Newsletter - Pānui

Excellere College
Whaia te Maramatanga o Te Karaiti

October 30 2026 Term 4 Week 3

Upcoming Events

3 Nov Tuesday	Fast 5 Netball Cup & Festival Year 7-10
5 Nov Thursday	Junior College Athletics Day Year 4-6
5 Nov Thursday	Gumboot Mufti Day Gold coin
6 Nov Friday	Leavers Assembly School gym 11:30am
6 Nov Friday	Badminton Team Festival Mixed Year 7 & 8
8 Dec Tuesday	Senior College Prizegiving 6:30pm
9 Dec Wednesday	Junior College Prizegiving am Middle college Prizegiving pm
11 Dec Friday	Last day of Term 4

Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze - Cape Brett

On the 20-21 of October the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh group set off to complete the gruelling Cape Brett track. After assembling at school at 5:30am and driving up to Rawhiti, the group started the walk at 7am. It starts with a massive climb that gets the blood pumping. Then it is along the ridgeline taking in spectacular views over the Bay of Islands and beyond. We had incredible weather with blue skies and calm seas.

After walking for around 7.5 hours we arrived at the hut and were greeted with a Humpback whale swimming in the bay below us. We explored the remains of the lighthouse settlers from over 100 years ago, played cards, watched the sunset, finishing the day off with a devotional on Romans 3.

Then it was off to bed for a well earned sleep and awoke in the morning to more whales jumping out in the bay. The students did an amazing job tackling one of the toughest two day hikes around, and should be very proud of themselves. They encouraged each other, showed awesome tramping etiquette on the trail and at the hut and made it a really fun trip. A special thank you to Alisha du Plessis for making the trip what it was.
- Ben Keyte, DoE Facilitator

From the Principal/Tumuaki

Kia ora Excellere Kaupapa Whānau,
This is the time of year where we reflect on the year that was and plan for the year ahead. Excellere College has continued to be a faith-filled environment with Christ at the heart. We are opening a second Year 10 class in 2027 and of course this will increase the programmes of study we can offer.

Staff Changes: I am sad to announce that two very valuable, well loved and faithful teachers will be leaving at the end of the year. Mrs Chantel Minnaar will be moving to Australia with her whānau and Mr Christian Reynolds has decided to take a break from fulltime teaching and look to see what other opportunities God has for him to pursue. I am excited to announce the appointment of Margie Martin. She is a wonderful Christian teacher with many years of experience. We are advertising for other roles too so I will keep you posted with progress.

Amazing Feedback: On Tuesday 27th October a number of students took part in the Year 3-4 Rippa Rugby tournament. When the students returned to school in the afternoon I received a piece of heartwarming feedback. Both teams played so well and demonstrated wonderful fairplay. However, the Year 4 team was singled out for extraordinary praise after their opposition was very rough and some players refused to shake Excellere College players hands at the end of the game. Our school team remained calm and exhibited the school values in a situation where they could easily have become frustrated and angry. It is a testament to our school values and what it means to have Christ at the heart of our school.
As we journey through Term 4, it is easy to become focused on everything that still needs to be done before the end of the year. Yet, even in our busiest moments, God invites us to pause, reflect and give thanks.
1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV) reminds us: “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
At Excellere College, we have much to be grateful for: the progress of our students, the dedication of our staff, the support of our whānau, and the many opportunities God gives us each day to make a difference in the lives of others.
May we continue to approach each day with thankful hearts, choosing encouragement over criticism, kindness over impatience, and faith over worry. Let us remember that even the smallest act of service or word of encouragement can have a lasting impact.
My encouragement this week is simple: pause, give thanks, and ask God to show you someone you can bless today. May we continue to keep Christ at the heart of all we do, trusting Him to guide our steps and strengthen us for the weeks ahead.

- Andy Mouat, Principal/Tumuaki

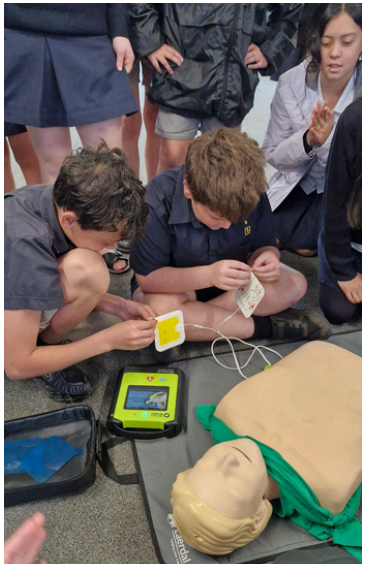
Calendar Dates for 2027

26-28th Jan Tues-Thurs	Teacher Only Days
1st February Monday	Northland Anniversary Day
TERM ONE	
February 2 Tuesday	First day of Term one All year levels begin the school year
April 9, Friday	End of term one
April 26 Monday	ANZAC DAY
TERM TWO	
April 27, Tuesday	Term two starts
June 30 Wednesday	Term two ends
July 1 & 2 Thurs & Friday	Teacher Only Days NZACS Teacher’s Conference
TERM THREE	
July 19, Monday	Term three begins
September 24 Friday	Term three ends
TERM FOUR	
October 11 Monday	Term four begins
December 16 Thursday	Term four ends

Middle College First Aid

This week, our Year 7 and 8 students had the privilege of completing a first aid course. They learnt the DRSABCD action plan and developed their knowledge of how to respond in an emergency when someone is unresponsive.

