

Upcoming Events

19th Sept Friday	Last day of school
6th Oct Monday	Mihi whakatau — school gym 8:50am
6th Oct Monday	Final day for SPRINGS Challenge — submissions to office
9th Oct Thursday	Netball prizegiving — school gym 5:00pm – 7:00pm
11th Oct Saturday	Senior ball at McKay Stadium + leavers dinner/farewell
14-15 Oct Wed & Thurs	DOE Bronze Cape Brett
27th Oct Monday	Labour Day — School Closed
29th Oct Wednesday	Junior College Athletic Day Year 5 & Year 6
4th Nov Tuesday	NCEA exam starts Exam centre: Renew School
6th Nov Thursday	Weetbix Tryathlon — Year 5 to Year 9
10 Nov	Teacher Only Day — School Closed
20-21 Nov Wed & Thurs	DOE Pinnacles Tramp - Year 10
28 Nov Friday	NCEA exams end

Celebrating the End of Term 3 in Style



At Morning devotions in Week 9, our principal Andy Mouat said he would wear The Springbok Rugby uniform to school if the Springboks beat the All Blacks on the weekend. This Monday the staff and students were elated to see that he was wearing the green and gold. As a school we sung the national anthems of both countries and got a group photo of all dressed in the colours of South Africa.

During these devotions we also acknowledged the 80th birthday of Merv Cullen, one of the school's original founders. Fresh from his return from Africa, Merv's continued contribution to our school culture has been a constant support and encouragement.

From the Principal

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

You will have noticed the windows and concrete being installed in the new classrooms. Over the next week or two you will see that the caretaker's storage units will be moved to enable drainage systems to be installed to support the new buildings. I am also in negotiations to extend the gravelled staff carpark behind the staffroom. The goal is to free up more space for parent parking in the main parking area. As ever, thank you for your patience and care when navigating the carpark. As the school grows we are investigating additional parking options and I will keep you posted when decisions are made. As you can imagine, the funding required for any of these projects needs to be seriously considered at each stage.



Well done to all our senior students who have been working so hard to complete their derived grade exams. This has been a busy time and teachers have worked many additional hours supporting students and marking papers. We are blessed to welcome Mrs Jane Garrick to the senior team and she will work alongside our students for the final

few weeks of the year.

Daylight saving begins soon Sunday 28th September at 3am and so we will return to school in Term 4 with longer summer evenings in the countdown to summer.



Many of you will have heard your children discuss the fun we had at Monday morning assembly on 8th September. As the assembly was drawing to a close I took my jacket off to reveal an All Black's jersey underneath. The students were in uproar! I then made a deal that I would wear a Springboks jersey the next Monday if the SA team won the upcoming game. So, the very next morning, three delightful young ladies came to visit my office with a gift to make sure I kept my promise.

A huge dankie to Lienka, Skyla and Kristin for their wonderful sense of humour. Also, dankie to Kristin's dad, Roean Ras for providing the Springboks jersey. It was so much fun on Monday 15th September seeing the anticipation on the students' faces when I slowly undid my jacket to reveal the Springboks jersey underneath.

To me, this friendly rivalry and joyful laughter is a big part of what makes Excellere College such a special place.

As we step into the season together, let us remember the gift of family, the joy of fun, and the importance of rest. God has placed us in community so that we may encourage and build one another up (1 Thessalonians 5:11). He delights in our laughter and rejoicing, reminding us that "a cheerful heart is good medicine" (Proverbs 17:22). And He calls us also to pause, for true rest is found in Him: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). May we treasure these blessings and carry them with us in every part of our school life.

Andy Mouat, Tumuaki



IMPORTANT

2026 School Enrolment Notice

We are blessed to have waitlists for students wanting to enrol in 2026 across all Year levels.

If your student is not returning to Excellere College in 2026, can you please notify the Office in writing before 1st November, to enable us enough time to complete the exit procedure and arrange any supporting documents required for your child's new school, and conduct an interview with a family from our waitlist.

(A reminder that the signed enrolment agreement requires x1 term's notice in writing for withdrawing a student - except graduating Year 13's - otherwise families are liable for School Fees to cover this time period.)

