



## Upcoming Events

26&27 Feb	Year 11 First Aid Matapouri Beach
3-6 March	Year 12 Camp Tangihua Lodge
5 March	Year 4-6 Swimming
6 March	School Assembly 11:20 School Gym
10 March	Year 11 Photography Trip Hātea River
12 March	Year 4-6 Swimming
13 March	Otago University Visit
19 March	PHOTO LIFE School photos
17-19 March	Whangarei Careers Year 11-13
19 March	Year 4-6 Swimming
23-26 March	Taranaki DOE Y11 –12
24-25 March	Food & Beverage at NorthTec Year 11 - Group 1
26 March	Year 4-6 Swimming
2 April	Easter Assembly 11:20 School Gym <b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b>
3 April	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>

## Excellere College School Picnic



Last Wednesday night was the annual school picnic. This was an opportunity for teachers, students and their families to gather informally to meet for the first time or catch up after the summer holidays. The weather although a bit inconsistent throughout the day, cleared up for a lovely evening. It was great to see the newly appointed

senior student leaders attend and coordinate some highly competitive games on the school fields! An evening of Mr Whippy ice-cream and various takeaway food was a great way to spend the evening. Thanks so much to the families who came and made the most of this time with us.



## From the Tumuaki

Kia ora Excellere Kaupapa Whānau,

What an incredible start we have had to the new academic year. We welcomed 42 new students at the mihi whakatau, two new teachers (Mr Hanz Shanks Year 7-8 & Mr Matt Dow Senior College Maths), we have started a new Year 9 class and of course opened our amazing new classrooms. I want to thank everyone involved in the setting up of these beautiful new teaching spaces. The Whangārei Christian Education Trust (WCET) has done an incredible job. We are so grateful to them for their vision to further God's Kingdom.

I also wish to thank everyone for their understanding and flexibility in regards to the change to the early bus, especially in the afternoons. This has been a frustrating time and I am so appreciative of staff and parents who transported students to bus stops at their own expense. Of course the vans have

been fantastic as well. It is wonderful when the community rallies around in support of our school. A formal route amendment application is now with the Ministry of Education and I am awaiting their response. Thank you also for your patience in the carpark, especially at the end of the day.

Thank you to Mrs Danielle Smith, Mrs Meagan Kelly and Mrs Jess Shanks who stepped in and covered for me in my absence at the end of last year. The Deputy Principals at Excellere College are of an extremely high calibre and this enabled me to recover from the surgery in full confidence that the school was being so well managed.

We were blessed by a visit from a group of staff and students from St. Margaret's Co-educational English Secondary and Primary School from Hong Kong. They are a Christian area school and this is the start of a wonderful international connection and opens the doors

for us to visit them in the future. They were stunned by our beautiful grounds as their students told me they have an eight storied office block with no outside play at all.

As I was recovering from the surgery I had the opportunity to spend a great deal of time in God's Word. I have felt drawn to the wisdom within the book of James.

In James chapter 3 verses 3-12 it speaks about the power of the tongue.

*3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.*

*See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of [b] iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of [c]nature; and it is set on fire by [d] hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the [e]similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? [f]Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.*

This is a great reminder to take care of the words that we speak and the power that they carry. I am especially challenged by the first sentence in verse 10, Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing.

My invitation to us all is to pray first and lean into Him in the good times and in the more challenging seasons. Combine this with gratitude and we have a healthy start to 2026 here at Excellere College.

Yours in Christ,

Andy Mouat  
Tumuaki  
Excellere College

## 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



# Excellere College New Staff & Returning Staff

## Hanz Shanks

Year 7&8 Whānau teacher



Ko wai au? Who am I?

Ko Moetaunga tōku maunga.

Ko te Whangaroa tōku awa. Te Whangaroa is my river.

Ko Mahuhukiterangi tōku waka.

Ko Ngaiotonga tōku marae,

Ko ngati tautahi te hapu,

Ko ngati wai te iwi, Ngati wai is my tribe.

Ko Jess Shanks tōku hua wahine. No

Kaingaroa ia.

Ko Petrelana Shanks tōku mama. No

Whangaruru ia.

Ko Richard Takimoana tōku papa. No

Oromahoe ia.

Ko Owen raua ko Caleb ōku teina. No Sydney raua.

Ko Hanz Shanks toku ingoa.

I am starting my tenth year of teaching this year. My wife and I will celebrate our 4th wedding anniversary in April. I am excited to be back teaching in a Christian environment where I get to pray, worship, and continue to love God with the students.

