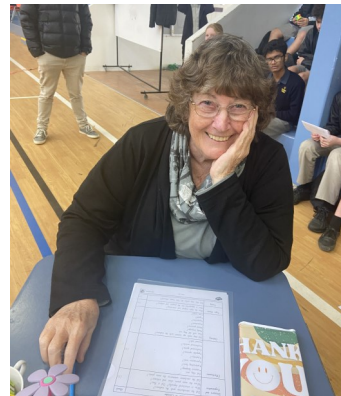
Year 7 – Emily Bell, Lydia Johnston

Year 8 – Aron Hugo, Indee Hanley, Josh Gandy, Lucy Webster, Xavier Phetsomphou, Addiena Gordon

Year 9 – Lienka van Niekerk, Handro Potgieter, Aaron Babu Pappachen and our overall winners:

Emily Bell, Josh Gandy and Handro Potgieter

We are greatly encouraged by each student who participated and look forward to seeing how their voices continue to grow and impact as they embark on debating this term.



Excellere College School Values: Compassion

Compassion: is the feeling you get when you hear about something someone else is going through, and you are motivated to help them.

In te reo Māori a great translation is: He Ngākau Aroha which means the loving heart.

The perfect example is when the World Vision team shared the video about Polyne and her life in the Solomon Islands and how wildly different she was experiencing daily life to us here in Whangārei. That feeling that maybe made you sad for her, or mad that it wasn't fair for her to not have what you have; you might have felt a lump in your throat or even felt like crying, but that makes you motivated to want to do the 40 Hour Challenge and raise some money to help Polyne and her community in the Solomon Islands - that is compassion.

It doesn't just have to be Polyne or that extreme, it can be someone in your class who is sad or lonely and we can help them with a smile, inviting them to play or sit by us, praying for them.

- Nat Brown



Senior School Ball

Only 71 Days Until Our Annual School Ball!

We are excited to announce that our annual Senior School Ball will be held on **Friday, 11th October**. Students are reminded to collect their ball contracts from Mrs. Minnaar as soon as possible. Girls must also have their formal dresses approved by emailing a photo of their chosen outfit to either Mrs. Minnaar or Mrs. Smith. Ball tickets will be available for purchase from the school office starting Monday, 4th August. Please note that contracts must be completed and returned before tickets can be purchased.



Upcoming School Sports

Week 4	NSSSA Netball, Year 9-10 Tuesday 5th August
	NSSSA Basketball Girls, Year 9-10 Friday 8th August
Week 5	NSSSA Futsal Fest, Year 7-8 Wednesday 13th August
	NSSSA Kiwi Tag Boys, Year 9-10 Wednesday 13th August
	NSSSA Basketball Boys, Year 9-10 Friday 15th August
Week 6	NSSSA Netball, Year 7-8 Tuesday 19th August
	NSSSA Badminton Teams Boys Thursday 21st August
	NSSSA Badminton Teams Girls Friday 22nd August
Week 7	WPSSA Cross country, Year 4-8 Wednesday 27th August
	Renew Exchange - Netball, Year 1-6 Friday 29th August
Week 9	WPSSA Inclusive Sports day, Year 4-8 Wednesday 10th September
Week 10	Multi Sports Day, Year 7-13 Friday 19th September



FREE dental care for under 18s
Kei raro iho i te tekau mā waru, kāhore he utu

TIPS TO KEEP YOU SMILING

Fluoride in toothpaste helps prevent tooth decay
Avoid eating or drinking after brushing teeth, especially at night so the Fluoride can keep working to protect and strengthen teeth.

Need a dental appointment for your child?
0800 MY TEETH (0800 698 3384)
Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand



0800 698 3384
(0800 MY TEETH)

Advertise your event or business HERE in the school newsletter. \$100 a Year for 12 Newsletters or \$10-15 per single advertisement, depending on size.
Contact: julie.hale@excellercollege.school.nz

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 Angela 027 223 2669 / angela@girlsbrigade.org.nz

GRACE

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Term Time Hours: 3-5:30pm
School Holiday Hours: 8:30 - 4:00

For more information contact:
graceafterschoolcare@gmail.com

Jades vs Staff - Netball Battle

As a fitting farewell to a much loved senior student and netball star, Clarissa van der Westhuizen, the Excellere Jades (Collegiate grade) challenged the staff to a lunchtime netball game.