Contact on: office@excellerecollege.school.nz

Calendar Dates for 2026

Teacher Only Days

Tuesday 27th January - Friday 30th January

Term 1 - 86 half days

Monday 2nd February - Thursday 2nd April

Term 2 - 106 half days

Monday 20th April - Friday 3rd July

Term 3 - 100 half days

Monday 20th July - Friday 25th September

Term 4 - 88 half days

Monday 12th October - Friday 11th December

Total 380 half days

NB: Area Schools are required to be open 380 half days

Excellere College Special Character Review—Executive Summary from NZCPT



On June 4 and 5, 2025, a team of three undertook a Special Character Review of Excellere College.

Reviewers included Mark Larson (Chair, NZCPT, former Principal of Middleton Grange School and former AIS CEO), Philip Mark Bradley (CEO of the NZ Christian Proprietors Trust), and Colette Büdler (KingsWay School). They were supported by Dr Jacqui Lloyd, NZCPT Theological Advisor and Educator, in a consultancy role. It is good practice for a proprietor to review the school's Special Character externally. This usually occurs once every three years. The review focused on one



key question: "Is there evidence that the seven core practices in the NZCPT Special Character Guidelines are being implemented and experienced at Excellere College?" These seven core practices are defined in the Special Character Guidelines, first published in 2019. The School has been on a journey of implementing these practices into the life and culture of Excellere College since Term 3, 2020.

The review team found that Excellere College is delivering a vibrant and authentic Christian learning environment that reflects strong alignment with the NZCPT Special Character expectations. Staff, students, and parents alike affirm the visible outworking of the Christian faith across school life, supported by a gracious and unified staff culture and leadership marked by integrity and spiritual depth. The recent appointment of Principal Andy Mouat has been widely welcomed, with his leadership noted as both Godly and effective in balancing academic and spiritual priorities.

Notable strengths include a pervasive culture of prayer and worship, clear alignment between home, church, and school values, and a staff community marked by joy, collegiality, and theological engagement. Students—particularly those in Years 7–10—display strong biblical literacy and articulate their faith with confidence. Support staff feel deeply integrated, and the positive impact of Special Character professional development is evident.

The school has responded positively to several recommendations from the 2022 review, especially around staff induction, clarification of enrolment preference criteria, and the emerging use of curriculum frameworks to support biblical teaching. However, some areas remain underdeveloped, including school-wide planning for Christian Living and Devotions, consistent Special Character



expression in Senior College, and clarity of Board governance roles related to Special Character.

The review makes four strategic recommendations:

1. Establish a coherent Years 1–13 Christian Living and Devotions framework.
2. Strengthen Board governance and oversight of Special Character.
3. Reinforce Special Character in the Senior Curriculum.
4. Increase Special Character fluency for all staff, including support staff.

The Review Team sincerely commends Excellere College for its evident faithfulness, unity, and clear gospel witness, and encourages the school to continue maturing and embedding these practices for the flourishing of students, staff, and the wider community.

Mark Larson
Review Team Leader, June 2025

Renew vs Excellere Netball Exchange

A few of us from the Collegiate Netball Team had the sweetest time helping out at the Junior Netball Teams (year 1-6) games against Renew. Watching the little ones run around the court with so much energy and excitement was absolutely adorable, and a bit chaotic in the best way!

It was a successful day filled with smiles, mini goals, and loads of team spirit. Helping tie shoelaces, giving high fives, and cheering from the sidelines reminded us just how important support is at every stage. We're so proud of our juniors, the future of netball is looking bright!



NSSSA Clay Shooting

Congratulations to Year 12 student Connor Diamond for coming first in the NSSSA clay target points score completion last month. Connor has been competing in clay target shooting for 2 Years. He currently has a strike rate of 87% but is aiming for 97% or more.

Connor would like to thank the school for supporting his sausage sizzle fundraiser last week. The money is going towards him competing in the national clay target shooting competition this weekend in Hamilton.

