



**LYNFIELD
COLLEGE**

NEWSLINK

NEWSLETTER 4 | 20 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

Many Cultures One Community

There has been so much activity around the school over the past few weeks with Cultural Group practices being held during lunchtimes and after school. With our Culture Week next week and **Culture Day** next **Saturday 28 March**, final preparations are underway. If you haven't previously joined us for our Culture Day performances and food stalls I recommend you make this a priority, support our students and join in the celebrations.

Some of our community was treated to an evening of colour, drums and song at Wednesday's Fiafia night. Our enthusiastic and energetic performers used this as an opportunity to perform for their families before today's Polyfest performances. Taking the stage for the first time as a combined culture group performing on the Tongan Stage they gave a disciplined performance and made us all proud.

Also performing at Polyfest today was our Indian Group on the Diversity Stage. Their highly polished performance was a real crowd pleaser and we look forward to seeing them again on our own Lynfield College stage on Saturday.

The Māori Stage has shifted to a different venue this year so our Kapa Haka group won't be competing until Monday 30 March giving them another week of intense rehearsals and a preview for whānau at 6pm Thursday 26 March.

Parent - Student - Teacher (PST) Conferences

With the first term of learning nearly complete, it is time to review the learning that has taken place. Our students are currently preparing for the PST interviews on Wednesday 1 or Thursday 2 April. Conversations will be around what goals have been set, what has been achieved, what are the next steps needed for each subject and what supports or challenges are needed. Bookings opened today so we encourage you to get in early while there is still choice in times.

Demonstrating our School Values

We have been reminding students about our Korowai Values, **Whanaungatanga tika** - we are caring and **Manaakitanga** - we are respectful recently. This has been in the context of we are a 'hands-off' school and do not engage in any form of activity which could cause harm to another student. This includes any form of fighting.

Another reminder has been around following the New Zealand road laws including wearing helmets on bikes and scooters, and if driving, not exceeding the speed limit, carrying passengers when not on a full licence, or making pedestrians feel unsafe.

IN THIS ISSUE

- *Message from Tumuaki Cath Knell*
- *Alumni News*
- *Fiafia Night*
- *Lynfield College Culture Day*
- *MPTT Scholarship Student*
- *Green Sparks Day*
- *Footnote Dance Masterclass*
- *YES Spark Tank*
- *Student Driving Behaviour*
- *PST Conferences*
- *NCEA & Scholarship Information Links*
- *Attendance Matters*
- *Neurodiversity Week*
- *School TV-Parenting Teens*
- *Individual Sports Honours*
- *Sports Scene*

COMING EVENTS

Saturday 28 March

CULTURAL DAY

Tuesday 31 March

SUMMER SPORTS PHOTOS

Wednesday 1 April, 1-7pm

& Thursday 2 April,

9am-12.30pm

PST CONFERENCES

Thursday 2 April

TERM 1 ENDS

Monday 20 April

TERM 2 BEGINS

Eid Al Fitr Finally to those who have been observing Ramadan, happy Eid Al Fitr to you and your family.

Nga mihi nui

Cath Knell

Tumuaki | Principal

Alumni News

A LASTING LEGACY - BRUCE CARTER RETIRES

Lynfield College is saying farewell to a very familiar face this month, as long-serving builder Bruce Carter retires after more than two decades of service to the school.

Bruce was a student at Lynfield College from 1971 to 1973. He admits that school wasn't always his favourite place back then, although there were two subjects he truly loved – PE and Woodwork. A talented athlete, Bruce won both the school cross country and the athletics cup during his time here. He also proudly claims he still holds the school record for the 50-yard dash – mainly because in his words “New Zealand switched to metres after I left!”. Bruce also remembers a very different Lynfield in those days, including weekly assemblies held outside where the current D Block carpark now sits.

After leaving school in Fifth Form, Bruce began a career in cabinet making, working in the trade for the next 17 years. During that time he also spent an important period as a full-time dad, raising his two sons. In 2000, Bruce returned to building work and was hired by then-principal Jim Sinclair to complete a few odd jobs in the Lynfield College administration building. Those small jobs gradually turned into many more, and before long Bruce had become a regular and much-valued part of the school community. In a twist of fate, Bruce's son later became the school's Property Manager – effectively making him Bruce's boss. Bruce laughs about it now, saying he never had a problem with it because “he was smarter than me anyway”.

