



LYNFIELD
COLLEGE

NEWSLINK

NEWSLETTER 13 | 31 AUGUST 2026

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, it is the people.

Kia ora koutou

Punctuality

Thank you for your support over the past week in ensuring that our students arrive at school before the first bell at 8.55am. The numbers of those arriving late to their first class are decreasing (dropping from a high of 8.6% to a low on Friday of 4.3%). However further improvements are still sought. With the upcoming derived grade / practice exams beginning on Monday 7 September, this push is in support of making sure our students make the best use of their time in class.

The school is currently working with AT, Auckland Transport, in support of the concerns expressed about overcrowding. Unfortunately the data that AT has about how many people are on the buses does not match our students' described experience. In order for AT to consider running more frequent services before and after school they need to have more accurate data on the numbers on the buses. This is taken from passengers 'tagging on' and 'tagging off'. Please help us to help them by monitoring and reinforcing the importance of this. I have been speaking at each of the year level assemblies over the past fortnight and have challenged the students to be 'upstanders' not 'bystanders' in leading by example and appealing to their friends to do the right thing.

Manaakitanga

Our focus Korowai value for Term 3 is Hinengaro Wawata. However, we are looking to see all four of our values being applied both in and outside of school throughout the year. It was, therefore, hugely rewarding to hear that our Premier 1 Netball girls have been awarded the **Waitakere Netball Manaakitanga Award** for 2026. Congratulations to the team, their coaches, managers and supporters.

We look forward to hearing about further examples of our students demonstrating our school values.

Winter Tournament Week

Good luck to all our students in Winter Tournament Week! Play hard, play fair, and enjoy the competition. With our staff from the Sports Office away supporting the teams the Sports Office will be closed until 7 September.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from Tumuaki Cath Knell
- Tongan Language Week
- Leadership Diversity Day
- PYF Summit
- Assessment/Exam Integrity
- Final Exam Timetable
- LITNUM Exams
- Nurse - Winter Illness
- Y11 Waipapa Taumata Rau
- Outward Bound Celebration
- Shadow Tech Workshop
- Media Screening Night
- LC Clothing Swap
- Fashion Week Show
- Western Springs Green Jam
- PASCH German Theatre
- Y11 Students Interview Politicians on YouTube
- Practice Science Fair
- Walk Without Fear visit
- ZOED Whatipu Hike
- International Students and Teachers from Thailand
- AT Buses – Tag ON Tag OFF
- Careers Week
- Sports Scene

COMING EVENTS

Monday 31 August
In-Class Priority Week
Winter Tournament Week
Wednesday 2 September
Year 9/2027 Out of Zone
Categories 1 – 5
Applications CLOSE 4pm
Mon 7 – Fri 11 September
Senior Assessment Week 1
Mon 14 – Fri 18 September
Senior Assessment Week 2
Monday 21 September
TEACHER ONLY DAY

Planning for 2027

Course Selection: This has now closed. Selections are currently being reviewed by Faculties prior to us working through the staffing and classes needed.

Strategic Planning: The Board will be working through a strategic planning process over the next few months. The new plan will be aligned with the recent changes to the Education and Training Act 2020 and will come into effect from 1 January 2027.

Nga mihi nui

Cath Knell

Tumuaki | Principal

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LYNFIELD COLLEGE SCHOOL BOARD

Voting for this position will take place in Week 10 of this term.

Tongan Language Week

Mālō e lelei

In Week 5 we celebrated Tongan language week by sharing Tongan greetings, cultural performances by Apisai Finefeuiaki and Litia Tufunga and learning talamu (Tongan card game). Our theme for the week was 'Ko 'etau hiva, ko e fe'unu mahu'inga ia ki he mo'ui 'a e Tonga' which means our music is a vital strand to our Tongan culture.

The week was a great learning opportunity for all!



PYF Summit

On Friday 21st August, around 120 students from Lynfield College and Mt Roskill Grammar School came together for the Puketāpapa Youth Summit, organised by the Puketāpapa Youth Foundation.

The summit provided a space for young people to connect, collaborate and share their ideas about how we can improve our local community. Through a range of activities and discussions, students explored issues that matter to young people and worked together to develop ideas for positive change.

It was an amazing day filled with meaningful conversations, teamwork and youth-led ideas. The summit highlighted the importance of giving young people a voice and creating opportunities for them to play an active role in shaping the future of Puketāpapa.



