

From Tumuaki Cath Knell

He aha te mea nui o te ao He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

What is the most important thing in the world? It is the people, it is the people.

Mālō e lelei

I open with a greeting in Tongan as we look forward to celebrating Tongan Language Week with our students, staff and wider community next week, 18 – 22 August.

School Board Parent Election

We are delighted in the interest shown by our parents who have been nominated for the School Board. 29 nominations were received for the five parent-elected positions. An opportunity for our parent community to Meet the Candidates has been organised for Wednesday 27 August 2025 in the school staffroom. We encourage you to come along and hear from those standing so you can put a face to the name and make informed selections when voting. Voting closes 4.00pm Wednesday 10 September.

Course Selection – Planning for 2026

Conversations during the Parent-Student-Teacher, PST, interviews has resulted in **80%** of our students having selected their courses for 2026. If you haven't confirmed your child's courses please remember that these selections close **11.00am Monday 18 August**.

Auckland Schools Teacher Training Programme, ASTTP

https://www.schoolbasedtraining.org/ The opportunity to train while working was highlighted in our last edition of NewsLink. We are now being asked to confirm numbers for 2026. If you are wondering whether this could possibly be a good pathway for you (eg career change) then do email us at admin@lynfield.school.nz.

Hinengaro wawata - we are ambitious

Our Term 3 Korowai value of Hinengaro wawata - includes we are ambitious. With student nominations for senior leadership positions having closed on Monday this is particularly relevant. Please note, this is with the exception of House Captains (nominations close 5.00pm Monday 18 August https://shorturl.at/pzEko) and the Student Representative on the School Board (nominations close noon on Friday 22 August).

With the focus being on leadership I have been speaking in assemblies about the leadership shown at all year levels with a particular celebration of our student volunteers who helped out during enrolment interviews, our student sports team captains and coaches, our buddies for supporting our visiting students from overseas, and our buddies for students new to our school. We thank those who are leading by example by providing positive and encouraging support on the sidelines, as an audience for our performance groups, and as wearers of our school uniform.

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COMING EVENTS

Monday 18 August
TONGAN LANGUAGE WEEK
Wednesday 20 August
PPTA TEACHER STRIKE DAY
Jazz & Soul Concert 6pm Hall
Monday 25 August
Winter Tournament Week
Wednesday 27 August
Meet the Candidates
5.30 – 6.30pm Staffroom
Friday 29 August
Daffodil Day
Monday 1 – Friday 12
September
SENIOR ASSESSMENT WEEKS

This week has seen a disappointing number of senior students being sent home to change into full and correct uniform and phone calls to parents to drop this off for our junior students. We expect all students to be wearing full school uniform, including on the way to and from school.

Cath Knell

Tumuaki | Principal

School Board Student Representative Election Timeline

Would you like to be the Student Representative on the Board? Nominations are now open - nominate yourself or someone else (make sure they know!) **Collect a nomination form from Mr Waddington, Academic Advisor.**

This nomination paper should be posted or hand-delivered to the Returning Officer, Mr Waddington, no later than noon on Friday 22 August. Candidate statements must be received noon Wednesday 10 September. The election will take place on Monday 15 September.

Lynfield College Alumni News

KEERTHANRAJ VAIDYALINGAM

Mr Christie recently caught up with Lynfield College alumnus **Keerthanraj Vaidyalingam** at the University of Auckland. Keerthanraj was a student at Lynfield College from 2016 to 2020 and is now just one semester away from graduating with a degree in Optometry from the University of Auckland. He met with his former Dean, Mr Christie, to share his journey since leaving school.

He reflected warmly on his time at Lynfield, especially his teachers who inspired and supported him throughout his school years. His first year at university was heavily interrupted by Covid-19 and lockdowns, but the determination and work ethic Keerthanraj displayed at Lynfield carried onto University and helped him through. He has enjoyed his studies and his degree has enabled him to see different parts of New Zealand, having done



placements in Ashburton and Queenstown in recent times. He has also kept in close contact with many of his Lynfield friends, maintaining strong connections from his school days.

After five years of study, Keerthanraj is ready for the next chapter and admits he won't miss sitting exams! He has recently accepted his first job and will be moving to Taupō after graduation to work at Specsavers. It was great to see Keerthanraj again and we wish him all the best as he embarks on this exciting new stage.

JESSICA KUMAR

I'm a proud Lynfield College alumna from the Class of 2007.

