

NEWSLETTER



Ruawai
COLLEGE



Congratulations, Siulolovao!

Congratulations to Year 10 Siulolovao Pua, recipient of a Ministry for Pacific Peoples' Toloa STEM scholarship, valued at \$1,000. Siulolovao was assessed across several categories including academic record, commitment to STEM, leadership and service, cultural connectedness, and scholarship impact.

Amazing School Leaver Results! THE BEST IN KAIPARA!

In the latest data crunch by the NZ Herald, Ruawai College was the top-performing school in the Kaipara District for school-leaver results![^]

Well done to our staff and students for their continuous hard mahi.

[^] NZ Herald Achievement Data Report 02/12/2024



Peer Support

On Friday 31 January, we welcomed Year 7 with a day of fun activities, whakawhanaungatanga, and shared kai. Thank you Miss Batters for your excellent organisation and our senior peer support team for your enthusiasm and care while supporting the newest members of our RC whānau to transition into our kura.



Welcome RC Whānau!

Our first engagement for Te Ao Māori was a whakatau for new whānau joining Ruawai College.

Ngā mihi maioha ki a Tamara Lee Hill and Harlow Kapa who led the karanga, Whaea Teami for leading the manuhiri, Lee Thompson for taking the mantle of whaikorero and leading their waiata tautoko, and Morris Hagger from Naumai Marae for always making himself available to support our school as kaumatua on our taumata. Ka tukua he mihi atu ki a koutou e ngā mahita hou ratou ko nga taurira hou ki tenei kura. Nau mai, haere mai, i waenganui i a matou te ngākau o Ruawai.



A word from the Principal

Kia ora e te whānau; it's been fantastic to have a buzz around the school as we welcomed all students back for the start of the 2025 academic year.

It's been great seeing friends reunited, swapping stories of their summer holidays. It's a big thing moving to a new school, and our new students have been settling in well. I am proud of our Year 13s and prefect team who have done a fantastic job supporting our Year 7 students across their first few days. It has made a real difference to our new Year 7 students, knowing people are looking out for you across the school. It's great seeing students out on the field, talking, and enjoying being with their friends during breaks and lunchtimes.

Our school continues to grow. A growing school means growing staff, and a need to change how we use spaces in the school.

We will introduce new staff in the newsletters over the term.

Although we are only a few days into Term 1 this is a packed newsletter full of student success and important information, including our device rollout and the new attendance system.

Have a great week ahead,

Aidyn Rasmussen
Tumuaki/Principal



Upcoming Events

Tuesday 25 February

RC Swimming, Sports
RC Board Meeting, 6 pm - 8 pm

Friday 28 February

School Photos

Monday 3 - Friday 14 March

Services Academy Camp

Friday 7 March

RC Athletics

Learning Support

Some students will work with our RTLB, Mr Eric Hansen as we assess the progress of all Year 7 - 10's. RTLB collaborates with families, conducts specialised tests, and consults staff or external agencies when needed to support student learning.

Our Year 7 and 8 students will be working with the new structured literacy programme, *Agility With Sound*, later this year. This is a New Zealand programme which reads books at the student's level in a kiwi accent, alongside an online literacy teaching app. Students then construct and deconstruct words, trying to get a high score.

Our Co-Curricular Club Initiative

By March, our Co-Curricular Club initiative will be in full swing. All staff will run an activity during break times and extended LA classes every few weeks. This will enable staff to connect with new students, learn new skills, and find new passions.

Clubs include chess, e-Sports, dance, gardening, 'The Zen Zone', golf, drama, and sculptural installations. There will be something exciting for everyone!



What club will you join?

BYOD Update

The new Structured Numeracy and Literacy curriculum has a large component of activities that require digital devices. We have purchased enough devices to ensure every student in the school has access to one. Keep an eye out for roll out details online!



Stepped Attendance Response

The government's target is for 80% of all students to attend regularly; that is to attend school more than 90% of the time.

The basic premise of the STAR system is that 'no child is left behind'. Every student, parent, teacher and school has a role to play. Each school will develop a personalised STAR system to suit its community and school. It will be mandatory for all schools to have an attendance management plan based on STAR from the beginning of the 2026 school year.

From Term 1, 2025, daily attendance must be recorded every day schools are open for instruction and entered each day with the correct codes. If we do not hear from you we must mark your child as unjustified or truant. Details provided after an event do not affect the coding, we need to know beforehand.