Leadership Diversity Day at Unitec

On Thursday 13th August, the Year 12 Executives were not at school.

We didn't decide to be truant— we were invited to a leadership diversity day held by the Religious Diversity Centre Aotearoa at Unitec.

Individuals from various backgrounds came together to share their beliefs and ideologies on fostering healthy communities and protecting our environment.

We were reminded of something important: It's our responsibility to take action to look after each other and our surroundings. To get involved and to use our voices to make a difference! Small actions matter.

This day made us more appreciative of the diversity we have in our community and made us feel empowered to see people our age stand and proudly share their values. We are so grateful to have been given this opportunity!

Adi Parab took the opportunity to speak on behalf of all attendees to thank the organisers and presenters.

Year 12 Executive



Assessment and Exam Integrity

Academic integrity is a core value at Lynfield, and we would appreciate your help to reinforce its importance with your child.

What You Should Know About Our Assessment Practices

Our school takes student authenticity seriously. This is not only important for earning credits honestly, but it also ensures that qualifications truly reflect what your student has learned. The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) requires us to verify that all student work is genuine and completed by the student themselves.

How We Verify Authentic Work

Throughout the year, students receive clear guidelines about assessment expectations through our Student Assessment Guides, which are shared and explained during our Hui mai sessions at the start of the year. Subject teachers also reinforce assessment rules for each assessment. For internal assessments, subject teachers carefully monitor student progress by:

- *Having students complete work on teacher-created documents (usually in Google Classroom)*
- *Setting regular checkpoints to track development*
- *Reviewing the history of student work to ensure authenticity*
- *Requiring consistent class attendance*

This monitoring process helps us support your child while maintaining academic integrity.

Exam Rules: What Your Student Needs to Know

In Term 3 Weeks 8 and 9, most Year 11-13 students will sit derived grade exams. NZQA has specific rules that students must follow:

Students are NOT permitted to:

- *Communicate with other students or people during the exam*
- *Have mobile phones or devices on their person (all devices must be switched off)*
- *No watches*
- *No earbuds or headphones (unless required for a listening exam)*
- *Bring notes or handouts into the exam room*
- *Open tabs outside the exam site during digital exams*
- *Use tools like Grammarly during digital exams*

How You Can Help

We ask that you support your child by:

- *Reminding them about assessment and exam procedures*
- *Encouraging them to attend all classes and meet checkpoint deadlines*
- *Discussing the importance of honest, independent work*
- *Ensuring they understand that following these rules helps them succeed*

September Final Exam Timetable and Clashes

Please check the [Final Exam Timetable](#) well in advance to see if you have any clashes (i.e. two assessments scheduled at the same time).

If you have a clash, please speak with your teacher(s) to see if you can reschedule e.g. *do a workshop with another class*.

Fill in [this form](#) if you need to sit an exam at the earliest possible opportunity.

You may be required to sit in supervised isolation between exams to maintain derived grade exam integrity.

You will receive an email from me with a solution to your clash (e.g. "Move your 3HIS exam to the Hall on Tuesday 15 September in the morning session") before the exams start.

If there are issues that we have not yet anticipated, the exam timetable may change. A final exam timetable will be published as soon as possible.

If you have any questions please see Mr Waddington, Academic Advisor, or email nwaddington@lynfield.school.nz

Literacy and Numeracy Exams (LITNUM)

If a student is entered into a Literacy or Numeracy exam during the Week 8 and 9 Assessment Weeks, their English and Maths teachers will have informed them. Hui mai teachers will also be reminding them. Students are being prepared for these exams both in English and Maths lessons and in Hui mai time.

You can support your child by:

- Asking them if they have registered on NZQA and if they remember their password. [NZQA The Student login - Google Slides](#)
- Checking their device is working and charged
- Reminding your child to bring an [approved calculator](#) and a ruler to the numeracy exam
- Looking at the digital platform with your child [Preparing for digital assessment as a student - NZQA](#)

- Encouraging your child to work through past questions. It might be an interesting experience to do some questions with them! [Find past digital external assessments » NZQA](#)
 - Checking they are able to study on LearnCoach, an online platform, towards their literacy and numeracy examinations. Your child will have immediate access when they log in using "Sign in with Google" on the LearnCoach sign-in page <https://learncoach.com/>
-

Winter Illness

We are seeing a lot of students with infectious illnesses presenting to our school health centre at the moment.

