



Upcoming Events

- 17&18 Mar Tues-Wed Food & Beverage at NorthTec Year 11 - Group 1
- 19 March Thursday PHOTO LIFE School photos
- 18 March Tues-Thurs Whangārei Careers Year 11-13
- 23-26 March Mon-Thurs Taranaki DOE Y11-12
- 24-25 March Tues-Wed Food & Beverage at NorthTec Year 11 - Group 1
- 27 March Friday PHOTO LIFE Catch up day
- 27 March Friday University of Auckland Visit Year 10-13
- 2 April Thursday Easter Assembly 11:20 School Gym **LAST DAY OF TERM**
- 3 April Friday GOOD FRIDAY
- 20 April Monday First day of Term 2

Excellere College Athletics Day—Year 7-13



On the 19th of February we held our Y7-13 school athletics at Trigg Athletics stadium. We were blessed with a day that dawned cool and crisp, perfect conditions for our students to do their run, jumps and throws. It was fantastic to see all the colour that the students and staff came dressed in, adding to an awesome vibe for the day.

All the students gave their best efforts, and as usual, it was great to see our students showing great compassion and kindness to each other, cheering friends on and giving awesome encouragement.

Special mention must be made to Waldo Potgieter (javelin), Lydia Jongkind (triple jump), June Underwood (200m) and Kylie Potgieter (javelin) who all broke school records, some which were almost 15 years old. There was great representation from all school houses, with **Parakiore** being crowned the winners on the day.

A tremendous thankyou to all staff for helping it run as smoothly as it did, and to the students for their awesome attitudes, already looking forward to next year's event!

From the Tumuaki

Kia ora Excellere Kaupapa Whānau,

We continue to see God's provision and grace here at Excellere College. Our roll continues to grow and we see students flourishing across the school. Our senior student leaders (including Christiaan van Dijk, Mishē Lotz and Jacob King) have started a lunchtime Bible study and this has become a popular fixture each week. It is wonderful seeing the students supporting others in their Christian walk.

I have received outstanding reports from the Year 12 camp at Tangihua Lodge. This annual event led by Mr Phil Buchanan and Mrs Chantel Minnaar was supported by several staff and parent helpers. We are so grateful for everyone's support and for the Year 13 students who went out for one night to help out. It is interesting to see leaders emerge from the Year 12 group. Overall this was an extremely valuable experience for students involved.



Thank you to everyone involved in the wood splitting at school last weekend. They produced a mountain of split totara which is to be sold to raise money for school. Special thanks must go to Richard Smith, Peter Meyer, Dan Garton, Cole Johnston,

Arthur McLellan and Jeff McLaren. Danielle Smith also arranged to feed the hungry workers! I believe there is still a lot more wood left to split. We are so blessed to have such willing volunteers giving up their time to support the school.

As we pass the midpoint of Term 1, I am reminded of the beautiful promise in Galatians 6:9: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

The start of a school year is always filled with high energy, but by week five and six, the "mid-term stretch" can feel demanding. Whether you are a student tackling new concepts or a parent balancing a busy schedule, remember that your efforts are never in vain. At Excellere College, we don't just strive for academic success; we strive to grow in the character of Christ.

Every act of kindness, every hour of focused study, and every moment of patience contributes to the "harvest" of a life well-lived. Take a moment this week to reset and find your strength in Him. We are running a marathon, not a sprint, and we run it together.

Blessings for the weeks ahead,
Yours in Christ,

Andy Mouat
Tumuaki
Excellere College



Firewood For Sale!!!

Firewood for sale @ \$120 per cubic metre. Please contact Richard on 0211181086 or the school office on 4352458 to order.

Proceeds will go to Whangārei Christian Education Trust for ongoing projects at school.

God bless, Richard Smith

A big THANK YOU to Peter Meyer, Jeff McLaren, Arthur McLellan, Cole Johnston and Dan Garton for assisting in splitting firewood on Saturday.



Term Dates for 2026

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

Year 7-13 Championship Results

Under 12

Girls	1st Vaughné Buchler	2nd = Gria Valent-Hay & Amoré De La Harpe	
Boys	1st Zeke Cleaver	2nd Jude Dow	3rd Anton Duinkerke

Under 14

Girls	1st Mialee Boshoff Elin McGlashan	2nd Kylie Bradley	3rd Nevaeh Tana
Boys	1st De Wet Volschenk	2nd Le-Ron Joseph Eli Couché	3rd Tyler Reo

Under 16

Girls	1st = June Underwood Niamh Rogan- Gibson	2nd Tamsen Browne	3rd Lydia Alison
Boys	1st Duan Potgieter	2nd Israel Yung	3rd Heino van Niekerk

Open

Girls	1st Kylie Potgieter	2nd Lydia Jongkind	3rd Ella Yung
Boys	1st James Bradley	2nd Waldo Potgieter	3rd Joshua Dodd

Year 7-13 Athletics



Year 12 Camp at Tangihua Lodge

Last Tuesday we arrived at school ready to go to Tangihua Lodge for our Year 12 camp. On the way there we had to drive up a steep gravel hill to reach the lodge. The van I was in was towing a trailer full of students' gear. While going up the hill the van's tyres lost traction, and we had to get another vehicle to take the trailer up. The smell of burnt rubber made me feel lightheaded.



