



## 2026 Dates

12th Dec  
Friday Last day of school 2025

2nd Feb  
Monday First day of school 2026  
Pōwhiri 10.00am

3-5 Feb  
Tues-Thurs Year 11-13 courses

6th Feb  
Friday Waitangi day - PUBLIC  
HOLIDAY

11-12 Feb  
Wed-Thurs Duke of Edinburgh  
Cape Brett hike

19 Feb  
Thurs Year 7-13 Athletics day  
Trigg Stadium, Kensington

26-27 Feb  
Thurs-Fri Outdoor First Aid  
Year 11

3-6 Mar  
Tues-Fri Year 12 camp  
Tangihua Lodge

## Year 4—8 Christmas Merrivale Visit



Merrivale is a rest home that our class -Room 8- visit frequently throughout the year. Every second week, we walk as a class to Merrivale, to hang out with them. Sometimes we sing them songs, sometimes we play with them. This Christmas we have organised Christmas carols, cards, and activities. We visited their hospital, lounge, and rooms. We LOVE talking with the old people. Their stories are action packed, funny, and sometimes scary. They would tell us about relationships, their old pets, and sometimes their family, and their advice is never taken for granted. Through this opportunity provided, we are able to give old people the love and respect that they need, not only showing that our generation isn't all about technology, but also showing the love of god through our actions, and verbal use. (Matthew 28:19-20)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Nevaeh Tana

Room 8 (my class) started going to Merrivale around term 2, we really really enjoyed going. Merrivale is full of smiles, laughter, joy and a lot of good memories. The people there are really kind and especially the residents there. They are welcoming and really sweet, we sometimes sing, play boardgames or even just talk or ask them questions. Everyone there has had such interesting lives and experiences. They tell us all about their childhood and how they lived. Our class has had a lot of fun

there and will miss everyone!

Eventually after a few visits the Neuro-diverse group and our buddy class came. I think they really enjoyed it too, they found it really interesting how they talked, and what they said about their childhoods. The people I talked to gave some advice and just said how much they enjoyed our visits because it's not often they get visitors or companies due to their family living in different places. We also spread the gospel and talked about our Christian beliefs. I would love to continue going and I think so would everyone else! Leviticus 19:32 "Stand up in the presence of the elderly, show respect for the aged and revere your God. I am the LORD -Addiena Gordon

## From the Principal

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.." Isaiah 9:6*

*Tēnā koutou katoa,  
This week was the highlight of the school calendar - marking the achievements of our students at various Prize Giving ceremonies. The awards presented - Special Character, Academics, Sport and Culture is testament to student engagement in learning and the high expectations set by staff. Congratulations!*

*As another school year draws to a close, we acknowledge God's blessings in providing hearts to seek and hands to serve Him at Excellere and beyond.*

*THANK YOU to Mrs Kelly and Mrs Shanks for the support of me over the last 3 weeks.*

*THANK YOU to Mrs Minnaar and her team, for organising the Prize-Givings from the nomination of awards to the physical set-up of the venue. A long and detailed process which starts in August each year.*

*THANK YOU to Mr Mouat, Mr Petrus Nel and Excellere College Board, Mr Vaughan Darby and Whangārei Christian Education Trust and New Zealand Christian Proprietor's Trust for their vision in establishing a thriving school where God's word prevails above all things.*

*THANK YOU to Mrs Garton for relieving full-time in Mrs Howells' class since July. She emulates 1 Peter 3: 4 "...unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. Mrs Garton will return in 2026 to cover the classroom release time of various teachers.*

*THANK YOU to Matua Paora for embedding Te Ao Māori within our Christian faith through kemu (games), waiata (songs) and korero (oratory). Ngā mihi for strengthening this kaupapa.*

*To our Head Prefects, Jacob, Leander, Eunice and our graduates of 2025 - we pray God's blessing on you as you embark on the next phase of life. Remember your creator in the days of your youth... Eccl 12:1*

*THANK YOU to all staff and volunteers for your dedication in honouring your calling at Excellere.*

