



Term 1 Newsletter
Thursday, 2nd of April 2026

Principal's remark

As we reach the end of Term 1, it is an opportune time to reflect on what has been a busy, positive, and successful start to the year. It has been pleasing to see students settling well, building connections, and consistently demonstrating our school values of Respect, Responsibility, and Resilience.

The term has been filled with many highlights across academic, cultural, and sporting areas. Our student leaders represented the school with pride at the GRIP Student Leadership Conference, gaining valuable insights into leadership and service. Our Kapa Haka rōpū performed with great mana at the Tai Tokerau Festival, showcasing both talent and commitment to our culture. Harmony Week has also been a special time for our kura, reinforcing the importance of unity, inclusion, and belonging for all.

In sport, we have seen outstanding effort and resilience from our teams. The Stingrays, in particular, demonstrated determination and pride, achieving a strong run of results despite challenging conditions. Our EPRO8 teams have also performed exceptionally well in recent weeks. We congratulate all participants, and extend our best wishes to the team competing in the grand final.

We had our ERO visit earlier this term and we are waiting for the final report but indications from the Education Review Office are that we are in for a positive report. Thank you to all staff and students for your ongoing work that has led to this outcome.

Aidyn Rasmussen, Tumuaki



Term 2 at Ruawai College!

- Monday 27th April - School Closed for ANZAC day
- Friday 15th May - Pink Shirt Day
- Wednesday 13th May - RC Cross Country
- Wednesday 27th May - Cross Country Championships
- Monday 1st June - King's Birthday
- Thursday 2nd July Last Day of Term 2
- Monday 20th July - First Day of Term 3

Totara 1280

Rimu 1237

Kauri 1009

**HOUSE
POINTS
END OF TERM 1**





Moving On Day!

On the 10th of March, a group of Year 13 students attended Moving On Day in Dargaville. This event was designed to give students the opportunity to hear directly from a range of tertiary providers and explore their future study options. Throughout the day, students attended presentations from institutions across New Zealand, gaining valuable insight into the admissions process, subject offerings, and what student life is really like beyond school.

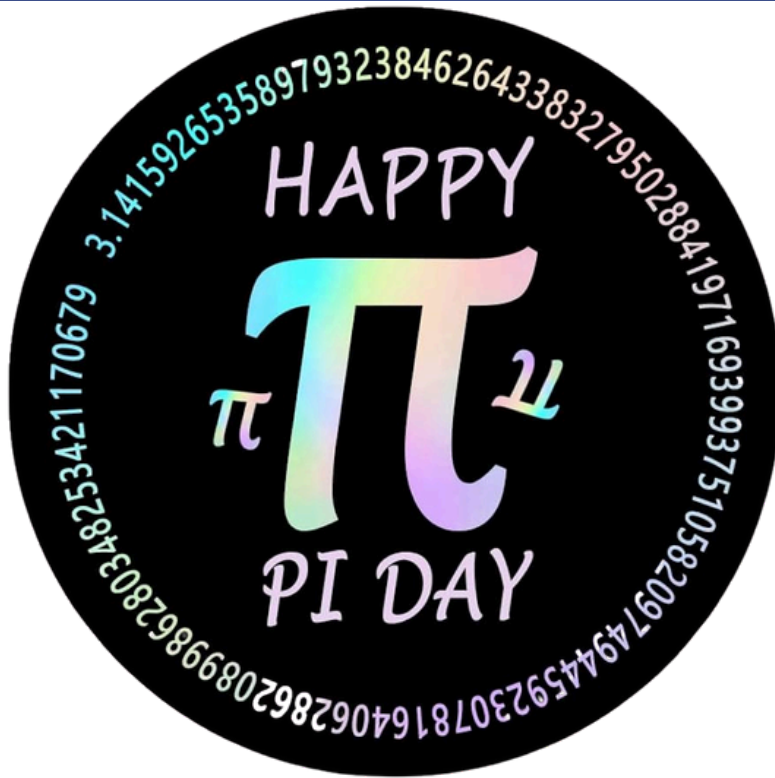
Representatives from University of Otago, University of Waikato, and University of Auckland were particularly popular, with many students engaging in conversations and asking thoughtful questions about courses and campus life. The day provided a great opportunity for students to start thinking more seriously about their next steps and feel more confident about the pathways available to them after leaving school.

