



Upcoming Events

26 Feb Wednesday	PHOTO LIFE SCHOOL PHOTOS
03 Mar Monday	MTB NSSSA Year 9-13
03 Mar Monday	Futsal Year 9-10
4-7 March Tues– Fri	Year 12 Camp Tangihua Lodge
06 Mar Thursday	Year 5 & 6 Swimming
07 Mar Friday	School Assembly 11:20 in the gym
13 Mar Thursday	Year 5 & 6 Swimming
18 & 19 Mar Tues & Wed	Food & Beverage at NorthTec Year 11 - Group 1
19 Mar Wed	NSSSA Athletics Year 9-13
20 Mar Thurs	Year 5 & 6 Swimming
20 & 21 Mar Thurs & Fri	First Aid Training Matapouri Year 11
25 & 26 Mar Tues & Wed	Food & Beverage at NorthTec Year 11 - Group 1
27 Mar Thurs	Year 5 & 6 Swimming

A Thrilling Start to the School Year in Middle College



The first week back at school took on a fresh approach this year, with a focus on fostering connections across Middle College. Staff aimed to encourage greater interaction, build relationships, and establish trust among students.

One of the standout moments of the week was our trip to Adrenalin Adventure Park—a

day filled with energy, excitement, and plenty of splashes! The weather couldn't have been better as students ran, jumped, tackled challenges, and, of course, got thoroughly soaked. Laughter and screams (mainly from Mrs Kelly) echoed across the park as new friendships formed and teamwork was put to the test. I did note the collaborative teamwork when it came to who could push which

teacher off the obstacle course the most effectively.

It was the perfect way to kick off the year, setting the tone for a supportive and connected learning environment. Here's to more adventures ahead!

- Meagan Kelly,
Middle College Deputy Principal

From the Principal

Kia ora/Kamusta/haai Excellere College whānau/families,

Thank you all for a wonderful start to the 2025 school year. We welcome 36 new students and 7 new staff. The pōwhiri felt like a wonderful blend of Te Ao Māori and Christianity with a whole lot of joy thrown in. I am so grateful to everyone who had a hand in making this such a success.

I wanted to say a big thank you to Tim Dow and his crew, including Daniel Garton, for their wonderful work in painting the wooden fence next to the primary classes. It has given the area a real lift and we are so grateful for yet another example of parent support to make our school a better place.



We are excited with the earthworks taking place in front of the admin block. The construction is expected to take 7-8 months to complete and will result in four new classes. Ultimately the primary classes will extend out towards the road with additional car parking and a new driveway. DHS is a wonderful Christian construction company and we are very grateful for their approach to this work. It is also important to mention that

members of the Whangārei Christian Education Trust (WCET) have been working tirelessly to manage the consents required, draw up the plans and raise the funds necessary for the project to happen. There have been moments when prayer has been the only answer to delays to the process. Please pray for continued favour, accident-free construction and funding to help the process along. Additionally, please remind your children of possible safety issues around the building. We are working hard in conjunction with the builders to mitigate any risk.

Last Monday 10th February we had the most extraordinary spirit-led experience. I was cycling to school just before 8am when I saw a man walking on the pavement carrying a large wooden cross. It turned out to be Simon Gordon who was walking the length of Aotearoa ministering to people along the way. I invited him to join our staff devotion at 8:15am and we had the most prayerful time hearing his testimony. He is raising funds for Avodah Trust (a mental health charity) but is



simply presenting the cross as an opportunity for people to give their hearts to the Lord. He told me his visit to Excellere College was the highlight of his trip all the way from Bluff at the bottom of the South Island. We prayed for him and he headed north walking towards Cape Reinga. What a blessing it was to hear his story!

Last week I visited Mrs Harvey's New Entrant class with my ebike. The kids were so curious and asked lots of great questions. They certainly enjoyed ringing the bell and seeing the lights flash. It's wonderful seeing so much curiosity in our youngest students. This is such a joyful space with so much energy and enthusiasm.