*And finally, THANK YOU parents for investing in your child's education - at home, at school and at play. Please take time over summer to share your son/daughter's success journey reflected in their upcoming progress report as this is their gift to you.*

*We look forward to welcoming Mr Mouat back on 16 January (though this is still holiday) and welcoming students back on Monday 2 February 2026. We will also be celebrating the provision of new classrooms.*

*As we enter Advent, we remember the reason for the season - the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ - God's greatest gift to us. May this summer be a time to share the Joy, Hope, Peace, Love that knowing HIM brings.*

*Richest blessings to you and yours this Christmas season.*

*Danielle Smith  
Acting Principal*



### Leaders 2026

### Head Prefects

Caylin Watkins  
Christiaan van Dijk  
Jacob King  
Luané Nel

### Prefects

Mishé Lotz  
Maisy Nicholls  
Ashtoné Steyn  
Connor Diamond

**Bethells**  
Uniforms

Uniform specialists for all groups and individuals  
The Strand Shopping Centre  
14/41 Cameron St. Whangarei 0110

Website of new uniform supplier:  
[www.bethellsuniforms.co.nz](http://www.bethellsuniforms.co.nz)

## 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](mailto:office@excellerecollege.school.nz)

### Calendar Dates for 2026

#### **Teacher Only Days**

Tuesday 27th January - Friday 30th January

#### **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



# Junior College Awards Celebration



Year 0-1 Special Awards	
Compassion Award	Alexis Jackson
Honour Award	Isaac Osborne
Integrity Award	Levi Anderson
Academic Excellence	Aidyn Reyes
The Arts Award	Penny Boddy
Sports Award	Elijah Henderson

Year 2 Special Awards	
Compassion Award	Evie van den Berg
Honour Award	Kayla Horn
Integrity Award	Nathan Perkins
Academic Excellence	Brooke Sims
The Arts Award	Bree Heperi
Sports Award	Liham Vorster

Year 3 Special Awards	
Compassion Award	Chloe Zwaanenburg
Honour Award	Minka Steyn
Integrity Award	Lucas Duinkerke
Academic Excellence	Esther de Vetter
The Arts Award	Minka Steyn
Sports Award	Luan du Plessis

Year 4 Special Awards	
Compassion Award	Cooper Clarke
Honour Award	Elijah Schofield
Integrity Award	Grace Meyer
Academic Excellence	Neve Almeida
The Arts Award	Ryder Burton
Sports Award	Nate Blithe
Speech Award	Kimberley Boddy

Year 5 Special Awards	
Compassion Award	Aliyah Jellick
Honour Award	Arabella Johnston
Integrity Award	Hwali Ngwa
Academic Excellence	Larissa Van Der Hulst
The Arts Award	Larissa Van der Hulst
Sports Award	Jay du Plessis
Speech Award	Samuel Garton

Year 6 Special Awards	
Compassion Award	Field-Li Ngwa
Honour Award	Brooke Clarke
Integrity Award	Alexia Southey
Academic Excellence	Zoe Sims
The Arts Award	Haven McCallum
Sports Award	Vaughné Buchler
The John Donovan Trophy - JC Netball Player of the Year	Mila Vigus
Speech Award	Amoré de la Harpe
De Vetter Leadership	Mana Dunn



# Junior College Awards Celebration





# Middle College Awards Celebration

As we come to the end of another meaningful year in Middle College, we are grateful for the learning, growth, and perseverance shown by our students. This year has been filled with opportunities to explore new ideas, deepen understanding, and strengthen relationships across our school community.

Our recent Prizegiving was a wonderful celebration of these efforts. It was a privilege to acknowledge the achievements of our students and to recognise the character strengths that continue to shape who they are becoming. From academic progress to leadership, service, creativity, and resilience, our students demonstrated qualities we are proud to honour.

Thank you to our families, staff, and wider community for your support throughout the year. We look forward to another year of learning, faith, and flourishing together.