Back in my final year, I had the privilege of working with a group of students and teachers to develop the Lynfield College Code of Conduct. I was genuinely delighted to see on the school website recently that it's still in use today!

When I left school, I remember feeling so lost about how to tell my own "non-traditional" stories – the ones built on school leadership roles, part-time jobs, and family responsibilities – in a way that employers would value. That challenge became a thread that's run through my career in finance, governance, and mentoring.

Most recently, I published a practical eBook, *So Tell Me About Yourself*, to help students, graduates, and early-career professionals build confidence in interviews, craft compelling CVs, and tell their stories authentically — even when they feel like they don't have "enough" experience. The guide includes templates, reflection prompts, and practical advice I've refined through years of mentoring and hiring.



Thank you for all you continue to do for the Lynfield community, and for the support you gave me all those years ago.

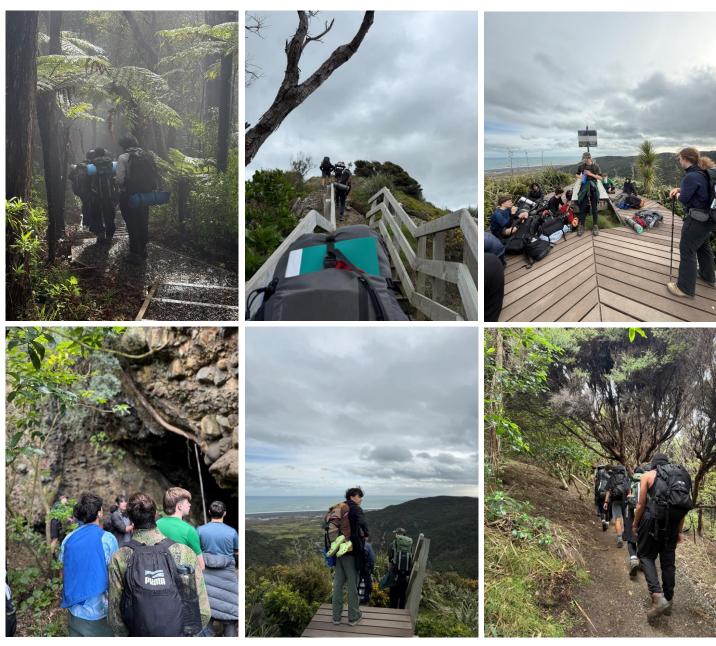
20ED Whatipu Camp

Our level 2 Outdoor Education students recently travelled through the wild west coast for an unforgettable camp at Whatipu. The adventure began with the Omanawanui Track, a steep and challenging hike rewarded with staggering views looking over the Manukau Harbour, the Waitākere Ranges, and the rugged black-sand coastline. Students dug deep, showing determination, teamwork, and plenty of encouragement for one another as they made their way along the mountain ranges.

A big part of the experience was applying the risk management skills we've been learning in class. Students assessed potential hazards on the track, made smart decisions about pace and footing, and looked out for one



another to ensure everyone stayed safe. This mindset carried through to our next challenge, exploring the Whatipu Caves. Armed with torches, careful planning, and an awareness of their surroundings, the group uncovered the caves' fascinating history and unique geological formations. The camp was a perfect mix of challenge, learning, and fun building resilience, strengthening friendships, and creating memories that will be talked about for years to come.



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Shinagawa Summer School

Our student group from Shinagawa, Japan is with us until 22 August and has been making the most of their time in Auckland. They have enjoyed their ESOL classes, worked hard to improve their English, and taken part in memorable excursions including visits to Auckland City Council, the zoo, and a ferry trip to Devonport. We hope they are enjoying every moment of their New Zealand adventure, creating memories to treasure and a lasting fondness for Auckland.









Cook Islands Language Week

Last week at Lynfield we celebrated Cook Islands Language Week. The theme for this year was "Ātui'tui'ia au ki te raurau a tōku matakeinanga," which translates to "Connect me to the offerings of my people'.

To start the week off our Young Māori Leaders, Galaxy and Akeelah, introduced the week to kaiako in morning staff briefing. The Young Māori and Pacific Pride Leaders prepared a slideshow which was shared to the Hui mai classes. On Wednesday some of the students prepared Cook Island donuts to give out at the Marae.

Thank you to all who contributed and supported this kaupapa.





Course Selection

August is course selection month for students in Years 9-12. All selections for 2026 need to be made by 11.00am Monday 18 August.

We encourage caregivers to be involved in the process by logging into SchoolBridge

<u>https://lynfield.bridge.school.nz/#</u> and following the links for Course Selection. Once logged in you can approve the courses your child has chosen for 2026.