## Larissa Matheson

Year 9 Drama & Show Quest Facilitator



I'm teaching Year 9 drama part-time and running the school ShowQuest team. I love helping students build confidence and creativity, and seeing their ideas come to life on stage. My baby, Phoebe, comes along to lessons and rehearsals, which makes it extra special. I'll be back full-time in Term 3 and can't wait to keep the fun and performances going!

## Sarah Howells

Year 4&5 Whānau Teacher



I am excited to be coming back to Excellere College after being on maternity leave for the past 6 months. This year I am teaching Year 4 and 5. I am looking forward to seeing all that God has in store for our school this year.

## Moselle Anson

Year 4&5 Whānau Teacher & CRT release



After being a full time teacher at Excellere and then working in a specialist role being an ORS specialist teacher, I took a few years off teaching to start a family in 2023. I have really enjoyed my time at home

with my son Azariah and daughter Libby. This year I will be coming back to the class room two days a week with Year 4&5, in Room 2 and CRT release. I look forward to being back with the Excellere College family.

## Matt Dow

Year 9 Maths, Level 1 Maths & Science



Kia ora everybody, my name is Matt Dow and I'm thrilled to be part of your school. I come from the Far North and it's great to be back in Northland once more. Three things I enjoy are rugby

league, hot chilli sauce and my wonderful family. I look forward to meeting you all!

## From Excellere School Board

Kia ora Excellere whānau,

As we settle into the 2026 school year, the Excellere College School Board would like to extend a warm welcome to all students, families and staff.

We are grateful for the continued growth of our school and for the privilege of stewarding its governance, vision and special Christian character. The Board remains committed to ensuring strong governance, clear direction and wise oversight as we support the leadership team and wider community.

We give thanks to God for His faithfulness over the summer break and pray for a year marked by growth in learning, integrity of character and deepening faith for every student. We look forward to working together for the good of our school and the glory of Christ.

Ngā mihi,  
Excellere College School Board



## Duke of Edinburgh— Bronze Pinnacles Hike

On the 11th and 12th of February Mr Keyte and Mrs Kelly took the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students on their qualification tramp to the Pinnacles in the Kauaeanga Valley.

Micaela, Mariesa, June, Niamh and Tamsen did a fantastic job climbing all the stairs up the old track that was used by Kauri loggers over a century ago, enjoying the odd swing bridge spanning the rivers as well. God blessed us with amazing weather on our first day, with spectacular views across to the Coromandel from the summit of the Pinnacles. To get there was quite an adventure, with a little bit of rock scrambling and needing to use ladders bolted to the rocks. After interesting meals that the girls cooked and some fun games of Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza, everyone slept well and awoke to drizzle.

Not as amazing weather as the first day, but it made it feel more of an adventure. The students did a great job of staying positive on the trip, and were great ambassadors for our school in the massive hut.

- Ben Keyte, DoE Facilitator & HoD PE



## Beach to Basin—Discount Entry

Kia ora whānau,

On Sunday, 15th March, The annual “Beach to Basin” event will be taking place. This event is an opportunity for students to be active, run with some friends and have fun.



Sport Northland has given us a school discount to encourage more students and families to get involved. Please feel free to use the code for any friends and whānau of the kura. New this year, Sport Northland events will also contribute to your child's SPRINGS challenge.

**\*Note: This is not a school organized event\***

**How to Register:** Below is the link. You can also search Beach to Basin Race Roster to find the registration form. You will also find all information needed including bus times, starting times etc.

<https://raceroster.com/events/2026/113432/chilltech-beach-to-basin>

### KEY INFORMATION:

**When:** Sunday, 15th March

**Start Times:** Kids 2km 10:00am,

6.8km 9:00

10km 8:00am

**Where:** Town basin (Buses will take 6.8km and 10km students to start line, more information closer to the date)

**Price:** Initial price \$30 for 10km, \$25 for 6.8km or \$15 for 2km Kid dash

**Discount Code:** [MOVEMENTISBETTER](#) for 20% off.

**Team:** ExcellereCollege

**What to wear:** We will be encouraging students to wear their P.E uniforms and comfy sports shoes. Any queries please feel free to email [hanz.shanks@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:hanz.shanks@excellerecollege.school.nz)

Ngā mihi,

Hanz Shanks ē

# Senior Student Leadership



2026 Head Prefects

**Luané:** When I applied for Head Prefect I was determined to give something back to our school, as our school has given me so much. It has given me guidance, encouragement, support, and a platform to grow in my relationship with God. I want to give these things I have received back into our school community and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to act on what God is saying/doing in my life. I am truly excited for the year ahead and to grow with my fellow leaders in God's Love and Grace.

**Jacob:** I applied for the role as Head Prefect and was honoured to be accepted. My goals for 2026 as a Head Prefect is to be a confident Christian Leader for the school, a role model in the wider community, help develop opportunities for the students and school while applying our schools values, Compassion, Honour and Integrity.