Year 7 Special Awards	
Compassion Award	Uhri Papa
Honour Award	Grace Underwood
Integrity Award	Lydia Johnston
Academic Excellence	Joachim Prinsloo
The Arts Award	Uhri Papa
Speech Award	Emily Bell

Year 8 Special Awards	
Compassion Award	Jake Cabrol
Honour Award	Mia Van Der Hulst
Integrity Award	Xavier Phetsomphou
Academic Excellence	Ella Teariki
The Arts Award	Grace Stewart
Sports Award	Kristin Ras
Speech Award	Joshua Gandy & Addiena Gordon
Scripture Memory Jeni Walsh Award	Akshaya Pokkiri Raja

Year 9 Special Awards	
Compassion Award	Akisha Monding
Honour Award	Michael Porras
Integrity Award	Aaron Baba Pappachen
Intermediate Netballer of the Year	Lienka van Niekerk
The Arts Award	Handro Potgieter
Sports Award	Skyla de Bruyn
Speech Award	Handro Potgieter
Environmental Award	Michael Porras





## Middle College Awards Celebration





# Senior College Awards Celebration



Year 10 Special Awards	
<b>Compassion Award</b>	Micaela Krieger Penalva
<b>Honour Award</b>	Cameron Webster
<b>Integrity Award</b>	Tamsen Browne
<b>Sports Award</b>	Heino van Niekerk
<b>Arts Award</b>	Olivia Cullum

Year 11 Special Awards	
<b>Year 11 Compassion</b>	Vivienne Neal
<b>Year 11 Integrity</b>	Abinaya Pokkiri Raja
<b>Year 11 Honour</b>	Luané Nel

Senior Sports Awards	
<b>Sportsman</b>	Waldo Potgieter
<b>Sportswoman</b>	Caylin Watkins
<b>Victor Ludorum</b>	James Walker
<b>Victrix Ludorum</b>	Lydia Jongkind
<b>Hanmore Memorial Netball Trophy</b>	Tamsen Browne

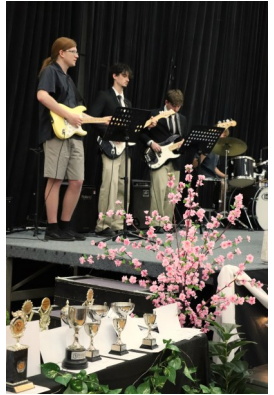
Year 11-12 Special Awards	
<b>Hospitality Award</b>	Danica Van Eeden
<b>Vocational Pathway Award</b>	Jacob King
<b>Work Experience Award</b>	Hayley Allan
<b>Senior Art Award</b>	Annalisa Gabler
<b>Photo Life Photography Award</b>	Mishé Lotz
<b>Senior Service</b>	Ayden Attwood
<b>Friendship Award</b>	Danica Van Eeden
<b>Gough Family Overcomers Award</b>	Samara Laurenson
<b>Respectfulness</b>	Sienna Quenault
<b>Diligence</b>	Kayley Buchler
<b>Compassion</b>	Danica Van Eeden
<b>Integrity</b>	Caylin Watkins
<b>Chambers Cup of Worship</b>	Sienna Quenault
<b>Spiritual Endeavour</b>	Vivienne Neal
<b>Leadership</b>	Jacob Mitchell

Senior Leadership Awards	
<b>2025 Head Prefects</b>	Jacob Mitchell, Leander Nel, & Eunice Rajesh Samuel
<b>2026 Head Prefects</b>	Caylin Watkins Christiaan van Dijk Luané Nel Jacob King
<b>2026 Prefects</b>	Mishé Lotz Ashtone Steyn Maisy Nichols Connor Diamond
<b>Waikato University Scholarship</b>	Jacob Mitchell
<b>Auckland University of Technology Scholarship</b>	Sienna Quenault
<b>School Board Student Representative</b>	Luané Nel
<b>House Shield Winners</b>	Parakiore





# Senior College Awards Celebration





## Duke Of Edinburgh—Bronze Training Hikes

The Adventure started before we had even left school for this group of Bronze Duke of Ed students. Sadly, there was an Orange severe rain warning for the area of the Pinnacles we were hoping to tramp, and so we had to cancel. Luckily, we are blessed to live in paradise, and were able to complete Plan B!

