



LYNFIELD  
COLLEGE

# NEWSLINK

NEWSLETTER 5 | 2 APRIL 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**

Our korowai value for Term 1 has been **Whanaungatanga tika: we are caring, we are collaborative, we learn together, we are connected and we are active in our community**. I am so proud of how this value has been displayed by our students, staff and wider community. Particularly over the last fortnight where we have come together to celebrate both the highs and lows of life.

Definite highs have been our students' performances and involvement at ASB Polyfest on the Tongan, Diversity and Māori Stages and during our own Culture Week and Culture Day. Thank you to those of you who supported them behind the scene and made these a possibility. It has also been fantastic to have sports teams competing at Summer Tournament and music groups performing at the Tauranga Jazz Festival. This has all been in addition to managing busy academic programmes which have been the topic of conversation during the Parent Student Teacher conferences held over the past two days.

The low point was the recent passing of a member of our staff. However, the way the students came together to show the family aroha as well as supporting each other was truly special and a real indication of the introductory whakatauki, ***What is the most important thing in the world? It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.***

### **Minister Stanford's visit**

Last Friday, 27 March, the local MP for Mt Roskill, Dr Carlos Cheung, organised a Principals' forum for representatives from the Mt Roskill schools. Principals attending were able to hear about recent changes from the Minister for Education, Erica Stanford, and to raise and discuss concerns including the scope and pace of change, confusing and contradictory messaging and presentation of data, the specific needs of our English Language Learners and those needing Learning Support, and finally to request a Blueprint for Education for the next 10-15 years. We look forward to the feedback being incorporated in future communications and budget decisions.

### **Wishing everyone a relaxing and invigorating holiday break**

I have been fortunate to have been awarded a sabbatical for next term and am looking forward to a change in pace and having time to research and visit other schools. While I am away, Richard Winn will be Acting Principal. It is very reassuring to be leaving the school in such good hands as those of our very committed and hard working senior leadership team. Term 2 is always a very busy term for internal assessments so we encourage our students to rest up and return fully refreshed for all that the new term will bring.

Nga mihi nui

Cath Knell

**Tumuaki | Principal**

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## COMING EVENTS

**Monday 20 April**

**TERM 2 BEGINS**

**(Day 1)**

**Monday 27 April**

**ANZAC DAY OBSERVED**

**Public Holiday - School Closed**

**Tuesday 28 April**

**School Board Meeting**

**Wednesday 6 May**

**Careers Out West Year 12**

**Thursday 14 May**

**Mt Maunganui Exchange**

**Friday 15 May**

**Pink Shirt Day**

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## Alumni Remembrance

### KALAVINI “VINI” COLVIN LAGA’AIA

The Lynfield College community is deeply saddened by the recent passing of beloved staff member and alumni Kalavini Colvin Laga’aia, affectionately known to all as Vini.

Born on 7 August 1972, Vini attended Lynfield College from 1986 to 1990. After leaving Lynfield as a student, Vini completed a Master’s degree in History at the University of Auckland. He had a remarkable ability to recall historical facts and loved sharing his knowledge with others. Family members remember how he was always teaching them something new— with his nephew sharing a story at his funeral of how Vini once explained to him who Rosa Parks was and why her story mattered.

Vini worked as a cook at Auckland City Mission (then Baptist City Mission) from 1990 to 1995. He later worked at Glenavon School before returning to Lynfield College, where he began working as a Teacher Aide on 15 April 2002. From that point on, Lynfield became his second home.

Vini was at the heart of the Lynfield community. Whether it was a school production, sporting fixture, cultural event, music concert, school trip, or hosting international visitors, Vini was always there, and always with a camera in hand. His photography captured countless moments in the life of the school, and he was known to regularly head down to E Block to download photos because his memory card was always full.

Vini also had an extraordinary gift for connecting with people. His humour, warmth, and genuine kindness made everyone feel welcome, not just staff and students, but their families as well. He loved a good joke and would fully commit to it. His siblings, cousins, nieces, and nephews all shared wonderful stories about his sense of humour and that same humour and sense of fun also made him so popular at school with both staff and students.

