



LYNFIELD
COLLEGE

NEWSLINK

NEWSLETTER 6 | 1 MAY 2026

From Tumuaki Richard Winn

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini

Success is not the work of an individual, but the work of many

Kia ora koutou

Welcome back to Term 2 after what was, for many, a challenging break with the recent weather. It has been great to see the term start with a positive energy, with students actively engaging in their learning and extra-curricular activities.

This term our value focus is **Manaakitanga**: *We are empathetic, we are inclusive and culturally responsive, we are respectful, we are compassionate and we are accepting of ourselves and others.* Manaakitanga is not just what we do, but how we do it — in our words, our actions, and the relationships we build. Whether it is in small daily interactions, checking in with peers, or going the extra mile for someone, these moments matter.

I was delighted to receive a message from a member of the public earlier this week highlighting how one of our students displayed **manaakitanga** by helping support a member of the public who was experiencing a medical event on a bus. The student stayed with the person and provided support until emergency services arrived. Despite feeling out of their depth they showed real compassion and courage.

We continue to support a number of students through our **Kōwhai Kai** programme, which provides daily lunches for those who need it. If you are in a position to support this initiative through food or financial donations, we would greatly appreciate it. Further details are included later in this newsletter.

Last weekend, we paused as a nation to remember our ANZACs and the sacrifices they made. During our Year 11 assembly this week, Dean Mrs Reynolds spoke about the themes of mateship, endurance, and resilience. She reminded students that the ANZACs did not succeed because they were fearless, but because they kept moving forward despite fear. A link to her presentation, "**How can you armour your engine?**" can be found [here](#).

As we move into the colder months, maintaining regular attendance can become more challenging. However, regular attendance plays a key role in academic success, building positive relationships, and maintaining a strong connection to school.

If your child is unable to attend, please ensure you contact the school to let us know the reason. You will find further information in the attendance section of this newsletter, including our Term 1 data and ways to stay in touch.

Kia pai tō rā whakatā (Have a great weekend)

Nga mihi nui

Richard Winn

Tumuaki | Acting Principal

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COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 6 May

Careers Out West Year 12

Monday 11 May

Rotuman Language Week

Thursday 14 May

Mt Maunganui Exchange

Friday 15 May

Pink Shirt Day

Wed 20 – Fri 22 May

LITNUM Reading & Writing

Mon 25 – Wed 27 May

LITNUM Numeracy

Monday 1 June

KING'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY

Alumni News

VANESSA JIM (CLASS OF 2020)

It was great to hear of the recent achievement of former student Vanessa Jim, who on 20th March was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Aotearoa New Zealand — the fulfilment of a dream she first had at just 12 years old.

Vanessa started at Lynfield in 2016 and remembers her time at Lynfield College fondly, particularly the many extracurricular opportunities available. She especially enjoyed being part of cultural groups and says Cultural Day was always one of the highlights of the school year.

Academically, Vanessa had a strong interest in the humanities, with Classics and History among her favourite subjects. She speaks warmly of teachers who made a lasting impact on her learning, including Mr Underhill who taught her Year 13 Classics, and Mrs Marshall, Classics teacher and Humanities Faculty Leader at that time.

Another important part of Vanessa's Lynfield journey was her involvement in archery. As a high-performing athlete, she was supported by the school's High-Performance programme, which helped her balance academic commitments with her sporting pursuits. One particularly memorable moment came during her final year when she found herself stuck in Christchurch for three months during the COVID lockdown — with her Year 13 History assessment still travelling with her the entire time.

After leaving Lynfield College, Vanessa went straight into university study. She initially attended the University of Auckland before transferring to AUT, where she completed a Bachelor of Laws, graduating after four and a half years of study. Beginning university during the COVID period brought its own challenges. Like many students at the time, Vanessa had to navigate university life under restrictions, meaning she missed some of the traditional campus experience. However, she admits there were some upsides, including the convenience of online exams.

Now officially admitted to the bar, Vanessa has begun her legal career as a Junior Solicitor at Tāmaki Legal in Manukau, specialising in Treaty law. It marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in a profession she has been passionate about since her early teenage years. Looking ahead, Vanessa hopes to continue gaining experience in the legal field, with a long-term goal of working in criminal prosecution. Outside of her career, she is also keen to explore the world, with Vietnam and Cambodia currently high on her travel list.

