



Excellere College

Whaia te Maramatanga o Te Karaiti

Newsletter - Panui

August 22 2025

Term 3 Week 6

Upcoming Events

4-11 August Mon-Mon	Life Education Caravan Year 0-8
16 August Saturday	Level 1 Commerce YES Trade Fair
1-5 Sept Mon-Fri	NCEA Derived Grade Exams
4 Sept Thursday	CAA—Numeracy P2-5
8 Sept Monday	Kotui Ako Derived Grade Exams
9-10 Sept Tues-Wed	Level 2 Barista Course NorthTec
9 Sept Tuesday	CAAs - Reading P2 -5
11 Sept Thursday	Kotui Ako Derived Grade Exams
11 Sept Thursday	CAAs—Writing P2-5
12 Sept Friday	Book Battle Year 0-8
12 Sept Friday	School Assembly
16-17 Sept Tues-Wed	L2 Barista Course Northtec
19th Sept Friday	Last Day of Term

Blessing of the New School Vans



Our new vans are on the road! The School Board is delighted to share that our two Volkswagen Crafter 12-seater vans have officially joined the fleet and they're already in action. These spacious, safe and comfortable vehicles will serve a range of purposes - from EOTC trips and sports events to curriculum-linked excursions and inter-school activities. The vans are modern, reliable and easy to drive, with features designed for both practicality and passenger comfort.

Early feedback has been incredibly positive from staff and students alike and we're confident they'll be a valuable asset to the school for many years to come. Special thanks to the staff, Board members and parents who supported the process from start to finish. Your time, advice and hands-on help made this all possible. - Excellere College School Board

From the Principal

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

The blessings just keep on coming here at Excellere College. We took delivery of two new 12 seater school vans and this gives us so much more capacity for taking students out and about. Thank you so much to the School Board for investing the funds to make this happen. Our four new classrooms are progressing very well and we have been making plans for 2026 and beyond.



We are still receiving a large number of enrolment enquiries across most year levels. I wish to assure the Excellere community that we are managing the growth in a prayerful manner to protect our incredible Christian character. Our aim is to grow by 30-40 students next year and again by a similar number in 2027.

As a part of the roll growth we are looking at additional subjects for senior classes for next year. Students have already submitted their subject choices and we are seeking to employ teachers to teach in those spaces. These are such exciting times! I am sure you will have seen huge changes to NCEA being announced in the media. Whilst the media is

light on details I can tell you that at Excellere College we will be making progress prayerfully and doing our best to keep you well informed along the way. The final draft of the Special Character Review has been submitted to the School Board and will be available for wider publication by the end of the term.



Our netball teams had their finals in the pouring rain and we are so proud of how well they did throughout the season. It is vital to acknowledge the selfless work of the coaches and managers who were tireless in their support of our students. Also, it is important to mention parents who turned up week after cold wet week to cheer the players from the side lines.

We had a number of teams taking part in the recent Mathex competition. Despite the fact that many teams were affected by illness they did incredibly well against tough competition from other schools. A huge “dankie” to everyone involved. Another recent event was the Digits of Pi challenge. Some of our students managed to recite Pi to nearly 200 places. This is an outstanding achievement.



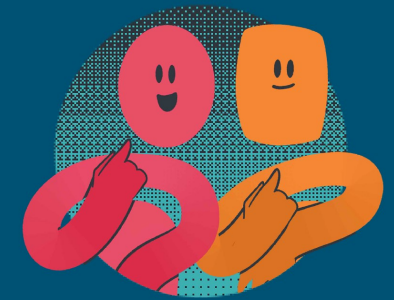
Our senior students are working hard towards their internal exams and this is a great opportunity to revise subject content and refine exam technique. I think way back to my own days of sitting exams as a secondary student and I recall feeling anxious about the formal assessments. As Christians we are so blessed to be able to hand our burdens to Him.