Staff who can support your child in making their choices are our Careers Advisor Mr Russell Christie, our Academic

Advisor Mr Neil Waddington, your child's Dean, Hui mai teacher and current subject teachers.



Year 11 into 12:

 $\underline{https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/16tjVDbJQtJuIdyYEIpCjO0r_bezw8PRMEaGHCohtkJo/edit?usp=sharing}$

Year 10 into 11:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1YSYX3JTNb4Qa08X2ZHva_eXUWnOp1q6uRcHt83XIfCE/edit?usp=sharing

Student Leadership Expo

On Tuesday 5 August, Lynfield College held its annual Leadership Expo during lunchtime in the quad outside the hall. The event was a chance for students to explore the many leadership opportunities available at our school. Current students in leadership positions from a variety of roles including cultural, sports, academic, arts, Pacific Pride and Young Māori Leaders were on hand to share their experiences, answer questions, and offer advice. Students could learn what each role involves, the skills they could gain, and how leadership can make a positive impact on the school community. The Expo encouraged many to consider stepping up and making their mark as future leaders of Lynfield College.

Aziz Mookhtiar, Board Student Rep





Assessment / Exam Weeks

These are being held in Weeks 8 and 9 (Monday 1st – Friday 12th September).

During this time, students will be participating in practice external exams, internal practical assessments, Te Kura exams, and LITNUM exams.

LITNUM exams are scheduled in Week 8 as follows:

- Numeracy: Thursday 4th September. Morning (students A L), Afternoon (students M Z)
- Literacy: Friday 5th September, Morning

We encourage students to check the Student Version Sept Exam Timetable 2025 for any exam clashes and to see Ms Ram immediately if they have a clash.

Student Version Sept Exam Timetable 2025

Study Leave:

- Year 12 and 13 students will be on study leave and are only required to attend school for their exams/assessments.
- Year 11 students will follow their normal timetable. Those in a Level 2 exam class should go to the study room (F 9&10) during periods when their usual class would run.

If a student is absent from school for an exam, it may not be possible in some subjects to sit an alternative paper for a derived grade.

Being on an overseas trip isn't considered a valid reason for missing exams. If your child is planning to be away from school due to an overseas trip, please ensure you send a letter to our principal, Ms Knell, prior to the planned absence. This lets us know about the situation ahead of time. Students should also avoid making appointments during exam times.

We want to support students in doing their best in these assessments. Regular attendance during exam weeks is crucial for students to demonstrate their learning. If you have any questions about exam attendance or procedures, feel free to get in touch with Deputy Principal, Sandy Harris <u>SaHarris@lynfield.school.nz</u>

Parent Student Teacher Conferences

Our second round of Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences (PSTs) took place on 4th and 5th August, providing a valuable opportunity for students, parents, and teachers to discuss option courses for 2026, academic progress, and reflect on the goals set earlier in the year.

On Thursday evening, we also hosted a Talanoa and Hui for our Year 12 and 13 Pasifica and Māori students. Our Academic Advisor, Mr Waddington, shared insights on available scholarships, while our Careers Advisers, Mr Christie and Mrs Harvey, offered guidance on navigating option choices and career pathways. It was wonderful to see parents connecting and discussing the current education landscape.

A note for parents and caregivers: If you would like to discuss your child's progress in a specific subject area with their teacher, simply email your child's Hui Mai teacher, and they'll arrange with the relevant subject teacher to contact you.

School Board Elections 2025

At the close of the School Board Election nominations we received 29 parent nominations, which means we will have an election.

Voting papers will be issued on Wednesday 13 August.

Election Day will be on Wednesday 10 September. The polls will close at 4.00pm on Wednesday 10 September.

Votes will be counted and the results declared on Tuesday 16 September.

The new Board takes office the following day on Wednesday 17 September.

Annual Community Survey

Next week, the link to our annual community survey will be emailed to you. We appreciate your time in letting us know how we are doing.

In 2024, our community strongly believed that the school provided opportunities for their children to succeed, and that their children were happy at school. The school was also successful in respecting the wide range of cultures at the school, and that the teaching meets children's needs. This year, we have expanded the range of courses available to meet student needs. These include a specified pathway to University of Auckland Engineering for Year 13s, the introduction of Samoan language and Psychology for senior students, and some new options for Year 10 that start pathways for senior study. Teachers have had support in co-teaching strategies that support student learning in the new C Block.

