



LYNFIELD
COLLEGE

NEWSLINK

NEWSLETTER 2 | 20 FEBRUARY 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

The last two days have certainly been high energy days testing the smile muscles and vocal chords of our students and staff!

The Presentation of Badges Assembly, held yesterday afternoon, was a great way to celebrate our student leaders with their families and the Year 13 cohort. We were delighted to have one of our past leaders, Jackie de Pont (Class of 2018) share her journey since leaving school and challenge this year's leaders to make the very best of all opportunities, including life skills, that come their way. Smile muscles were well engaged during the numerous photos that followed. Thank you to those who were able to join us.

Today we saw our leaders in action resplendent in their house colours for House Sports Day. They enthusiastically led, inspired and cajoled the best of House Spirit amongst the student body with friendly competition on show. Feedback from those who actively participated in the day was very positive, with everyone I spoke with able to identify the event they enjoyed best. Our school value of whanaungatanga tika - we are collaborative, was definitely on display. The House Chants which started the afternoon's programme would have been heard by many of our neighbours! Don't be surprised if your child is a little croaky tonight. We look forward to sharing some photos and the results with you in the next NewsLink.

Year 9 Whānau BBQ - Wednesday 25 February 6.00 - 7.30pm

With the Year 9 students settling in so well it is now time to bring our parents in to meet with their child's Hui mai teacher and make connections with other parents. There will also be opportunities to meet with and speak to staff providing specialist support. I look forward to being able to speak with more of you on Wednesday evening.

Timetable changes

Yesterday students and families were sent a communication on **Important Timetable Changes** in support of making learning opportunities more accessible and equitable.

Students will be guided through these changes and provided with a paper copy of their new timetable at a **special Hui mai class at 9.00am on Monday** morning. Please make sure that your child is onsite at school by 8.55am on Monday, as is expected every day. Students will be able to check what equipment they need to bring for the day by looking at their timetable on SchoolBridge on Sunday night. Monday will be Day 3 of the 6-day cycle.

Nga mihi nui

Cath Knell

Tumuaki | Principal

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COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 25 February
Year 9 Whānau BBQ 6-7.30pm
Tuesday 10 – Thursday 12
March
Year 9 Hearing Testing
Wednesday 11 March
NCEA & Scholarship Info Evg
Saturday 28 March
CULTURAL FESTIVAL DAY
Wednesday 1 April, 1-7pm
& Thursday 2 April,
9am-12.30pm
PST Conferences

Alumni News

FROM LYNFIELD COLLEGE TO ENGINEERING THE FUTURE: ANKUR CHAKRABORTY AND VINCENT CHUI

It was great to catch up recently with Lynfield alumni Ankur Chakraborty and Vincent Chui, who attended the college from 2016 to 2020. Both completed a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at the University of Auckland and are now contributing to significant infrastructure projects across Auckland.

Ankur is a Civil Engineer specialising in water engineering. He currently works for Stantec and previously worked for Tonkin + Taylor in Wellington. He is presently involved in a major project aimed at increasing water supply to Auckland City — work that is vital for the region’s growing population and long-term sustainability. Vincent is also working on major projects within Auckland as a Structural Engineer for the firm Aurecon. Both describe the most rewarding part of their roles as solving complex problems that benefit the wider community. They find great satisfaction in seeing projects they have worked on physically come to life.



Ankur and Vincent spoke warmly of their five years at Lynfield College and gave special thanks to their long-time form teacher, Ms Cathie Bunce, who supported them throughout their journey. Ankur was a student leader and a talented sportsman, captaining the 1st XI cricket team and playing a major role in the team’s promotion up the grades during his tenure. A highlight was scoring a century against Green Bay in his Year 13 season. Like many others, they said one of the lasting memories were the Covid-19 lockdowns that impacted their final year at school. They recalled it was such a strange and uncertain time which continued into their first year at university, where isolation rules made group work and social connections far more challenging. However, they both remain close with their friendship group from Lynfield, describing it as something truly special. They still get together and share stories of their time here.