Please ensure your child stays home if they are unwell.

Please refer to the link below for guidelines to help determine when a child should stay home from school due to illness.

<https://www.healthnz.govt.nz/health-topics/keeping-healthy/healthy-homes-environments/going-to-school/knowning-if-your-child-is-well-enough-to-go-to-school-guidance-for-parents>

With lots of winter illnesses about right now, health services are experiencing very high demand. If you need to speak to a General Practitioner (GP) and can't get in to your usual doctor or its after hours, Online GP provides a great option for accessing safe and quick care. The service is available from anywhere in the country, anytime day or night and is now free for all under 14s. For young people 14 to 17 years of age, with a Community Services Card, Online GP costs up to \$13.50, with no Community Services Card, up to \$45.

Appointments usually take place through a video app or a phone call, and the service can provide medicine and send prescriptions to your nearest pharmacy.

To learn more visit Online GP Care:

<https://www.healthnz.govt.nz/online-gp-care>

Please do not hesitate to email our nursing team (Nurse Jen and Nurse Francie) on nurse@lynfield.school.nz, if you would like to update us on information regarding students health and wellbeing needs.

Frances Duncan, Registered Nurse, Lynfield College

Year 11 Students visit Waipapa Taumata Rau – Auckland University

Last week, a small group of Year 11 students visited Waipapa Taumata Rau, the University of Auckland, for the day. The visit began with a pōwhiri at the university marae, followed by icebreaker activities with students from other secondary schools. This provided students an opportunity to meet new people and connect with them throughout the day's workshops.

Students took part in a campus tour, which included visiting some of the halls of residence and learning what it is like to live on campus. They were also treated to lunch and enjoyed the wide variety of food available in the residents' dining hall.

Another highlight was visiting the state-of-the-art sports centre. Its courts use laser lighting to display different boundary lines depending on the sport being played. Students also met university staff who explained the enrolment process, the support available to students, and the different study pathways they could pursue.

The visit introduced our students to the many possibilities available if they choose to continue their education at the University of Auckland after completing secondary school.



Lynfield Students Celebrate their Outward Bound Journey

On Tuesday evening, Outward Bound New Zealand hosted a special dinner at the Akarana Yacht Club. Lynfield College was proudly represented by this year's participants, Hassan Alizadah (12KHN) and Milla Wild (12PNU).

The evening included inspiring stories from alumni, sponsors, and donors, who shared their experiences and fond memories of attending Outward Bound at Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds. Guests included one of the earliest participants from 1964 and Kathy Nielsen, who was part of the first female intake in 1973, known as the Women's Brigade.

Since its early years, Outward Bound Anakiwa has welcomed approximately 77,000 participants. The organisation relies on the generosity of sponsors and donors to continue providing these life-changing experiences.

When asked about their favourite parts of the programme, Milla and Hassan highlighted the friendships they formed and have continued to maintain since completing their camp in Term One. They were also proud that their group set a record by walking the 74-kilometre Queen Charlotte Track in just two and a half days.

We encourage students who are ready to test their physical and emotional limits, step outside their comfort zones, and grow into stronger and more confident young people to apply for the next Outward Bound intake.



Shadow Tech Workshop

On 18th August, 15 of our Year 11 students had the opportunity to attend a Shadow Tech workshop, exploring career opportunities for women in technology. Students met industry professionals, learned about different roles and career journeys, asked questions, and took part in fun activities that encouraged them to step outside their comfort zones.

One student reflected, *"We got to hear real experiences, receive valuable advice, meet different people, ask questions, try new things, and get a better idea of what working in a technology company could be like."* The students found the experience both fun and educational, and meeting the workplace puppies was an added highlight!



Media Studies Screening Night

Last Thursday night we hosted the first Media Studies Screening Night in a while. It was a very successful event, with 50 students, parents, friends, teachers and other guests, filling the C-Block screening room.