Despite the busy years since leaving school, Vanessa still keeps in touch with several of her close Lynfield friends and occasionally reconnects with others during major life milestones. She says it is always heartwarming to hear from former classmates and to know they are happy to celebrate each other's successes.

The Lynfield College community congratulates Vanessa on this outstanding achievement and wishes her every success for the future.



Journey to the Bays Writing Competition Success

Throughout Term 1, classes in Year 9 Social Studies focused on understanding our local histories and their places within those histories. Students learnt about the how the land in Lynfield and the surrounding areas have been used since it was settled by iwi through to today, how Tāmaki-Makaurau has developed over time and how the make-up of the population has and will continue to develop and change.

In association with the Blockhouse House Bay Historical Society, selected students had their assessments for this topic entered into a competition run by the society which tasked entrants with recording the history and contribution of well-known members of the community or of their own families/community members.

We were pleased to have members of the Blockhouse Bay Historical Society attend our Year 9 Assembly to present our entrants with their certificates and to announce our award winners.

Congratulations to all those who were entered and to the following award winners.

1st Place Equal Faris Alsaudi - *Stephen Thorpe* (short essay)

2nd Place Equal Dhyana Solanki - *My mum, Dilesha Solanki* (short essay)

Highly Commended:

Aanya Reddy - *Kiri Te Kanawa and her journey through Blockhouse Bay* (short essay)

Arden Horsford - *A family's journey to Blockhouse Bay* (short essay)

Mahi Ali - *The journey to the Bays* (short essay)

Riya Kumar - *Zena Abbott* (photographic timeline)

Anya Smith - *Paul Hewson* (short essay)

Thank you to the members of the Blockhouse Bay Historical Society for offering this amazing opportunity to our students.

Keep an eye out for the displays of students work at Armanasco House, local libraries and online on the Blockhouse Bay Historical Society Social Media.

<https://blockhousebayhistoricalsociety.com/>



Year 9 Innovative Learning Theme

TŪRANGAWAEWAE – FINDING OUR PLACE

In Term 1, our 9IL students explored the theme of Tūrangawaewae—Where We Belong, beginning each day with a Karakia to establish the idea of community. Daily reading is a routine they began as well. In English and Technology, students integrated an "Around the World" theme, practising travel writing and ballads and delivering presentations on the Manga genre. They practised sewing skills through the creation of sugar skulls. Their learning also took a delicious turn as they prepared dishes from various continents.

In Humanities and Physical Education, the focus remained on identity and heritage. Students explored the history of Aotearoa through Polynesian migration and constructed Waka Hourua models from repurposed materials. This cultural exploration extended to the field, where students researched indigenous games from around the world. They took on leadership roles by teaching these games to their peers and practised giving constructive feedback using various communication models to support one another's growth.

In Science, the term started with laboratory safety and the mastery of bunsen burners before moving into ecology and biodiversity. Students explored how organisms are specialized for their environments and are currently collaborating on a project to design and justify their own imaginary organisms.

Meanwhile, Mathematics focused on strengthening numeracy foundations, covering place value, rounding, and operations with fractions and decimals. The term concluded with an introduction to algebra, focusing on variables and equations. Throughout all subjects, it has been a joy to see students grow in independence and collaboration, utilizing tools like Education Perfect and Google Classroom to enhance their learning journey.



Lynfield E-sports teams compete live at Auckland Armageddon Expo

Over the final six weeks of Term 1, we had approximately eight teams competing online against other schools across New Zealand in **Valorant**, **League of Legends**, and **Rocket League**. For many of our students, this was their first time competing at this level, and they achieved some outstanding results.

In **Valorant**, more than 45 teams competed nationwide. Our Premier Division team (the highest competitive tier) finished an impressive **3rd overall**. Team members were Yaan Leyland, Thomas Lin, Feronia Chen, Lara Boyle, and Carter Huang.

In **Rocket League**, we also celebrated strong podium finishes. In the Social Division, Team *Nitro 3* placed **2nd**, made up of Hamza Khan, Muhammed Abdullah, and Zaid Raval. In the Championship Division, Team *Onion Rings* also secured **2nd place**, with Tristan Deer, Aaron Kannankeril, and Viyan Patel.

