



A Newsletter from Aquinas College - February 2017

Dear Parents/Caregivers, students, friends and supporters of the college,

A very warm welcome back to everybody in our college community as we begin the 2017 school year.

At the beginning of each year it is important that we remind ourselves of what we stand for and what we aim to do in the College.

Our Mission statement says we will work together to:

educate our students in the Catholic tradition of faith and love, recognising the uniqueness of the individual and challenging them to realise their potential in a multicultural environment that constantly strives for excellence.

This involves us all as staff, together with students, parents and wider community. We can best achieve this mission by:

- **Encouraging a culture of excellence and high performance in all areas of school life. We do this most effectively through our own example.**
- **Maintaining a good balance in our lives that retains our vitality and energy.**
- **Encouraging and motivating each other to get the best from ourselves.**
- **Celebrating our individual and collective achievements.**
- **Supporting each other through the highs and lows of life.**

Our overall theme continues to be **"Being the best that we can be"**. We want to continue this in 2017 and do this with a focus on our touchstone of **"Truth"**.

At a personal level it means we acknowledge the dignity of each person at Aquinas College by accepting them for who they are. It means we deal with one another in a straightforward manner, making sure that our yes means yes and our no means no. Matthew 5:37

It means we stick to the simple truth, striving to be honest in our dealings with each other.

It also means having a focus on the person of Jesus, the values he teaches in the Gospels, and how we put these into action. It is a challenge to us regarding our personal integrity and how we all live out the values we profess in our faith and in our college charter.

The college motto (whakatauki) supports this focus:

"Kia mau ki te Pono" - (Hold Fast To Truth!)

Staff changes in the College in 2017:

We welcome to the college our new staff:

Kurt Kennedy: Joins us as Deputy Principal. He has come from Kavanagh College in Dunedin.

Susan Van Zyl: Joins us for Term 1 teaching at Year 7/8 level. Kate Krauts will be returning from maternity leave in Term 2. Susan also comes from Kavanagh College!

Dannaka Dorrington: Joins us as Sports Co-ordinator (coming from a similar role at St Cuthbert's in Auckland), replacing Mrs Hikitia Gallagher who decided late last year to finish in her role as Sports Co-ordinator. Hikitia has been our Sports Co-ordinator for

10 years and we are hugely grateful to her for the work she has put into the college to help establish sport so strongly.

A very warm welcome to our new staff and we trust you will enjoy your time at Aquinas College.

Monique Harris: We welcome Monique back to the college in her teaching capacity and wish Sam all the best in his return to the care of the family.

Sue Ferguson: Sue worked in the Special Needs area last year. She continues with us this year as a Teacher Aide.

Natasha Kahle: Late last year Natasha started working a few hours each week to assist in the International Students area. She continues this year.

Sally Hughes: Late last year Sally applied for and was appointed to the role of PA for Pauline Cowens, Principal of Tauranga Girls College. Sally started her new role in mid-January. Sally has done a splendid job for us as receptionist (& in various other projects and capacities). We will miss her but wish her well in her new role. Desiree Boniface and Barbara Pratt will work together to cover the receptionist role during term 1.

Deans for 2017:

Year 7 **Simon Finimore for Term 1 (Kate Krauts returns from maternity leave in term 2)**

Year 8 **Peter Braid**

Year 9 **Leon Roberson**

Year 10 **Paula Skelton**

Year 11 **Myles Reid**

Year 12 **Christina Reymer**

Year 13 **Marlize Greyling**

Maori students **Bernadette Egan**

International students **Melissa Gillingham**

Provisional Exam Results

The results for NCEA exams and scholarship from 2016 are extremely pleasing. We congratulate all of our students for their great work last year. Parents and families, and the staff of the college also need to be congratulated and thanked for their efforts and the support provided to the students. Some details of results are included in the newsletter.

Senior Student Leaders for 2017

Head Students: Sam Wylie and Millie Elliott

Deputy Heads: Nic Butler and Laura Saunders

Special Character: Jake Hynds and Loretta Knights

House Captains:

Browne: Charlie Wood and Lucy Braithwaite

Cluny: Elliot Janissen and Emma Abbot

Foy: Taine McLeod and Phoebe McIntyre

Heni Pori: Jarod Schneebeil and Sophie McCulloch

Sports Captains: Josef Schuler and Ella Akkerman

Arts and Culture: James Scott and Millie Burton

Health: Jack Cameron and Olivia McManaway

Environment: Sean Bresnahan and Samantha Johnson

Board Student Rep: Lizzy Skelton

The student leaders are very positive and are looking forward to their year.