Through his passion for photography and connecting with people, Vini met many famous and extraordinary people over the years, ranging from actors, athletes and politicians to even meeting the likes of David Beckham and hanging out with One Direction when they toured here. Vini had a knack for always being in the right place to meet these people, and always with his camera ready. He was also very generous, with many Lynfield staff members receiving treasured memorabilia from Vini over the years, including signed football cards, jerseys, rugby balls, and photographs from the people he had met.

In 2024, Vini was recognised with the Lynfield College Staff Award at Festival Awards Prizegiving for his outstanding contribution to the school’s co-curricular life—an honour that was richly deserved. In true Vini fashion, he marked the moment by taking a selfie with the presenter while on stage.

At his funeral, a theme that came through again and again was that Vini had a huge heart and brought kindness wherever he went. His connection with Lynfield College spanned more than 30 years, and as Ms Knell mentioned in her eulogy, when you consider the number of students and staff whose lives he touched in that time, the impact is extraordinary.

Such was the love and respect for Vini, the entire school lined the driveway as his hearse drove through the school this week, while the student executive and kapa haka group performed a haka in his honour. His funeral was attended by many past and present colleagues and students, a powerful reflection of what Vini meant to so many people.

There are not enough words to fully capture the impact Vini has had on the Lynfield College community. He will be remembered for his generosity, humour, kindness, and the countless ways he enriched the lives of those around him. His presence will be deeply missed, but we are so thankful for all that he did for this school and the memories he created.

*Kāore te kumara e kōrero mō tōna ake reka*

*The kumara does not speak of its own sweetness*





## ASB Polyfest 2026

### COMBINED TONGAN SAMOAN GROUP



Our combined Tongan/Samoan group performance at the Polyfest Festival 2026 was a highlight of the school term. Fifty nine Lynfield students took to the stage at the Manukau Sports Bowl two weeks ago for the first time. The group's two performances displayed passion and high energy, drawing a warm audience response. Our students did extremely well not only showing exemplary behaviour and pride in representing the school, but also coping with the heat and long wait between their performances. It was a very long, very hot day starting at 6.15am to board the bus, through to 6.45pm arriving back at school. In between their two performances, the students were able to walk around and check out the food stalls, and watch other schools' performances.

The students' dedication and enthusiasm throughout the several weeks leading up to Polyfest was outstanding. After school and Saturday morning practices revealed the students' dedication and commitment to support each other. Our sincerest gratitude goes to our singing and performance tutor Salesi Katoa who not only taught the students how to project energy and passion to their singing and actions, but also instilled a strong sense of collective mana and confidence in the group. 'Ofa atu, mālō 'aupito.

The group gave their last performances at Cultural Day last Saturday. They were enthusiastically supported by whanau and the wider school community.

Another huge shout out to the whanau supporters of the group. A lot of time, energy and work went on behind the scenes to ensure the group was ready to perform on the day. There were many hours spent on costume making, attending practices and lastly, singing on the stage on the day. **A sincere appreciation to TIL Directors Ashok Kapadia and Vimal Naidu for their generous donation towards the printing of our school logo on the costumes.** Their support made a valuable contribution to the presentation and pride of our students. Also a big thank you to the musicians who had attended all of the afterschool and Sat morning practices. Their synchronised, dynamic drumming added vitality to the performances.

Lastly, acknowledgement to the team who guided the group throughout the lead up to Polyfest day - Fipe Fusitu'a, Poto Lauu Cheung, Sandy Harris, Sam Feleti, Patrick Jansen, Mariana Lote and Mele Tu'uefiafi.

## INDIAN GROUP



## KAPA HAKA

On Monday 30 March Kapa Haka gave a well received and very polished performance on the Polyfest Māori Stage at Due Drop Events Centre. ***Ka mau te wehi!***



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## Lynfield Cultural Week

The recent annual Cultural Day at Lynfield College was a vibrant celebration of the diversity within our school, celebrating over 100 cultures represented across the school community.