Prize winners were:

FIRST Music Video: [*"Meant to Be" 1 - Viliame Naisausau, Tom Dobbs, Jadrien Prasad*](#)

FIRST Documentary: [*"Lenses of Aotearoa" - Ishaan Greenwood, Om Sinhal, Jayden Vishal*](#)

SECOND Music Video: [*"Sideways" - Aundreah Lakatani, Alana Morgan*](#)

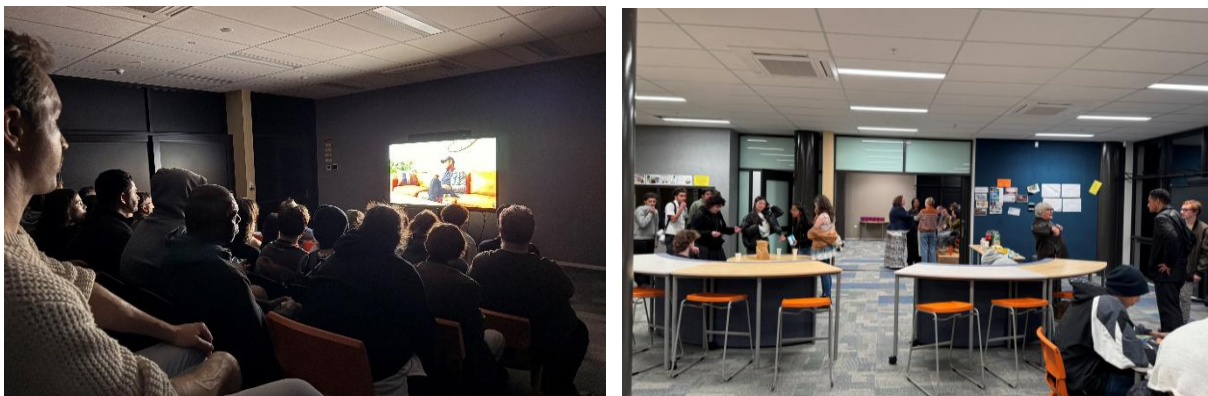
SECOND Documentary: [*"Still Becoming" - Rocco Maxwell, Charlotte McNaughton*](#)

THIRD Music Video: [*"Meant to Be" 2 - Ela Egene, Kahaia Huri*](#)

THIRD Documentary: [*"Take 5" - Nittyta Bapat, Breanna Liu-Flowers, Lillias Blakemore*](#)

All music videos feature original tracks from past and present Lynfield College students. You can watch other student work on the [Lynfield College Media Studies YouTube channel](#) (more student films from 2026 will be added over the coming week).

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the evening and shout out to all the students who worked hard on their Media Studies films this year.



Lynfield's Second Successful Clothing Swap

On Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th August, Lynfield College hosted its second Clothing Swap during lunchtime. Students and staff generously brought in unwanted clothes to donate, helping give pre-loved garments a second life rather than sending them to landfill.

Everyone was welcome to come and choose a garment or two, even if they had not donated anything themselves. Students enthusiastically came and looked, with some even trying before heading off with their new clothes.

It was fantastic to see so many students getting into the spirit of clothing swapping and recognising that unwanted clothes can still be useful to someone else. By swapping and reusing, we can help reduce waste and give clothing a new life.

A big thank you to everyone who donated and supported the event. We look forward to hosting another Clothing Swap in 2027!



Auckland Fashion Week Graduate Show

On Wednesday 19th August, students from our Year 12 and 13 Fashion and Design classes had the exciting opportunity to attend the Graduate Show at Shed 10 as part of Auckland Fashion Week.

The show showcased emerging design talent from some of New Zealand's leading fashion institutions, including Whitecliffe, Massey University and Otago Polytechnic.

Many of the collections explored themes of culture and identity, while others highlighted exceptional craftsmanship and innovative approaches to sustainable fashion design. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to see the work of emerging designers and gain inspiration from the exciting ideas shaping the future of New Zealand fashion.



Western Springs Green Jam

On Monday, the 24th August, six students from our Sustainability committee attended the Western Springs College annual Green Jam. We learned about other schools' and communities' ways of being sustainable. The problems with recycling, why it's organised and cleaned, and how it is recycled. In one workshop run by Urban Arc, students tested water and learnt why the pH levels, clarity and oxygen matter in our streams and waters. While at the Western Springs stream, we listened and counted birds to discover if the birdlife is multiplying. There were a variety of other talks such as Psychology and Emotions around sustainability, smart water, weaving, and crocheting. Towards the end of the experience, we got to share some of our sustainable ideas happening at our other schools in a presentation and have a Q and A session. Thank you, Western Springs College!



PASCH German Theatre Weekend

In May this year, we had the opportunity to take part in the three-day PASCH Theatertage scholarship in Auckland. The scholarship programme was held from 22-24 May at Aarangi Motel, which brought together German students from around New Zealand for a weekend of combining German language learning with theatre activities. Over the three days, we stepped outside our comfort zones, worked collaboratively and used German in a completely different way from the classroom.