Twenty-six years later, Bruce has had a hand in either creating or repairing nearly every building on the site. Quite literally, his handprint is everywhere. He speaks with particular pride about two major projects – the Deck, which he describes as “a massive job”, and the school Marae, which he and his team helped to build.

While Bruce is proud of the work he has done, he says the people are what he will miss most. The regular sports conversations with staff – especially about New Zealand rugby – have been a highlight over the years. He also gives a cheeky mention to the students who have broken things around the school. “I love it when they break stuff,” he jokes. “It keeps me employed.”

When Bruce left Lynfield College as a teenager in 1973, he never imagined he would return – let alone leave such a lasting mark on the place. Over the years he has become known not only for his craftsmanship, but also for his humour, generosity and willingness to help any staff member who needed it. His impact on the school community will be deeply missed.

Bruce officially retires on Monday 23rd March. In retirement he is looking forward to travelling, spending time working on his impressive car collection, and finally organising his garage at home. When asked what the first thing he plans to do on Tuesday morning is, Bruce had a simple answer: “I'm going to sleep in!”

We thank Bruce for everything he has contributed to Lynfield College and wish him all the very best for a well-earned retirement.

Bruce and his team (Jacob Matson, Peter Watkins, Michael Cross) all past pupils of Lynfield College.



Fiafia Night



Lynfield College Cultural Day

Celebrate **Cultural Day** with us on **Saturday 28 March**. There are two exciting cultural performances, starting at **9.45am** with a **pōwhiri**, followed by a second session at **12.45pm**. A delicious variety of cultural cuisines will be on sale at our student-run stalls. While the cultural performances are **free events**, tickets are required for entry. Performing students may pick them up from our Cultural Coordinator on Monday 23 March in the Hall courtyard at lunchtime. We warmly invite all students and their whānau to join us for this special community celebration!

Scholarship Rewards for Hola Afasa

While at Lynfield College Hola took on many challenges and positions of responsibility. His wide range of school extracurricular involvement included Pasifika Student Leadership, Jazz Combo, KBB Music Festival, National Youth Jazz Festival and Rugby League. When Hola graduated at the end of 2025, he was awarded the **Yvonne Townsend Trophy for Outstanding Service to Hospitality**.

In 2026 Hola commenced the UNITEC L3 Mechanical Engineering programme with the plan to do the L3 Automotive course in 2027. His ultimate goal is to work in the field of automotive component fabrication.

To support his studies at Unitec, Hola was awarded a **Māori and Pasifika Trades Training (MPTT) scholarship (full tuition fees, one-on-one mentoring and apprenticeship support)**. Hola credits these achievements with the support that he received from his teachers at Lynfield College. However, the awards he received highlight the depth of character and work ethic that this young man possesses. We wish Hola success with his studies and look forward to hearing more about his future achievements.



Green Sparks Day – Green Options for Bright Sparks

Green Sparks Day was an exciting and inspiring event that brought together students and teachers from primary, intermediate, and high schools at Lynfield College to explore sustainability in a meaningful and engaging way. The day is designed to spark ideas and encourage young people to think about how they can make a positive impact on the environment. With many diverse workshops — including Green Gorilla, Zero Waste, Climate Club Aotearoa, Eco Matters, Love Food Hate Waste and the Blake Foundation, students had the opportunity to dive into real world issues like climate change, conservation, and eco-friendly living through hands-on learning and collaboration.



A standout moment of the day was the inspiring talk from the keynote speaker Ethically Kate, who shared how it is possible to live a lifestyle that is both social and sustainable. She offered practical advice on reducing waste and showed how small, everyday choices can make a big difference. Her confident and thoughtful responses to students' questions made the session both engaging and empowering, leaving many feeling motivated to take action.

