



**LYNFIELD
COLLEGE**

NEWSLINK

NEWSLETTER 3 | 6 MARCH 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

Over the past fortnight at the year level assemblies I have been congratulating our students on their active involvement in school activities and in the wider life of the school.

Firstly with the very successful House Sports Day. Congratulations Lewis!

The following weekend was both a particularly busy and successful one for Lynfield students. Both boys cricket teams had significant wins and 7 of our Robotics teams were competing at Nationals (10% of the teams competing were from Lynfield College). To have one of our teams take out the Robot Skills Award, The Excellence Award and overall Tournament Champion was a real tribute to the hard work put in by the team members. This was made possible through the commitment of staff and strong parent support.

More recently we have had our Tongan, Kapa Haka and Indian groups practising for Polyfest and numerous other groups practising for the school's own Culture Day. I look forward to you joining us on Saturday 28 March to celebrate the day with our school community.

Today we had another very active school group, our Sustainability Group, host groups of students from local schools at their 'Green Sparks' day. Through the visiting speakers and workshops that were run, everyone learned something new and had at least one new sustainable practice to take away with them to share.

Attendance, punctuality, and illness

You will be aware of our communications in support of improving student attendance and punctuality. The link between time spent in class and achievement is strong. At the moment, however, we are also aware of a nasty flu and covid in the community. If your child is unwell and infectious please do keep them at home. They can continue with classwork for a day or two while they recover through Google Classroom. Should the absence continue for longer, however, a medical certificate will be required.

Supports for students

With the uncertainty experienced as a consequence of recent global events we are reminding students of the support available to them through the school. This includes their Hui mai teacher, year level Dean and the counsellors, Kaiawhina and Youth Engagement Lead in Student Services. If you have concerns that you think that we should be aware of please let us know.

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COMING EVENTS

***Tuesday 10 – Thursday 12
March***

Year 9 Hearing Testing

Wednesday 11 March

NCEA & Scholarship Info Evg

Wednesday 18 March

TEACHER ONLY DAY

Saturday 28 March

CULTURAL DAY

Wednesday 1 April, 1-7pm

& Thursday 2 April,

9am-12.30pm

PST Conferences

Teacher Only Day

Lynfield College will be taking the first of the two Ministry allocated Teacher Only Days for 2026 on Wednesday 18 March. While staff will be working hard at school on that day in response to recent curriculum changes there won't be classes running for students or any onsite supervision available.

Nga mihi nui

Cath Knell

Tumuaki | Principal

Alumni News

JACKIE DE PONT

It was great to welcome back former student Jackie de Pont, class of 2018, who spoke at last week's Badges Assembly and inspired our students with a message about courage, direction and saying "yes" to opportunity. Sitting in the very same hall eight years ago as the Board of Trustees Student Representative, Jackie reflected on how uncertain the future can feel in Year 13.

Jackie talked about her own journey since leaving Lynfield, a path filled with unexpected turns. After developing a love for languages and completing an exchange to Germany, she began studying Chinese at the University of Auckland with plans to study in China. When COVID-19 closed borders and cancelled exchanges, her plans were abruptly halted. Undeterred, she headed to the South Island to work at Marisco Vineyards in Marlborough, where she discovered new possibilities and reignited her dream of living in Germany. She later enrolled in a Master's degree in Translation Studies at the Heidelberg University, determined to pursue a career many had warned her was no longer viable.

Jackie used a quote from the Roman philosopher Seneca the Younger — "If a man knows not to which port he sails, no wind is favourable" — her message to students was that success is not always about knowing the destination, but about having the bravery to set sail.

Despite being told that AI was replacing translators and that there was "no future" in her industry, Jackie chose persistence over doubt. Taking initiative, she attended the Frankfurt Book Fair, introduced herself to publishers and followed up boldly — even translating sample pages of a book without being asked. Her determination paid off when she secured a contract to translate a 200-page book for Verso Books before she had even completed her degree. Today, Jackie works as a freelance translator, building a career she once feared might not exist.

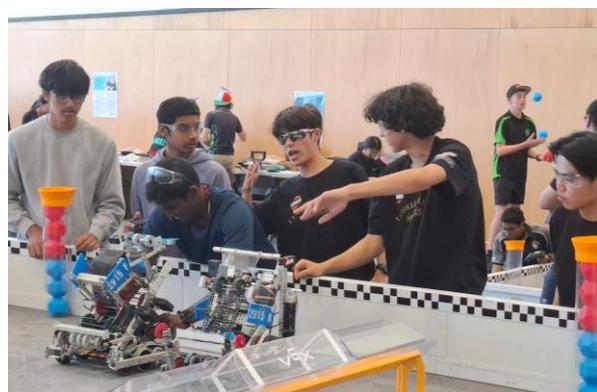
It was great to have Jackie at our assembly and welcome her back to the College. We thank her for her great message and wish her all the best in her current work.