The gym was crowded, the competition was fierce, and the Jades looked amazing! They brought their A-game, however the very strategically stacked staff team were relentless in their pursuit of a win and would not back down... final score was: Jades 6 v 10 Staff.

It must be said that several staff members were limping the next day... well done Jades for an excellent game - can't wait for next time!



3x3 Basketball Boys / Girls—Year 9 & 10

There were a lot of other schools participating in this event but our students did well.

The students showed great sportsmanship against the other schools although this was not always reciprocated by their opponents.

The Excellere Hummingbirds came 4th in Pool B and the Excellere Eagles came 5th in Pool A (Boys Festival).



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

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



Student Achievement: Kristin Ras: Deep Sea Angling



From the 8th to the 15th of June I went to the Bay Of Islands International fishing competition, where I fished for the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers Club as part of their juniors team for 2025. It was a light tackle competition for Yellowtail Kingfish, which means you could only use a light line class.

There were four people in my team including me. On the first day I arrived, me and my team had to go meet some of the other teams in the competition. There were people from different places around the world like Australia, Rarotonga and America. Also from different places in New Zealand. On Day 2, all the teams got up around about 5:00 to 5:30 in the morning and we hopped on our boat called JUST MAGIC. When we arrived at our fishing spot we had to catch some live bait for a little while and start fishing. We did not catch anything on day 2 and we were feeling really worried.

On Day 3 we did the same thing in the morning, caught live bait and went back to the fishing spot. It was quite rough that day but we got through the rain and wind, after a while we got lots of bites, then at around 12:00pm the fish started biting and my team mates landed 4 fish. Day 4 we went to a different spot where myself and another team mate eventually got a turn on the rod (after lots of praying) and we both landed really nice fish.

Going into Day 5 we were leading in points, we got one more Kingy on day 5, only to find out that the team who was in second place had also caught one, and theirs was on 6kg line and ours was on 8kg. That means they got more points for the same sized fish, so they overtook us for the lead.

Day 6 was a Lay Day where we just relaxed, smoked fish, and started packing to come home.

I had so much fun and learnt so much, it was a really good experience, and I hope to do it again next year. I got 1st place Junior Girl most points, my fish weighed 10.65 on 6kg line, and I caught it on a live bait. I won a Samsung Galaxy tablet, a family Cruise voucher, airpods and a framed certificate. We caught a total of 7 Yellowtail, and ended up coming in a very close 2nd place out of 100+ teams.

- Kristin Ras, Year 8



Advertisements

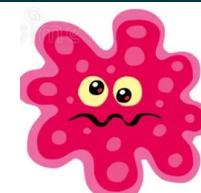
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From the Office Team:

There are lots of nasty bugs around at the moment—thank you for keeping your kids home if they are unwell, to minimise the spread to their classmates and Teachers.

A reminder that MOE guidelines recommend to please keep your child home for 48hrs after the last vomit or diarrhoea.

We are aware Influenza B is also out in the community, so contact your GP or Healthline 0800 611 116 if you have any concerns over your child's health or recovery.

Email: office@excellerecollege.school.nz (& their class-room teacher if possible) or leave a voice message.

Text: using the EdgeMUSAC App when reporting an absence using the prompts.

Thanks for your support—praying that your families stay safe and healthy over this winter season.

World Vision Celebration Assembly



Last Friday our World Vision ambassador, Asher Harkness, Came to Excellere to acknowledge the effort Excellere College students have put into raising money in the 40 Hour Challenge.

Excellere College was presented with a bronze certificate for raising \$4395! Individual students were presented with certificates and badges from Mr Mouat, Mrs Hill, and Asher for being the top fundraisers in our school.

- Xavier Phetsomphou



Paramedic Visit to Room 3

Mrs Grammer was away sick so Miss Romley came to school and taught Room 3. We were so surprised to discover that she is not just a teacher but is a paramedic too! We are learning about community heroes like paramedics, firefighters and police so we had lots of questions for her. She showed us some of her equipment and the best part was using the stethoscope to hear our heartbeats. We have very healthy and busy hearts!



Year 9 Painting



By Harper



By Eli



By Akisha



By Lucy



By Kaiden



By Michael

Year 7 Collograph Printing



By Kaiden



By Emily



By Uhri



By Caitlin



By Boubia



By Lydia



By Grace



By Zelda



By Miale



By Arlo



By Elijah



By Lilai