The workshops were a major highlight, offering interactive and creative experiences that made learning both fun and memorable. The workshop through Sophora from NZ Ethnic Women's trust for example, where students took part in a hands-on clay activity, focusing on creating their own small sculptures. This activity was not only enjoyable but also encouraged creativity while thinking about cultivating sustainable living and communities. Overall, Green Sparks Day successfully combined education with enjoyment, leaving students inspired, informed, and ready to make a difference in their own communities.



Overall, it was a memorable experience that showed how small actions can lead to big change — and it's definitely an event worth signing up to for next year!

Thank you to our inspiring keynote speaker Kate Hall (@ethicallykate).

To all our wonderful workshop providers: Fair Food, Green Gorilla, Zero Waste, Echo Brick Project, Regeneration Army, Climate Club Aotearoa, Friends of Wairaki Stream, and Urban Ark, Blake Foundation, NZ Ethnic Women's Trust, Eco Matters, Healthy Homes, Love Food Hate Waste, Compost Collective, Earth Action Trust, Bike Hub Mt Roskill, and Re-Creators

A big thank you also to our generous sponsors, donating prizes: Eco Warriors, Eco Store, Eco Warehouse and Bunnings New Lynn.



Footnote Dance Masterclass

On Monday, the Senior Dance students had an opportunity to explore contemporary technique with an artist from a top New Zealand dance company, Footnote. They experienced a muscle and bone warm up, learnt a phrase and completed group work through choreographic tasking. This was a great opportunity for our students as they continue to develop their dance repertoire and genre understanding.



Year 13 Students Attend YES Spark Tank

Students involved in the Young Enterprise Scheme recently attended the Spark Tank programme at Māngere Arts Centre. This event provided an exciting opportunity for students to begin their entrepreneurial journey by connecting with experienced 'speed coaches.' Throughout the session, students shared their business ideas, received valuable feedback, and gained insights to help refine their concepts. The experience helped build confidence, creativity, and real-world business understanding. Overall, Spark Tank was an inspiring and valuable learning opportunity, and students are now better equipped to develop their ventures further.



Student Driving Behaviour

SAFETY FOR EVERYONE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL IS A TOP PRIORITY.

As a reminder, the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) sets specific road rules for school zones that all drivers, including students, must follow. If you are driving to and from school, please obey the road rules and observe the speed limit, especially around school zones and in built up areas.

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 have been emailed to all families. Bookings are open from 3.00pm Friday 20 March, closing at 3.00pm Wednesday 1 April. Students will be released at 12.15pm on Wednesday 1 April.

There will be no timetabled classes on Thursday 2 April; students are to access work via Google Classroom.

Scholarship Information Evening

On Tuesday 11 March, just over a 100 parents and students attended our NCEA and Scholarship Information evening. Academic Advisor, Neil Waddington, began by sharing important information about NCEA, the new Literacy and Numeracy standards and our alternative Year 11 programme. Following this first session, parents and students had the opportunity to meet with our Faculty Leaders for a Q and A in the staffroom. Part 2 of the presentation focused on the 'what and why' of Scholarship exams and information about financial scholarships that may be available to support students.

Thank you to Neil and our Faculty Leaders, and to our whanau for making this evening engaging and a success.

Here are the links to presentations: [NCEA presentation](#) [Scholarship 2026](#)

Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts

What is good attendance? This is the aim for every student. The government has said good attendance is having less than 5 days away from school (for any reason) each term.

So how is Lynfield College tracking so far in Term one?

We currently have:

1385 students who have had less than 5 days off school so far this term

407 who have had between 5 and 10 days off school so far this term (at least one week)

99 who have had 10-14 days off school so far this term (at least 2 weeks)

44 who have had 15 days or more off school so far this term (3 weeks +)

Regardless of the reason - if you are not at school you are not in a position to learn.

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

Neurodiversity Week

This week 16th – 20th March has been Neurodiversity Week. Neurodiversity is a generalised term to describe alternative thinking styles such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, autism and ADHD. A significant proportion of the population is neurodivergent in some way, so the challenge for us as teachers is to meet the needs of individuals by eliminating any barriers to education. Challenges associated with exams and tests can be removed through granting Special Assessment Conditions. Students diagnosed with ASD or autism often perform better by sitting tests in a small group situation and having a rest breaks. Lynfield College also pays a license fee enabling dyslexic students to use Google Read and Write. Every neurodivergent student will have a unique pattern of strengths as well as challenges so recognising and celebrating individual capability is important for self-esteem.