Our St John educator, Hayleigh, was full of praise for our students, commenting on how respectful and amazing our Excellere students were. She even said she can't wait to come back next year!



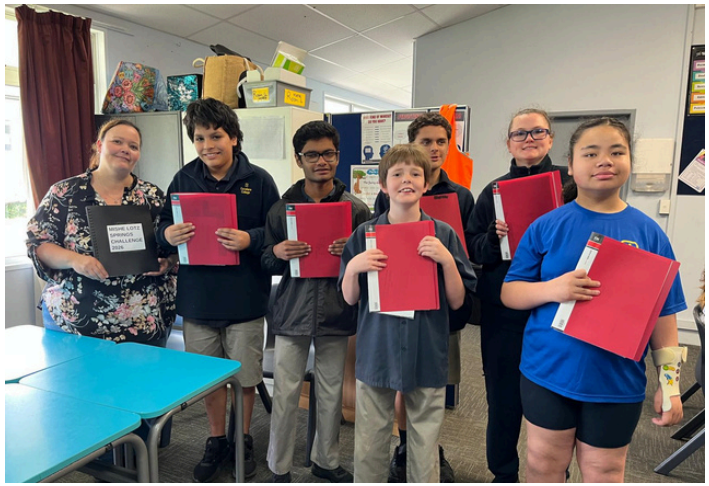
Head Prefect Reflection

Head Girl Reflection
One special moment from this year was our school market day, where we came together to fundraise for World Vision. Everyone brought items from home to resell, and it was amazing seeing the effort people put into making the day a success.

As Head Girl, it was lovely to see students and teachers getting involved in their own ways. Everyone had something to offer, whether bringing items, helping with stalls, or supporting the event. Seeing everyone work together showed how much we can achieve when we combine our efforts. It reminded me that small contributions can become something bigger when everyone gets involved.

This was special because it showed the importance of generosity, teamwork, and helping others. Fundraising for World Vision gave our efforts a purpose beyond our school, as the money raised could support people and communities in need. We do not have to do something huge alone to make a difference; sometimes, the small things we do together matter most.
A Bible verse that reminds me of this is Hebrews 13:16: "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." This connects to our market day because everyone shared what they had and gave their time and effort to help others. Overall, the market day showed what can happen when our school comes together with a shared purpose, and it is something I will remember as a highlight of my year. It brought our school community closer together.
- Caylin Watkins, Head Prefect

Enrichment Centre



All the students in the E-centre completed their Springs Challenge in time and handed them in to Mrs Hill. Putting all the elements together for this project takes real focus and determination, and with the help and support of whanau and friends they were easily able to complete each task.

Gathering evidence, which included chores around the home, attending special events, learning new skills and keeping a prayer journal among other things, kept them motivated with amazing outcomes. Working together as a team and living our school values demonstrated true Godly spirit.

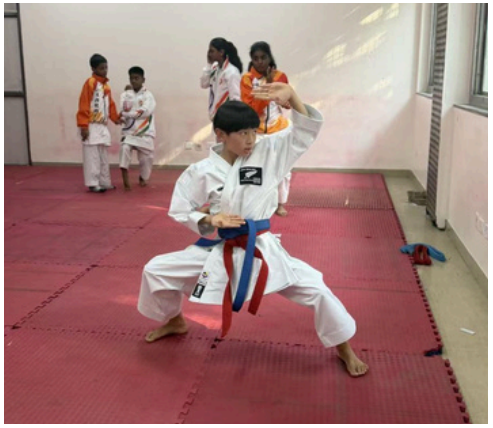
Advertise your event or business HERE in the school newsletter.

$100 a Year for 12 Newsletters or
$10 per single advertisement.
For more information contact:
julie.hale@excellerecollege.school.nz

International Karate Representation: Hwali Ngawa

Excellere College Year 6 student Hwali Ngawa along with his karate club Miyagi Kan, went to the World Goju Ryu Karate Championships in India in October.

The team returned with medals and some great experiences, with Hwali looking forward to the next opportunity to represent New Zealand in 2027.
"This was my first time competing in other countries. It was a really cool experience, and now I can't wait for next year's competition in Australia!"



Climate Action Tai Tokerau Film Competition

Phoebe: When I entered the film competition, I wanted to change things. My film was about what is going on in Northland to reduce the effects of climate change, and who are some of the people a part of it. I immediately thought of Caitlin because she is a member of the Enviro-club. I knew she would have heaps of useful knowledge about the topic. After a six take interview full of giggling we finally had the perfect take. This take is the one you can find in the film that won me second place in the competition. Which I hope to do next year too.

Caitlin: When Phoebe proposed the opportunity to be in her film, I was unsure until she told me that it was to influence others into helping the planet. I was excited and nervous but I tried my best and even though it took multiple attempts I didn't give up and eventually it came with a reward.