One of the highlights for me was meeting other students around New Zealand who share my same passion for German. Although we came from different schools and backgrounds, our experience with German gave us an immediate connection to work together. The activities challenged me to become more confident when communicating in German. The skits which we prepared ourselves and presented in German offered a new level of challenge which I had never experienced before and opened new perspectives.

This scholarship was a fantastic opportunity to strengthen my German while making new friendships and creating new memories that will stay with me beyond those three days. Akshay Srijith (Y12)



The Goethe Institute theatre weekend was a lot of fun! On the Friday we arrived there, we got to know the other students from all over the country over dinner at Der Metz, a restaurant that serves German inspired food. On Saturday we drafted our plans for the scenes, which focused on the differences between New Zealand and German culture. On Sunday we performed the scenes for each other and our parents. Each day we did other activities to practice our German, such as playing games like Werwölfe which is a bit like German Mafia and scavenger hunts around the local area. A highlight for me was meeting other German learners from across the motu. I am still in touch with some of them! It was an amazing experience that helped to contextualise my German learning while having a great time.

Cassandra Walters (Y11)

Year 11 Students Launch YouTube Channel Interviewing Politicians

Year 11 student Rais Teuboh has created the YouTube channel 'Sixteen & Speaking' with fellow Lynfield students Srinath Bhai and Ilan Kizhakke Valappil.

The channel is a youth-led interview series in which the three sit down with New Zealand politicians and public figures to have honest conversations about politics, society and the issues affecting their generation. Their debut episode features an interview with Mt Roskill MP Carlos Cheung, [which you can watch here](#). Rais and the team are already in discussions with upcoming politicians in Auckland such as Michael Wood, Paulo Garcia and Carmel Sepuloni for upcoming episodes. Sixteen & Speaking is a subscriber-based YouTube channel.



Practice Science Fair

Our students recently took part in a Practice Science Fair, showcasing their projects to teachers and fellow students. The event gave them an opportunity to receive timely feedback, practise answering questions, and confidently justify their choices, methods and findings. We hope this experience will prepare them well for the Auckland Science Fair on 28 August at Michael Park School, where they will present alongside more than 80 schools from across Auckland and be judged by experienced Science and Technology teachers. We wish all our students the very best. Watch this space for the outcome!



Walk Without Fear Visit

Last week we were honoured to welcome members of the organisation “Walk without Fear” who came to speak to our Year 13s during Life Skills. Walk without Fear is a Charitable Trust whose mission is to end social violence in New Zealand through awareness, education and community-based solutions.

It was a privilege to hear from UFC coach Eugene Bareman and UFC fighters Cam Rowston and Nyrene Crowley as they spoke about the importance of being safe and the dangers of fighting out in the community. Students were given a chance to ask questions and were even allowed to take photos with the UFC Light Heavyweight belt which they had brought in from their City Kick Boxing Gym.

We thank Eugene, Cam and Nyrene for sharing their time and wisdom with us. Special thanks also to our student School Board representative Mahant Agrawal for organising the event.



20ED Whatipu Hike

Last week ākonga in 20ED completed their Outdoor Education assessment hīkoi from Mt Donald McLean down to Whatipu. Groups walked on Tuesday 25 and Friday 28 August through Te Wao Nui a Tiriwa / the Waitākere Ranges, with strong views to the coast and time in the caves at the end.

This is Hinengaro wawata in action. Students had to read the whenua, track their route, watch the weather as it changed, and think critically about gear, timing and group movement. They stayed curious about the place they were walking through and ambitious about getting the mahi done well.

Ngā mihi nui to the kaiako who supported both days and to the students who contributed positively to their groups.



Thai Teachers and International Students Make the Most of their Visit

"We had such a wonderful time at our Summer Camp in New Zealand!

During our stay, our students attended classes at Lynfield College, learning alongside new teachers, making new friends, and experiencing a different learning environment. Living with host families also gave them the chance to experience everyday Kiwi life, practise their English, and learn more about New Zealand culture. Beyond the classroom, we explored Auckland, Rotorua, Lake Taupō, Huka Falls, Agrodome, Hobbiton, and more! From skiing and hiking to outdoor adventures, our students challenged themselves, gained confidence, and created unforgettable memories."

