



# Rodney College



TENA KOUTOU  
MATUA MA

Welcome to 2025 at Rodney College! The year is well underway, and it has been great to see students settling into routines, getting stuck into their learning, and making the most of what's on offer.

## **Starting Strong**

We kicked off the year with a **Pōwhiri**, where our students represented Rodney College with mana and confidence. It set the tone for a year built on respect, community, and ambition. A special thank you to the Rodney community for welcoming my family, along with other new staff and students, so warmly.

## **Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts**

A strong start to the year also means setting high expectations for **attendance and punctuality**. Research consistently shows that attendance is one of the biggest factors in student success, and we are committed to ensuring students are in class, on time, and ready to learn.

Missing just **one day a fortnight** adds up to **four weeks of lost learning** over a year.

Students who attend school less than 90% of the time fall behind academically, struggle with consistency, and miss out on key moments that shape their education.

Rodney College is aligned with the government's **Every Day Matters** initiative, which focuses on improving attendance nationwide. You can read more about this strategy [here](#).

For students needing extra support, we are implementing the **Stepped Attendance Response (STAR)** framework, providing

structured intervention and family support where necessary. More information on chronic absence and government strategies can be found in this [ERO report](#).

To support a focused learning environment, students must keep phones off and in their bags during the school day, and vaping is strictly prohibited on school grounds

If your child is going to be late or absent, please notify the school via: **Phone: 09 423 6038** or email: **attendance@rodneycollege.school.nz**

## **Building Momentum**

The year is off to a busy start, and it's been fantastic to see students engaged across academics, sports, and cultural activities:

- **Athletics & Swimming Sports** – Both events showcased House competition at its best, with students pushing themselves and achieving personal bests. A new school record was broken at athletics in the Relay, which is always exciting. The student council, led by our Head Students and supported by Year 13, ensured both events ran smoothly.
- **30 students** spent 3 days last week working with Waka Kotahi preparing for their Learner Licence, a key milestone for independence and future opportunities.
- The **Te Tai Tokerau Festival Kapa Haka group** is preparing to showcase our culture and school pride.
- The **Senior Band** performed at assembly, a good reminder of the talent we have in our music program.



- **School developments** – The **gym changing rooms** have been upgraded, the **music room** has been fully refurbished, and we are continuing to replace old, draughty windows with modern aluminium joinery to improve student comfort.
- The **Year 9 Noho** was an awesome event, with over 250 students, whānau, and staff connecting, meeting teachers, and setting the tone for the year ahead.

### Recent Trips & Opportunities

Several **engaging opportunities** have already taken place:

- The **Level 2 Biology trip** to Leigh was a fantastic way to bring the curriculum to life and explore the natural world.
- Our **Year 13 camp at Tangihua** was a great success, with students strengthening their bonds and leadership skills.
- The **Level 2 History trip** to key museums and other areas of significance provided valuable insights into our nation's history.
- Our **Year 12 Te Reo students** are working with Matua Wiremu on developing a College Karakia, further strengthening our school identity.
- **Boxing Mentoring with Springboard** offering students a chance for personal growth, discipline, and goal-setting. We'd like to acknowledge Springboard's support in making this happen again in 2025.

### Upcoming Events & Reminders

There's plenty coming up, including:

- **Wellsford Charity Colour Run – March 29th.** We encourage everyone to support and enjoy this fantastic event. Rodney College is pleased to be able to make our grounds available to support the event.
- **Ongoing classroom learning** – Senior students are into their internal assessments, and juniors are settling into structured routines. With so much on, remember that Teaching and Learning is our "Main Meal".
- **School expectations** – We continue reinforcing attendance, respectful language, and uniform pride to set the right standards.
- **Reports** – Staff are currently completing reports, so watch out for these in the coming days.
- **School Photos** – Scheduled for March 13th.

The year is off to a strong start, and I look forward to seeing students continue to step up, work hard, and make the most of their time at Rodney College.