MISSION STATEMENT

To educate students in the Catholic tradition of faith and love, recognising the uniqueness of the individual, and challenging them to realise their potential in a multicultural environment that constantly strives for excellence.

Support Staff Vacancy:

We currently have a staff vacancy for a Communications/Website and Grant Funding Facilitator. For more information click on <http://www.aquinas.school.nz/staff-vacancies/>

Applications close 3.30pm on Monday 20th February.

PTA

Our thanks go to the PTA for their work at the start of the school year in welcoming our new students and families into Aquinas. In 2017 they aim to continue with the major events of the Twilight Festival and Quiz Evening. They also aim to help display more student art work & help provide more equipment for lunchtime activities, a request that came through strongly in a BOP Sports Review undertaken last year. I strongly encourage parents to get involved in the PTA if they are able to contribute in this way.

One of the sponsors of the school, Flipout - a trampoline arena in Tauriko, is offering a special deal to Aquinas families of 50% discount off entry this weekend only, 18-19 February (see notice on Page 9 of this newsletter, or on the college website. <http://www.aquinas.school.nz/flipout-super-special-this-weekend-only-18-19-february/>

Buildings and Grounds

We have excellent facilities and have high expectations on the students in terms of their use and care of the college.

It is important that we maintain the facilities at a high standard for all those in the college now and in the future. I will be impressing upon the students to take pride in their school and take care of the facilities that they have available. We ask for parent support in reinforcing the importance of looking after the facilities which are for all students at the College, now and in the future.

In this regard if any deliberate damage is done to school facilities those responsible will be required to pay for or repair the damage in their own time.

Homework Expectations and the Student Handbook

We sometimes receive queries from home regarding the amount of homework students can expect to have.

Some subjects lend themselves to homework more easily than others but the bottom line is that all students will need to do individual study to reinforce the work covered in class. Junior students can expect to have some homework from different subjects during the week. Homework may be in the form of overnight exercises or longer term assignments that may extend over a week or more.

Senior students will need to plan their time in the evening and have regular times set aside when they do homework. **A senior student will never be in the position where they have "no homework"**. Even if there is no set work or they have completed all exercises set they should still be reviewing recent work and doing additional research, reading, extra exercises or simply tidying up their notes.

Many senior students have part time work and they will need to plan their time carefully so that the commitments to their school work are met.

Each Year 7- 10 student is issued with a **Student Diary**. This diary holds a great deal of information and I encourage all parents to become familiar with the material inside it. Space is provided for students to record all homework as well as any other reminders regarding their school work.

A reminder that the school bucket hat is a mandatory school summer uniform item for all Year 7-9 students.

Some students are wearing the school sports cap which we are happy for students to also use during this very hot weather.

ICT Vision for Aquinas College

As a College we are keen for ICT devices not to become the main focus of learning but for them to be one of several tools/strategies to enhance teaching and learning. There is great opportunity with the use of devices to raise the level of critical thinking. The opportunity is there to develop 21st Century learning skills of Collaboration, Innovative Teaching practice, Real World problem solving, Knowledge Construction and Skilful Communication.

We want devices to enhance the high standard of teaching that is already going on at Aquinas College. We have had considerable discussion around the use of computers as a learning tool over the past few years and considered different ways in which this might occur through a BYOD programme or through the school providing machines for student use. We are also mindful of the cost of devices and that, if students were asked to provide a device from Year 7, families could be in a position where they are purchasing three devices for each child during the time they are at the college.

As a result of this thinking, the Board of Trustees has agreed to the following plan over the next few years:

- That the College provides devices for Year 7-10. The main device we will be using in this regard is the "Yoga", a robust and portable machine that provides the power and flexibility needed to deal with a wide range of uses. We are aiming to purchase enough machines to provide a ratio of one machine per two students. Sometimes the students may be working in small groups with one machine. Other times it may be a machine for each student.