When communicating with the school about why your child is away, please state why - saying 'away' is not enough as we cannot code that correctly. Attendance codes are government directives. When coding absences we must comply with the legislation.

Justified absences include:

- Illness/medical absence
- Justified overseas posting
- Stood down or suspended
- Explained and approved by the Principal or Associate Principal (not including holidays during term time)

Unjustified absences include:

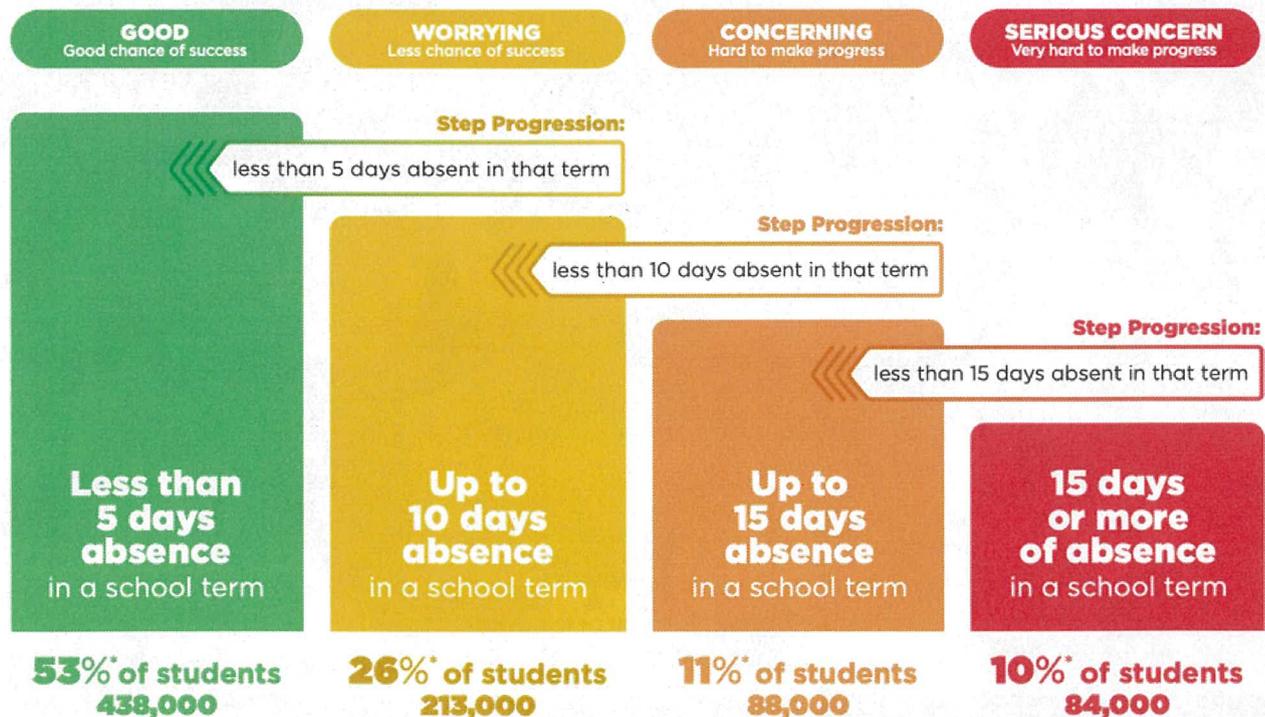
- Truant
- Explained but not accepted
- Holiday during term time

Follow this [link](#) to view the Ministry of Education's response plan.

Stepped Attendance Response – STAR

Responding to all absences

The Government's target is for **80% of students to attend regularly**, that is to attend school more than **90% of the time**.



Year 7 Homeroom

Year 7 students are settling in to their homeroom environment. All core junior subjects are taught in this space by Year 7 Homeroom teacher, Miss April Calape.



Contact Details

We try to keep our school community as informed as much as possible. We predominantly use three social media platforms for our messaging and updates:

- [School website](#)
- [School Facebook page](#)
- [Instagram page](#)

For urgent messaging, we will call, text, or email. The school must have up to date contact details for caregivers. Please contact the school office if your details have changed.

Our new school map

As our school continues to grow, we need to use our space better. What this has meant is we have renumbered rooms and blocks on our school campus so we can utilise breakout spaces better for smaller senior classes and study groups. Official signage has arrived and will be installed in the next few weeks.

