



Upcoming Events

27 Oct	Labour Day
31 Oct	Leavers' Assembly
4 Nov	NCEA exam starts Exam centre: Renew School
10 Nov	Teacher Only Day
19—20 Nov	DOE pinnacles hike - Year 10
27 Nov	NCEA exams end
9 Dec	Senior College Prize Giving
10 Dec	Junior & Middle College Prize Giving

ATTENTION - TROPHIES

If your student was awarded a trophy at Prize Giving in 2024, please return them to the Office asap in preparation for engraving for this year's awards ceremonies.

Senior School Leavers' Dinner and Ball



The evening began with the Leavers' Dinner, where parents, Year 13 students, and staff gathered for refreshments, laughter, and plenty of photos. A highlight of the night was Mr Mouat's poem, followed by a heartfelt thank-you speech from our Presiding Member of the Board, Mr Nel — a perfect blend of humour and sentiment to kick off the night.

Our Year 13's celebrated their final School Ball with all the excitement that comes with stepping into adulthood. Dressed to impress,

they danced, laughed, and maybe even shed a tear or two, soaking up one last evening with their peers and Teachers — memories that will one day be retold with a smile (and possibly a cringe) to their future families.

From matching hats to glittery dancing shoes, the night sparkled with personality and laughter and the dance floor became a stage for unforgettable moves. The memories made that evening will be treasured long after the heels have been kicked off.



A huge thank you goes out to all the helpers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes — from decorating and setting up the venue early that morning to packing everything down late into the night. Special thanks to the amazing Year 10 girls who kept the food table topped up all evening! Without your dedication and teamwork, the event wouldn't have been the roaring success it was.

- Mrs Chantel Minnaar, Events Coordinator
(more photos on page 3)

From the Principal

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

After a joyful start to Term 4 it has been wonderful to see the return of the sunshine. It is time to remind students about the importance of wearing sun hats and sunscreen whilst they are outside, I am sure everyone is aware of how intense the Northland sun is.

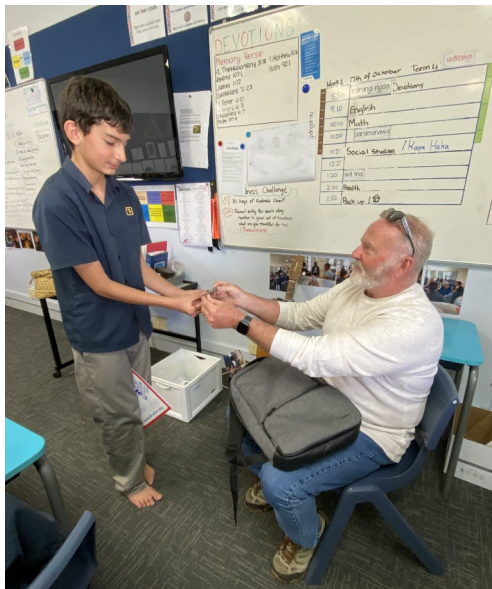
I'd like to take a moment to explain the ongoing industrial action by teachers and support staff and what it means for our school community. As you will be aware, members of the teachers' union have voted to take industrial action as part of ongoing negotiations with the Ministry of Education regarding pay and working conditions. This action is part of a nationwide effort by teachers and support staff to advocate for fair conditions that support both quality teaching and the wellbeing of staff and students.

At Excellere College, we respect the rights of our teachers and support staff to take part in lawful union activity, and we recognise that their goal is ultimately to ensure the best outcomes for our students. I also wish to thank the Board of Trustees for their backing and awareness during this uncertain process.

We appreciate your understanding and support during this time. We are reluctant to cause this interruption and inconvenience to students and whānau. Our shared commitment remains the same: to provide a Christ-centred education that nurtures each child to grow in faith, character, and learning. Please continue to pray for

wisdom, fairness, and unity as these discussions continue.

We are delighted to welcome Matua Paora to Excellere College on Thursdays and Fridays for Term 4. You may have heard your Year 0-10 students talk about their experience as they learn more about Te Ao Māori. Matua Paora is a skilled professional who weaves learning and experiences through a Māori/Christian lens. It has also been wonderful to have Moira Searle and Evah Pirini at school for eight weeks this term. They are second year Occupational Therapy trainees in our Junior primary classes. They have been working in Mrs Harvey and Mrs Grammer's classes. This is a rare opportunity for our school and we hope it is the beginning of a longer-term arrangement that will benefit so many students.