Students and staff enjoyed a range of unforgettable performances from Tongan, Korean, Filipino, Afghan, Indian, Japanese, Punjabi, Syrian, Chinese, and Fijian groups. Each brought energy, pride, and cultural storytelling to the stage, creating a strong sense of connection and appreciation.

A highlight of the day was the wide variety of food on offer. Cultural groups shared delicious dishes from South Africa, Aotearoa New Zealand, the Middle East, and Asia, giving students the opportunity to experience different cultures through kai.

Cultural Day remains a special occasion, celebrating identity, inclusion, and the strong sense of belonging that defines Lynfield College.

## TAI CHI

On Tuesday 24 March, a small group of Adult ESOL students facilitated a Tai Chi workshop in the Upper Gym at lunch time. This is a regular feature during our annual Cultural Week. They were joined by teacher Rose Fenty, who often joins in the Adult students' daily practice outside H Block at interval. There was a fabulous turnout of high school students this year, keen to try their hand at Tai Chi and have a new cultural experience. There was a lot of giggling and nervous energy at first but before long the students were following along intently and a sense of happy calm prevailed. Students even asked for more at the end and were shown some of the more intricate moves. Many thanks to Guorong Yuan and his Tai Chi team for their excellent demonstration and instruction. The much younger high school students were impressed by how agile your team members are, one of Tai Chi's many advantages.







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## Year 13 Māori Students Attend Waipapa Ōhanga Rau

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Whaea Bonny accompanied eight of Lynfield College's Year 13 Māori students to University of Auckland to take part in Waipapa Ōhanga Rau, an annual programme designed to support taira Māori as they prepare for the transition from secondary school to tertiary study.

The kaupapa of the day centred on the idea of the *wharenui*—identity, responsibility, and collective purpose. Through a series of workshops and presentations, students received practical guidance about the university journey, including information on applications, scholarships, accommodation, and the support services available to them as future students.



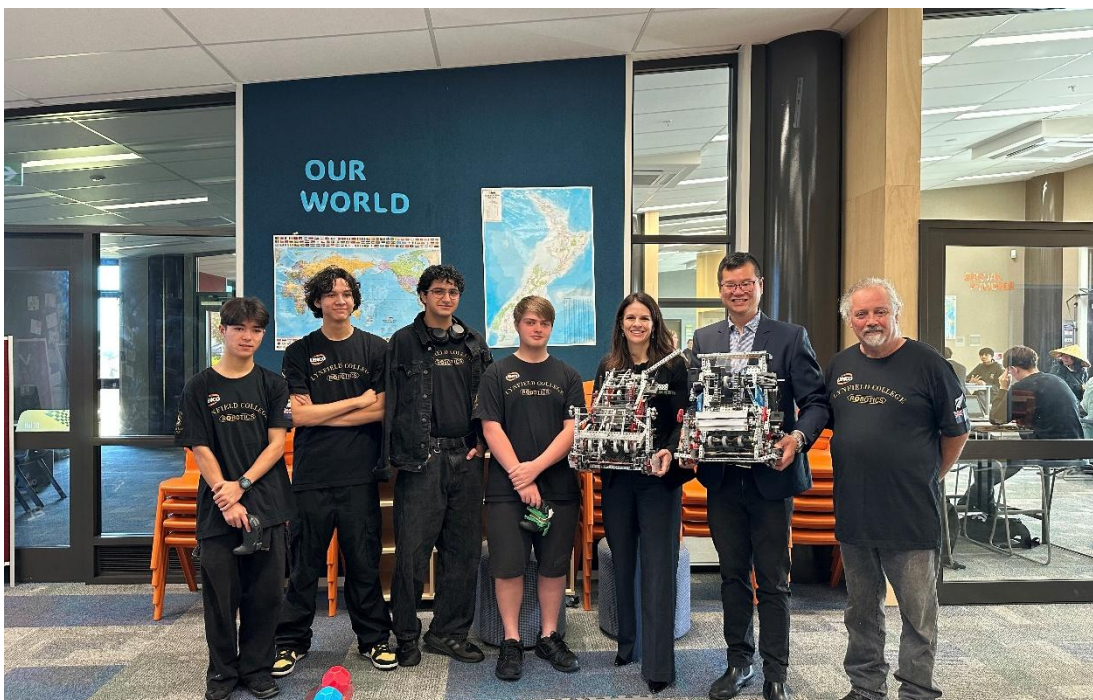
The programme also encouraged students to continue striving for excellence in NCEA while helping them build a sense of connection to the people, place, and opportunities at University of Auckland, also known as Waipapa Taumata Rau.