Following these results, our Premier Valorant team was invited to compete live at the **Auckland Armageddon Expo** as part of the New Zealand Secondary School Esports Tournament. Held over three days, the event featured 17 top teams from across the country. During the weekend, our team dedicated nearly 20 hours to practising, strategising, and competing at a high level.

The team began Saturday with a tough loss to Wellington College but bounced back strongly with wins against Waitakere College, Rangitoto College, Hornby College, and Sacred Heart Girls' College, finishing the day with an excellent **4-1 record**.

On Sunday, the team entered the playoffs. After defeating Waitakere College again, they faced Rangitoto College in a close match but were narrowly defeated, moving into the elimination bracket. There, they overcame Wellington College before advancing to the quarterfinals, where they secured a hard-fought **13-10 victory** over Macleans College.

In the semi-finals, the team met Rangitoto College once more and, despite a strong effort, fell just short. This result secured an outstanding **3rd place overall** finish.

The team walked away incredibly proud of their performance and achievements and are already motivated to push even further in future competitions.



ANZAC Day Service

On Saturday 25th April, our school had the privilege of attending the ANZAC Day service at the Mt Roskill War Memorial, a meaningful occasion to honour and remember those who served and sacrificed for our country. The service was a lovely experience, bringing students from several local schools and the wider community together.

During the service, Finau, Deputy Head Boy, represented our school by doing a reading, while Lupe and Akeelah, Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl, also had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of Lynfield College. Both paying tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the ANZAC soldiers.

Attending the service was an opportunity for us to reflect on the significance of ANZAC day and to show our respect for those who have served, and continue to serve in the armed forces.

At the early dawn service Arsh Narayan (Cadet No. 3 Squadron) was part of the Cadet flag team responsible for the raising and lowering of flags during the service.

Lest we forget



Year 9 Shakespeare Experience

The Year 9 English programme has all students studying a Shakespeare play or sonnets this term, with the most popular being *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is part of the new English curriculum introduced this year. While some junior classes in previous years have studied Shakespeare as one of their class texts, this depended on student and teacher interest and how well it connected to other learning.

Reading 16th century texts is challenging! Teachers have prepared engaging activities such as insult competitions and performing modernised scenarios to help students see the influence of Shakespeare on many modern novels and films. Classes have also discussed the difference in societies, such as women acting on stage (they didn't in Shakespearian times), beliefs in the supernatural, and social hierarchies.

All Year 9 students will see the plays in action, when The Ugly Shakespeare Company perform on 18th May. A few students will have the opportunity to attend workshops with the performers!

With the Year 9 Speech competition coming up at the end of Term 2, we look forward to seeing some excellent uses of language and performance!

First Foundation Scholarships

Attention Year 12 Students! Are you the first one in your family planning to go to University? Does your family have limited income? Are you doing well with your grades?

The First Foundation Scholarship pays \$15,000 cash and provides you with a Mentor. They also set you up with part time work relevant to your chosen Career Path.

Lynfield currently has three recipients : Sohail Asyaban, Thamil Vijeratnam and Cheyenne Kirkman and applications are open for more deserving winners.

More information here: <https://firstfoundation.org.nz/students-schools/application-criteria/>

Parent Student Teacher Conferences

Our first round of Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences (PSTs) for 2026 took place on Wednesday, 1st April and Thursday 2nd April. These conferences provided valuable opportunities for families, students, and teachers to connect and discuss student progress.

During these meetings, students took an active role in their own learning conversations. They shared their short- and long-term academic goals with their parents and caregivers, reflected on their engagement in classes, and discussed progress reports across all subject areas. Our Hui mai teachers facilitated these conversations and shared additional progress information gathered from subject teachers.

We experienced some technical issues during some online meetings due to a system upgrade by SchoolBridge that occurred late in the day. We apologise to any families who were affected by these difficulties. We are actively working with SchoolBridge to resolve these issues before our August conference dates.

While we encourage face-to-face meetings whenever possible, we recognise that online options are essential for many families, and we remain committed to providing reliable access to both formats.

If you have concerns about your child's progress in a specific subject area, please contact your child's Hui mai teacher via email. The Hui mai teacher will coordinate with the relevant subject teacher to arrange a phone call to discuss your concerns in detail. We look forward to our next round of conferences and continued partnership with our whānau.