The expectation will be that students are not using computers all day, every day. As mentioned earlier we want the computer to be one of a number of teaching tools/strategies used in our classrooms. Strong relationships between students and between students and staff will always be critical for successful learning.

- The second recommendation is that in 2018, Year 11 students will have their own laptop. Further detail around the specifications of these machines will be provided later this year – with the expectation that the device would last for the remainder of their time at college. It would remain voluntary for Year 12 and 13 to bring devices during 2018. By 2020 all the senior school Year 11-13 students would be bringing their own device.
- This means a family will only be expected to provide one machine during the student's time at college, and this will be at the senior levels. We will provide access to machines for students not in a position to purchase a laptop. Our present computer rooms will still remain for specialised use in a range of subject areas.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Technology in the Classroom - Students in Year 7 will have tablets and desktops in their classrooms. These will be used regularly within class Lessons. Students do not need to have an individual device. However, there is wireless in all Year 7 classes and there is often the opportunity for students to bring their own devices to school, should they wish.

At Aquinas College we use Microsoft 365, so if you are Looking to purchase a device we recommend a computer/tablet with the following specifications.

Minimum Specifications:	11-inch screen Keyboard
Preferred Specifications:	11-inch screen Keyboard Solid state hard drive Windows 10

Academic Results 2016

An initial look at the NCEA results for 2016 indicates that the senior students at Aquinas College have once again performed exceptionally well and have had outstanding success in their studies. The percentages of students that gained NCEA certificates and endorsements for Aquinas College are given in the table below:

Summary of NCEA Level 3 (97 students)		Summary of NCEA Level 2 (99 students)		Summary of NCEA Level 1 (103 students)	
Students Gaining NCEA L3	91	Students Gaining NCEA L2	98	Students Gaining NCEA L1	96
% Gaining NCEA L3	94%	% Gaining NCEA L2	99%	% Gaining NCEA L1	93%
% Excellence Endorsement	35%	% Excellence Endorsement	32%	% Excellence Endorsement	34%
% Merit Endorsement	40%	% Merit Endorsement	39%	% Merit Endorsement	44%
% Endorsements	75%	% Endorsements	71%	% Endorsements	78%
Students gaining UE	87%				

Our National Standards results for 2016 are also given below:

Year 7	Reading	Writing	Mathematics	Year 8	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
At	36%	50%	43%	At	50%	60%	42%
Above	51%	35%	44%	Above	40%	24%	47%
At/Above	87%	85%	87%	At/Above	90%	84%	89%

These pleasing figures indicate that the overwhelming majority of junior students at Aquinas College have a very strong platform for academic success by the time they enter the middle school at Year 9.

STOP PRESS!

Scholarship results have just been announced for 2016.

Scholarships are awarded to approximately the top 3% of candidates in the subject being examined (depending on subject size). Outstanding scholarships are awarded to the top 0.3% of candidates in the subject.

Eight Aquinas College students gained a total of 13 subject scholarships in 2016. They were:

- Riana Lee (4 subject scholarships): English; Biology; Statistics; Accounting**
- Kimberly D'Mello (2 subject scholarships): Physical Education; English**
- Ellen Lellman (2 subject scholarships): Physical Education; History**
- Frankie Dowse (1 subject scholarship): English**
- Emma Hesqua (1 subject scholarship): English**
- Hannah Skelton (1 subject scholarship): History**
- Zeb Barry (1 subject scholarship): Physics**
- Rose Stevenson (1 subject scholarship): Biology**

Our congratulations go to our scholarship winners and to the students, who have performed exceptionally well in their studies in 2016. These results are simply superb and are a testament to the great work of the students and staff at Aquinas College.

Term 1 Science Trips:

This is advanced notice that there are a number of Science and Biology trips coming up during Term 1 –

- **27th February – 12 Biology Field Trip to Otumoetai Estuary** for data collection and analysis. This data is used for Achievement Standard 91158 (Investigate a pattern in an ecological community). It is therefore essential that all students taking Year 12 Biology attend this Field Trip.
- **8th March – Year 9 Science Earth Science Field Trip to Rotorua.** This trip links to the Geology section of our "Beginnings" topic and it is expected that all Year 9 students will attend.
- **4 - 5th April – 13 Biology Field Trip to Auckland.** This is an overnight trip and will include visits to the Auckland Zoo (Evolution, Human Evolution), staying overnight at Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium and visiting Tiritiri Matangi Island (Evolution, Plant & Animal Responses). It is expected that all students taking Year 13 Biology will attend this trip.