VEX Robotics National Championships 2026

The NZ VEX Robotics National Championships, the largest robotics competition in New Zealand for High School and Middle School, were held at Onehunga High School on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd February. Lynfield College had 32 students in 6 High School teams and 1 Middle School team competing in the various titles over the weekend. By lunch time on Sunday, Lynfield teams were ranked 1st, 6th, 15th, 50th, 52nd and 68th out of 72 High School teams and 4th out of 9 Middle School teams. The Middle school team was unfortunately knocked out in their first round of finals competition, but it was a great tournament for them. Four of our High School teams made it to the elimination rounds with two making it to the semi-finals, where unfortunately our teams faced each other.

Team 2915V won the semi final and proceeded to the final where they won the NZ National Championship tournament. They also won the Robot Skills competition which is a combination of autonomous programming points and driver control points. At the prizegiving ceremony, our team 2915V where also awarded the Excellence Award, the top award for the highest performing team in all areas at the NZ National Championships.



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. Bookings will open at 3.00pm Friday 20th March.

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

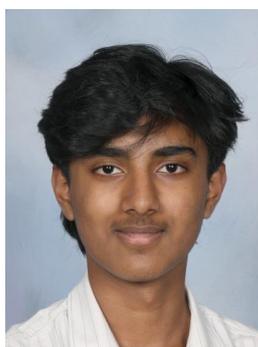
Mr Waddington will explain the difference and key information about each.

Goethe Scholarships

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved these awards. Fantastisch!



Matthias Coleman



Akshay Srijith



Cassandra Walters

Matthias Coleman Year 12 who won a scholarship through the PASCH and GOETHE institute

Matthias has the great opportunity to meet and connect with students learning German from all over the world. He has successfully been awarded a 3 week scholarship to travel to Benediktbeuren, a place in Bavaria. The students will spend time together learning German and will explore the area and nearby cities in July this year.

Akshay Srijith Year 12 and Cassandra Walters Year 11

Congratulations also to Akshay and Cassandra who have been awarded a 3-day immersion workshop in Auckland. The students will meet and connect with other German language learners from high schools across New Zealand. The workshop will focus on the topic Theatre.

Production Rehearsals

Rehearsals for the production **Popstars The Musical** are now in full swing! The talented cast of 44 students are busily learning their lines, the songs and the choreography. Popstars is an exciting and hilarious show about a boyband vs girlband, packed with pop smash hits from the 1990s by artists such as The Spice Girls, Backstreet Boys, N*SYNC, Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, MC Hammer and many more. The dates for the four evening performances in Term 2 are: 24th- 27th June. More information about purchasing tickets will be made available shortly.



Kapa Haka Prepare for Polyfest 2026

Kapa haka have been practising during lunch and after kura for a few weeks now as they prepare for Polyfest Māori Stage and Cultural day.

Their head tutors, Matua Tu and Whaea Jaz, alongside the team of past students, Hunter Savieti, Dylen Motufoaki and Danyon Varney, have been teaching haka and waiata items of the bracket to the group that will take the stage on Monday 30th March at 9.30am, Due Drop Events Centre, Manukau.



Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in student success. Being at school every day helps students stay connected to their learning, build relationships with teachers and peers, and keep up with their studies.

Across a school term, the number of days missed can have a significant impact over time:

0–4 days absent – Good

Students have a strong chance of success and remain well connected to their learning.

5–9 days absent – Worrying

Students begin to miss important learning and may find it harder to keep up.

10–14 days absent – Concerning

Students may struggle to make progress and fall behind in their subjects.

15+ days absent – Serious concern

Students may miss the equivalent of more than a year and a half of learning over five years of secondary school.

Our goal is for students to attend at least 90% of the time, which means no more than five days absent per term.

If your child is absent, please notify the school through **SchoolBridge** or email absence@lynfield.school.nz

If you need support with attendance, please contact the school so we can work together to help your child stay engaged in their learning.