**Christiaan:** I am honoured to get the role of Head Prefect. I wanted this role because I want to be a positive influence in people's lives just as other people have made such a positive influence in my life. I also wanted this role to build my public speaking skills and to take responsibility. I believe the Lord has put each of us in this leadership position for a reason and I'm excited to work with the other leaders in this school.

**Caylin:** I took on this role to positively influence others, grow in my own skills and to leave a lasting positive impact that will benefit Excellere's future students. Being able to set a positive example to my younger peers and prepare myself for life beyond the classroom is a big goal for me. I am excited to bring guidance and offer many fun opportunities this year to not only help our leaders grow but everyone in school.



2026 Prefects

**Ashtoné:** I am so grateful for the opportunity to lead at Excellere College and to uphold our school values of Compassion, Integrity, and Honour. My goal as a Prefect is to lead by example in my speech, actions, and faith and to be someone who encourages and uplifts others. I hope to help create an environment where every student feels seen, supported, and reminded of their worth in Christ.

**Maisy:** I am so thankful for this opportunity that God has given me in helping lead our school as well as the other leaders I will be working with. My goals for our school this year is to make it as fun as possible all while creating an environment to follow God and our school values. I am truly excited for this year, and hope to make a lasting impact and inspire younger students who would also like to be a leader as well.

**Mishé:** I applied to take on this role again because last year I not only learnt more about being a leader and taking ownership but also having independence and confidence in myself to be a leader, which was my biggest goal, being a leader last year. I am very honoured to serve as a leader this year and can't wait to see what blessings the Lord brings to Excellere College this year.

**Connor:** I wanted to become a Prefect so that I could have a more hands-on experience in helping my fellow students around the school as well as support the teachers and other Prefects. I am going to try my best to have more events around the school and award house points to any participants that do well in them. Feel free to approach me if you need any help and I can't wait to see everybody's happy faces throughout this year.

## Cultural Exchange Visit from Hong Kong

Late last year, following our Principal's international tour, Excellere College was invited to host 24 students from a Hong Kong college as part of a cultural exchange programme.

It was a privilege to welcome the group to our school community. The students experienced genuine manaakitanga and kotahitanga, beginning with a heartfelt Mihi Whakatau. Our Student Prefects demonstrated outstanding leadership by organising a range of Te Ao Māori games and activities, providing opportunities for connection, learning, and shared experiences.

In his farewell message, the visiting Principal expressed his sincere gratitude, sharing that his students would return home with enriched hearts and a deeper global understanding as a result of their time at Excellere College.

We are grateful for the opportunity to build international connections and to share our culture and values with students from around the world.



## Dental Health



### FREE dental care for under 18s

Kei raro iho i te tekau mā waru, kāhore he utu

#### TIPS TO KEEP YOU SMILING

##### Fluoride in toothpaste helps prevent tooth decay

Avoid eating or drinking after brushing teeth, especially at night so the Fluoride can keep working to protect and strengthen teeth.

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



0800 698 3384  
(0800 MY TEETH)

**Te Whatu Ora**  
Health New Zealand

## 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](mailto:barbie.reynolds@excellerecollege.school.nz)

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



## Advertise Here for 2026

Advertise your event or business HERE in the school newsletter.

\$100 a Year for 12 Newsletters or \$10 per single advertisement.

For more information contact:  
[julie.hale@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:julie.hale@excellerecollege.school.nz)

P: 0800 120 449 M: 022 393 7887  
E: [lee@balanceadvisors.co.nz](mailto:lee@balanceadvisors.co.nz)  
W: [www.balanceadvisors.co.nz](http://www.balanceadvisors.co.nz)  
A: 11A James Street, Whangarei



**Lee Reo**  
**Financial Advisor**

Helping protect what matters  
INSURANCE | KIWISAYER | INVESTMENTS | MORTGAGES



Term Time Hours: 3-5:30pm

School Holiday Hours: 8:30 - 4:00

For more information contact:

[graceafterschoolcare@gmail.com](mailto:graceafterschoolcare@gmail.com)

## Excellere College House Leaders

### HURUPAKI



Hi, my name is Zian, and I am incredibly proud to serve as Hurupaki (Green) House Leader for 2026. This year, I am committed to leading with passion, unity, and purpose. My goal is to create a strong sense of belonging within our house and throughout the school community, where every student, regardless of age, feels valued, encouraged, and confident to step up and get involved; whether in sports, academics, or cultural events. I want to inspire Hurupaki to give their absolute best in everything we do, to support one another, and to represent Green with determination, integrity, and pride. Together, we will strive for excellence, build unforgettable house spirit, and make 2026 a year that stands out, guided by God's grace and purpose.