Dates for LITNUM in May

Wednesday 20 th May	Year 12 and 13 Reading and Writing A- L	Period 3 & 4
Thursday 21 st May	Year 12 and 13 Reading and Writing M-Z	Period 3 & 4
Friday 22 nd May	Back up day	Period 1 & 2
Monday 25 th May	Year 12 and 13 Numeracy	Period 3 & 4
Tuesday 26 th May	Year 11 Numeracy	Period 1 & 2
Wednesday 27 th May	Back up day	Period 3 & 4

Extension Requests for Internal Assessments

As we move into the winter months and seasonal illness becomes more prevalent, we want to remind our students and families about the process for requesting extensions.

If there are special circumstances that mean work cannot be submitted by the due date, an extension can be requested. This must be done **before the due date**. A valid reason is required to be granted an extension, e.g. medical, bereavement, representing NZ (an overseas holiday is NOT a valid reason).

The purpose of an extension is to finish off parts of the assessment, **not to complete an entire assessment**.

Please note, for practical assessments and experiments, it may not always be possible for an extension to be granted.

A link to an Extension Application Form was shared with students in course information booklets and on Google Classrooms at the beginning of the year. Students need to use this form and follow the instructions on the form when applying for an extension.

SMART Tool Testing

This term, between Weeks 2 and 5, the English and Maths Departments will be testing all Year 9 and 10 students using the SMART tool. SMART is a new assessment tool being introduced this year by the Ministry of Education.

Like e-asTTle, which is being phased out, it is a tool that helps teachers understand where a student is at in their learning and what they're ready to learn next. The results will supplement other sources of information teachers gather to measure a student's progress and achievement during the year.

These tests are designed to reflect the newly implemented NZ Curriculum (for English and Maths only). It is important to note that the tool tests the whole curriculum, even topics that are yet to be taught this year. The same tests are given to all Year 9 and 10 students across Aotearoa/New Zealand.

As the SMART tool is new, final results for this first round of testing will not be available until Term 3. These will be shared with parents and whānau. We aim to share interim results via KAMAR before then.

There will be a second window of testing in October/ November to check how a student is progressing over time.

Please Note: Student data in SMART is securely stored in New Zealand and is used only to support their learning.

Attendance

Our continued focus on student attendance is having a positive impact, with students being considered having 'regular attendance' (over 90%) up from 66% in Term 1 last year to 69% in Term 1 this year. In Term 2 we are aiming for 67% of students being 'regular' which would be up from 62% this time last year.

As we head into the time of year when sickness and bugs start making their rounds, it is important we know who is away sick. If your child is absent or going to be late to school for any reason please inform the school as soon as possible either by

- Emailing absence@lynfield.school.nz
- Or through the SchoolBridge app (Download at <https://www.inboxdesign.co.nz/app>) and signing in with the email address this email was sent to.

You can also see other information about your child with the SchoolBridge app, such as their timetable, reports and achievement results.

Kowhai Kai Support

As we continue to support our students, we are seeking further assistance for **Kōwhai Kai**, our school lunch programme that provides meals for students who are unable to bring their own lunch. This valued initiative is run by our dedicated Technology staff and generously supported by CMS Kitchen, who help provide nutritious meals for as little as \$2.50 each.

With up to 50 students accessing this service each day, any support from our community would be greatly appreciated. We welcome food, one-off donations or regular automatic payments from those who are able to help.

If you would like to contribute, please use the following account:

Lynfield College Board

12-3049-0248027-00

Please reference: **Kōwhai Kai**

Ngā mihi nui for helping us care for our students.