We have taken on board the feedback that parents were less confident that they felt in partnership with the school. To build that partnership, we have included termly reporting on academic progress with the engagement reports and evaluated our processes around teachers contacting families so that teachers are more regularly reaching out.

Lynfield Celebrates 40 Years of Partnership with World Vision

Last week at the Year 13 assembly, we had a special guest Joel, one of World Vision's youth ambassadors. He spoke about the incredible impact Lynfield College's recent fundraising efforts in the 40 Hour Challenge will have on Pacific communities facing water shortages and the effects of climate change. He thanked all the students who took part in this year's Challenge, highlighting the dedication compassion shown by our Lynfield community. A special mention went to Sumedha Singaraju, who raised the most money as an individual - an outstanding achievement!





Joel also presented a special plaque to Ms Knell and our World Vision ambassador coordinators, Nessa Isaac and Jonathan Mar, in recognition of Lynfield's 40-year partnership with World Vision – a legacy that began back in 1985. This plaque is a testament to our students' ongoing commitment to making a positive difference in the world. We look forward to continuing this important work and taking part in the 40 Hour Challenge again next year.

Quizzex Lunchtime Fun

Over the past two lunchtimes, students gathered in the hall for our much-anticipated annual Junior and Senior *Quizzex* event. With rounds ranging from English to Pop Culture, the event was packed with energy, teamwork, and a healthy dose of friendly rivalry. Congratulations to all participants for bringing their A-game — and to our winners for their impressive knowledge and quick thinking! We hope everyone enjoyed the event and we look forward to seeing you all at our next event!

Acacdemic Captains: Ayush Swarnapuri, Sumeedha Singaraju, Jacky Zhou, Arnav Kumar



Year 9 Innovative Learning Newsletter

So far this term students in 9IL have been learning all about sustainability through their respective intercurricular subjects. Some of the learning so far includes Matter in Science, big issues leading to climate change in Humanities and even creating documentaries about recycling in English and Technology!

Students also got involved in the Year 8 Open Evening earlier this term. Here, students spoke about their learning experiences to year 8 students and their whānau, and showcased their creations from projects done so far this year.

A newsletter is produced throughout the year to showcase what happens in Innovative Learning. You can see the latest edition here which highlights the learning from our Term 2 theme, Rangatira and Mahi Tahi: Innovative Learning Newsletter Term 2 2025

Global Encounters Festival 2025

Last month my group, 'EmpowHER - Care for a new generation' and I were honoured to showcase our performance to over 40,000 people at the Global Encounters Festival 2025 in Dubai. Our journey began 2 years ago, when we first performed our piece at the ANZ region showcase and emerged victorious over 30 other performances. We feel very proud and grateful to have had this amazing opportunity and look forward to the next Festival!

Khushi Somjee Year 13



Teacher Workforce Scholarships

TeachNZ scholarships open on Friday and close on 31 August 2025. We are hoping you could share this information with your communities as an opportunity for aspiring teachers. Each year 450 scholarships are available – so anyone planning their career in teaching should act now to apply for up to \$30,000 per year of study and course fee costs. Anyone interested should apply right away and not wait for acceptance into an ITE course.

- Scholarships available: Te Huarau Scholarship for aspiring teachers in priority subjects and settings. This year's priority subjects are the STEM subjects of science, technology and maths. It includes course fees and an allowance of \$10,000 over the period of study (up to four years). There are 130 available.
- **Te Huawhiti Career-Changer Scholarship** for anyone looking to change their career and teach in priority subjects and settings. It provides financial support to offset the loss of income and reduce the barrier to becoming a qualified teacher. It includes course fees to study an approved teaching qualification and an allowance of \$30,000 per year (up to 3 years). There are 85 available.
- **Te Tipu Whakarito Scholarship** for te reo Māori speakers aspiring to teach in Kaupapa Māori/Māori-medium settings, or in English-medium secondary schools teaching te reo Māori. It includes course fees and an allowance of \$10,000 over the period of study (up to four years). There are 130 available.
- **Te Waka Whakarei Career-Changer Scholarship** for te reo Māori speakers aspiring to grow their proficiency in te reo and tikanga, have a wealth of life experience and want to become a kaiako. It includes course fees and an allowance of \$30,000 over the period of study up to three years). There are 90 available.
- **Kupe Scholarship for Māori and Pacific high achievers.** It includes course fees and an allowance of \$15,000 over the period of study (up to three years). There are 30 available.