We wish Ankur and Vincent all the best in their careers and look forward to seeing what projects they will work on next.

Scholarship Results 2025

Six Scholarships were awarded to 5 Lynfield College students across 6 subject areas in 2025.

Nicolas Martens in Digital Technologies (Outstanding), Physics

Ella Hill in Biology

Jerry Li in Calculus

Anika Wong in English

Marina Sivoravong (Year 12) in Japanese

Congratulations to all our Scholarship students and especially to Nicolas Martens, who gained Scholarship in 2 subjects, including one outstanding scholarship. Students who gained Scholarship are given a monetary award for their university study. The College is extremely proud of these students. The school also recognises the work done by the teachers to prepare and tutor these high achievers.



Nicolas Martens



Ella Hill



Haoyuan Jerry Li



Anika Wong



Marina Sivoravong

Scholarship Breakfast

On Friday 13 February we held a celebration breakfast with our NZQA Scholarship award recipients, their whanau, and their teachers. It was fantastic to celebrate their success, acknowledge their hard work, and hear about their plans for further studies in 2026.



NCEA Results 2025

Our 2025 provisional results are as follows:

Year 12 Level 2: 62.4% (national 72.7), Year 13 Level 3: 69.1% (national 70%), UE: 53.2 (national 49.9%)

Of the students who completed 5 years of study at Lynfield College

97.4% left having achieved NCEA L2 or above and

77.8% left having achieved NCEA L3

Where we saw extra success:

- 100% of our Year 13 Māori students gained their literacy and numeracy before they left us (2nd year)
- Year 13 Pacific students gaining Level 3 increased by 10.3% and for UE by 5%
- 34 more Year 13 students achieved an Excellence endorsement at Level 3
- 3 Year 11 students have achieved a Level 2 Certificate
- 95.2% of Year 11 students achieved some Level 2 credits and 34% achieved between 20 to 29 Level 2 credits
- 6 of our students achieved Scholarship, including 1 Outstanding Scholarship and 1 scholarship was achieved by a Year 12 student

Congratulations to our students on their success.

Some context and statistics you may find interesting:

A large group of our English Language Learners require significant more time and support to develop their English skills and achieve their Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy.

In 2025 for example:

- 48% of our students spoke a language other than English at home
- 41% of our students were born outside NZ
- 15% of our students had come to the College directly from an overseas school
- 17% of our Yr 13 student leavers in 2025 had been at Lynfield College for fewer than 3 years
- Lynfield College was the first NZ school for 15% of our students. In 2025, for Year 12 Level 2 students, it was 23%

Students cannot be awarded their Certificate of Achievement unless they have passed the Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy corequisite. For many of our English language Learners understandably, this is a huge challenge. We continue to reflect and develop strategies to support all our students to achieve success educational success. This includes lobbying government for funding and resourcing.

Student Action

VALENTINES DAY

Our annual Valentine's Day Celebration gave students the opportunity to purchase cards and chocolates to deliver to friends around the school. Many wrote sweet and thoughtful messages to accompany the chocolates, helping to spread love, kindness and appreciation throughout the school community. Students could also enjoy a photobooth with their friends on Friday and make new memories! This event was a great way for students to come together and celebrate friendship early in the school year. We look forward to creating more events that strengthen connections across our school community. From your Head Students, Ashton, Akeelah, Finau and Lupe