Thank you to Arise Church for allowing school staff to park in their carpark during the day. This has made it much easier for community members to park their vehicles in the school grounds at the end of the day. We really appreciate everyone's patience in this matter. As the school grows we will be investigating further parking options to keep our children safe. On that note, please remember to drive at walking pace through the carpark as little people are not naturally vigilant or as visible as bigger people. We do our very best to patrol this area at the end of each day.

We look forward to two whole school assemblies on Fridays in Week 3 (Junior College led) and Week 4 (Leavers' Assembly). Please feel welcome to join us in this time of praise, worship and celebration. Friday 31st October will be a "Celebration of Light" day where we dress in bright colours as a counter-culture to Halloween. There will be additional information to follow.

Senior students will be finishing school for exam leave on Friday 31st October. We pray for fruitful study time and for favourable outcomes from the formal examinations.

Ngā mihi nui, God bless,

- Mr Andy Mouat, Tumuaiki

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: office@excellerecollege.school.nz

Calendar Dates for 2026

Term 1

Monday 2nd February - Thursday 2nd April

Term 2

Monday 20th April - Friday 3rd July

Term 3

Monday 20th July - Friday 25th September

Term 4

Monday 12th October - Friday 11th December

Senior School Leavers Dinner and Ball Continued



Netball Prizegiving Results

Early this term Excellere College celebrated the achievements of our netball teams this year. There were awards given out within each team acknowledging sportsmanship, improvement, versatility, and the player of the team. Last term, Whangarei Netball centre had their awards and Excellere College did very well gaining placings within their division and awards for goals scored. This year there have also been a number of students also completing their umpire training as well as playing. It is great to see our students get involved in not only playing but be involved in the running of the sport.

Whangarei Netball Centre Trophies/Awards won by Excellere College Teams at the prizegiving on 13th September, 2025.

JADES:

Coll BR2 Championship Round Winners
Winners of the trophy for 'Collegiate Least Goals Scored Against per Game'

AMETHYSTS:

Coll BR2 Championship Round Runners-up

SAPPHIRES:

Intermediate Section 5 Prelim Round Winners
Intermediate Section 4 Champ Round Winners
Winners of the trophy for 'Intermediate Team Most Goals Scored per Game'

RUBIES :

Intermediate Section 7 Prelim Round Winners

DIAMONDS:

Intermediate Section 8 Prelim Round Runners-up
Intermediate Section 7 Championship Round Runners-up

Jacob Duinkerke: Intermediate Umpire of the Year winner



Excellere College Netball Awards

	Rising Star	Sportsmanship		
Pearls (Year 1-2)	Bree Heperi	Brooke Sims		
Opals (Year 3-4)	Lola Dow	Grace Meyer		
	Player of the Year	Sportsmanship	Most improved	
Crystals (Year 5-6)	Amore de la Harpe	Arabella Johnston	Abbiel Warner	
	Player of the Year	Sportsmanship	Most Improved	Most Versatile
Diamonds (Year 7-8)	Emily Bell	Zelda Kampinya	Danique Minnaar	Sarvag Shankar
Rubies (Year 7-8)	Mialee Boshoff	Vaughne Buchler	Jeanel Fraser	Isabella Delpont
Sapphires (Year 8-10)	Nevaeh Tana	Mikayla Falloon Jacob Duinkerke	Kirstin Ras	Mia Marais
Amethysts (Year 9-10)	Mariesa Duinkerke & Tamsen Browne	June Underwood	Sophie Walker	Harper Heperi
Jades (Year 11-13)	Ziany Swart	Maisy Nicholls	Kayley Buchler	



Kiwi Tag—Year 7 & 8

A group of Year 7&8 boys went to a Kiwi Tag event in Otaika. Although it was a tough challenge, our team did well. We had many opportunities and slowly got in a rhythm with the game.

In the end we learnt lots of skills and had heaps of fun (as well as skipping a bit of school). It's really great that we can have these fun sports events outside of school.

- Benji & Xavier, Year 8



Duke of Edinburgh—Cape Brett Hike



The Y11 Duke of Edinburgh students set off to take on the infamous Cape Brett. We arrived to brooding skies and very quickly the heavens opened and the track turned to slush. But this intrepid group did not let it dampen their spirits, instead embracing the slips and falls, wet muddy boots and showing gratitude for cooler temperatures.