The first day of Plan B had students straight in the deep end, climbing the 450m mountain that is Bream Head, in the rain. They did themselves proud, lugging heavy packs with smiles and grace. Many lessons were learned on the way up, including some edible plants in our native bush. Sadly, the usually spectacular view from the rocky summit was obscured, so instead students had the eerie feeling of being surrounded by nothing but clouds. Then it was back downhill to Oceans Beach and then heading North towards Kauri Mountain. It was awesome to see the joy in the students as they enjoyed the flat beach section, and were tidying up the beach, bringing home a bag of rubbish they collected.

Day two saw a vastly different day, with clear blue skies and a hot sun beating down. The students were glad to not have a mountain as big as the previous day, but still had over 400m of elevation to face as they went from Sandy Bay to Whananaki. Muscles were a bit stiff from the previous day but soon warmed up with some hills and great banter. We maintained an awesome pace and got over the Whananaki Bridge earlier than expected. The return trip was very hot, as the final third

of the walk had no shelter, completely exposed to the sun. But with their usual determination and with zero complaining this intrepid bunch of students pushed through, savouring the gorgeous sights and time with friends, while most continued to slather on sunscreen. They completed the almost 19km trip in a great time and with an equally outstanding attitude. Well done Micaela, Tammy, June, Mariesa, Niamh and Josh and Miss Hale for keeping up with some very fit and energetic teenagers.

- Mr Ben Keyte, DoE Cordinator





## Year 6 Surf Trip with Tutukaka Surf School

Our incredible Year 6 students were privileged to escape the confines of school to foot their skills surfing at Sandy Bay with the Tutukaka Surf School. We had such an epic day with many highlights...but, as Adelaide so cleverly captured in her writing, it didn't come without its challenges...and opportunities to develop resilience and a courageous spirit!

### **Radical Resilience by Adelaide Kake**

*This is it... lining up for a perfect wave. One touch on the toe and I'm off!*

*Making sure I don't crash into anyone was a zero possibility because a second later... CRASH!!!! Mia was right in front of me! My board capsized. Waves pulled me under. The salt water stung my eyes. I couldn't see anything.*

*Then something hit my nose. Hard!*

*Sharp pain shot through me sending me into a panic. I tried to get up but I couldn't, but scrambling around isn't helpful. Then I felt a reassuring arm wrap around me and haul me out of the water. I opened my eyes so I could see what was going on. Beside me was Mrs*

*Novaire griping on to my arm.*

*Mrs Shanks sat me down to make sure I was okay and after five minutes of waiting I ran back into the cold freezing water to surf again.*



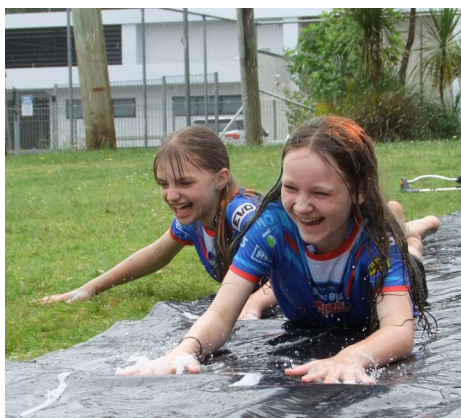


## Junior College Weetbix Try Challenge

Last week we did the Weet-Bix Try Challenge, and it was seriously awesome! At the start, everyone was pumped, and when the whistle blew, I sprinted like my life depended on it. The obstacles were the best part—I had to crawl under nets, climb over picnic table "mountain", balance on beams, and go down a big water slide. I felt like I was on one of those adventure TV shows!

I got super tired, but I didn't give up. When I crossed the finish line, I was wet, colourful, and smiling like crazy. It was such an epic day, and I'd totally do it again. Next time, I'm going even faster!

By Jay du Plessis, Year 5



## Books by Mike de Vetter for Sale

Large format books written by Mike de Vetter available for sale for \$5 each. Two books available 'Loving the skin you're in' and 'Do what you were born to do.' These would make great Christmas presents. If you are interested in purchasing, please see the school office staff.