Once we arrived, we first had to unload everything from the trailers. After that we went on a walk through the forest. We had gone about halfway when I had just said to my friend that things were getting a bit



boring. A few steps later I heard people shouting "Wasps!" and I could hear loud buzzing. Before I knew it everyone was swarmed and people were getting stung. Half the group became separated because of the large wasp nest, so we had to make our way around the area to meet up with the rest of the group. Many people were stung multiple times, which was quite a dramatic start to our camp.



Later, my class and I went to set three possum traps. Mr Buchanan asked me to give the class a lesson on possum trapping, which I did not enjoy very much. Over the three nights we were at camp we managed to trap three possums and a baby joey, which was very cute.

Throughout the camp we did many group activities that required teamwork and good



communication. My group came second place overall when all the challenges and extra points were added up.

One of the highlights for me was the confidence course and the rope trail. I was given the very important job of guiding my class on the zipline by making sure they were connected properly and safely sent down the line. It was really cool seeing people conquer their fears and go again even though they were scared the first



time. On the last night we did the rope trail in the dark. It was very muddy and made my shoes extremely dirty, but it was heaps of fun.

I also brought my mini guitar to camp. I

enjoyed playing worship music with the class during Mr Bradley's devotional, which was very encouraging for us as a class.

Thank you to Mrs Minnaar for preparing delicious food for us, and thank you to Mr Buchanan for organising the camp. Thank you also to the teachers who came out to visit and to the parent helpers, Mr and Mrs Bradley and Mr Nel. Without you all, the camp would not have been possible.

- Josh Dodd, Year 12



Kiwi Tag Year 9-10 Girls

On Tuesday, 24th February, we left school early and headed straight to Blue Goose for the big day. As soon as we arrived, we went right into training and then straight into the games. We had four games in total and finished in the top five, which we were really proud of. It was an amazing day, and we met lots of new people along the way.

By: Grace Joll, Year 10



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

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 x 12 Newsletters or \$10 per single advertisement.

For more information contact: julie.hale@excellerecollege.school.nz

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School Holiday Hours: 8:30 - 4:00

For more information contact: graceafterschoolcare@gmail.com

Level 1 Art Photography Trip

Can manual cameras take better photos than cell phones? Why do we bother learning how to operate a DSLR camera in manual mode, when you can use the auto settings to take photos? The Level 1 art students tested their DSLR camera skills at Whangarei falls this week.

The Level 1 Art students have been learning about photography composition: rule of thirds, lighting, viewpoint; as well as shutter speed, and depth of focus. On Wednesday they got to put their skills to the test, taking photos around the very scenic Whangarei falls.

As a teacher I watched the students take many blurry and under/exposed photos as they learnt the hard way that getting that amazing shot is hard work and a lot of failure. The first task was to take a photo of Whangarei Falls using a longer shutter speed to get a silky smooth effect, and then do it again to get a textured 'frozen in time' effect.



Photos of Whangarei Falls by Olivia Cullum



By Alexis McGee

As we walked down into the bush surrounding the falls, the students started to use the auto settings less and learnt how to create dramatic photographs that focused on lighting to create drama in their photos.



By June Underwood



By Nikki Sinclair



By Mariesa Duinkerke



By Izabella Van Dijk

We also had a 'prettiest leaf competition', which was entertaining to observe; students had to use their skills of depth of field, rule of thirds, contrast and lighting to make an average leaf, into something artwork worthy. Making something mundane look beautiful really made the students work hard for their photos.