Sadly this inclement weather meant no views for the majority of the walk. Luckily the rain cleared as we neared the hut and some of the boys got down to the serious business of fishing and crabbing. Josh and Waldo carried rods, bait, berley and tackle for almost 9 hours for this moment, and they were thankfully rewarded with an amazing fishing session, with both boys catching a number of solid fish, with Josh getting the largest and 11 keeper snapper being caught, with all being released except the largest, which was happily consumed by the whole group.

A great sleep was had by all after epic games of taco cat and yummy kai moana. Then the second day dawned an absolute stunner, clear blue skies and calm seas.



This meant for a hotter walk than the previous day, but the group set a new school record on the return trip, making the 16km journey in a speedy sub 6 hours! Well done Jaynee, Abinaya, Josh, Asher, Waldo, James, Lydia and Mrs Kelly for making this an incredible trip!

- Mr Ben Keyte, DoE Facilitator



Let's Do SPRINGS Challenge in 2026!

Excellere College's SPRINGS Challenge is a (almost) year long project where students partake in a number of activities that promote a well rounded education and engagement with their learning. The tasks can include things from cooking, outdoor activities, art projects, in class learning and attitude and being a good citizen. Students create a record of their progress and hand it in at the end of Term 3. At prizegiving students who complete the challenge are awarded a SPRINGS challenge badge and a bar for every year they participate.

Hi, we're Grace and Lola. We are Year 4 students on the Student Council Leadership Team, and we took part in the Springs Challenge this year.

What does Springs Challenge mean to us?

Springs Challenge means to do stuff that seems tricky but you have to persevere and get through it all and have courage.

How do we feel about it?

Doing Springs Challenge makes you feel confident, brave, and you get stronger, healthier and more resilient by doing it.

As leaders we both really enjoyed doing Springs Challenge. We hope to see every leader completing the Springs Challenge in the future!

By Lola & Grace.

Springs Challenge—Ezra's Reflection

I want to share how taking part in the Springs Challenge helped me in many ways.

Doing it for a second year has made me grow into a more responsible person and is still ongoing. I now have a set amount of chores at home which I am responsible for. Just to mention a few, is unpacking the dishwasher, taking out the garbage and recycle bins, folding my clothes and putting it away.

A big challenge for me was public speaking. Doing a speech in front of my class was not easy at first, but with the support of my Teacher and friends I did it! I am more confident doing devotions with my family now, when it is my turn. My next challenge is to enrol in a 5km race with my family.

- Ezra Johnson



Maori Language Week Activities

What an awesome week of learning, discovery, challenges and korero! Spot prizes and House points were up for grabs for those who gave it a go! One of the challenges was to say and pronounce correctly the longest place name in Aotearoa:

Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu.

With lots of eager participants including Atlas & Ettore Novaire, Ataahua Waitere, Thierry Kriger Penalva who all did an amazing job. The overall winner being Duan Potgieter whose pronunciation and speed won the day.

Our pukana challenge was met with some fierce facial expressions from quite a few students, however Zoe Barker took out the prize for best pukana and runner up was J.G. Boshoff.

Throughout the week students were challenged to korero i te reo Maori, and those who did were rewarded with House points that were tallied at the end of the week, with Parakiore taking the lead (yay) followed closely by Hikurangi.

Nga mihi nui ki nga kaiako, nga kaiawhina me nga tauria i ou mahi tautoko mo te kaupapa 'Te wiki o te Reo Maori.' Mauri ora.

- Whaea Cheryl.



Student Achievement—Nevaeh Garrett and Her Busy Bees

Year 12 student Nevaeh Garrett is a bee keeper and a small business owner. At age 16, she has over 80 hives which she cares for. It wasn't her family who introduced her to bees but a passionate school Teacher with support from a local bee business. Last term Nevaeh brought some of her bees to school and visited classes to teach them about bees, honey and pollination.

How did you first get interested in working with bees?

I first got interested through Poroti School when I was 13 years old. My teacher and a group called Tahi Bees came to our school to teach us all about beekeeping. We learnt how bees make honey, what each type of bee does in the hive, and how pollination helps plants grow. We even got to wear bee suits, inspect real hives, and see how honey is extracted. I really enjoyed how calm and focused you have to be around bees, and that's what made me want to keep learning more.

How did you get your own bees?