Mary Holgate  
Occupational Therapist  
Ph: 0211489382  
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**Hidden Wings**  
Occupational Therapy  
[www.hiddenwingsoccupationaltherapy.co.nz](http://www.hiddenwingsoccupationaltherapy.co.nz)



## Middle College Weetbix Try Challenge

This was my first year of participating in the Weet-Box Try Challenge at Excellere College. As a class we practised doing push ups correctly as part of our PE fitness test, so we were ready to start the challenge prepared. The first task were the push ups followed by the water slide, with Mr Jenkins spraying everyone as they slid down. Then there was a balancing skill, followed by the colour run and various other things to climb under and over and a final run. A highlight for me was the slide because I slipped over and slid off the slide. Afterwards we had ice blocks and got our medal. It was truly a fun experience.

- Lienka van Niekerk, Year 9



## International Home Stays

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)





## Middle College End of Year Pools Trip

The middle college had a fantastic pools trip on the last Monday of school. More than 70 students descended on the Whangarei Aquatics Centre and had a great time racing on the water slides, inflatable courses, doing bombs, and enjoying a fun wrap up to a wonderful year.

We were blessed to have the whole complex to ourselves and the students made the most of this, going hard out the whole time. There were a number of awesome bombs done by students, but a highlight was definitely Mrs Kelly's epic manu.

A classic kiwi sausage sizzle wrapped up a fun day for all. A massive thankyou to the parents who came on the trip to supervise, support and provide transport.



## Farewell From Evah And Moira

Hei Kona Rā from the student occupational therapists, Evah and Moira.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Andy Mouat, Emma Blood-Mouat (our supervisor), the Excellere School staff and community for making us feel so welcome. Our eight weeks here have flown by, filled with learning, kindness, fun, and a deep admiration for the people who work so hard to make this school and its community so special.

During our time in Rooms 1 and 3, our learning has led us to: Build fine motor kits to support the development of skills needed for school activities, such as handwriting, and self-care occupations like doing up buttons and using utensils. Propose funding for equipment to run a Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP), which strengthens the essential connection between sensory/cognitive skills and physical movement. Provide education around creating sensory-friendly classroom environments.

Finally, we would like to say thank you to Sarra Harvey, Nicole Grammer, their students and whanau for welcoming us so warmly and helping us feel like we truly belong.

Meri Kirihimete!





## Year 7-8 Badminton Mixed Teams

What an awesome day we had at Year 7&8 Badminton!! An amazing bunch of students and some super games over nearly 98 games played and 24 teams took to the court. Congratulations to you all .

### **Tournament Results:**

#### *Section A*

2nd Excellere College Racket Rockets

#### *Section B*

3rd Excellere College Not so Netty

5th Excellere College Net Stars

#### *Section C*

3rd = Excellere Net Crushers



## Year 7-8 Volleyball

Our experience with the volleyball festival was very exciting. As soon as we got there we all got together and prayed. We didn't just play volleyball we also took turns with the other teams to help the referee score the games.

At first we were all nervous and didn't exactly know what we were doing but they helped us to understand the game more. They were so kind and helpful. We enjoyed competing with all the other competitive teams and cheering on all of our friends and the other teams. Even though we didn't win all our games we still love the experience. We also had lots of time to talk with our friends in the other teams and play volleyball with our friends in our own time.

There was also a little cafeteria where they were selling cookies and other sweet treats. We also made some new friends and saw some of our old friends. We think we would definitely do the volleyball tournament again. We would also love to encourage our friend to do it with us next time.

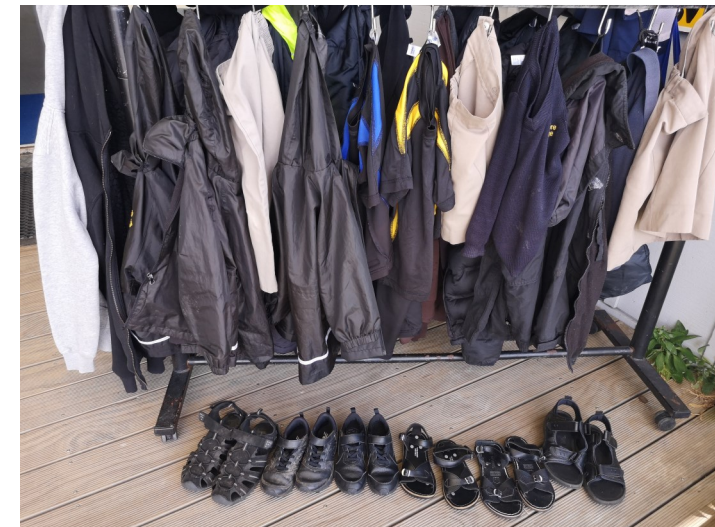
- Diané De la Harpe & Chloe Jordaan, Year 8