Below are my thoughts for our Year 11-13 students:

As you prepare for your internal exams, I want to remind you of God’s promise: “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). Anxiety whispers that you are not enough, but faith declares that Christ is your strength. You are not carrying this alone. Hand every worry, every late-night thought, every pressure to succeed over to God. Breathe deeply, pray, and trust that He equips you for each step. Do your best with the gifts He has given you, and then rest in His peace. Remember—your worth is not measured by grades, but by being a beloved child of God.

Andy Mouat
Tumuaki

School Board Elections



Get on board!

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

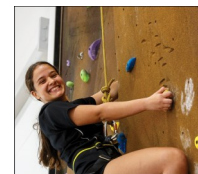


Student Election Notice

Call for student representative nominations close at **12:00 noon on Monday, 25 August 2025**. Nomination forms are available for collection at the office. Additionally, the *Student Representative Handbook* is accessible to help students gain a clearer understanding of the roles and responsibilities associated with being a student representative.



Do you want to influence the future of your school?
Then why not stand for election as the Student Representative on your School Board?
As well as having a voice on how your school is governed, being a school board member will provide valuable knowledge and experience for your future – it will look great on your CV!
For more information, go to www.truistee-election.co.nz.



Do you want to make a difference in your school?
Then why not stand for election as the Student Representative on your School Board?
As a board member, you'll learn new skills, be able to have your say on important issues and make a positive contribution to your school and community.
For more information, go to www.truistee-election.co.nz.

Year 12 Visit 'Harold' the Giraffe

Last Friday our Year 12 students had an exciting and wonderful time with a familiar face: Harold the Giraffe! The students spent an hour with Harold the Giraffe, where they sang songs and saw Harold which was lovely to see since I haven't seen Harold for a long time. Mr. Mouat also joined us for the visit, enjoying the fun with the students. A huge thank you to Harold the Giraffe for letting us come for a visit.

- Hayley Allen, Year 12



Design a Helmet by Bike Northland

Thank you for the entries from Excellere College for our Design a Helmet competition.

They had more than 750 entries this year from 28 different schools across Te Tai Tokerau. Unfortunately, there were no winners selected from your school this year.

However we did have a few highly commended, Keziah Duinkerke (Year 5) and Roma Harvey (Year 6), they both received a small prize from Bike Northland.



Learning about 'Challenge' in Room 7

Room 7 has been learning about our Term 3 topic of 'challenge' in a variety of ways. We have collaborated to work on Minecraft build challenges that align with our memory verse (Psalm 18:30-36). So far we have built paths that lead us to good outcomes for following God's way and not so good outcomes like traps for steering off the path (Psalm 18:30 God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true). We have also built fortresses on the rock that represent the strength we have in Jesus (Psalm 18:31 For who is God except the Lord? Who but our God is a solid rock?). Our next challenge will be to create an artistic deer on a mountaintop (Psalm 18:33 He makes me surefooted as a deer, enabling me to stand on mountain heights).

We have also created one-point perspective artworks to represent staying on God's path through challenges. These concepts have also been reinforced in our film study of The Pilgrim's Progress.

One of our major challenges is learning our times tables! We have been working very hard on learning lots of memory tricks and we are seeing amazing progress! We have learnt about the commutative property and that there are 4 related facts in every fact family.



P: 0800 120 449 M: 022 393 7887
E: lee@balanceadvisors.co.nz
W: www.balanceadvisors.co.nz
A: 11A James Street, Whangarei

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Excellere College Netball

The Excellere Opals



The Opals are a Year 3&4 team coached by us, Tammy and Mariesa this year. They have worked very hard and well as a team, training every Friday lunchtime and playing on Monday nights, learning how to dodge players and to pass the ball down towards the hoop.

A highlight was getting to know the younger students and watching friendships grow between us over the season. We have enjoyed coaching them and look forward to seeing them play again next year.