GOOD Good chance of success	WORRYING Less chance of success	CONCERNING Hard to make progress	SERIOUS CONCERN Very hard to make progress
0 - 4 days absence in a school term	5 - 9 days absence in a school term	10 - 14 days absence in a school term	15 + days absence in a school term
Miss up to 2 terms of learning over 5 years at secondary school	Miss between 2 and 4 terms of learning over 5 years at secondary school	Miss between 4 terms and 6 terms of learning over 5 years at secondary school	Miss in excess of a year and a half of learning over 5 years at secondary school

Learning Support Department PD – Google Read and Write Workshop

Lynfield College pays the license fee for Google Read & Write, enabling everyone in the school to use it. With features such as speech to text and many other useful tools, it can assist students to record their thoughts and ideas more easily and accurately. On Tuesday 24th February, in the professional learning time before school, two Resource teachers of Learning and Behaviour, Lavinia Robyns and Emily Marurai, facilitated a refresher course for M block staff.



Safety at Lynfield College

KEEPING ENTRANCE WAYS CLEAR

A reminder to parents and caregivers picking up or dropping off students at school, to avoid blocking the entrance way at Gate 1. Emergency services must have access to the school grounds via Gate 1.

RIDING E-SCOOTERS AND E-BIKES

A reminder to students riding e-scooters or bikes, please be considerate of pedestrians using the footpaths and to obey the road rules as set out by the NZ Transport Agency. Information regarding bike and e-scooters can be found on the NZ Transport Agency website. Students must not ride e-scooters or bikes inside the College grounds.

LOCKDOWN / EVACUATION DRILL

On Tuesday 24th February, we practised our emergency procedures as laid out by Harrison Tew, who specialise in emergency management planning for schools and educational facilities. The procedures we follow allow us to respond safely and quickly to a range of situations. We are pleased to inform you that our exercise went very well with our students responding safely and calmly.



Lynfield College Cultural Day

Celebrate our school's vibrant diversity at **Cultural Day** on **Saturday, 28th March**. The performances are split into two exciting sessions. The first starts at **9.45am** with a **pōwhiri**, followed by a second session at **12.45pm**. Come along to enjoy stunning cultural performances and browse food stalls featuring a delicious variety of cuisines. While the cultural performances are **free events**, tickets are required, and students may pick them up from our Cultural Coordinator later this month. We warmly invite all students and their whānau to join us for this special community celebration!

SCHOOL TV

Are you finding parenting your teen a challenge?

Adolescence is a rollercoaster for both the young person and their whānau. It can leave parents feeling out of their depth and wondering who this strange person is who used to be their kind caring child. We have on our website a portal into an amazing, well researched space where you can find some answers to your questions and discover that adolescence is a process that all young people bumble through.

We use SCHOOL TV which is a link at the top of the website (a picture of a TV beside the social icons). As young people come up against challenges whether it is sleeplessness, gaming, drugs and alcohol, studying for exams or any of the weird and wonderful things that cause them to stumble, you will be able to arm yourself with information and ideas on how to support them and yourselves through.



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 edye@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

RAJAL SHARMA (Y13)

Rajal has been selected to represent New Zealand at the World Archery Oceania Target Championships 2026 (U21 Mens Compound), to be held in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland on 16-19 April 2026. Congratulations Rajal, we look forward to seeing how well you perform at this event!

GRACE VASHI (Y10)

Grace has qualified to compete at the NZ Track and Field Athletics Champs this Thursday at the Trusts Arena, Henderson. She is competing in the Women's Under 16 Steeplechase and wish her the best for the competition!



GRACE PARKINSON (Y10)

Grace competed in the Athletics Auckland Junior Championships in Grade 14 over 28th February and 1st March. She achieved 3rd in the 400m, 1st in the 800m and 2nd in the 1500m all with PB performances! Congratulations Grace!



Sports Scene

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

HOUSE SPORTS DAY

The House Captains had worked hard to involve all students in the presentation of their House Mascot. They really let their creativity flow as they came up with some interesting ideas, to impress the judges.

With a rotation of twelve 15 minute events in the morning students tugged, ran, jumped, threw and scrambled to gain points for their house. Teachers were also given bonus point incentives to take part in events and it was awesome to see them taking part in so many activities.

Congratulations to overall winners, Lewis house who discovered participation was the key to success as the whole house ran, threw or jumped to the max.

Special thanks to our PE Department and event organisers, Mr Waddington for providing the sound system, Ms van Niekerk and her team for providing morning tea for the staff while they were all out supporting their houses and Mr Dye for all his help and expertise in organising the event.