Ngā mihi



**L Caltaux**  
**Principal**

## YEAR 12 HISTORY TRIP

On the 26 February, nine Year 12 students and Ms Walter headed down to Auckland city to collect evidence for their historical inquiries. Students have chosen one of 3 significant NZ social actions; the women's suffrage movement, the protest at Takaparawhau Bastion Point or the homosexual law reform movement. We first met with a historian at the Charlotte Museum who spoke to us about the gay liberation movement. We then visited the Auckland Museum where students visited an exhibition on Auckland's history. After lunch we visited Takaparawhau and appreciated the views whilst eating ice-creams and listening to Ms Walter's dad talk about what he remembered of the time and general "back in my day" stories. All students engaged with different histories throughout the day and



demonstrated our school values exceptionally well.



# Congratulations!

Congratulations to all our students who got Merit and Excellence Endorsements in 2024!

## Level 1 Excellence

Bella Wade  
Dayshin Para  
Kacey Williams

## Level 1 Merit

Yumiko Dai  
Sophia Salayon  
Keira Hackett  
Benjamin Hodge  
Sehraj Chhappyan  
Shona Ward  
Poppy Howse  
Richa Nautiyal  
Joaquin Hare  
Ella Reber-Curtis  
Caitlin Manson  
Nidhish Maharaj

## Level 2 Excellence

Mila Thomas  
Cody Watson-Walker

## Level 2 Merit

Angel Dai  
Koen Hare  
Nerissa Lay  
Kaya Davis  
Michayla Buis  
Gisele Cooper  
Madeline Wallace

## YEAR 13 CAMP

On 12 February, the Year 13 cohort left for a two night camp at Tangihua Lodge. We were immersed in a variety of activities from tramps



through the native kauri bush to team building exercises that tested our problem solving skills.



We discovered hidden leadership qualities within the group, and everyone stepped up and offered valuable input into the challenges. One of our personal highlights was a swim in the freshwater stream after a walk to the kauri dam. Although the water was freezing, it was a nice break from the hot sunny weather.



Our evenings were full of action- from skits and chants to an Olympic level competition, we always had something to do. The highlight of our nights was the burma trail, where we feared for our lives in a great way.



On this camp we built resilience, developed our leadership skills, and created new memories. People went outside their comfort zones and friend groups, which has led our year group to grow closer and more familiar.



A huge thank you to the the staff; Mrs Hackett, Miss Jones, Mr Batten, Colleen, and Pete, who dedicated their time and energy to making this camp a success. Year 13 camp has set a positive tone for the year ahead

and we are looking forward to working together and utilising the leadership skills we learnt on this camp during 2025.



# STUDENT LE

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**HEAD LEADERS**  
MILA THOMAS & KAYA DAVIS



**HANOVER HOUSE LEADERS**  
AMBER NIGHTINGALE & DJ BRAIN



**MILES HOUSE LEADERS**  
MAIA CAMPBELL & CODY WATSON-WALKER



**TYBURNIA HOUSE LEADERS**  
MADELINE WALLACE & DECLAN KITCHENMAN



**WATTENBACH HOUSE LEADERS**  
GISELE COOPER & LANCE DURLAO



**SPORTS CAPTAINS**  
MICHAYLA BUIS & SOPHIA HACKETT



**SOCIAL ACTION LEADERS**  
NERISSA LAY & ANDGEL DAI



**CULTURAL LEADERS**  
LILY SKELLING & ALEX ROBBINS



SchoolDocs

## SCHOOLDOCS TERM 1 REVIEW OPEN

Rodney College has their policy documentation at SchoolDocs, a user friendly platform. This means that our policy information is accessible to the whole school community.

### Reviews and Feedback

Our policies follow a 3-year review schedule that ensures our content stays up to date. Each term the school community is able to provide feedback on the content and implementation of policies under review. Topics that are under review have a review button, which allows school feedback to be sent to both the school and the SchoolDocs team.

All topics also have a feedback button that can be used to send general feedback or queries about a topic directly to the school.

Just a reminder that the review is open and you can submit feedback.