There are some instances where part-time study can be awarded a scholarship, contact <u>teachnz.admin@education.govt.nz</u> to discuss any specific situations. Find out more about TeachNZ scholarships on the <u>Education Workforce website</u>.

Māori and Pasifika Trades Training

What we value

- Whakamana Conducting relationships in ways that enhance the mana and mauri of everyone involved.
- Kia ngatai to waihoe Recognising the value in each other's strengths and the importance of working together.
- Whaia to iti Kahurangi Commitment to the highest standard and best practice.
- Ehara taku toa takitahi, engari he toa takimano Leadership strength based on relevance, accessibility and
- Kai pumai kit e kaupapa A foundation of trust, integrity and commitment to Maori and Pasifika education and training.

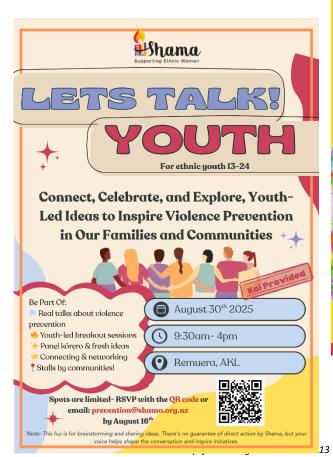
Check out their website ... https://www.maoripasifikatrades.co.nz/about/

- 1. You MUST be enrolled and accepted into a programme of study BEFORE you can apply for this scholarship
- 2. You must be a New Zealand Citizen or Resident
- 3. Be of Māori and/or Pasifika descent
- 4. Be aged 16 40 when your programme of study starts
- 5. Have a community mentor
- 6. Sign Unitec's Alcohol & Drug testing policy
- 7. Complete work-ready workshops during your studies
- 8. Demonstrate a desire to succeed in the trades industry
- 9. Be committed to completing the programme

The beauty of MPTT scholarships is that not only do they get the financial support but they get mentoring as well as connections to apprenticeships and jobs after their courses.

Scholarship Application Form – you will need to go to the website of the Tertiary Provider that you have applied with and source the application form.

afs.org.nz





2pm - 6pm

Takapuna, Auckland

Taitamariki Hall, 8 Auburn Street,

Uniform & Stationery Shop

HOURS

The Uniform and Stationery shop is open to all students on site for their uniform and stationery needs during interval and lunchtime Mondays to Thursdays, and on Fridays before school at 8am and interval.

We are not open on Saturday and Sunday, Teacher Only Days or the between term holidays.

Parents can attend the shop at the following times:

Monday - Thursday 10.00am - 12.00pm and 12.30pm - 1.30pm. Friday 8.00am - 11.30am

SECOND HAND CLOTHING

The Uniform and Stationery Shop also sells second hand items. We ask that if you wish to purchase the second hand items, you do not come during student's morning tea or lunchtimes.

Please be aware that we do not have the full size range in the second hand items. Proceeds from secondhand uniform sales go to our hardship fund to support students in need.

LYNFIELD COLLEGE BLAZER

The Lynfield College blazer is available to all students. The cost is \$260 and it can be purchased from the Uniform Shop. We only have a few available in each size at the moment, but if we have high demand, more stock can be brought in.

ONLINE ORDERING

Online ordering is available through our website https://lynfield.school.nz/shop.html. Payment can be made by direct credit or credit card and students onsite are able to collect the items from the shop during the above times. Orders are usually ready the next day.

Returns Policy: We require a purchase receipt, tags and the skirt "runner stitch" to still be in garments to process returns. Please be aware that we can only return items up to 90 days from the date on your receipt.

LOST PROPERTY

If your child has lost uniform items, please ask them to check the Lost Property bin outside the uniform shop.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NAME YOUR UNIFORM.







Our school is proud to be supporting the Cancer Society this Daffodil Day.

1 in 3 New Zealanders will recieve a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime. With free access to important resources including specialist advice and information, transport to treatment, and accommodation when undergoing treatment far from home, the Cancer Society ensures that none of them have to go through cancer alone.

Your support of our Daffodil Day fundraising will help to fund cancer prevention poclose and life-saving cancer research, and to provide support and hope to cancer patients and their whānau from diagnosis through to post-treatment.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, and thank you for supporting our Daffodil Day fundraiser!

How we're celebrating Daffodil Day

We're celebrating Daffodil Day by...

Date:

Time:

Location

Your fundraising support is an important part of Daffodil Day and your help gives hope to many.

Ngā mihi,

To find out more or donate today, visit daffodilday.org.nz