### HIKURANGI



Kia ora koutou, my name is Isla, and I am absolutely thrilled to be Hikurangi (Yellow) House Leader this year! As captain I am committed to supporting every member of this house, whether that is on the sports field, in the classroom, or in any other challenge you take on. I want Hikurangi house to be a place where everyone feels encouraged to get involved, push themselves and celebrate their strengths. My goal is to create a positive, inclusive environment across our school, where we lift each other up, show house pride, and give our best in everything we do, and together we are going to bring the energy, bring the spirit and be the best house we can be!

### PARIHAKA



Hello everyone, my name is Abinaya Pokkiri Raja and I am incredibly excited to be serving as the House Leader for Parihaka (Blue) this year! I am truly honored to take on this role and represent our amazing house. I hope to lead this year with positivity, teamwork and encouragement. I am committed to challenging both myself and every member of this house to strive for excellence, show resilience in the face of challenges and hardship, while displaying Compassion, Honor, Integrity and our Love for God -- no matter the place, the people or the situation. Together, let us make this year filled with growth, achievements, and unforgettable memories. GO PARIHAKA!!!!

### PARAKIORE



Hi, my name is Zian and I am honoured to be the Parakiore (Red) House Leader for 2026. I want to lead by example, encourage students to get involved, and help build strong house spirit. My goal is for everyone in Parakiore to support each other and give their best in sports, academics, and school events. After winning the house shield last year, I think Parakiore will be ready to do it all again this year too.

I'm excited for the year ahead and proud to represent Red. GO PARAKIORE!

## Lunchtime Sports Gear

Sports gear is available at lunchtime for students who would like to borrow equipment. Students need to come to the **Sports Department Shed** (located between Room 1 and Room 2) at the beginning of lunchtime to sign out their gear. All equipment must be returned at the end of lunchtime.

Students are required to write their name and the gear they have borrowed on the form provided. Monitors will be available to assist with issuing and collecting equipment.



## Books by Mike de Vetter for Sale

Large format books written by Mike de Vetter (former pastor of Whangarei Elim church) are available for sale for \$5 each.

There are two books available 'Loving the skin you are in' and 'Do what you were born to do.' These would be excellent gifts or resources for young readers.

If you are interested in purchasing, please see the school office staff. These will make great gifts of classroom resources for junior aged students.



## Term 1 Sports Calendar

Week 4	Tuesday, 24th Feb	Girls Kiwi Tagg	Yr 9 -10	Blue Goose
	Wednesday, 25th Feb	Bikes in school	Yr4 -5	Excellere College
	Wednesday, 25th Feb	Equestrian show	Yr 7 - 13	Barge Park
	Thursday, 26th Feb	Zone Swimming	Yr 5 - 8	Kaurihohore
Week 5	Monday, 2nd March	Rangatahi Coaching day	Yr 9-13	McKay Stadium
	Tuesday, 3rd March	Boys & Girls Futsal	Yr 9-10	McKay Stadium
	Thursday, 5th March	Mountain biking	Yr 9 -13	Parahaki
	Friday, 6th March	Track & Field Champs	Yr 9 -13	Trigg Stadium
Week 6	Wednesday, 11th March	WPSSA Swimming	Yr 5 - 8	
Week 7	Monday, 16th March	Speed Golf	Yr 9-13	Northland Golf Club
Week 8	Tuesday, 24th March	Golf Croquet	Yr 9-13	Whangarei or Kerikeri
	Thursday, 26th March	Surfing #1		Sandy Bay or Ahipara
Week 9	Tuesday, 31st March	Hockey 5's	Yr 9 - 13	ITM Hockey Centre

## School Board - Board Secretary Opportunity

The Excellere College School Board is seeking a Board Secretary to support the effective governance of our school, commencing Term 2 (20 April 2026).

### This role includes:

- \*Preparing meeting agendas in consultation with the Presiding Member
- \*Taking accurate minutes at School Board meetings
- \*Maintaining Board records and documentation
- \*Assisting with governance compliance requirements
- \*Managing confidential correspondence as required

### We are looking for someone who is:

- \*Reliable and able to meet deadlines
- \*Highly organised with strong attention to detail
- \*Discreet and able to handle confidential information
- \*Confident using email and shared digital document systems
- \*Familiar with meeting procedures (governance experience an advantage)

This role carries a modest per-meeting honorarium, subject to School Board approval.

**Expressions of interest close 5pm Friday 14 March 2026.**

If you are interested, or would like further information, please contact:

Petrus Nel

Presiding Member - Excellere College School Board

[Presiding.Member@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:Presiding.Member@excellerecollege.school.nz)