Steps follow:

1. Visit the website <https://rodneycollege.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. Enter the username (rodneycollege) and password (0900).
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.

4. Read the policy.
5. Click the **Start your review** button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
6. Select the reviewer type.
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Follow the prompts to show that you've read the topic and enter your feedback if you'd like to comment.
9. Agree to the privacy statement and click "Submit review".

## TERM 1 REVIEW TOPICS

**Health, Safety and Welfare  
Policy**

**Safety Management System**

**Risk Management**

**Worker Engagement,  
Participation and  
Representation**

**Healthcare**

**Recording and Reporting  
Accidents, Injuries and Illness**

## WELCOME TO OUR

### NEW PRINCIPAL

What a start to the year! We welcomed our new Principal Laurence Caltaux, who hails from James Cook High School, Manurewa. Their Kapa Haka performed magically. Their voices were strong and their waiata and actions just amazing and they left us stunned. It was fantastic to see and hear.

Laurence paid tribute to previous leaders of the school, community members, current staff and whanau, who all have played a role in making our school into what it is and supporting it into the future. He encouraged the present students to make the most of their time at school and to reach their potential. The powhiri was a great way to start his new journey at Rodney College.



RODNEY COLLEGE

287-319 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900  
Telephone (09) 423 6030 Fax (09) 423 7555  
Website [www.rodneycollege.school.nz](http://www.rodneycollege.school.nz)

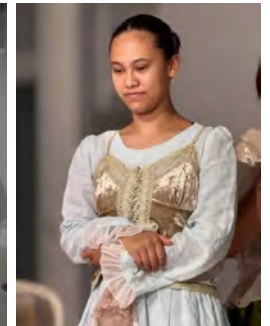
## FORMER STUDENTS SHINE IN BOOK LAUNCH



Earlier this month, former Rodney College students and our Drama teacher took to the stage in Ponsonby and the Matakana Hall in support of a new book written by Hugh Major. The protagonists

dramatised an imagined humorous scene in honour of newly released *While Hearts Count Our Forever's*. Keelan Landry-Howe shone as an articulate and controlled Rene Descartes discussing philosophy with impassioned Christina, Queen of Sweden played by Lucy Duffield, Drama teacher at Rodney College. Tatiana Chan Chui played a supporting role as the Queen's companion Ebba Sparre. Benny Manson was Stage Manager and Michael Lynch, Front of House. The book is actually three novellas and includes commentary on Friedrich Schelling and Margaret Lucas, alongside the aging Descartes, reminding us that however familiar we are with

the ideas that form part of our understanding of the modern world, behind them lie vital personalities who use humour to share their messages. Also launched at the same time was a new work by Keith Hill called *Interrogations: Selected writing 1976-1990*. By H.Yorke



## YEAR 13 HOSPITALITY



Our Year 13 Hospitality class took a trip to Dargaville to pick up a generous kumara donation from Delta Produce.

A massive thank you to Locky and the team - not only did they gift us kumara for our upcoming Year 9 Noho and Hāngī, but Locky also went above and beyond, giving us an incredible tour of the factory!

It was such a privilege to see the whole journey of kumara - from being freshly dug up to packaged and ready for sale. We learned so much about the different varieties, the companies they supply, and the mind-blowing amount they produce each year!

Thanks again to Locky and Delta Produce, we appreciated this amazing impromptu tour and their generous donation!



## YEAR 12 HOSPITALITY

Our talented Year 12, Level 2 Hospitality students showcased their skills in Week 4 by catering for the parent helpers and teachers at the competitive swimming event. The students planned, prepared, and served a delicious selection of food, ensuring our hardworking volunteers were well-fed throughout the day. This

hands-on experience allowed them to apply their culinary and hospitality knowledge in a real-world setting, demonstrating teamwork, professionalism, and attention to detail. A huge thank you to our students for their efforts - your hard work was greatly appreciated!



## TE TINI O KAIPARA

A committed group of Rodney College students, in conjunction with students from Otamatea High School, are working hard in preparation for the Te Tai Tokerau Festival.