We thank the University of Auckland for giving our taira this opportunity and look forward to future events at the campus.

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## Minister Stanford Visits Lynfield College

Last Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, our senior Lynfield College Robotics teams met with Minister Erica Stanford, accompanied by our local MP Dr Carlos Cheung. We had a great time introducing how positively extracurricular Robotics had affected our lives and interests within STEM-oriented fields. Minister Stanford had a go at driving our national winning robot and quite enjoyed the experience and difficulty it came with operating them. Overall Minister Stanford left with a great appreciation of extracurricular Robotics and the impact it can bring to young Kiwis.



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## *Tauranga Jazz Competition*

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March we took three groups down to Tauranga for the National Youth Jazz Band Competition. The students all played really well and had a great time, gaining valuable performance experience on a regional stage.



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## *Thank You from D Café*

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Mrs Mishra for her generous donation of 5kg of coffee beans to support our D Café. This contribution is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use by our barista students.

We also acknowledge the support of NZ Food Supplies. You can learn more about them by visiting their website [www.nzfsl.co.nz](http://www.nzfsl.co.nz)



## Academic Progress Report Descriptors for Year 9 and 10

If you have a child in Year 9 or 10, you will see on their Week 9 Academic Progress Report that the descriptors are different from previous years.

As schools begin to implement the new knowledge-rich curriculum, this year the Ministry of Education requires us to report student progress in Reading, Writing and Maths using the new descriptors (see graphic below). The new curriculum is being progressively implemented in other subject areas. However, to be consistent, Lynfield College has decided to use these new progress descriptors for all Year 9 and 10 subject areas. The descriptors will be used for our Week 9 Academic Progress Reports and for assessment results on the parent portal.

The graphic below outlines each descriptor in blue and what your child can do for each descriptor in orange. The expectation is that a student should be working at **proficient by the end of the year**.

Progress Descriptor	Descriptions for Parents and Whānau
<p><b>1 Emerging</b> Students require support to meet curriculum expectations for their year level and/or goals as described in their personalised learning plan.</p>	<p><b>Your child:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is beginning to understand some learning ideas for their year level with a lot of support.</li> <li>• Can sometimes use knowledge they've learned, but usually needs help to do so.</li> <li>• Is making some progress in ways that are meaningful and aligned to their strengths and needs, with significant support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 Developing</b> Students are making some progress towards curriculum expectations for their year level.</p>	<p><b>Your child:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is starting to understand key ideas, often with some support.</li> <li>• Can remember facts and use what they've learned in familiar situations, with a bit of help.</li> <li>• With the right support, your child is making progress towards the expectation for their year level.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Consolidating</b> Students are meeting many curriculum expectations for their year level and are steadily strengthening their understanding across learning areas.</p>	<p><b>Your child:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is learning to use helpful techniques on their own to support their learning.</li> <li>• Is getting better at remembering and using what they have learned.</li> <li>• Is starting to use what they know in new and different situations.</li> <li>• Can share their ideas and is beginning to talk about what they would do better.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 Proficient</b> Students are meeting curriculum expectations for their year level.</p>	<p><b>Your child:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can use helpful learning techniques on their own and knows how to use them well.</li> <li>• Can use what they've learned in different situations without help.</li> <li>• Can often use what they know in new situations.</li> <li>• Can share their thoughts clearly and explain their reasoning.</li> <li>• Often shares their ideas to build knowledge.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 Exceeding</b> Students are exceeding curriculum expectations for their year level.</p>	<p><b>Your child:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shows advanced thinking by understanding tricky ideas, solving problems, making connections, and explaining their thinking clearly.</li> <li>• Can link what they've learned in one area or situation to another.</li> <li>• Can build on their ideas and show deeper understanding.</li> <li>• Can use what they've learned in thoughtful and creative ways to understand more challenging ideas.</li> <li>• Tests and challenges ideas to create deeper knowledge.</li> </ul>