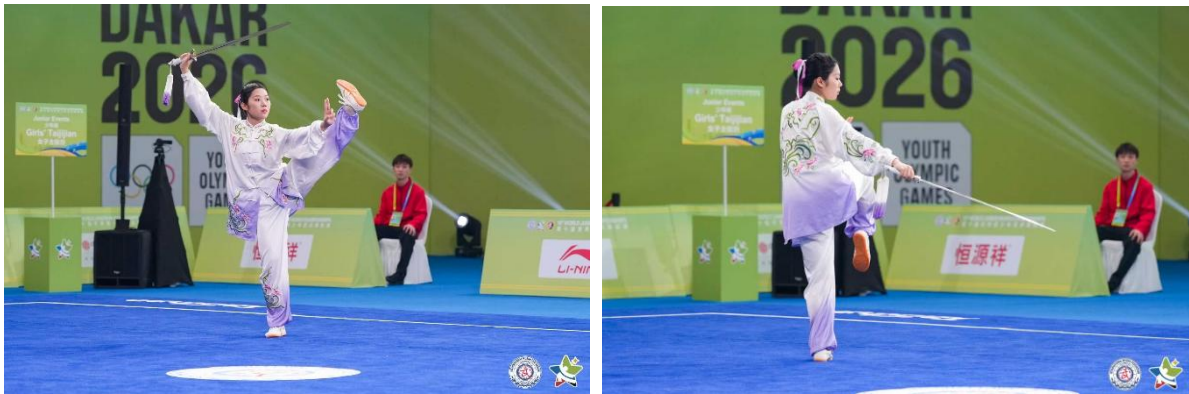
Individual Sports Honours

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved outstanding results. Lynfield College is very proud of you, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth and future accomplishments.

AMBER WANG (YEAR 9)

Amber recently travelled overseas, representing New Zealand at an international level at the 10th World Junior Wushu Championships, held in Tianjin, China, from 23rd – 31st March 2026. Wushu is a traditional Chinese martial art, basically a system of fighting movement that is demonstrated in a way that it looks like a performance.

The 10th World Junior Wushu Championships was a major international sporting event that brought together top Wushu athletes from around the world, with 78 countries competing. This important event also serves as a key selection event for qualification for the 2026 Dakar Youth Olympics. Amber competed in two categories, achieving exceptional results, placing 6th in Taolu Girl's Junior Taijiquan and 9th in the Taolu Girl's Junior Taiji Jian.



RAJAL SHARMA (YEAR 13)

Ten countries from the Oceania region participated in the World Archery Oceania Championships 2026 from 16-19 April at Pulman Park, Takanini. 86 Archers from Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand battled strong winds and severe weather conditions during the four-day tournament.

Rajal Sharma represented New Zealand in the U21 Men Compound division and had some great results.

Silver in the WA720 championship ranking round

Silver in the Individual Matchplay

Bronze in the Doubles Team Matchplay where he was teamed up with a Tahitian archer



CAITLIN HSIAO (YEAR 13)

On the 19th of April, Caitlin competed Karate New Zealand National Competition Cup where she achieved some outstanding results.

Competing in the 16–17 Premier Division, Caitlin demonstrated exceptional skill, discipline, and determination across both kata and kumite events. Her dedication and hard work were evident in her performances, earning her a Bronze Medal in kata and Silver Medal in kumite.



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

MT MAUNGANUI COLLEGE – LYNFIELD COLLEGE SPORTS EXCHANGE

This year we will be looking to compete in the annual Mt Maunganui Sports Exchange on the 14th of May. Due to unfortunate circumstances, we were unable to make the trip down to Mt Maunganui last year so we are even more eager and excited for the trip down this year to compete in this historic Sports exchange between our schools. Check back in a couple weeks' time for an update on results.

WINTER SPORTS

A massive thank you to all of our community and family coaches/managers/umpires who have been so vital in getting our winter sports teams underway. Over the next few weeks, we will have all our winter sports starting and this would not be achievable without volunteer help. It has been great to see so many students able to take part in their chosen sports so far and getting involved in extra-curricular activities.

SPECTATORS AT GAMES

Spectators are always welcome at games. It is great to see the interest and support from friends and family. It creates a lively and positive atmosphere.

A reminder that our school is a smoke-free environment. This includes vaping. We ask that all spectators and players respect this policy.

We would prefer you don't bring your dogs to games. However, if you need to, we ask that they be leashed and under control at all times. To ensure the safety and comfort of all our visitors, we ask for your cooperation in maintaining control of any dogs brought to games.

Please remember that match officials are volunteers and are doing their best to provide an enjoyable game for all players. Please treat them with the kindness and respect they deserve.

Thank you for your understanding and efforts in helping us maintain a healthy and welcoming environment at our school.

[Lynfield College Weekly Sports Draw](#)

Whau Raise Up Crew Presents

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EVERY FRIDAY | 4-6PM

Ages 13-18 Bring your friends!

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45 Totara Avenue, New Lynn

raiseup.co.nz



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