Inaugural Mass for the Parish of Saint Thomas Aquinas

Every year we celebrate Mass as a school community on a Sunday in March. This year the date is **March 5th, and the Mass is to be celebrated by our Bishop, Steve Lowe, at the Aquinas Action Centre (gym) at 10am.**

The Bishop has been invited to celebrate the setting up of the new Parish of St Thomas Aquinas, incorporating the churches of St Mary Immaculate, Tauranga; St Joseph's, Te Puna and St Therese Chapel in Bethlehem.

We will also use the occasion of this Mass to bless the new student leaders of Aquinas College. All students and their families are invited to this celebration of Mass. We especially ask all students and families of the new parish family of St Thomas Aquinas to be here to join in with your fellow parishioners for this special time of celebration with the Bishop and your parish priest, Fr Mark, and his assistant Fr Santey.

Following the Mass, your family is very welcome to join in a family picnic in the college grounds. The PTA are energetically

organising entertainment to enable us all to celebrate in great style. Bring along your family picnic and join in the fun!

Commissioning Mass at St Thomas More

Everyone involved in education at Aquinas College, staff, Board members, students, parents etc. are invited to attend the Commissioning Mass at St Thomas More church on Thursday, 16th February, starting at 6.00pm. These Commissioning Masses are held throughout the diocese at various venues so that the academic year is begun with a Mass. We pray for the success of the joint endeavour of educating our children in the faith. I look forward to seeing you there.

Year 9 Retreat

Our Year 9 students are out of school for a day, either on 22nd or 23rd February, depending on which class they are in.

The day retreat is held at St Joseph's, Te Puna, and transport is provided. There is no cost involved, but students should dress in appropriate mufti and bring their own food and drink. More information about this retreat will be provided soon.

Parish of St Thomas Aquinas
Tauranga

Mass to celebrate the
INAUGURATION
of the Parish of St Thomas Aquinas
Tauranga

parish of
St Thomas Aquinas

Bishop Steve Lowe
officiating

Nau mai.
All are
welcome.

SUNDAY 5th March 2017, 10am
Aquinas College gymnasium, Pyes Pa Road.

COMBINED PARISH MASS
followed by a Parish picnic in the Aquinas College grounds.

Vision
A parish in love with God and alive with joyful worship, active ministry and community outreach

Mission

- ✦ Celebrate the sacraments
- ✦ Nurish the faithful
- ✦ Reach out to the lost
- ✦ Serve the poor
- ✦ Build community
- ✦ Connect the youth
- ✦ Grow the church

parish of
St Thomas Aquinas
TAURANGA WAIANA

School Donation and Building Fund Donation - Voluntary

Thank you to the parents who made their school donation last year. We realise that this is a huge commitment but it continues to provide additional benefits for our students.

In 2016 the \$1,000 balance of the voluntary donation was used by the school in several areas. These include: -

- The purchase of additional ICT devices for Years 7 to 10 to start the 2017 school year & provide 1 device between 2 students.
- To pay for additional teaching staff above the staffing levels provided by the MOE to assist in keeping class sizes at a realistic level & offering good options for our students.
- The special character of the school student retreats, chaplain costs are contributed to by your donation.
- Providing additional lunchtime sport activities was also a target. Academic mentoring for students over all Year levels.

In 2017 we will continue to collect \$200 of the \$1200 voluntary donation on behalf of the Hamilton Catholic Diocese (our Proprietor). This \$200 is putting aside funds to enable us to provide a Multipurpose Performing Arts Centre at Aquinas College for the benefit of all our students in the long term.

In the 2016 year, we sent to the Hamilton Diocese in excess of \$135,000.

Please note that if the donation is paid in full prior to the 31st March 2017 a 5% discount is offered by the school. In addition to this a tax credit for the donation can be requested from the Inland Revenue of 33% if paid before the 31st March 2017.

If you have any further questions or queries on any the above please do not hesitate to contact Pip Palmer, Business Manager on 543 9031.

School Lunch Trunk

For information on the school lunch truck, follow this path...