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## Individual Sports Honours

### **RAJAL SHARMA (YEAR 13)**

Rajal competed in the North Island Archery Youth Championship 2026 in Tauranga on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March. He made it to the podium in three different events. Congratulations Rajal!

***1st in the WA720 ranking round in the U21 Men Compound division***

***1st in the U21 Mixed Compound Matchplay***

***2nd in the U21 Mixed Team Matchplay***

*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](mailto:sport@lynfield.school.nz)*



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## Sports Scene

### **TERM 1 WRAP-UP**

#### **HOUSE TEAM TACTICS**

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our coaches, managers, umpires, drivers, supervisors and supporters for all their work through the Term 1 Sports Season. Whether you were a parent, staff member, student, sibling or member of our community. Your support and time spent working with our teams has led to an extremely successful Term 1 within our department and has made for a great experience for our students. We're really looking forward to the upcoming Winter Sports season and having you all along for the journey too. Thank you once again.

#### **TEAM TALK**

#### **NZSS SUMMER TOURNAMENT WEEK**

##### ***Volleyball - North Island Satellite Championships***

##### ***Volleyball Senior Boys***

Last week, Lynfield College's Senior Boys Volleyball team travelled to Trusts Stadium in Henderson to compete in the North Island Satellite Championships, a three-day tournament featuring schools from across the North Island.

The team played a total of eight games during the tournament, many of the matches being extremely close, highlighting how tight the competition was.

In fact, four of their games went down to golden point. Because the tournament ran to a strict time schedule, matches had to finish at a set time. If the scores were level when time was called, teams played one final point to decide the winner. Unfortunately, despite the team's efforts, Lynfield ended up on the losing side of all four golden point finishes – a tough outcome for the team in what would have placed them significantly higher up the placings, eventually finishing mid table.

One highlight was pushing the eventual champions, Liston College, in a very competitive match that showed the boys could match it with the tournament's best.

Overall, it was a fantastic week of volleyball, and the team represented Lynfield College superbly.

A special thank you to Joash Kommunuri, a Lynfield College alumni, for coaching the team this year and for the time and commitment he has given to supporting the players.



### ***Volleyball Senior Girls***

The Senior Girls Volleyball Team concluded the season on a high note, winning 6 out of 8 matches at the North Island Satellite tournament. This year's season has definitely been a fun and tough one, facing many strong schools during our zone and tournament games. Despite these challenges, the team gave their best effort, finishing in a solid 9th equal position. Our team's improvement in both skill and spirit was clear throughout the season. We are proud and grateful to represent Lynfield College in Volleyball and have gained many valuable experiences along the way. A special thank you to our coaches, Poto Lau Lu Cheung and Ms Vilimente, and manager Kieren Chhiba for all the support they have given us. We truly appreciate the time, effort, and commitment they've dedicated to our team. We look forward to the next season! Josephine Sor (Captain)



### ***Cricket 1<sup>st</sup> XI Girls***

Lost final vs Westlake girls, finished Runners Up in the 1A Grade

#### **Girls 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket 3 Day Tournament 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> March**

Day 1 had 2 very good wins against Howick College and Diocesan Girls

Day 2 scored 99 runs/19 overs vs Macleans before the game was abandoned due to rain.

The rest of the tournament was unfortunately cancelled as heavy rain continued.



## SUMMER SPORTS

### **Cricket 1st XI Boys**

What a season it's been so far and what a story this group is writing.

It didn't begin the way we would have hoped. Missing out on promotion/relegation and then suffering a tough opening loss to Kristin tested the group early. But what has followed since has been nothing short of outstanding. The boys have responded with resilience, belief, and real character stringing together seven consecutive wins and turning the season into something special.

