

Te Kura Tuarua o Ruawai College

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Term 1 Newsletter
Friday, 20th of February
2026

Principal's welcome

As we begin another exciting year at Ruawai College, I would like to warmly welcome all students, staff, and whānau back for Term 1. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer break and has settled well into the start of the school year. A special welcome goes to our new students and staff joining our kura this year. We are also pleased to welcome Dr Tedoldi, who joins us as our new Assistant Principal, bringing valuable experience and fresh perspectives to our school community.

This year we continue to focus strongly on student success, wellbeing, and engagement. One important national priority is improving regular attendance. The Government has set a target for 80 percent of students to attend school more than 90 percent of the time by 2030. As a school, we are committed to working together with students and whānau to steadily improve attendance, as being present at school remains one of the strongest predictors of achievement.

While final NCEA results for 2025 will be confirmed in March, early indications show strong outcomes for our senior students, with achievement tracking above the national average. We are proud of our learners and grateful to staff and whānau for their ongoing support. As we move through the term, we encourage everyone to uphold our values of Respect, Responsibility, and Resilience as we work together toward a positive and successful year.

Aidyn Rasmussen, Tumuaki



Coming up at Ruawai College!

Tuesday 3rd March - RC Swimming Sports
Monday 9th March - RC School Photos
Monday 30th March - Easter Egg Hunt
Thursday 2nd of April - Last day of Term



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EXPECTATIONS AT RUAWAI COLLEGE

- BE IN CLASS ON TIME
- BE PREPARED AND READY TO LEARN
- KEEP YOUR PHONE AWAY FOR THE DAY
- FOOD OR GUM STAYS IN YOUR BAG
- WEAR UNIFORM OR CARRY A PASS

ON TIME, IN CLASS,
READY TO LEARN

Don't forget Pi day is the 13th of March!
What is pi?
First five digits of pi?
What is the circumference of a circle?
What is a diameter?





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**Rimu 2
(787 points)**



**Totara 3
(782 points)**



**Rimu 2/3
(692 points)**



Top Form was a fantastic afternoon filled with energy, teamwork, and plenty of school spirit. A huge congratulations to the L.A. classes who placed during the event — what an awesome effort! Ka pai as well to everyone who took part; it was great to see so many students getting involved and giving it their all. The afternoon was packed with thoughtful and exciting activities that kept everyone engaged and cheering each other on. A big thank you to Ruby Carey for organising such a fun and well-run day, what a great way to kick off the school year!



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Introducing... New Staff for 2026



Adelaide Ihaka

Has just graduated from Uni of Otago in history and Maori studies, and is super excited to begin her teaching journey in social studies at RC.



Katie Ward

Hello everyone, my name is Katie and this year I'm joining RC to help out in the library, careers and pathways and on social media! I'm super excited to get our Student Librarian programme up and running.

JT

Supports students across the school, and works alongside Te Wheke. You'll see him out and about driving the Tinopai van.



Robin Robertson

Diverse Learning Liaison, with vast experiences as a principle, RTLB and working for the ministry.



Keanu Townsend

Is our new PE and Social Studies teacher and Totara 2 Learning Advisor. Returning to Ruawai after teaching here from 2017 to 2023.



Dr Angelo Tedoldi

The new Assistant Principle, a member of SLT. A strong focus on making a positive difference for our rangatahi, bringing both warmth and expertise to the classroom. Angelo's background in neuroscience and teaching, along with his experience in restorative practice and tikanga Māori, supports his work across Science, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics.

Nau mai, haere mai to all our new staff!



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Peer Support Day



On Friday 30 January 2026, we warmly welcomed our new Year 7 students and their wānau. Student Leaders were on hand early helping everyone with a tour of key learning areas and important school spaces followed by icebreakers such as the “Picnicking” activity and “Find Someone Who” to encourage students to share holiday highlights and discover common interests.

Later in the morning, students rotated through a range of peer support challenges including Broken Squares, Balloon Ties, Ties that Bind and the ever-popular M&M Challenge, all designed to strengthen communication and cooperation.

Students then came back together for the creative “New Species” challenge, combining their ideas to invent and present imaginative creatures.

In the afternoon, students gathered in the hall to practise waiata in preparation for pōwhiri, building both confidence and understanding of school tikanga. This was followed by a high-energy Amazing Race around the courts, where teams completed challenges and worked together to earn points.

The day wrapped up with a sausage sizzle, swim, games and ice blocks, alongside bus briefings to ensure everyone felt confident heading home. Our Peer Support Leaders did an outstanding job leading the day, demonstrating real leadership, organisation and teamwork, along with emerging expertise in professional sausage-sizzle coordination.