<http://www.aquinas.school.nz/information/the-lunch-truck/>

Year 13 Student Leadership Day

As part of the school's commitment to providing effective student leadership training at the beginning of each school year, the Year 13 group are involved in a full day's workshop offsite with an outside trainer.

On Wednesday 8th February, all the Year 13 students travelled down to Greerton Marist for the day. It was a rare opportunity to spend time together doing fun activities that would cement us as a year group. It was also a chance for the committee leaders and head students to share their goals for the year.

The student executive did a great job organising the activities to strengthen relationships - games, haka and creating a Year 13 bunting were enjoyed by everyone. This year's Year 13 group is really looking forward to the year ahead.



2018 Enrolment at Aquinas College

The Enrolment process for new students wishing to enter the college in 2018 will begin on Thursday 4th May with an Open Day. Closing Day is the last day of Term Two, Friday 7th July 2017.

We are again expecting heavy numbers to apply for limited places at the college. If you, or someone you know, is considering enrolment at Aquinas College next year for their children, make them aware of the process to avoid any disappointments.

At Open Day two sessions are offered where the college will showcase our environment and academic facilities; 9-10am, or 12:30-1:30pm. Any family interested in possible enrolment is warmly invited to attend one of these sessions. Parents and students will gain good information from attending. Enrolment packs will be available at Open Day.

It's important that supporting documentation is provided at the time of making application. All catholic students require a Preference Card which is provided by parishes.

For further information on enrolment visit our website <http://www.aquinas.school.nz/information/enrolments/>

Bay Physiotherapy @ Aquinas College



**Your Physio is Marijke Sonneveld
See her at school for your injury rehab
and injury prevention education**

**See the school office for appointment
requests**

**Or phone 5779798; your first appointment
is free - NO referral necessary**

2017 Aquinas College Musical Production



**Performance dates May 10th to 13th 2017
at Baycourt**

Director: Toni Henderson

Musical Director: Mrs Lynda Cooney

Choreographer: Laura Mansell

This pint-sized, pinstriped classic is a tongue-in-cheek tribute to the gangster films of the 1920's.

Based on the hit 1976 film starring a preteen Scott Biao and Jodi Foster and featuring a catchy, swinging score by the composer of *The Muppet Movie*, Paul Williams. *Bugsy Malone* is good, clean, comedic fun! Two gangs comprised completely of children, square off in a 1920's rivalry of Capone-ian standards. Dandy Dan's gang has gotten the upper hand since obtaining the "splurge" gun (a weapon that shoots whip cream). Now Fat Sam and his bumbling buffoons are in real trouble! *Bugsy Malone*, a one-time boxer, is thrust not-so-willingly into the gangster limelight, when he becomes the last chance Fat Sam's gang has of surviving. All *Bugsy* really wants to do is spend time with his new love Blousey; but that just isn't in the cards for our hero.

Bugsy Malone is a master class in musical comedy. The libretto tosses the reader into uproarious laughter without even being staged. Imagine how delightful it is when it's brought to life.

BECOMING A SPONSOR

Would you like to donate, or become a sponsor of, this production. School productions are a large and demanding undertaking, both financially and time-wise for students, staff and school boards. Your financial support is really needed for us to successfully mount this show at Baycourt. Without our own school hall, this venue gives our students the opportunity to experience performance to large crowds in a superb facility, with high quality technical and performing arts equipment.

This is a major production involving a 66 very talented students and a large backstage crew. It is the culmination of months of planning and intensive rehearsals by this large group. The budget for this show is tightly-run and as such the school will only break even if we have support from sponsors and receive advertising revenue, as well as good ticket sales.

If you are interested in sponsoring this production in any way please make contact with the Principal's Assistant, Moira Ramsbottom, admin@aquinas.school.nz or phone on 543-9032.

SHOW TIME!

A number of 1920's - 1930's style props are needed for our upcoming school production of *Bugsy Malone*. If you or someone you know have any of the items listed below which we would be able to borrow for the show, please contact me via e-mail jlivingstone@aquinas.school.nz or leave a message at the school office.



This is a small number of the props required for the show so if you have any other items that you believe would be useful or would help to enhance the sets, please let me know.