2025 – Final Round Point score for Senior Boys:
1st: Connor Diamond (Excellere College) 56/60
2nd: Corin Morris (Kaitia College) 55/60
3rd: Will Cannell (Tauraroa Area School) 54/60



Boys Badminton Teams Year 9-13

Well done to all our Boys who played in the Teams Championships on Thursday August 21. We did not get a podium finish, but we definitely won off the court with great sponsorship and attitude. I'm very proud of all the boys.



Girls Badminton Teams Year 9-13

It was the girls' turn at the Badminton Teams championships on Friday the 22nd of August. There were 24 teams at this event. Some fantastic games. Very proud of all the girls for wonderful sportsmanship on and off the courts.

Huge congratulations to the girls team (Excellere Pink) that got 3rd place.

Teams placement:

1st - Whangarei Girls High School Tahī

2nd - Kerikeri High School

3rd = Whangarei Girls High School & Excellere College Pink.



Excellere College Netball Prizegiving

Come help us celebrate the 2025 netball season!

Date: 9th October - Thursday

Time: 5 - 7.30pm

Venue: In the school Gym

(Team photos will be taken first with prizegiving formalities beginning at 5.45pm)



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

Free Dental Care for Under 18's



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.

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Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm



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Junior Cross-Country Championships [Year 4-6]

What a cold, rainy, windy and MUDDY day we had out in Barge Park, but all the students gave their best despite the weather. There were about 1220 students participating in this event this year from all around Northland. We are very proud of all our students that participated in this event.

Year 4 (8 years old at 1st January 2025)

Sophie Dodd
Joshua Falloon
Keziah Duinkerke
Samuel Garton
Hwali Ngwa



Year 5 (9 years old at 1st January 2025)

Sacha Trass
Jay du Plessis
Oriël Novaire
James Subritzky
Larissa van der Hulst
Xylon Phetsomphou



Year 6 (10 years old at 1st January 2025)

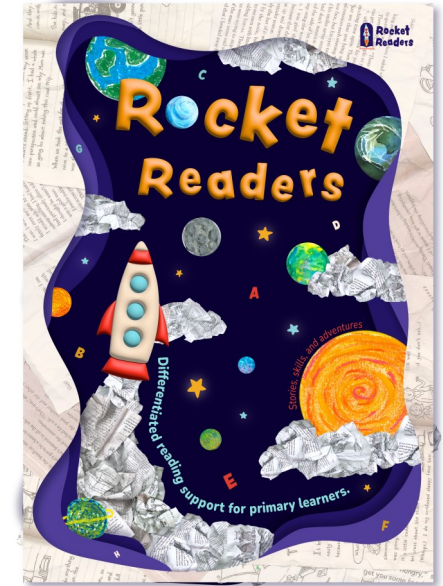
Brooke Clarke
Anton Duinkerke
Adelaide Kake
Field-Li Ngwa



Sienna Quenault—Level 3 Design Excellence

Congratulations to Sienna Quenault for gaining excellence in both of her Level 3 Design internal assessments this year. After receiving feedback in week 3 of Term 3 she was able to ‘rocket’ her design ideas to a new level, incorporating 3D elements and hand drawn textures into her work. Sienna is now focusing on her 3 panel portfolio, due in Term 4.

My designs are for hypothetical company “Rocket Readers”. RR aims to make literacy an exciting adventure for kids, so I used 2D illustrations and textures from drawings and books to communicate how RR is bold, playful, and engaging — Sienna

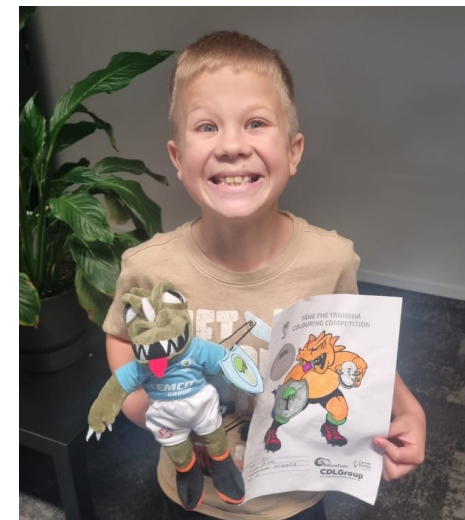


Northland Rugby Colouring In Competition

Recently Northland Rugby, in association with some local businesses, ran a colouring competition for a Whānau Season Membership and other goodies (shoutout to Marguerite Hugo from Business Finder for telling us about the competition!)