Big thanks to the Year 13s who came along to this day for their model behaviour representing Ruawai College.



GRIP Leadership Seminar

Students recently attended the GRIP Leadership Seminar, where they took part in a range of engaging activities and challenges designed to build confidence and leadership skills. Many students highlighted the inclusive atmosphere and the positivity of those involved as key highlights of the day. The interactive challenges, including the memorable "Loud Noise Challenge," alongside the inspiring talks and practical advice, helped students gain new perspectives on leadership. Several students shared that they are now motivated to be more inclusive within our school, change their approach to activities, and apply strategies for better preparation when presenting in front of others. Overall, the seminar provided valuable learning experiences that students are excited to bring back and integrate into our school community.



Pi Day Fun!

Pi Day is all about celebrating π (pi) — the number that helps us understand circles (and yes... it goes on forever!). It's celebrated on March 14 because 3/14 (Month/Date) matches the first digits of pi: 3.14.

This year, we turned maths into a tasty challenge!

To “pay” for an ice cream pie (aka an ice cream sandwich), you just needed to share a fun fact about pi or circles. No cash was needed — just curiosity, creativity, and a little bit of maths!

On March 11th, our Senior Business students joined around 100 students from schools across Te Tai Tokerau in Whangārei for the exciting *Spark Tank* event. Inspired by the TV show *Shark Tank*, the day focused on encouraging young entrepreneurs, with local business owners offering constructive, positive feedback on student ideas.

Using a fast-paced “speed dating” format, our teams connected with seven business owners from a wide range of industries. This gave students the opportunity to refine

their ideas, receive real-world advice, and think critically about key aspects of business, including marketing, pricing, product range, teamwork, and the importance of thinking big.

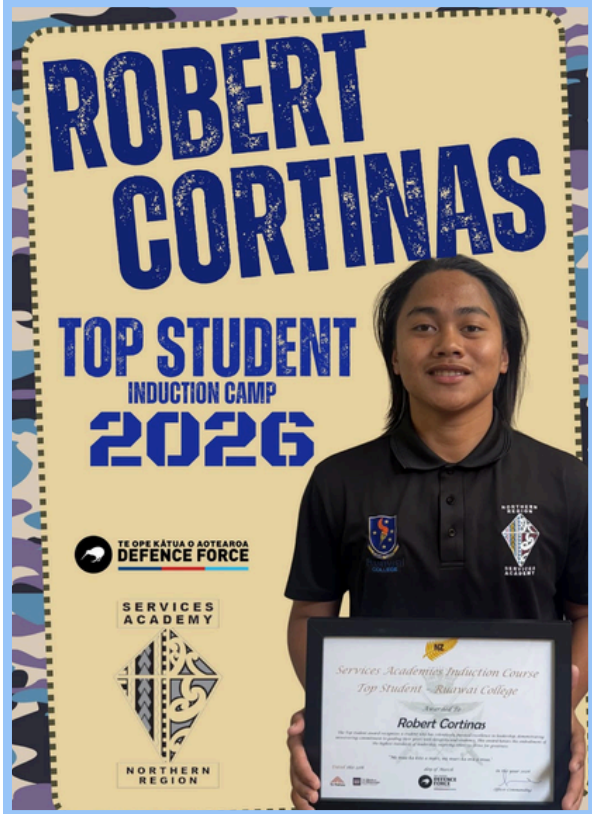
Our students showcased a range of innovative business concepts. These included *Thrifty Three*, offering vintage clothing for the discerning male; *Kaipara Construct*, specialising in locally made chairs and planter boxes; and two food-based businesses, *KJZ Kai* and another team still finalising their name, both planning to offer delicious options through the school canteen in Terms 2 and 3.