**THANKS, VINI
FOR ALL THE
WONDERFUL PHOTOS
YOU TAKE OF OUR
LIFE AT LYNFIELD!**

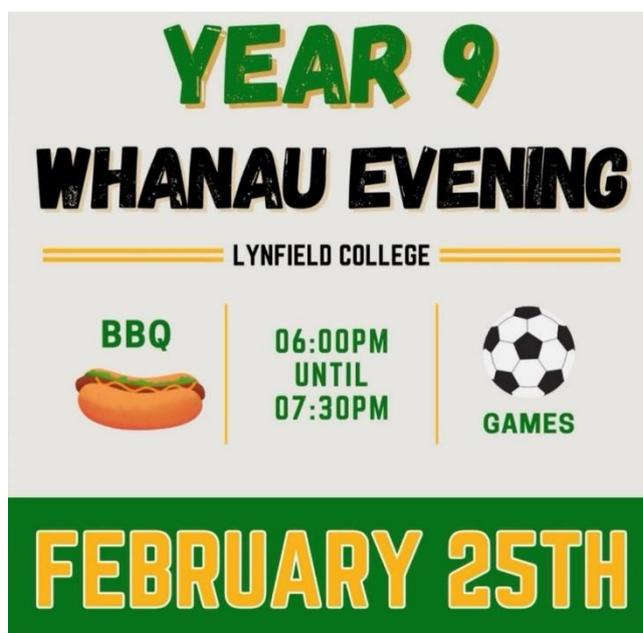
***Staff member and photographer at large,
Mr Vini Laga'aia***



Year 9 Whanau BBQ Evening

We welcome all Year 9 students and their whānau to a BBQ from **6.00 – 7.30pm on Wednesday 25 February** on the school field.

You'll have an opportunity to meet the Hui mai teachers and key staff, as well as other families.



Parent Student Teacher Conferences (PSTs)

These will be held in week 10 on Wednesday 1 April (1.00pm – 7.00pm) and Thursday 2 April (9.00am – 12.30pm).

Booking details and instructions will be sent out closer to the time.

Scholarship Information Evening

The NCEA/Scholarship Information Evening is on Wednesday 11th March, in the College Hall.

6.30 – 7.15pm: PART 1 NCEA information (Years 11-13)

Mr Waddington, our Academic Advisor, will present information about NCEA and our 2-year programme for year 11. Following the presentation, parents and caregivers will be asked to move to the staffroom where our Faculty Leaders will be available for any questions you may have about individual subject areas.

7.15pm: Part 2 Scholarship and Scholarships

Mr Waddington will explain the difference and key information about each.

New Staff Profiles

We will be highlighting our new staff over the next few issues of NewsLink.

Michael Botur (English)

I have the privilege of joining the awesome English department here at Lynfield, where the other staff seem passionate about books, film, theatre and all things English-y.

I hail from Christchurch and but having previously lived for years in Auckland, it's nice to come back and see the beautiful Manukau Harbour is still there.

When I'm not teaching, I'm often writing. I've been a creative writer for half my life, specialising in short stories, novels and screenwriting, and I'm also a fairly experienced journalist, having written for the NZ Herald.

When I'm not teaching or writing, you'll find me spending time with my kids or running and hiking around Hillsborough.

The students so far seem to appreciate my passion for linking English with the many multicultural languages popping up at Lynfield, from Samoan and te reo Māori, to Pashto, Farsi and Hindi.

Thanks for having me aboard at Lynfield.



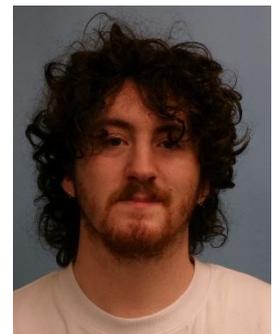
Georgina Campbell (Social Studies and Classics)

Kia ora! I'm so happy and excited to be joining the team to teach Social Studies and Classics. Exploring history and the ancient world is a huge passion of mine, and I'm keen to share that enthusiasm with you this year. But more than anything, I want to connect with you guys and support the awesome environment here at Lynfield. I'm really looking forward to getting to know everyone and having a great year ahead!



Curtis Naughton (Health and PE)

Hello, my name is Curtis Naughton and I am teaching Health and Physical Education this year at Lynfield. This is my first year of teaching as I just finished my secondary teaching diploma. I was born in England but lived in Taranaki when I moved to New Zealand. I am very passionate about basketball and watching Formula 1. My goal for 2026 is to climb Mount Fuji and start playing table tennis!