2024 NCEA Results for Excellere College

All staff have been celebrating over the past few days with the release of our school's NCEA results from last year. We are thrilled to announce that our students performed well above the national average. We feel this is testimony to putting God first and shows that high academic standards are enhanced by our Christian special character. Of course we are always looking for improvement but this a huge encouragement for students currently on their own NCEA journey.

NB: The Level 2 results were affected by 9 new students joining our school, many of them new to Aotearoa New Zealand with a high proportion of ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language). Students that did not gain the required credits are supported in 2025 to earn further Level 2 credits alongside the Level 3 requirements.

Excellere College NCEA Results 2024 Enrolment Based Cumulative Overall Results			
	Level 1 (Year 11)	Level 2 (Year 12)	Level (Year 13)
National Average	44.9%	72.7%	68.2%
Excellere College	87.0%	66.7% (see below)	100%

Our year has begun with such a sense of joy with God at the heart of our work here at Excellere College. We are so grateful for all the prayer warriors that pray for staff, students and the entire Excellere whānau.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances..."

Andy Mouat

Tumuaki



Excellere College New Staff

Daniel Slabbert

Year 7-9 Music



As the new music teacher for Year 7 to 9, I feel privileged to become part of the Excellere community. I was fortunate enough to grow up in a small rural community in South Africa with two loving Christian

parents. Both my parents were teachers for more than 30 years, so I guess I was literally born and bred to become one myself! I have a lovely wife who works as a Teacher Aide and two boys aged 17 and 14.

Since arriving in NZ ten years ago, we have been accepted with open arms into the Whāngarei community and love it here. I believe education is one of the biggest gifts anybody can receive and love to share that with others - in giving and receiving thereof. Many blessings to every member of the Excellere family!

Annabel Kennedy

Senior English

My name is Annabel Kennedy and I moved here to NZ at the end of 2021. I have been teaching in Australia for about 20 years at a large comprehensive High School in regional NSW. I had wanted to live in NZ since Primary school in Sydney, where I was

fortunate enough to have a Māori teacher in 6th grade. I have three children - two girls and a boy. My two daughters live in Australia but my son is married to a lovely Kiwi girl and they live here in Whāngarei. I have three beautiful granddaughters, one here and two in Sydney. I hope that I can be a blessing to the family here at Excellere and look forward to working with my students immensely.

Iain McKenzie

Year 7-10 Maths, Social Studies and Financial Literacy



Kia ora Koutou, I'm thrilled to be joining the Excellere College community!

My family and I have been blessed to call Parua Bay home for the past five years, and I'm excited to be

part of this wonderful Christian school environment.

I'll be teaching Maths to Years 9 and 10, Social Studies to Year 10, and Financial Literacy to Years 7 and 8. I believe in creating a fun and engaging learning environment where students feel supported and respected. I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you!

Alisha du Plessis

Sports Coordinator



I'm Alisha du Plessis originally from South Africa but have been residing in NZ for the last 22 years. I've been married for 16 years and have two handsome boys

(Jay & Luan) both in Excellere College.

I love doing different activities with my family and just spending time with them. I have been managing the Mangakahia football club for the last 2 years. I have a passion to help kids reach their potential when it comes to sport activities and that is why the Lord has called me to this position.

Sarah Sims

School Librarian



Hi there! I'm Sarah, the new librarian. We have recently moved to Whangarei from Napier, in the beautiful Hawkes Bay. I'm married to Ryan and we have three awesome kids

who are now at Excellere College. Before arriving here I have been involved in a range of different roles, from church pastoring to bible college lecturing. We are really enjoying being part of the Excellere College whānau, and I'm looking forward to getting to know you all. Come and say hi next time you're passing the library door!

Keren Roberts

ESOL Teacher



My name is Keren Roberts and I have just started a new, exciting phase in my life as the ESOL teacher at Excellere College.