We are in need of;

- A small Art-Deco style sofa and matching chair
- A small Art-Deco style office desk
- A narrow Art-Deco style drinks cabinet
- An old cork noticeboard
- A director's chair (black, brown or neutral shade)
- Old wooden baseball bats
- Tin bath and washboard
- A candlestick telephone
- An old mop and a galvanised mop wringer bucket
- A vintage halo dynamic microphone (round)
- A vintage photo viewer
- A huge square or rectangular cane basket
- An old tea chest or wooden packing crates

I would also welcome the donation of any large pieces or large flat sheets of polystyrene, large sheets of corflute (old signs), foam chip, Dacron filling, packaging peanuts or beanbag filling to use for prop making.

Thanking you in advance for your attention and assistance.

Jenny Livingstone (Props Manager)



AQUINAS COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Date: Friday 24th February 2017

Time: 8.45 am – 3.15 pm

Venue: Tauranga Domain, Cameron Road, Tauranga

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and all Students,

Welcome to the 2017 Aquinas College Athletics! The event will be run during the usual school time frame with the expectation that all students attend this event. Please be aware of the organisation for the day.

1. Bus Students (morning): Go Bus will provide normal service and normal pick up times and points for students, with the difference being that the drop off point will be at Tauranga Domain.

Bus Students (afternoon): NO SCHOOL HOPPERS WILL BE AVAILABLE Go Bus will pick up students from Tauranga Domain at 3.15 pm for those who normally catch Bus 6, 7 and 10 in order to connect with other buses. Also at 3.20 pm 1 x charter buses will be provided for students to return back to Aquinas College by 3.45 pm.

For health and safety reasons there will be no other buses provided outside of those provided above and therefore at the completion of athletics parents/caregivers are expected to collect or have made arrangements for your child/ren to get back home via car-pooling or catching the charter bus back to Aquinas College. Students can also walk to the bus stop at the library to catch other Bay Hopper/Urban buses (bus fare applies).

2. Non Bus Students: There are two options for students.
 - Arrive at school as normal by 8.20 am for 2 x buses to take them to the Tauranga Domain leaving school at 8.30 am.
 - Make your own way to the Tauranga Domain to be there no later than 8.45 am

If parents cannot be at the Domain at the end of the programme there will be a bus to ferry students back to Aquinas College. It is hoped that students will be back at school by 3.45 pm.

3. All students must have their own lunch, water bottle, sunblock, sun hat, shoes/socks for track events and arrive at the Domain in their PE Uniform (Years 7-10) and House Colours (Y11-13). A warm outer layer should the weather be inclement is advised. There will be hot food and cold drinks available during the break with cold items for purchase, so please bring money if you wish to purchase anything.
4. Programme: A copy of the programme is included further on. If you are able to attend please do! For students please note that this is regarded as a normal school day and that a roll check will be taken. (students not parents!!!)
5. Events: Athletes wishing to compete in the 1500m races will need to make their own way to the Tauranga Domain for an 8.15 am start time. Please ensure your child has pre-registered before Wednesday 22nd Feb for this event through the Sports Office in the gym

foyer.

We are holding these other events during school time: 200m, 300/400m, 800m, 3000m and Triple Jump. A programme of when these events are being held is attached and is also displayed in the gym foyer. Students will also be reminded through the Daily Notices at school.

6. Format for the Day: All students will rotate around a series of Field Events (Long Jump, High Jump, Shot Put and Discus) as well as the 100m sprint. They will compete in their Houses across their respective Age Groups (Y7, Y8, U14, U16 and U19) Students in the various age groups are competing to become their respective Age Group Athletics Champion.
7. Cancellation: If Friday's weather looks inclement and a postponement is necessary this will be put on the college website from 6.30am Friday 24th February. If the day is postponed then buses will run as per normal and students will be expected in school uniform to attend class for a normal Friday Timetable (Week B).

Please Note: The Tauranga City Council has instigated a new policy whereby they no longer will offer a Reserve Day should the original date be postponed. Instead upon cancellation of the programme, they will then allocate another alternative date for us to pick up and utilise. We will have to cross that bridge if Friday 24th February is rained off!!!

If you have any queries about the day, please contact the school (Jo Van Kol re buses) or myself directly re athletics.