Students taking photos for the 'prettiest leaf competition'



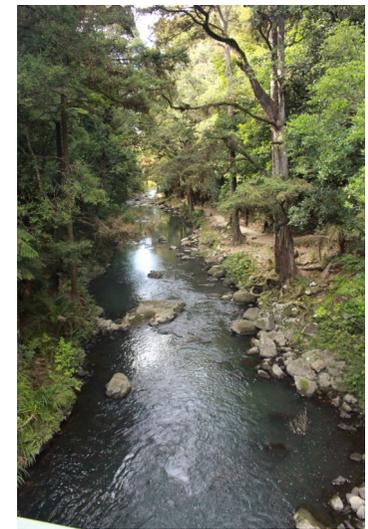
The budding Level 1 photographers: Jacob, David, Nikki, Izabella, Dakota, Olivia, Mariesa, Alexis & June



By Dakota Judnick



By David Capablanca



By Jacob Duinkerke

Year 4-6 Bikes in Schools

Room 3's bikes in school experience was fantastic! They had a great time learning to bike and were beginning to learn new tricks. It was an extraordinary time for the kids to do some physical activities while having fun at the same time. Many of the kids learned tips and tricks like riding over bumps.

They started by grabbing a bike and a helmet each. Some people brought their own bikes and helmets to school but some used the ones provided. The instructor, Kevin, taught them some safety lessons before they got started. They had to make sure their helmets were tight enough, and their tires were pumped up. Then, they were set and ready to go.

The first course the instructor set for the students was to do laps around the courts, and go over a ramp. Kevin told them to stand up on their bikes with the right posture, to keep themselves equally balanced on their bikes. While they were riding, they were instructed to keep their heels on the pedals, so that they could balance their feet, and keep their equal weight.

After the first course, the students did a



second course. The second course was a bit harder. Instead of just using one ramp, they used two - one small one, and one big one. The students got to choose which one they wanted to go on.

There were small, thin tires laid out on the ground, and the kids had to ride around them. They also had to ride over some of them. While they were riding, the other instructor, named Chubby, was shooting the kids with a water gun. They were dodging the water at first, but then they wanted to get wet! Once the students were finished biking, they had a huge water fight. It wasn't an actual water fight though. They were just shooting each other and dumping buckets of water on each other's heads. There were a few people who got completely DRENCHED! They had a blast!

The kids definitely had lots of fun. They had two amazing instructors that taught them cool tips and tricks. They had a brilliant time during the courses, and definitely the water fight. Overall, they had a great time throughout the whole thing.

By Larissa Van Der Hulst and Oriel Novaire

Last Wednesday the Year 4's and 5's had bikes in schools visit. First we met Kevin and Chubby and they showed us how to check you're ready to get on your bike. Then we went and chose our bikes, some people brought their own. Next we did a few practice laps and got used to the feeling of being on a bike. Then we did some games. My favourite was when five people got picked to jump over Kevin. Most of them made it but some didn't. Then we had a water fight. It was so fun! Bikes in schools was awesome!!!!

By Nate Sims, Room 1



Term 1 Sports Calendar

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

Books by Mike de Vetter for Sale

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

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



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Year 11 & 12 Outdoor First Aid Training

The Level 1 students went to Matapouri for two days to gain their certificate in outdoor first aid and five Level 3 credits to count towards their NCEA certificate. The course was lead by Mark from First Training who provided a very informative, sometimes entertaining and important set of skills.

By the end of the first day all students and teachers felt the importance of the content being learnt. The highlight for the students was the role play scenarios which enabled students to put into practise what they had learnt under pressure.

Day One

- Learned how to assess an emergency situation (DRSABC).
- Practised placing a patient in the recovery position.
- Learned and practised CPR techniques.
- Discussed common outdoor injuries and how to respond to them such as burns, bleeding and shock.

Day Two

- Learned how to manage hypothermia and exposure in outdoor environments.
- Practised splinting broken or injured limbs.
- Practised responding to emergency scenarios through realistic role play



NSSSA Show Jumping

On Wednesday, 25th February we represented Excellere College at the Northland Secondary school show jumping competition on Wednesday, 25th February at Barge park. With around 27 teams competing from across the region, from Kaitaia to Warkworth, the competition was strong. Our team rode well and came away with an impressive 5th place in the team event.

By: Ayla Simes & Indee Hanley, Year 9



Djembe Drumming in Year 7

Year 7 has been learning about the Elements of Music. One of these elements is Rhythm and an easy way to put Rhythm into practice is by using a drum! These Djembe drums are easy to play and being part of a drumming circle can be a wonderful experience - creating unity and music while having fun at the same time.

- Daniel Slabbert, Middle College Music



Year 5-8 Zone Swimming

A small group of students proudly represented our school at Kaurihohore School for this event. In February. Although it wasn't the warmest or sunniest day for swimming, everyone participated enthusiastically and made the most of a fun morning in the pool.

Congratulations to Brooke Clarke (Year 7) on qualifying to represent our school at the Whangārei Swimming Championships. We wish her all the best.

By Jay du Plessis, Year 6