It was a valuable and inspiring experience for all involved, and we look forward to seeing these business ideas develop further over the coming months.

YES Spark Tank



**Services Academy Induction
Camp**

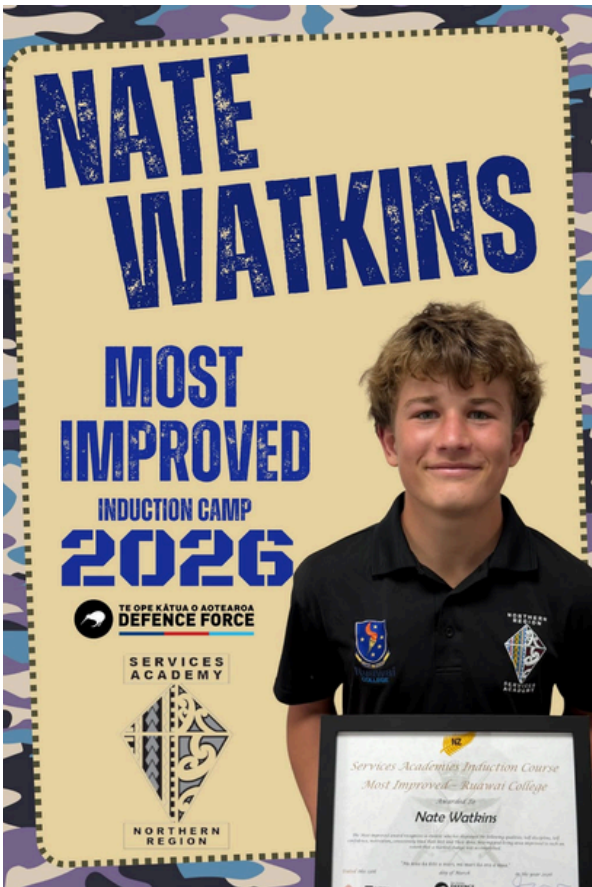


Services Camp took place earlier this term, where involved students were challenged both physically and mentally while developing leadership and teamwork skills. Across the camp, students trained in drill routines, practising as a unit before competing against seven other schools. Despite being in a smaller group of just four, our students performed exceptionally well, finishing in an impressive second place.

The camp pushed students outside their comfort zones, particularly on the first day where nerves were high. However, their determination showed, with some students studying drill manuals late into the night, by the light of the fire exit signs, perfecting their commands and movements. Their hard work paid off during the final drill competition, where precision marching, coordinated positions, and strong leadership were on full display.

In addition to drill, students took part in a wide range of demanding physical activities, including a 5.6km run, push-up competitions, a confidence course, and obstacle challenges such as crawling under barbed wire, swimming, and running uphill in wet clothes and boots. One of the toughest tasks involved carrying a 20kg sack of sand up a hill, testing both strength and perseverance.

Congratulations to Jerome Kiro, Corbin Johnson, Nate Watkins and Robert Cortinas for their commitment and effort throughout the camp, and special mention to Nate Watkins for winning the 'Most Improved' and a gigantic round of applause for Robert Cortinas for being awarded the 'Top Student'