The name of this combined group is Te Tini O Kaipara - The plethora of Kaipara.

The journey so far has taken a huge amount of time, effort, and dedication. We've been spending long hours practicing, refining every movement,

every note, and every waiata to make sure we do our best on stage. It hasn't been easy, especially the late nights, early mornings, and pushing through the tough moments - but the hard work is starting to pay off.

With the big day getting closer, we're keeping up the mahi, determined to represent our kura and rohe with pride. It's a challenging

but rewarding journey, and we're looking forward to standing on that stage knowing we've given it everything.





# SWIMMING SPORTS

## CHAMPIONS

### Junior Boys

1 <sup>st</sup>	Deacon Mather	42 pts	T
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Caleb Ryder	37 pts	T
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dominic Jones	17 pts	H

### Junior Girls

1 <sup>st</sup>	Leigha Dinsdale	40 pts	T
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ayla Brien	36 pts	T
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ellie Russell	24 pts	M

### Intermediate Boys

1 <sup>st</sup>	Finn Andrews	40 pts	H
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lincoln Clapham	36 pts	H
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Harley Wade	34 pts	H

### Intermediate Girls

1 <sup>st</sup>	Emma Lay	42 pts	T
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Amy Watson-Walker	36 pts	M
3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Malia Railey	16 pts	T
3 <sup>rd</sup> =	Pippa Meagher	16 pts	H

### Senior Boys

1 <sup>st</sup>	Joaquin Hare	41 pts	H
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mark Delos Santos	39 pts	H
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cody Watson-Walker	33 pts	M

### Senior Girls

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mila Thomas	40 pts	H
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Millie Brierly	39 pts	M
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kacey Williams	38 pts	H

### House

1 <sup>st</sup>	Hanover	700	points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tyburnia	526	points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Miles	448	points
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wattenbach	226	points

### Records

Intermediate Boys 4x25m Freestyle  
 Old 2024 58.19 Hanover  
 New 2025 57.96 Hanover  
 (Harley Wade, Lincoln Clapham, Finn Andrews,  
 Brayden Wedgwood)





## SPORTS REVIEW

### SENIOR BOYS CRICKET

Rodney College kicked off the sporting year by competing in the Bruce Scott Cup. The team put in a solid performance with a special mention to



Mitch Elliott, who had an outstanding bowling effort, taking 4 wickets for 44 runs. Well done to the team for representing the school with pride!

### FUTSAL BOYS

Rodney College had two Senior Boys teams and one Junior Boys team competing in the Northland



Futsal Championships. Both Senior teams played in several nail-biting matches that often came down to penalty shootouts.



A huge congratulations to our Junior Boys team, who finished 2nd overall in the competition! Special thanks to Aiden Cole

and the Senior Boys for their leadership and commitment in coaching and supporting the junior team over the past few weeks.



### SURFING

Rodney College was well represented at the first of three Northland Surfing Trials, with Ary Teruel

Crowe, Sage Freeman, and Emma Lay taking to the waves. A special mention goes to Emma Lay, who delivered an impressive performance and secured 3rd place in her division. Great work, team!

### MOUNTAIN BIKING

Well done to Lincoln Clapham, Eddie Cammell, Bobby Heywood, and Blake Hodgetts (Wellsford School), who competed in the NSS Mountain Biking



Competition in Kerikeri this week. All four riders took on both events—Cross Country and Enduro—demonstrating skill and determination.



A special congratulations to Lincoln Clapham, who placed 5th in the Senior Boys Cross Country event. A fantastic effort from all the boys!

It's been a busy start to my time at Rodney College, but I am loving getting to know the role of Sports Coordinator. I come from a background in Basketball and have taken up coaching our Basketball teams. I am looking forward to growing the students' involvement and encouraging the enthusiasm of sports.

Our netball trials have started and we are thankful for assistance of those who have put their hand up to help.

We are always looking for those who can coach or are willing to put their hand up to help.