## Lost Property

Here is the final collection for the year of unnamed uniforms/ clothing that have been collected around the school. Please feel free to come and check these items which are situated on the veranda outside the front office.

If not claimed by December 19th, the school will dispose of them accordingly.





## Year 7-8 Boys Cricket

It was an awesome day in the sun at Kensington Park for the Year 7 & 8 Boys Cricket Tournament. The boys enjoyed the day out and thank you to all the parent helpers as well. "We played two games of 20 overs. We won one game and lost the other. The highlight was bowling and getting all their wickets before they reached our score."

- Jake Cabrol, Year 8



## Zone 13 Athletics at Glenbervie School



What a wonderful morning it was at Zone Athletics! All the students enjoyed competing against other schools from the area. Unfortunately, the end of the day had to be cancelled due to rain, so the students didn't get to complete the 100m or the school relay. Our students did really great—we even had a few who placed in the top three in their events.

### Discus:

Girls Year 5: Kira Alkema (3rd)

Boys Year 5: Jay du Plessis (3rd)

Girls Year 6: Mila Vigus (2nd) & Haven McCallum (3rd)

Boys year 6: Anton Duinkerke (3rd)

### Shot put:

Girls Year 5: Shilah James (1st)

### High Jump:

Boys Year 5: James Subritzky (2nd)

### 80m Sprints:

Girls Year 5: Oriel Novaire (1st)

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W: [www.balanceadvisors.co.nz](http://www.balanceadvisors.co.nz)

A: 11A James Street, Whangarei



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## Northland Junior Athletics Day

All the students who placed 1st or 2nd on Zone Athletics Day had the opportunity to represent Excellere College at the Northland School Athletics event, where all 19 zones competed against each other. It was a wonderful day and a great experience for all the students.



We are very proud of all our athletes and would like to congratulate Shilah James (Year 5) for placing 3rd equal in the shotput event for her year group.

## Year 9-10 Volleyball

The volley fest was very fun, it was a great opportunity to represent our school even though no one won any games. The opposition were good matches, and challenged us to try our best. We worked very well as a team, and I think we did great. Overall it was a very fun day, and I feel that most of us would do it again.

- Niamh Rogan-Gibson, Year 10



## Futsal: Excellere Vs Renew

### Year 7 Boys Team:

We played well, however our opponents played well also and were laser focused the whole time. Other than conceding the first game, we had fun. Some highlights were really good goal saves, solid defending and the atmosphere of supporters in the gym. Xavier and Fletcher were refs and did a great job.

Well done to the Excellere mixed team for tying their game and denying Renew another victory. Thanks to Whaea Alisha for making this event happen.

- Arlo Brown, Year 7



### Year 8 Mixed Team:

In Week 9 we had a futsal exchange with Renew school. Excellere had two teams; a boys team and a mixed. It was lots of fun to play against them, there was tough competition for Excellere. FWOOSH! The ball sank in the back of the net. The crowd would go wild. The atmosphere was suspenseful as they watched the teams verse each other in the bleachers. In the end everyone had a blast! The bell rang and the 2025 Renew futsal exchange came to an end. Looking forward to playing futsal with Renew next year.

- Benji Browne and Xavier Phetsomphou , Year 8



## 2026 Sports Permission Forms

A Google Form will be sent out in the New Year (before school starts) to parents of students in Years 7–13, so please keep an eye on your emails for this.

Regards and God bless

Alisha du Plessis, Sports Coordinator  
alisha.duplessis@excellerecollege.school.nz