Chase Gatland (Health and PE)

Kia ora, my name is Chase, and I am a first-year teacher at Lynfield College. I grew up in Putaruru, a small town in the Waikato. I hold a master's degree in Sport and Exercise Science, and I have a strong passion for coaching and teaching. I am particularly interested in supporting students to learn in engaging and accessible ways that build their confidence and understanding. Rugby is my favourite sport, and I enjoy being involved in sport both in and outside the classroom. I am excited to be part of the Lynfield College community and look forward to supporting students in their learning and development.



Vincent Momberg (Food Technology and Hospitality)

Hi, my name is Vincent (or Vinnie) and I am a patient and mostly easy going, proud parent of twin girls, who at 15 turning 16 definitely keeps life interesting. I enjoy staying busy, whether that's tackling DIY projects around the house, experimenting with a new hobby, or learning something completely unfamiliar just to see how it works. Curiosity keeps me going - I like to figure things out, fix what's broken, and improve what I can.

When I'm not teaching, you'll usually find me outside in the garden, doing maintenance, or working on the next hands-on project. I finished a Rimu butchers block and trolley during the summer holidays and reclad a side of my house. I love cooking hearty meals, spending quiet time fishing, repairing things that need a second life, and growing what I can. Staying active, practical, and always learning is how I like to live my life.



Richard Fearnhead (Health and PE)

I am originally from Yorkshire in the UK and began my teaching career in Birmingham. From there, I moved to Barcelona, before spending time living and working in London. I have now been in New Zealand for the past two years and have really enjoyed becoming part of the community here.

Outside of school, I am a keen touch rugby player and am currently preparing for the Masters Touch Nationals in March. When I'm not on the field, I enjoy making the most of the outdoors, often heading to the beach with my wife and our golden retriever puppy.

I am very much looking forward to working with the PE department and the wider school community, and to getting to know students, staff, and families.



Veronica Zane (ESOL)

I'm Veronica Zane, an ESOL teacher at Lynfield. I have taught in NZ Primary and Secondary schools for over 25 years. Before then I taught in a secondary school in China. I am passionate about supporting students whose English is their second or other language to excel in school and to achieve their academic goals. Outside teaching hours, my hobby is reading and enjoying music.



Attendance

Regular attendance is important for student success, both academically and socially. Regular attendance is defined as having 90% or more attendance and equates to less than 5 days absent each term. If a student has 5 days absent each term, this equals 4 weeks of lost learning each year.

To date in Term 1, the percentage of students who have 90% or higher attendance is:

- Year 9 – 82%
- Year 10 - 81%
- Year 11 - 76%
- Year 12 - 77%
- Year 13 - 67%

Overall for the whole school the percentage is 73%. For all of Term 1 2025 we had 62% of students attending regularly. Our target for this term is to have 67% attending regularly.

If your child is going to be away from school please ring the school, email absence@lynfield.school.nz or report the absence via the SchoolBridge app.

Lynfield College Careerwise

Students and whānau are encouraged to visit the Lynfield College Careerwise website — our dedicated hub for anything and all things Careers and Pathways. It's a great place to explore options, set goals, and make informed decisions about life beyond school. In particular it will advertise any upcoming events that are taking place in Auckland and around New Zealand related to Universities, apprenticeships, work experience and jobs. A regular newsletter will also be sent out keeping you up to date on any upcoming opportunities and news. Check it out at <https://lynfield.careerwise.school/>

BYOD at Lynfield College 2026

We expect each student to have their own device to complement their learning here at Lynfield College. Basic criteria for a device can be found [e-Learning \(lynfield.school.nz\)](https://lynfield.school.nz). There are a number of different retailers that provide devices for purchase.

We acknowledge that some families may not be in a position to provide their child with a personal digital device. To support equitable access to learning, the school operates a device loan scheme, whereby a device may be loaned from the school for payment of a \$40 refundable deposit. Hui Mai teachers have been discussing this information with students during the course of this week. Following these discussions, students will be provided with the relevant documentation to take home.

If you require any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Dye, Deputy Principal, at edy@lynfield.school.nz, or Mr Winn, Deputy Principal, at rwinn@lynfield.school.nz.

Have you downloaded our SchoolBridge App yet?