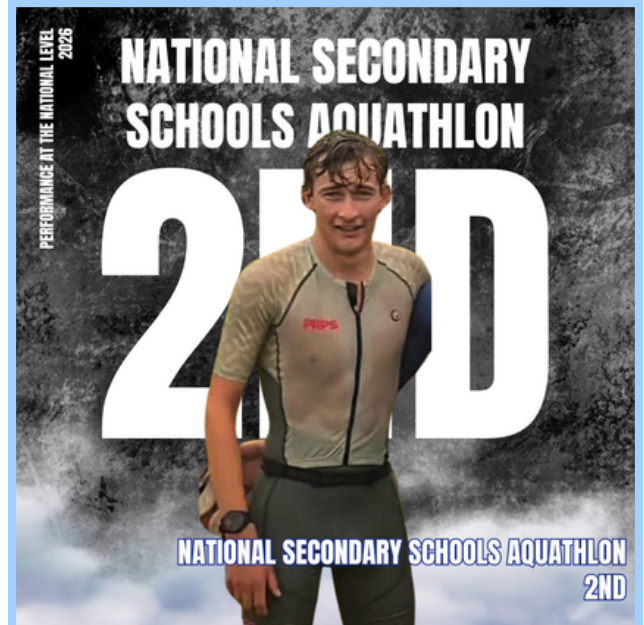
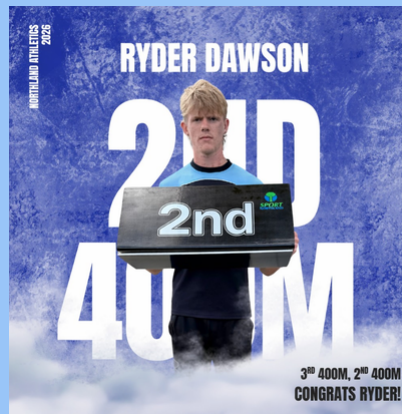
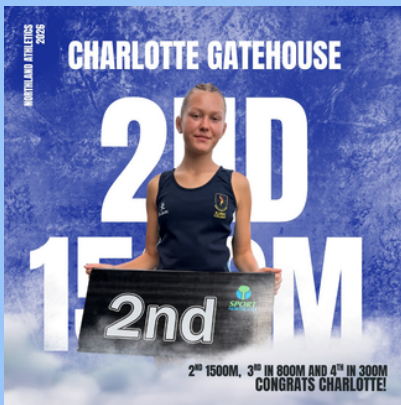


Te Kura Tuarua o Ruawai College

Kimihia ngā maunga teitei | Seek the highest peak

Term 1 Newsletter

Ruawai College Sports for Term 1



RC Stingrays

Congrats girls on the amazing results this term!

Ashlee Fraser, Charlotte Gatehouse, Kiriahi Hardy-Kapa, Georgia-Leigh Hau, Hayley Mannes, Destaria Manuel-Nikora, Miley Simpson, Tamara Tana, Paechance Tautari, Ariaanna Turner, Georgia Welding, Tara Wrathall.



FULL TIME

RC STINGRAYS

17

3

M

MATAKOHE MISFITS



FULL TIME

RC STINGRAYS

14

10

DHS GOLD



Student work



Tara Wrathall and Charlotte Gatehouse are two year 10 students who were among the first of their **Hard Technology** class to finish their benchtop egg holders. Both received **10 out of 10** for their efforts in producing outstanding mitre joints on the front of their egg bin. **Amazing work girls!**

International Visitors – A Shared Learning Experience

Recently, we had the pleasure of welcoming two educators from New Caledonia to our kura. During their visit, they joined our students to watch our kapa haka rōpū perform, experiencing the pride, energy, and cultural expression that is such an important part of our school.

Following this, students and visitors spent time sharing and discussing life and learning in New Caledonia. Even with a language barrier, students asked thoughtful questions, and through a mix of conversation, gestures, and laughter, everyone was able to connect and learn from one another. It was a really positive exchange, with our students showing confidence in sharing their culture while also learning about another. A great example of the connections that we foster.

Year 9 and 10 Food Technology Module: What should I make?
Where the students were tasked with making a meal out of two minute noodles.



Congratulations on the following students for their culinary masterpieces!