There were so many entries from Excellere College Y3-6's and the Northland Rugby Management had a hard time choosing their favourite, but a massive congratulations goes to Johan De Wet for taking out 1st Place! We also had Elijah Schofield and Matenga Wetere place as Runner-ups.

Well done everyone!



Senior School Ball

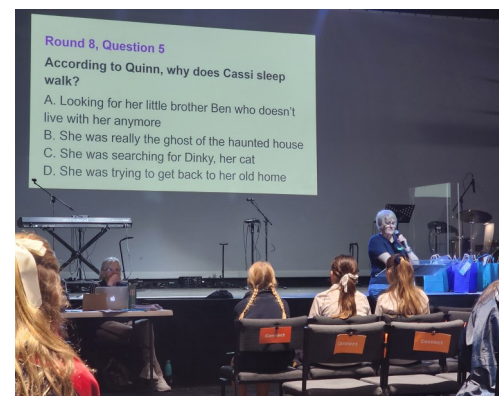
We are excited to announce that our annual Senior School Ball will be held on **Friday, 11th October**. Students are reminded to return their ball contracts to Mrs. Minnaar as soon as possible. Girls must also have their formal dresses approved by emailing a photo of their chosen outfit to either Mrs. 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.



Northland Book Battle

On Friday 12th September 3 teams of amazing Year 5 – 8 Excellere students competed in the first ever Northland Book Battle. They had worked hard all term, reading a set book list and then studying up on general reading knowledge. The competition was fierce, with well over 200 students representing schools from all over Northland. While our teams missed out on top 3 places, they performed really well – and had heaps of fun! Watch out next year – we'll be back!

Ngā mihi nui, Sarah Sims, Librarian



Netball Festival—Year 7&8

What a fantastic day at the Year 7-8 Netball Festival. It was cold, wet and windy but every single netballer there gave their best and did a great job. Thank you for all the helpers that help out coaching and managing the team.

We had Lienka van Niekerk (Yr9) and Jacob Duinkerke (Yr10) as Umpires and I have to say that they did a wonderful job. Even the organizers came to me and told me how amazing they were.

Pool placement:

Pool B

1st - Wellsford School 2

2nd - Tikipunga High School

3rd - Excellere College Violets

Pool C

1st - Okaihau College

2nd - Excellere College Lilies

3rd - Renew School

- Alisha du Plessis, Sports Coordinator



Rubbish Audit at Excellere College

Thank you to the EnviroClub members. We conducted a waste audit to show how effective we are at recycling here at Excellere. It was a smelly business, but we persevered!

The results showed that we needed to strengthen our knowledge further, and that is why we made a rubbish and recycling station on the deck at senior college with the labelled bins.

Next term there will be another station set up in the Junior College area.

- Mehrzad Zamanpour, HoD Science & Enviro Schools Facilitator

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 2026.

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



The Great Matuku Muster

3, 4 AND 5 OCTOBER 2025 - 7:30pm to 8:30pm



Northland REGIONAL COUNCIL

Listen for a bittern during the school holidays and WIN!

f Join The Great Northland Matuku-hurepo (Australasian bittern) Muster Facebook event to find out all the details
 Register at lovebittern.com/thegreatmatukumuster

📷 Send a photo of your wetland listening spot to education@nrc.govt.nz by 10 October. Prizes for tamariki of all ages.

AIMS Games

What are AIMS Games?

"AIMS" stands for Association of Intermediate and Middle Schools. The Zespri AIMS Games are an annual multi-sport event for 11- and 12-year-olds held in Tauranga. Students from all over New Zealand attended, and this year it was confirmed to be even bigger than the Paris Olympics, it's the largest junior sporting event in Australasia.

Why am I telling you about this?