- Coaches: Mariesa Duinkerke & Tamsen Browne

The Excellere Pearls



We are so proud of our Pearls (Year 1-2) this season - they have each grown in their confidence and skills so much and are a delightful group of girls. We hope they are inspired to continue with Netball in the future! Something that stood out was the encouragement and kindness these girls showed not only each other, but even extending to their opposition. Great displays of sportsmanship and representing our school values. The Pearls won almost every game this season. Thanks also to the incredible parent (and grandparent) squad who were court-side supporting every week, we couldn't have done it without you!

- Coaches: Lienka van Niekerk & Nat Brown

The Excellere Crystals



What an incredible season our Year 5s & 6s had! From some crushing losses at the start of the season to finishing on a high with a win, our girls showed resilience and determination in learning new skills, honing some old ones and for some on the team, learning the game completely! I am so proud of how far they have come and feel privileged to teach such a wonderful team who excel at encouraging each other and are getting better and better at working together as one unit. Keep up the hard work and you'll go far.

- Coaches: Rachel van der Hulst & Audra Warner

The Excellere Diamonds



Our team started the season in Section 8 and worked really hard to get through the ranks, eventually landing them in section 7, where they showed some really great skills and determination flying through their matches to find themselves in the top 2 teams and securing a spot in the finals! What a great accomplishment for a developing team who started off this season with a few injuries, and some players in Year 6 joining who had never even played 7 a side netball before.

We have had great fun, too many laughs and heaps of proud coach moments with our team. ****Keep shining brightly Diamonds****
Placing: Diamonds - Intermediate Section 7, 2nd

- Coaches: Sarah Stewart & Sam Ras

The Excellere Rubies

The Rubies was found where the crowd was buzzing! The Rubies is a vibrant team of players with diverse skills, ranging from seasoned players to newcomers to the sport.

This season was a testament to teamwork and camaraderie, with each player supporting and uplifting one another on the court. From Section 7 to Section 6, the team demonstrated remarkable growth and determination, consistently bringing their best effort. Every player showed significant improvement throughout the season. What an amazing season of netball! #Blessed
-Coaches: Melanie Boshoff and Shani Delpont



The Excellere Amethysts

Unlocking potential has been key to training with the Amethysts this season. Our team is made up of enthusiastic players with beautiful attitudes.

They have worked really hard to improve their agility, skills and teamwork, often with two training sessions each week. Their College BR2 finals game against the Jades showed just how much they had improved in every area. They finished the season in 2nd place -



such an accomplishment and boost to their netball confidence.

- Coaches: Lee Reo & Anneke Duinkerke

The Excellere Sapphires

The Sapphires are a team of passionate netballers. This was their second season playing together and their last season playing in the Intermediate section at Whangarei Netball Centre.

They have worked hard this season to improve their skills and work together as a team. They won the preliminary round for their section and were moved up to Section 4 for the championship round. The finals game was played in the wettest weather this season. The Sapphires really showed all their learning on court with a comprehensive win, making them Section 4 winners!

- Coach: Anneke Duinkerke



The Excellere Jades

My experience with the Excellere Jades Netball team was amazing. I was excited to make the team, as it meant playing with friends and meeting my new coach. Before each game, we prayed, asking the Lord to guide us, help us give our best, and enjoy the match. Playing netball again taught me resilience and sportsmanship—against competitive players, you must stand your ground and respond with skill, not emotions. — Kayley Buchler

As a new student at Excellere College, I feared not fitting in, but from day one,



the girls made me feel I belonged. We became more than teammates—we became family. I'm deeply grateful for every memory, laugh, and game, and especially to Coach Chantel Minnaar for her unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in each of us. I'll cherish this experience and these friendships forever. Love you all! — Ziany Swart

Year 3&4 Mathex at Renew School

On Friday, the 8th of August, students from Years 3 to 8 took part in a friendly Mathex competition at Renew School. Each team was made up of 3 to 4 players. For many of our students, it was their very first time participating in a Mathex event, and they thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.