Belinda Kusabs, SENCo, HOD Learning Support

SCHOOL TV

Are you finding parenting your teen a challenge?

Adolescence is a rollercoaster for both the young person and their whanau. 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.



Individual Sports Honours

AHARAN TERON-PONNAMPALAM (Y13)

The AON 2026 NZ National Surf Life Saving Championships were held at Ōhope beach 5th – 8th March where Aharan Teron-Ponnampalam was part of the Bethells U19 surf boat team. They were the U19 Surf Boat series Champions for 2026 and placed second for both short and long course races. Congratulations Aharan.



GRACE VASHI (Y10)

Grace this week competed in the Athletics AKSS Championships in the 1500m Intermediate Girls Steeplechase. Running a time of 8 minutes and 24 seconds, Grace was just shy of beating her personal best, but did enough to secure herself a **Silver medal!** Congratulations Grace.

If your son &/or daughter has achieved representative status (Auckland or NZ) or has competed in such events the Sports Office would very much like to hear about this. Please either ask them to bring proof of the team they made/ level they achieved (eg. certificate, letter of selection etc) so we have the exact wording of their achievement, or email these details to sport@lynfield.school.nz



Sports Scene

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

HOUSE TEAM TACTICS

Our Sports and House Captains have worked really hard this term to deliver our first lunchtime inter-house sports competition. This year, our team decided to switch things up a bit and chose the game Team Tactics, a fun game which the majority of our students play in intermediate but not as much when they get to high school. Although the event ran successfully in the end, it wasn't without its challenges and made for a whole bunch of learnings. Overall this was a great start for the lunchtime competitions and we are looking forward to seeing how the rest of the year's events go.

TEAM TALK

SUMMER SPORT

Volleyball

From the 11th - 13th of March, our Senior Gold Volleyball boys and girls competed in the AKSS Volleyball Championships held at Pulman Arena. Our boys got the tournament off to a great start beating Glendowie in a closely fought match. The remainder of the tournament for them ended with many close losses, ultimately leading to a Division 2 14th place finish. Our girls on the other hand were unfortunate to lose both pool matches in very close fashion. This led to the team playing in Division 3. After winning their first 2 matches in Div 3, our girls made it into the Semi Finals where they played against EGGs in a very close 2-1 loss. Then at the end of a very long day, they started their bronze medal match at 9.30pm but unfortunately lost to Henderson High, finishing in 4th in Division 3.

Despite the AKSS Championships now being complete, both these teams do still have a North Island Satellite tournament to look forward to next week which will be held at Trusts Arena. We wish them all the best for the competition!



Orienteering

On Monday 16th March, we were very lucky to host the final event in the Western Zone Orienteering Sprint Series. It was a great afternoon with roughly 425 students from nearby west Auckland Secondary schools and Intermediates coming to participate in the event. Having the event at our school made for a great advantage for our students and would have contributed to many of them confirming spots for the Auckland Championships coming up later this term.

Congratulations to these students for finishing in the top 5 for their groups:

Annika Vashi - 1st Y10-11 Girls

Michelle He - 3rd Y12-13 Girls

Mahant Agrawal - 4th Y12-13 Boys

Enoch Satrio - 5th Y12-13 Boys

Reed McLean - 5th Y10-11 Boys



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 CHILD'S UNIFORM.

ALLWEST
PLUMBING & DRAINAGE

Special rates for school families

- Plumbing & Drainage
- Hydro Jetting
- New Installations and Maintenance
- Drain Unblocking
- CCTV & Recordings
- Vacuum Truck - Cesspit, Grease Trap and Septic Tank Cleaning
- + More

We are ready to help. Call us now
09 818 9399 | 027 4133 087
office@allwestplumbing.co.nz
www.allwestplumbing.co.nz

Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board
Master Plumbers Representing Excellence