	Bray	Fatialofa	Faumuina	Lewis	Reid	Zoricich
Morning Events	30	45	45	50	35	25
House Mascot	40	15	20	30	25	35
Relays	20	25	17.5	12.5	25	17.5
TOTAL	90	85	82.5	92.5	85	77.5
FINAL PLACING	2nd	3rd=	5th	1st	3rd=	6th



TEAM TALK

SUMMER SPORT

Cricket

Our 1st XI Boys team is performing extremely well having won 3 of their 4 games so far in the 40 over, 1B grade which plays on Saturday afternoons. This has them in a great position going into the second half of the Term 1 season and are looking to keep the momentum up with some tough challenges on the horizon. Some notable performances being Atharva Muley - 112 runs off 87 balls, Parthiv Yeddula - 5 Wicket bag vs Botany Downs and Vyom Barot - half centuries in his last 3 games

The Junior Open LO40 Gold team have also gotten off to a great start and are currently unbeaten this season. These are very exciting results for the team as they are looking to win the grade for promotion into Colts 2 and are looking forward to the rest of the season and the challenges yet to come.

Orienteering

We have 47 students who are entered into the weekly orienteering competition which takes place each Monday after school. Each week the group goes to a different school to navigate a course set out around the school. And they've improved incredibly after only 3 weeks of competition. We have 2 weeks left and are looking forward to our home event on 16th March. With so many of our athletes currently placed in the top 10, we look forward to seeing how the season finishes.

WINTER SPORTS

Trials for various winter sports are now well underway but it is definitely not too late to trial for any winter teams.

Without your help to manage, coach or transport one of our teams this year, we definitely could not provide sporting opportunities to such a large number of students. 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 sport@lynfield.school.nz

Girl BOSS New Zealand

Applications are now OPEN for **GirlBoss Edge: Healthcare 2026** a 5-day virtual career accelerator designed for young women aged 15-21 with a passion for healthcare.

Whether you aspire to become a doctor, study psychology, make a difference in the mental health sector, or are considering any other health or wellbeing career, GirlBoss Edge: Healthcare is perfect for you. Thanks to generous funding from our sponsors, we have 1000 full scholarships to give away.

- [learn more and apply to GirlBoss Edge: Healthcare 2026 here.](#)
- [Student Information Sheet](#)

Gain inspirational coaching from iconic speakers, including the likes of Dr Nini Prescott, GP and TikTok Sensation; Author, Surgeon, and breast cancer researcher, Dr Ineke Meredith; and Monash University Lecturer, Medical Doctor, and King of Med School, Dr Justin Sung.

Students will complete CV-worthy Healthcare Challenges and, most importantly, become a part of an incredible community of young women from across New Zealand. 92% of our alumni describe the programme as "life-changing!"

This summit is suitable for ALL students! No matter their level of interest or experience in healthcare.



This programme is self-paced to fit around a student's busy schedule, with just 1-2 hours a day to commit to unlocking their full potential.

Applications are now OPEN for [GirlBoss Edge: Sustainability](#): a FREE 10-day online career accelerator for young women ready to step up, stand out, and change the world.

Who is it for?

If you're passionate about Sustainability, Climate Change, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths), Policy, Social Impact, Decarbonisation, or Leadership: **GirlBoss Edge: Sustainability is perfect for you!**

Uniform & Stationery Shop

THE UNIFORM & STATIONERY SHOP WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH – TEACHER ONLY DAY

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 CHILD'S UNIFORM.



The Athlete's Foot School Rewards

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

SHOP YOUR WAY

ONLINE  APPOINTMENT BOOKING  VIRTUAL QUEUING 

ascend  Clarks. HOKA

Community Events

Make your day meaningful

TEAM UP 2CLEAN UP

Fun street clean for anyone who wants to contribute positively to the environment

When | Sunday, 8 Mar 2026 at 1 PM
Last for 2 hours

Meet at | Blockhouse Bay Library
578 Blockhouse Bay Road, Blockhouse Bay

Contact | Email T2CCoordinator@earthactiontrust.org.nz or
Text Sindy at 021 179 6772 for more information

Register | Scan QR code or visit Facebook @earthactiontrust



Special event brought to you by

 **Te Puna Tahua**
Lobby Grants Board
Te Puna Tahua

 **FOUNDATION NORTH**
Partners in Progress
Funding to Enhance Lives

 **Ministry of Ethnic Communities**
Te Tari Māhūka

 **Auckland Council**
Te Kaitiaki o Te ōhanga Kōwhiri