Kong Saendee and Aim Siripongwatana (Teachers), Satit Prasarnmit International Programme.



Auckland Transport Buses

After conversations with Auckland Transport about improving bus usage for Lynfield College, we are aiming to increase the tag ON and tag OFF buses.

Why? Auckland Transport is lacking data about how many people are using the routes, and they need to know what is *really* happening.

Tag on and tag off all of this September so we can prove that we need more routes and more frequent buses for our school. Be the change! Tag on AND tag off!

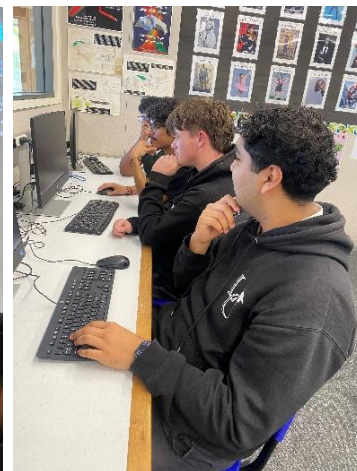


Careers Week

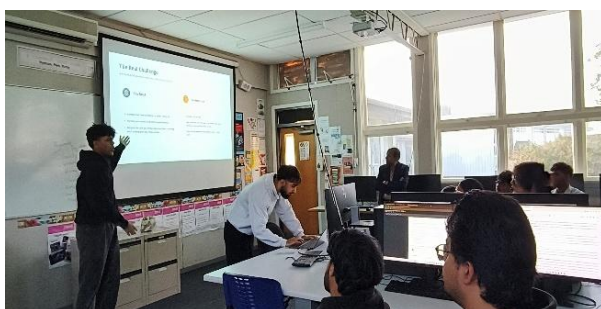
EXPLORING PATHWAYS IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

As part of Lynfield College's Careers Week, Year 12 and Year 13 students had the opportunity to hear from inspiring guest speakers about a range of exciting career pathways.

Our first sessions featured ex-Lynfield College students, who returned to share their experiences and insights into careers in Computer Engineering, Information Technology and Software Engineering. They discussed their journeys beyond school, university study options, and the entry requirements for programmes at Auckland University and the University of Waikato.



Their first-hand experiences provided students with valuable advice about university pathways, admission requirements and what it takes to pursue a career in the technology sector. Thank you, Kovid Dev, Tej Patel and Aziz Mookhtair.



On 25th August an ex-student, Adam Woodgate who is a lecturer from Yoobee Design School spoke to students about career pathways in Animation, Design, Marketing and Packaging. Adam shared his experiences and showcased some of the exciting projects he has been involved in throughout his career. His presentation highlighted the wide range of opportunities available within the creative industries and demonstrated how design and technology skills can lead to diverse and rewarding careers.

These Careers Week sessions gave our senior students the chance to connect with people working in different industries, ask questions and gain a better understanding of the pathways available to them after leaving school. The real-world experiences shared by our guest speakers provided inspiration and practical guidance as students consider their own future study and career choices.



Sport Scene

WAITAKERE NETBALL MANAAKITANGA AWARD

Congratulations to Lynfield College Premier 1 team, recipient of the West Auckland Secondary Schools Competition Manaakitanga Award 2026.

This award recognises a team that truly embodies the spirit of manaakitanga. Respect, Care, encouragement and support for others, both on and off the court.

Lynfield College Premier 1 has demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship, positive team culture and respect for opponents, officials and the wider netball community throughout the season.

Congratulations to the players coaches and management of Lynfield College Premier 1. You are a fantastic example of what it means to play with mana, heart and respect.



ASLAM HARRIS (YEAR 13)

Recently, Aslam Harris qualified for a New Zealand Amateur Boxing Championship, where he fought for the title in the top Elite Male Lightweight division. Months of intense training, discipline and preparation were behind allowing him to meet some of the strongest young competitors in New Zealand.

The key to success in each fight was the ability to stay focused, determined and resilient; to deliver on the skills and fitness gained in the training camp.

Aslam won the championship title by a knock out in the third round. This makes Aslam the 2026 New Zealand Youngest Lightweight Championship (70KG) also ranked 1st in the top 5 division. A remarkable achievement.

Aslam's accomplishment would not be possible without putting in those hard days of training, early morning running, tough training camps, and the full support from his trainers, friends and family. Congratulations Aslam.

