

# Senior School Newsletter Term 2, 2026

21 April 2026  
Newsletter 1



Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are looking forward to a settled and productive term ahead, hopefully with minimal disruption. It has been wonderful to see students returning ready to learn, reconnect with friends, and settle quickly into routines.

## **Inquiry Learning**

This term, our inquiry unit will focus on early New Zealand history. Students will explore innovations that improved daily life for early settlers, investigate early industries, and learn about the suffrage movements that shaped New Zealand's political landscape. Through reading, discussion, and research, students will develop a deeper understanding of how these developments influenced the country we live in today.

## **Writing**

In writing, the staff has now completed PD in Structured Literacy. Therefore, a significant part of our program will be implementing what we have learned. This should help strengthen students' ability to be precise with word choice, structure their ideas clearly, and build their understanding of grammatical terms. Alongside these core skills, students will continue to write memoir and poetry, often using events and experiences around them as inspiration for their work.

## **Mathematics**

In mathematics, we will continue to teach the Year 7–8 curriculum using the *Maths — No Problem!* programme. Students will also use Mathletics to reinforce their learning and practise key skills, and Banqer to develop their understanding of financial literacy through real-world contexts.

## **Fitness**

Our fitness programme will begin with a focus on cross-country training during the early weeks of the term. Later in the term, the focus will shift to a range of classic fitness activities designed and led by our student fitness leaders, encouraging leadership and participation across the syndicate.

## **Friday Enrichment**

Friday enrichment sessions will continue both at Seatoun School and at Rongotai College. We are fortunate to continue working with Matthew Finnegan, who takes our students for science once a week, and Marion Hair, who leads our music programme.

## **Student Leadership and Responsibilities**

Junior Associates and Y3/4 Junior Helpers will swap roles at the beginning of Week Two, giving more students the opportunity to take on different responsibilities within the school. Our Year 8 students will continue to lead school hui, demonstrating leadership and setting a positive example for younger students. Our monitors will also continue their important role of managing lunchtime sports equipment. Later in the term we will also be holding our annual Matariki event. Senior school Kapa Haka leaders will have an opportunity to perform during this evening.

## **Parent Information Evening – Building Resilience**

We are very fortunate to be hosting special guest speaker **Kathryn Berkett** on **May 18**, who will be speaking to parents about building resilience in children and young people. Kathryn is a highly regarded neuroscience educator with more than 20 years of experience helping families understand how the brain develops and how stress and challenges affect behaviour. Her sessions are practical, engaging, and designed to give parents simple strategies that can be applied immediately at home. Many parents who attend her presentations report that the ideas shared have made a lasting difference to their family life. This is a valuable opportunity to gain insights into how we can support our children to cope with challenges, manage stress, and build confidence. **This is a free session for parents, and we strongly encourage you to attend if you are able.**

## **Term 4 EOTC Week.**

Over the next few weeks, a Google Form will be sent out to gauge parent interest in supporting our Year 8 camp at Mistletoe Bay and our Y7 EOTC week, which will both take place from **30 November through to 4 December**. If you are interested in attending either event as a parent helper, please complete the form when it arrives through the Hero app. Your support plays an important role in making opportunities like this possible for our students.

We are excited about the learning opportunities ahead and look forward to a positive and productive term with your children.

Nga mihi. The Senior Team.