This gives you easy access to report an absence, see attendance, results, ability to pay any fees, see sports draws, and report. Information about the app and login details can be found [here](#)



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/schoolbridge/id1563090571>



<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.inboxdesign.SchoolBridgeApp>

Individual Sports Honours

AHARAN TERON-PONNAMPALAM (Y13)

Aharon has been a volunteer surf lifeguard with the Bethells Beach Surf Lifesaving Club for the past two years. After a break for a while, the club has started participating in the surf boat championships for the 2025-2026 season. Aharon is part of the Club's under 19 men's rowing team. They recently placed second at the Whangamata Classic in December, second in the surf boat short course and third in the long course at the Eastern region senior championship and third in the long course at the North Island surf boat championships. Congratulations Aharan!



Sports Scene

We have had an extremely busy and exciting start to our sporting year. Weekly summer sporting competitions began in Week 2 and now we have Girls and Boys Cricket, Tennis, Orienteering as well as Volleyball teams and Archery competing in weekly competitions. We look forward to following along with our teams and their results and wish them the best for the season ahead.

TAG AKSS ZONES

Our Senior Boys and Girls Tag teams have just finished their Zone competitions. Both competing in Division 2 this year was a new experience and made for some very enjoyable games and moments. Blessed with great weather, the teams managed to come away with some very good results and overall had a great day out at Moire park. Congratulations to both teams, especially to our Senior Girls team. Placing 2nd, this team played extremely well as a unit and were unfortunate for things to pan out the way they did. Awesome work team!



WINTER SPORTS

Girls Football and **Boys Football** 1st XI training squads are just beginning now, so please ensure you've signed up and attend the open trials/musters.

Rugby pre-season takes place each Wednesday afternoon 3.15 – 4.30pm.

Netball trials and selections for winter sports teams are already underway as well as organisation of student coaching and umpiring.

All notices concerning sports are on Schoolbridge. Students need to check the notices regularly so that they don't miss out on being a part of something they will enjoy.

We need your help to manage, coach or transport one of our teams this year, in order to provide sporting opportunities to the large number of Lynfield students wanting to play sport. Remember, to manage a team you do not need knowledge of the sport, just to be a channel for communication between coach and players as needed and help organise (not necessarily provide) transport to games.

We will not enter a team into a competition unless it has both a coach and a manager.

If you or anyone you know is able to help us in any way we would really like to hear from you. There are plenty of openings available! Please contact the Sports Office 627 0600 ext 595 or email the department at sport@lynfield.school.nz

Uniform & Stationery Shop

REGULAR HOURS DURING TERM TIME

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 during term time, Teacher Only Days, school holidays, or public holidays.

Parents can attend the shop at the following times:

Monday – Thursday 10.00am – 12.00pm and 12.30pm – 1.50pm. 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 of 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.

ONLINE ORDERING

Online ordering is available through our website <https://lynfield.school.nz/shop.html>. Payment can be made by 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.



The Athlete's Foot School Rewards

Shop with The Athlete's Foot this Back-To-School Season and your school will be donated \$10 for EVERY pair sold!

SHOP YOUR WAY

- ONLINE
- APPOINTMENT BOOKING
- VIRTUAL QUEUING

ascend asics Clarks HOKA

Community Events



Art Day for Gender Equality returns to Monte Cecilia Park for its second edition **Sunday 1 March**, with a great line up workshops, performances and live music.

Workshops from 9am

- Mindful Movement with choreographer **Tiaki Kerei**
- Creative Writing with writer & author **Kathryn Burnett**

Workshops Free but spaces limited. [Register Here](#)

Performances from 12:30

- DJ and powerhouse vocalist **Sandy Mill**
- Soul-rock-gospel songs from **Jubilation Choir**
- **Performance poetry** with Carrie Rudzinski, Marcus Mackenzie and Arihia Hall

Panel Discussion from 4pm

- Art + Gender panel moderated by Dr Dina Jezdic
- Panellists: artists Zena Elliott & Jack Trolove and gallerist Francis McWhannell

Art Day for Gender Equality is a **free** and **inclusive** event.