My husband and I

came to New Zealand on our OE in 1999 and never left! We feel extremely blessed to be living in this beautiful, safe country. I have taught both in South Africa and here in New Zealand. When my children were born, I took a break from teaching and homeschooled all three of them. This was quite an adventure and a huge learning curve - mainly for me! Outside of school, I love to spend time looking after our property and animals, baking, doing handwork, being in nature and exercising. I look forward to getting to know the Excellere family in the year ahead.

Grace After-School Care Program Safe, Fun, and Engaging!

Looking for a safe and enriching place for your child after school and school holidays? Our After-School Care Program offers a nurturing environment where students can learn, play, and grow while you finish your workday with peace of mind.

Location: Excellere College

Time: After school 3:00-5:30pm

School holidays from 8:00am-5:30pm

Ages: 5-13 (Yr 0 - 8)

Starting: April 2025 School holidays and Term 2 onwards.

Enrolment: Limited spots available!

For more information or to register, contact:
graceafterschoolcare@gmail.com



School Bus Controller 2025

Kia ora Excellere whānau. My name is Cheryl Ripia (Whaea Cheryl) and I have taken on the role of Bus Controller from Meagan Kelly.



I am still navigating the different bus routes at this time; however, any queries you may have regarding the school buses can be directed to me on the email address below and I will do my best to accommodate you.

cheryl.ripia@excellerecollege.school.nz

Ngā mihi mahana.

Lunch Time Sports Equipment

Sports gear is available at break times for those kids who want to borrow it.

Kids need to come to the window at Room 4 at the beginning of break times and sign out the gear and return it at the end - kids write their name and gear taken on the form provided. We will have monitors helping as well.



Chess Club

Chess. The game of kings. Chess Club has started this week...open to students Year 4 up. It happens Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays during every morning tea in Room 4.



Year 8 Creative Technologies at Manaia View



Excellere College Upcoming Sports Events

Week 4:

Zone Swimming Finals Years 5-8, Feb 28th

Week 5:

Mountain biking Years 9-13, March 3rd

Futsal Cup Years 9-10, March 3rd

Week 6:

Swimming Champs Years 5-8, March 12th

Week 7:

Interschool Athletics Years 9-13, March 19th

Week 9:

Renew Sports Exchange - TBC, April 2nd

Weetbix TRYathlon Years 5-9, April 4th

Netball - Coaches Wanted

Netball season is around the corner and we need managers and coaches for your teams. Without coaches



and managers we will not be able to have netball teams.

Please let me know if you are keen to step up and help, even if you are not very confident, you will be fine especially in the younger grades.

Email:

alisha.duplessis@excellerecollege.school.nz

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.

Please email our International Director, Barbie Reynolds, if you are interested in this exciting opportunity.

barbie.reynolds@excellerecollege.school.nz

Whaea Barbie would love to hear from you and chat about how you can support our school with this mission.



Yummy Sticker Sports Gear Fundraiser

Kia ora Excellere Whānau,

Thank you for all of your support with our Yummy Sticker collection in 2024!

Together we earned \$1110 worth of sports gear!!! Thousands of apples were eaten by Excellere College and we are so grateful. Last week the delivery of our rewards arrived, and our Y5/6 students servant-heartedly pumped all of them up.

We are collecting Yummy Stickers again for 2025 so please send them into Room 4 to trade for House Group counters. Yummy Nectarine stickers, Yummy bag cut outs, and Yummy carton boxes all count towards the rewards. If you purchase a bag that doesn't have the sports gear label, please cut out the circle barcode that has the Yummy outline.

Many thanks, Jess Shanks Junior College DP



Year 5/6 Swimming

This week we started our weekly Y5/6 Swimming Lessons at the Aquatic Centre. Thank-you to our amazing parent helpers, teachers and Swim Coaches.

"I loved the free time and jumping from up high" - Joshua W.

"I bravely jumped off the ledge and could touch the bottom of the pool!" - Brooke.



Advertise Here for 2025

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@excellercollege.school.nz



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Yummy Sticker Rewards!