This team has not just been winning, they've been dominating. Posting 250+ totals on three occasions, including two scores over 300, shows the firepower and confidence in our batting unit. Just as impressive has been the work with the ball, twice rolling teams for under 75, a testament to discipline, intensity, and collective effort in the field. Individually, the performances have been elite.

Atharva has been exceptional, leading Auckland 1B with 452 runs in 8 innings, including three half centuries and a century a season of real class and consistency.

Vyom has been a key contributor, sitting inside the top 10 with two half centuries, anchoring and accelerating when needed.

And what a rise from Zayd, our Year 11 debutant and new opening batsman already in the top 10, with a half century and a 116, the highest score by anyone in the team this season.

With the ball, the standard has been just as high.

Yug sits among the top 5 in the competition with 14 wickets, leading from the front.

Close behind is another First XI debutant, Xavier, whose 10 wickets place him in the top 10, a brilliant start at this level.

What stands out most, though, is how this team has come together. The energy, the trust, the shared purpose it's clear this is a group playing for each other and for something bigger than themselves. And now, the reward for all that hard work: top of the table, with three games to play, and a semi-final spot already secured. The focus now shifts to finishing strong and locking in a home semi-final, something this team has well and truly earned. There's a real sense that this is just the beginning.

To our school community get behind this team. Come and support, bring the noise, and be part of what is shaping up to be a special run. The boys have put themselves in a powerful position, and they're ready for what's next.

We've got this. And our community should be incredibly proud of this group. Chris Harris (Coach)



### **Orienteering**

Following the same trend from the past few years, Orienteering at Lynfield continues to grow more and more. Their season has now come to a close but the improvements seen in our athletes from their first event to the final have been enormous. This group of students is an extremely positive and fun group which has been awesome to manage and drive for over the term. Congratulations to the following students on their qualifications for the Orienteering Sprint Finals:

**Year 10-11 Boys** - Elias Capps

**Year 10-11 Girls** - Annika Vashi, Grace Vashi

**Year 12-13 Girls** - Michelle He, Emily Yang

**Year 12-13 Boys** - Mahant Agrawal, Ray Chen, Kyle Su, Enoch Satrio

## Tennis School Champs and Season

The Lynfield College Tennis Champs played on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Event	Winner	Runner up
Senior Girls Singles	Josephine Sor	Annaliese Matson
Senior Girls Doubles	Josephine Sor and Annaliese Matson	
Senior Boys Singles	Ryan Dissanayake	Ashton Silveira
Senior Boys Doubles	Ryan Dissanayake and Pothan Prabu	
Year 11 Girls Singles	Aanya Vasisht	Trishona Adhikari
Year 11 Girls Doubles	Trishona Adhikari and Hana Teague	
Year 11 Boys Singles	Pothan Prabu	Ahmed Afridi
Year 11 Boys Doubles	Ahmed Afridi and Ronaq Bhatti	
Junior Girls Singles	Jiya Patel	Ann Chen
Junior Girls Doubles	Jiya Patel and Delisha Kumar	
Junior Boys Singles	Osuke Isoda	Ollie Poole
Junior Boys Doubles	Osuke Isoda and Ollie Poole	

Tennis Teams 2026 Season:

Senior Girls B Grade Pool Winners, finished Unbeaten

Senior Boys B Grade 4<sup>th</sup> in Pool

Junior Girls B Grade 1<sup>st</sup> in Pool, Finished Unbeaten

Junior Boys B Grade 3<sup>rd</sup> in Pool



## Archery

The College Sport Auckland Archery League, held weekly at One Tree Hill, has come to an end. All our archers, Beth Eyre, Rajal Sharma, Eloïse Martens and Austin Walton, did well and put in a sterling effort. Well done!

The results were great:

**Rajal Sharma** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Compound Individual section.

**Rajal Sharma** and **Eloïse** Martens placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Division 2 in the Compound Team section.



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## 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.**

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