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.

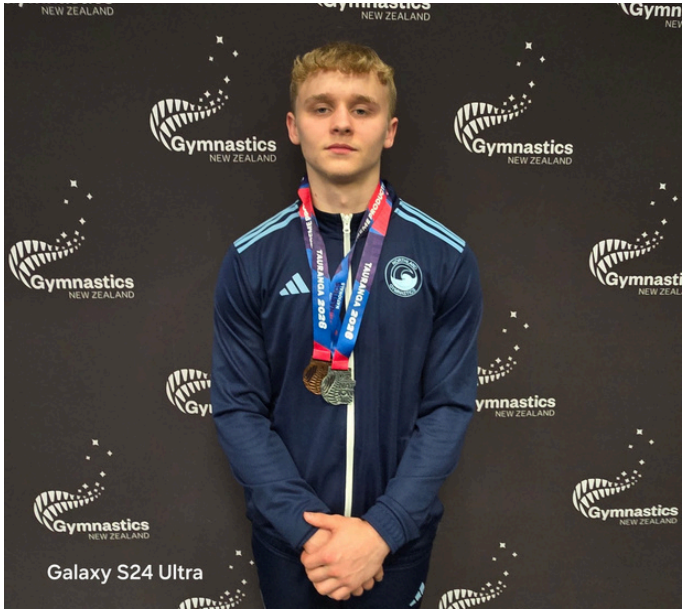
Hosting international students is a wonderful way to share and gain a global perspective for the whole family. We are looking for host families for Year 7-13 students for both short stay (2-4 weeks) and/or long stay (up to 1 year+). A $300 weekly allowance is paid to the host family to reflect the costs of hosting a young person in your home. Whāea Barbie would love to hear from you and chat about how you can support our school with this mission.

Please email our International Director, Barbie Reynolds, if you are interested in this exciting opportunity please contact:
barbie.reynolds@excellerecollege.school.nz

National Gymnastics Success: Malan Volschenk

We are delighted to let you know that, over the school holidays, Malan competed in the 2026 New Zealand Gymnastics Nationals Level 7 Men's Artistic

He placed 2nd overall for all 6 apparatus (still rings, floor, vault, parallel bars, pommel and high bar)
He placed 2nd for still rings and 3rd for parallel bars



Level 1 Art Portfolios

The Level 1 portfolios were very colourful landscapes this year. My pinterest algorithm must have become stuck as many of the landscape artists selected used highly saturated unnatural colours.

Students started the year by selecting a Bible verse that had the theme of water and taking photos at Whangarei Falls.

In these portfolios they focused on creating a cohesive body of artworks that showed a consistent theme, colour scheme and painting style.

Excellere College Netball Students vs Parents Games

The highlight of the 2026 season has been our Parents v Players games as part of the final fun training for Intermediate and College teams. This was an opportunity for parents to put aside their cheerleading hats and give netball a go.

Parents were put through their paces warming up and having a go at a fun ball handling drill followed by testing their netball skills against their children.

The height of some Dads in the goal circles were a little daunting but managed with flair, dramatic falls and lots of laughs.
Finals results were:

Intermediate Players v Parents = Win to Players
College Players v Parents = Win to Players
We look forward to this event being part of our calendar for the next netball season.

Excellere College Netball Prizegiving Results 2026

Pearls Team (Yr 0 - 2)	
Rising Star	Anastasia Copeland
Sportsmanship	Mya Thorne
Most Improved	Ella-Grace Kim

Opals Team (Yr 3 - 4)	
Rising Star	Kelsey Koch
Sportsmanship	Minka Steyn
Most Improved	Bree Heperi

Crystals Team (Yr 5 - 6)	
Player of the Year	Larissa van der Hulst
Sportsmanship	Tui Keyte
Most Improved	Shilah James

Diamonds Team (Yr 5 - 6)	
Player of the Year	Kira Alkema
Sportsmanship	Arabella Johnston
Most Improved	Karlien Botha

Rubies Team (Yr 7 - 8)	
Player of the Year	Amore de la Harpe
Sportsmanship	Haven McCallum
Most Improved	Lea Gerber
Most Versatile	Caitlin Aubrey

Sapphires Team (Yr 7 - 8)	
Player of the Year	Emily Bell
Sportsmanship	Danique Minnaar
Most Improved	Sarvag Shankar
Most Versatile	Lydia Johnston

Amethysts Team (Yr 9 - 11)	
Player of the Year	Mia Marais
Sportsmanship	Skyla de Bruyn
Most Improved	Grace Joll
Most Versatile	Harper Heperi

Emeralds Team (Yr 9 - 12)	
Player of the Year	Nevaeh-Leigh Tana
Sportsmanship	Mikayla Falloon
Most Improved	Mariesa Duinkerke
Most Versatile	Lienka van Niekerk

Special Awards

Junior Netballer of the Year (The John Donovan Trophy)	Keziah Duinkerke
Intermediate Netballer of the Year	Caitlin Aubrey
Senior Netballer of the Year (The Samantha Hanmore Trophy)	Mariesa Duinkerke