The students returned to school buzzing with excitement, sharing how much fun they had solving the problems and running between questions. We look forward to taking part in more events like this with Renew School in the future!



Level 1 Food and Beverage Course

The second group of Level 1 students completed their Food and beverage course last week at Northtec.

Some staff and board members were lucky enough to be selected to be served a full 3 course meal by our students so they could practise their new hospitality skills.



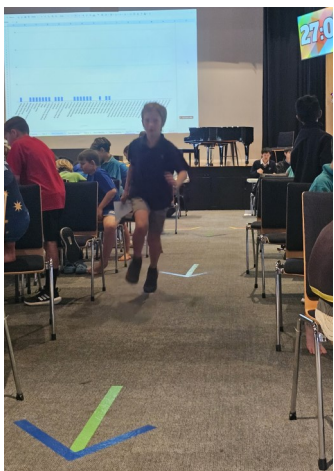
Life Education Visit



We were very fortunate to have the Life education mobile classroom come and visit us in the middle of the school term. Harold, the Life Education giraffe visited classrooms as well as the tamariki visiting the caravan for lessons on friendship and resilience. Thanks Harold, can't wait for next year!

Year Mathex Competition at Whangarei Boys High School

Year 5&6 Mathex



Year 7 - 10 Mathex



Senior 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.



Excellere College Umpires

We were blessed to have some netballers keen to take up learning to umpire at the beginning of the season and join Abinaya who started her umpire journey last season. These students have excelled each week out on the netball courts, voluntarily giving of their time to umpire games and be mentored and extended in their own skills. Thank you Abinaya, Tamsen, Lienka, Jacob and Mariesa.

Lienka van Niekerk - Junior Badge

This season was full of excitement since it was my first year umpiring. I chose umpiring as it was useful for me in my own game time to know which umpire does what. I enjoyed meeting umpires that had more or less the same netball experience as me. Working on my confidence was a challenge as a new umpire, but I worked hard and earned my Junior Umpire Badge. I am looking forward to the 2026 season and to meet all the new umpires!

Tamsen Browne - Junior Umpire Badge

This season has been so fun, it was my first year umpiring and I have learnt so much. I decided to do umpiring for an exciting experience, to build my confidence and just to know what an umpire does. I have enjoyed the challenge of umpiring and meeting new people. Some of the challenges I have faced are mainly the small things like people behind you talking about the wrong calls you make but you just have to ignore them and keep going. I have earned my junior badge,



and am so excited to continue umpiring again next year.

Jacob Duinkerke— Centre Badge

This season has been amazing. I am so glad that I decided to pursue umpiring, as it is useful for when I'm playing, and it is handy to have another skill under my belt. I feel very honoured to have been awarded both my junior and centre badges this year. I am so excited for 2026 and what it has in store for us umpires!

Abinaya Pokkiri-Raja — Centre Badge

This season had been a series of events and games that fuelled my aspirations to become a Centre umpire. This was my first full season of umpiring and I have learned to enjoy what I'm doing even when the pressure is on with a very enthusiastic audience behind you. The skills I have learned through umpiring have added depth to my knowledge of netball and contributed to my playing as well as umpiring. Overall, it has been a great season and I can't wait to continue to develop my skills next season!



Netball Festival—Year 9-10

On Tuesday 5th August we had a fantastic day at the Year 9-10 Netball Festival. Yes, it was wet and cold but everyone did great. Thank you for all the helpers that help out umpiring, coaching and managing the team.

Placegetters were based on pools (6 Pools) today & scores for and against. Excellere College Roses came 3rd in Pool A. Well done to all.

- 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



Excellere College School Values: Integrity

Integrity: doing the right thing, no matter who is watching. Including even if no one is watching. It's not always easy, and it's not always the fun choice, but you know that it's the right thing to do. In Te Reo Māori there is no exact word, it's a mix of tika and pono. Tika is being able to see someone's ethical commitment to their work, and pono is truth or in this case, honesty and accountability in their actions.