After learning about bees at school, I got even more interested when a guy who used to pollinate our avocado orchard started taking me out to look at his hives and teaching me more about beekeeping. Not long after that, I got my own hive. My first bees came from a local beekeeper who sold nucs, which are small starter colonies with a queen, workers, and brood. You can buy bees like that from local beekeepers or bee suppliers in spring when colonies are growing fast.



How did you go from one hive to 80 hives?

It took a few years of hard work and learning to grow from one hive to about 80 hives. I did this by splitting strong hives each season and also buying more hives from local beekeepers who were going out of bees. To care for that many hives, I check them regularly for diseases, make sure they have enough food, and manage pests like varroa mites. The gear can be quite pricey a full hive can cost anywhere between \$180 and \$250, depending on the setup. But I really enjoy looking after them and seeing how each hive grows differently.

How did you create a business from your hobby?

As my hives increased, I started producing a lot more honey. That's when I decided to turn my beekeeping into a small business. I still get honey from my bees and sell it to

family and friends, and I also give honey to people who let us keep bees on their land. We've also become pollinators, helping my uncle's kiwifruit orchard in Te Puke and our own family orchard that my grandad owns. We don't sell our honey at markets or locally it's all shared with people we know. To process the honey, we extract it, filter it, and store it properly while following New Zealand's MPI food safety rules for honey production.

- Nevaeh Garrett, Year 12



Level 1 Art Portfolios 2026

Well done to the Level 1 Art students who completed their portfolios last Friday. This assessment is their final one for the year and brings together all their research, planning and painting skills into a final A1 sized board. The students all developed their own unique style of artmaking and used a consistent colour palette to bring it all together.

Left top: Vivienne Neal. Left bottom: Azeneth Janse van Rensburg. Middle top: Kayley Buchler. Centre: Ziany Swart. Middle bottom: Kylie Potgieter. Right top: Maisy Nicholls. Right middle: Natalie Allan



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Hidden Wings
Occupational Therapy
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Junior College Teddy Bear Picnic

The Junior College took part in National Save Your Teddy Day, where students learned how to save a life by practising CPR on their teddy or soft toy.

Each class participated in this fun and exciting Hato Hone St John session. It was a practical activity where they learned and practised how to respond when a person needs care in a cardiac arrest. Students learned how to call 111, how to ask for an ambulance and give their address over the phone. They also learned how to give CPR to their teddy.

Following this session, all the students and their teddies meet together outside on the field for a big Teddy Bear picnic!



Excellere College Draft Strategic Plan 2026

School Community Consultation

Kia ora Excellere Community

It is important that the School Board and the principal gives opportunities for the community to consult on the strategic direction of our school. On our website you will see a link to the Excellere College Draft Strategic Plan for 2026. I am always keen to hear feedback from the community to consider with the School Board.

Please have a look at the document and send your feedback to:
principal@excellerecollege.school.nz by Friday 7th November 2026.

The document remains in draft so we review and amend it throughout the year.

Please note: Each discrete college (junior/middle/senior) produces their own Action Plan based on the Strategic Plan. This is completed in the new year.

As ever, we're happy to answer any questions you may have.

Every blessing to you and your whanau.

- Andy Mouat, Tumuaki Excellere College

Childcare—Here at Excellere College!



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



Term 4 Sports Events

	Event	Year Level	Date	Cost
Week 4				
	Junior School Athletics	Year 5 - 6	<i>Wednesday, 29th October</i>	
	Fast 5 Netball - Mixed teams	Year 7 - 8 Year 9 -10	<i>Thursday, 30th October</i>	\$8
Week 5	Weet-Bix Try Challenge	Year 5 - 9	<i>Thursday, 6th November</i>	\$8
Week 6	Volley-Fest Girls / Mix	Year 7 - 8,	<i>Tuesday, 11th November</i>	\$10
	<i>Volley-Fest Girls / Boys</i>	Year 9 - 10	<i>Wednesday, 12 November</i>	\$10
	Badminton Teams - Mix	Year 7 - 8,	<i>Thursday, 13th November</i>	\$10
Week 7	Zone Athletics	Year 5- 6	<i>Tuesday, 18th November</i>	
Week 8	WPSSA Athletics	Year 5- 6	<i>Wednesday, 26th November</i>	
Week 9	Renew Exchange - Futsal	Year 7 - 8	<i>Tuesday, 2nd December</i>	

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E: lee@balanceadvisors.co.nz
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A: 11A James Street, Whangarei



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Financial Advisor

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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

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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