Well, we had one of our students represent Excellere this year - Elijah Semenoff-Mayall - at Indoor Bowling. He made it through to the finals playoffs for 3rd and 4th, where he unexpectedly lost the game on his competitor's last bowl by 0.25cm. He ended up in 4th place, which for his first ever sporting competition, was an amazing achievement - especially when it is a New Zealand wide tournament.

But wait..... he actually ended up winning a medal after all. He was awarded the AWD (Athletes with Disabilities) Indoor Bowls Sportsmanship medal - WELL DONE!!

When a parent asked him what kind of school Excellere is, Elijah replied "It's the best school and I love it."

What an amazing ambassador for Excellere College and for the Lord, we are very proud of you Elijah.

- Alisha du Plessis, Sports Coordinator



ESOL Writing

One of my students who is part of my English Speakers of Other Languages group was asked to write about someone that they would nominate for an Everyday Hero Award. I thought that this beautifully written piece of work would be an encouragement to parents who are trying their best for their families.

- Keren Roberts, ESOL Teacher

'I want to nominate my dad for the Everyday Hero Award. To me, a hero is someone who puts others first, and that is exactly what my dad did for me and my family.

One and a half years ago, my dad made a huge decision. He moved us from South Africa to New Zealand so that my brother and I could have a safer life, better opportunities and a brighter future. Leaving behind our home, friends and everything we knew was not easy, but he did it for us. That kind of sacrifice shows real courage, and I respect him for it.

Starting a new life in another country came with lots of challenges. My dad had to find work, support us when we were homesick and adjust to a completely different way of living. Even though it was tough, he stayed strong and positive. He always reminded us that as long as we are together as a family we could handle anything.

What makes him even more of a hero is the little things he does every day. He helps me with school, and encourages me to keep going when things get hard. He has taught me that strength is not just about working hard but also about being kind and caring to others.

I believe my dad deserves the Everyday Hero Award because he gave up so much to give us a better life. He inspires me to be brave, to work hard and to always put family first. I am proud to call him my dad, and to me, he will always be my everyday hero.'

Beep Test

Boys [Year 7-13] - Wednesday 3rd September: Well done and thanks to all the boys that came to the beep test, I hope that next time we will have some more students join in this event.



Girls [Year 7-13] - Wednesday 10th September:

The beep test was truly an exciting event. The challenge required careful pacing and determination, and it was wonderful to see the crowd of students cheering with such support and encouragement. This made the atmosphere positive and uplifting. It was an event I thoroughly enjoyed.

- By Lienka van Niekerk



Student Achievement: Sarvag Shankar Showquest 2025 Whetu Rangatahi National Winner



This year, I was part of the Junior Showquest team, and we once again made it to the finals — just like last year (yes, we get bragging rights!). In the finals, our team received recognition for our dancing and for the Whetū Rangatahi (Star of the Show) award, which celebrates the performer who stood out the most.

This year, I was incredibly honoured to receive the Whetū Rangatahi award! Of course, this achievement wasn't just about me — it was the result of the whole team working hard together, putting in the mahi week after week. Even more exciting, I not only received the award at the regional level



but also at the nationals, competing against all the other regional Whetū Rangatahi recipients from schools across the country.

There are two people I especially want to thank because, without them, we wouldn't have been able to perform at all: Mrs. Matheson and Teale Vint. They are both teachers from different departments, with busy lives and many commitments, but they still found the time to create and guide us through this incredible performance. Over 10 weeks of rehearsals, they taught us how to dance, act, and stay focused — and we couldn't have done it without their dedication.



I'm also grateful to my teammates and our parents, who supported us every step of the way. Our performance may be over, but the memories and lessons will stay with us. Here's to hoping next year is just as amazing — or maybe even bigger!

- Sarvag Shankar, Year 7

Junior College NED Show

Junior College welcomed Sean from the NED Show to strengthen our learning about Challenge and Resilience this term.

N - Never give up
E - Encourage others
D- Do your best

He showed us awesome yo-yo tricks and gave us helpful reminders on how to 'bounce back' when facing something challenging.

Thank you for purchasing a yo-yo to support the special assembly as they tour New Zealand. If you need support with your yo-yo, please get in touch with Jess Shanks.



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