How do we show this at school? Showing up on time to class and with all the stuff we need. Doing our best, not pressure to be perfect, but trying your best and putting in good effort. Speaking up when something is not right, talking to someone you trust (ideally a grown up depending on the circumstances) if you notice something happening that doesn't feel right.

Conducting ourselves in a way that demonstrates good character, and the Christian values that our school holds in high regard.

- Nat Brown, Excellere College Administrator & WCET

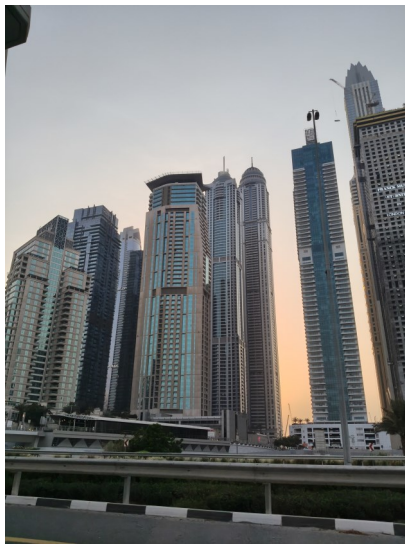
Student Achievement:

Caylin Watkins—International Hip Hop Dance Competition



In July, I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Dubai for my first-ever international dance competition—World Supremacy Battlegrounds (WSB), a world-class hip hop event. I've been dancing for several years now, and this experience was a huge milestone for me and my team. We flew out on the 7th of July, with the competition running over four intense and unforgettable days—Thursday through Sunday. Dubai was insanely hot—the comp itself took place in 56°C heat because

the air conditioning failed, making it one of the toughest environments I've ever danced in. Crews from all over the world came to compete, including dancers from the Philippines, Nepal, South Africa, and China. In prelims, my team placed 5th and 8th in our separate divisions, and in the finals we placed 2nd and 4th—ranking us in the top five dance crews in the world in our categories. As a country, New Zealand placed second overall, just behind the Philippines. We also received several special awards including Best Crew, Most Creative, and Crowd Favourites. Through this journey, I've learned that dance isn't just about moves—it's a form of art, a way to express culture, emotion, and individuality. I even got to meet Tyler's choreographer and made amazing new friends, especially from Nepal and the Philippines. I'm proud of how far we've come, and I'm excited to keep learning new dance styles in my own time and to support my new friends as they continue their journeys too. A special thank you to everyone from my school who supported me during my fundraising—your help made this dream possible, and I'm super grateful.



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@excellerecollege.school.nz

Term Time Hours: 3-5:30pm
School Holiday Hours: 8:30 - 4:00
For more information contact:
graceafterschoolcare@gmail.com

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Occupational Therapist
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Occupational Therapy
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Year 7 & 8 Futsal Festival

On Wednesday 13th August we had plenty of fast-paced footy fun. We had two mixed teams representing our school with pride, integrity and true team spirit!

To note that we had some first time players on the "pitch", they certainly gave it their all and were great support to their more experienced football team mates. Some of these children are really talented, from dribbling the ball around their opponents - to firing off long range goals a plenty! Combine that with "flying substitutions," they had little time to settle into the fast paced 12 minute game. No wonder Excellere has a reputation "of punching above their weight", I know these teams were running on the prayer said at the beginning of the day.

Well done to all the participants, you guys were amazing, it was a privilege for me to support you.

- Alisha du Plessis, Sports Coordinator



Year 9 & 10 Boys Basketball

On Friday the 15th of August we had a wonderful day at the Basketball. There were very fast paced games from the other schools, but our students enjoyed every minute of the experience.

They also had the opportunity to learn how to keep score and how to umpire a game.

- Alisha du Plessis, Sports Coordinator



Upcoming School Sports

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