Feel free to contact me on my email [cairo.kotuhi@rodneycollege.school.nz](mailto:cairo.kotuhi@rodneycollege.school.nz)

Cairo Kotuhi  
Sports Coordinator



## OCEANS 25 JUNIOR SURF LIFESAVING

Anè Pieneer spent four days at Mount Maunganui at the Festival of Junior Surf Lifesaving, one of the biggest junior carnivals of the season. It is an opportunity for all junior members to compete and challenge themselves in all areas of the beach and the surf environment.

This is the second year that Anè has competed and she is looking forward to next year's competition. Competitors spend the four days pumped with adrenaline and working their bodies to better themselves, all with the final goal of being better life guards.

Thanks to Sienna Purcell who was her coach (Sienna is competing this weekend at AON NZ Surf Lifesaving Champs in Gisborne) and her family who are committed to supporting her.

## MANGAWHAI BOWL BASH

Ary Teruel-Crowe showed off his skills at the Mangawhai Bowl Bash, coming 3rd in the U16s on Waitangi Weekend. He claimed a great prize and is looking forward to competing in the Park Nationals at Mt Maunganui later this month.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Finn Andrews and Sienna Purcell competed in the 2025 Aon New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championships held in Gisborne. This is a highly competitive competition and to make it through to a final is a great achievement.

Finn placed an awesome 3rd in the U15 Male Ski Race Final, 8th in the Beach Sprint, 9th in the Board Race and 27th in the Surf Race.

Sienna placed 10th in the U15 Female Ski Race and 14th in the 2km Beach Run.

This is a fantastic achievement at a National level, well done!



## COACHES NEEDED

The following sports and teams have shown strong interest but are in need of coaches to ensure they can go ahead:

Netball | Futsal | Football  
Junior Basketball



EMAIL CAIRO, OUR SPORTS COORDINATOR  
IF YOU CAN HELP

cairo.kotuhi@rodneycollege.school.nz



LEVEL 2 BIO STUDENTS COLLECTING DATA ON THE  
INTERTIDAL COMMUNITY AT LEIGH



YEAR 9 STUDENTS DOING INTRODUCTORY LAB EXPERIMENTS



TRIUMPHANT PARENT / STAFF 25M FREESTYLE TEAM



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

<b>Thursday 13 March</b>	School Photos
<b>Wednesday 19 March</b>	Northland Athletics
<b>Wednesday 26 March</b>	L1 Geography - Poor Knights
<b>Saturday 29 March</b>	Run and Fun
<b>Wednesday 9 - Friday 11 March</b>	Tai Tokerau Festival
<b>Friday 11 April</b>	End of Term 1
<b>Friday 18—Monday 21 April</b>	Easter Weekend
<b>Friday 25 April</b>	ANZAC Day
<b>Monday 28 April</b>	Start of Term 2
<b>Thursday 8 May</b>	PST 1 (Parent Student Teacher Interviews)

**A warm invitation is extended to all family and friends to attend all events during the year.  
We look forward to seeing you.**

## CONTACTS 2025

Mrs M Williams	Absences	423 6038 attendance@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mrs C Wright	GATEWAY Careers	423 6037 colleen.wright@rodneycollege.school.nz
Miss K Jenner	Guidance Counsellor	423 6036
Mrs P Bond	Accounts Payable	423 6034 eo@rodneycollege.school.nz
Ms L Te Haara	Year 9 Dean	lisa.te@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mr W Ngatipa	Year 10 Dean	wiremu.ngatipa@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mr M Kingi	Year 11 Dean	michael.kingi@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mr S Davie-Martin	Year 12 Dean	steve.davie@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mr C Kotuhi	Sports Coordinator	cairo.kotuhi@rodneycollege.school.nz
Mrs M Harrison	SENCO (Learning Support)	423 6030xtn 260 megan.harrison@rodneycollege.school.nz

We like to highlight every achievement for our students. If you become aware of one of our student's adventures / achievements, please contact Jo Warahi in the front office.