Ariaana Turner, Kiriahi Hardy-Kapa, Paechance Tautari, Zia Valderrama and Sawyer Sefonte





Rounding out Term 1 of Student Success

2025 NCEA Endorsements

At our end of Term 1 Celebration Assembly we acknowledged all NCEA Endorsements from 2025. We are incredibly proud of our students who have achieved NCEA Course and Certificate Endorsements this year. These results reflect dedication, perseverance and a commitment to excellence across all learning areas

- Teylan Te Kawa-Tawhai – Level 1 Mathematics
- Ryder Dawson – Level 1 Mathematics
- Amanda Ries – Level 1 English and Level 1 Mathematics
- Haare Harris – Level 1 Music
- Kahu Turner – Level 1 English, Level 1 Home Economics and Level 1 Mathematics
- Patience Day – Level 1 English and Level 1 Mathematics
- Maxwell Oud – Level 1 English and Level 1 Science
- Kodi Hardisty – Level 1 Music
- Jayden Taylor – Level 1 Mathematics
- Lucas Sadler – Level 2 English
- Konrad Philips – Level 2 Biology, Level 2 Digital Technology, Level 2 Mathematics and Level 2 Physics. NCEA Level 2 Certificate Endorsed with Merit
- Sapphire Harris – Level 2 Music
- Zoey Kirk – Level 2 English
- Jorja Mannes – Level 2 Biology
- Alyssa Bishop - Level 3 Biology. NCEA Level 3 Certificate Endorsed with Merit
- Jacob Johnson - Level 3 Photography
- Jz Llewellyn - Level 3 Photography
- Regan Mare - Level 3 Art, Level 3 Photography. NCEA Level 3 Certificate Endorsed with Merit

School Badge Recipients End of Term 1

Academic Badge

Tipene Harris - Bronze
Matthew Watkins - Bronze
Rowan Ward - Silver

Cultural Badge

Siulolovao Pua - Gold

Leadership Badge

Zach Sterling- Gold
Sapphire Harris - Gold
Konrad Philips - Gold
Molly Dawson - Gold

RC Mana BADGE

Rowan Ward - Gold
Konrad Philips - Gold

Sports Badge

Matthew Watkins - Gold

School Board Student Representative Badge

Zach Sterling

Service Academy Kiwi Pin Badge

Korban Johnson
Nate Watkins
Jahrome Kiro
Robert Cortinas

Well done to all badge recipients in our Term 1 Personal Best assembly





Student Leadership

Student Council 2026

Our Student Council has kicked off their first major school-wide project, focusing on strengthening communication and student engagement. Their goal is to ensure all students are regularly using SchoolBridge and staying up to date with daily notices. By promoting consistent use of these platforms, the Council aims to help students stay informed about events, opportunities, and important updates across the kura. This initiative is all about building good habits, increasing participation, and making sure every student feels connected and in the loop.

Ava-Jade Jenyns
Kiah-Grace Jackson
Nicole Gatehouse
Lara Ramsey
Willem Oud
Sidney Shippey
Miley Simpson
Jeantea Moore
Charlotte Gatehouse
Hayley Mannes
Rian Gatehouse



House Leaders 2026

Our House Leaders have made a strong start to the year, working closely with our Deans and Sports Coordinator to build a vibrant and inclusive house culture. A key focus of their work has been setting up and organising inter-house competitions, creating opportunities for students to get involved, show house pride, and connect with others across year levels. Their leadership has helped bring energy and friendly competition to the school, encouraging participation, teamwork, and a positive sense of belonging for all students.

Some students absent from the photo due to Tai Tokerau Festival 2026.



KAURI HOUSE
Kingi Tiaki Te Kawa Tawhai
Ryder McCollum
Eliesa Norris
Miley Simpson

TOTARA HOUSE
Korban Johnson
Rian Gatehouse
Siulolovao Pua
Hayley Mannes

RIMU HOUSE
Ezra Kapa
Charity Day
Maxwell Oud

Student Librarians 2026

Zoey Kirk (Head Librarian)
Konrad Philips (Head Librarian)
Kiah-Grace Jackson
Ava-Jade Jenyns

Lara Ramsey
Nicole Gatehouse
Rowan Ward
Natharlia Llewellyn
Jackson Llewellyn