Marty Lee T-I-C Athletics
Dannaka Dorrington
Sports Co-ordinator
Phone 543 2400 Ext 243
Email ddorrington@aquinas.school.nz

Pre Events Programme to be held at school, prior to Athletics Day (Tauranga Domain)

Please note that if you wish to enter these events you must get out onto the running track immediately at the start of lunchtime, be changed into suitable running gear and be at the start line ready to go!

Y7/ Y8 200M, 300M 800M (These events will be advertised directly by your teachers Mr Braid and Mr Finnimore.) They will advise you in advance of the days and times these events will be run. Be ready!

Lunchtime Events Y9-Y13

Wednesday 8th February: 800M U14 and U16 Boys and Girls

Thursday 9th February: 300M U14 Boys and Girls
400M U16, U19 Boys and Girls

Monday 13th February: 800M U19 Boys and Girls
Tuesday 14th February: 200M U14, U16, U19 Boys and Girls

Thursday 16th February: Triple Jump U14, U16, U19 Boys & Girls
Tuesday 21st February: 3000M Open

FOR A FULL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS go to...

<http://www.aquinas.school.nz/event/ac-athletics-day/>

Aquinas College Football made sure they're ahead of the game with some intensive pre-season training over the holidays. Paul Probert (ex All White) provided eight sessions in January focused on SAQ - Speed, Agility and Quickness Training, with small sided games thrown in.

Here's hoping their hard work will give our players the edge over the competition next season!



AIR PISTOL SHOOTING

During the holidays, four of our students came into school twice a week to practice for the Hamilton Open and Graded Auckland Anniversary Shoot. Attending the HOG Shoot was a great experience for them; for Liam Anderson, Blake Wilson and Emma Wilson it was the first time to shoot somewhere other than the school range, and Loretta Knights had the honour of shooting next to Ricky Zhao, who represented New Zealand in the Common Wealth Games in 2014.

All four students shot personal bests, with Loretta coming 1st in the Junior Women's Grade C (scoring 343 which is a grade break, so she will be shooting in Grade B in future events), Liam Anderson gaining 1st in the Junior Men's Grade C (with a score of 426), and Blake coming 2nd in the Junior Men's Grade C (with 406).

A huge thank you goes to John Peacock, from the Tauranga Pistol Club, whose coaching is an integral part of their success.

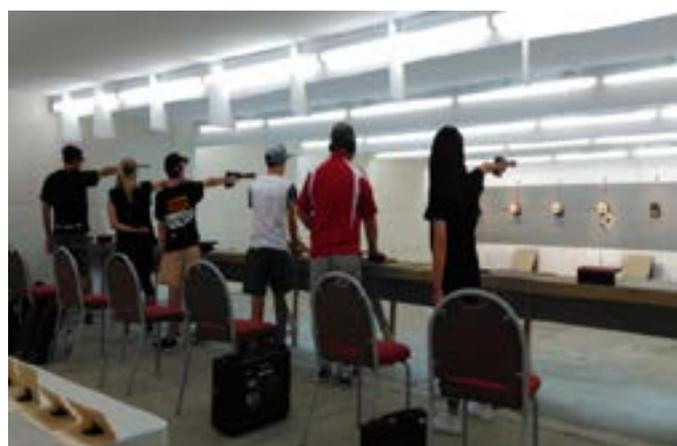


Photo: L-R: Ricky Zhao, Loretta Knights, Liam Anderson, Blake

The successful 2016 Year 8 Green Touch team.



**EXCLUSIVE OFFER
FOR
AQUINAS COLLEGE!**

FLEAOUT
Tauranga

TRAMPOLINE ARENA
185 Taurikura Drive, Tauriko

**50% OFF ENTRY
FEBRUARY 18 & 19
(just mention this ad)**

Year 7 and 8 Kapa Haka Group

On Friday, 24th of November our Year 7 and 8 kapa haka group (pictured below) performed in the Tauranga Moana Rā Whakangahau primary and intermediate schools kapa haka festival. St Mary's school hosted this annual event and it was the first time that Aquinas College has been represented at the festival. The hours of practice that the students and tutors had invested were reflected in their perfectly pitched waiata and in the stunning haka. We would like to congratulate the students on their inaugural performance and thank them for making us proud. We would also like to thank their talented tutors Tamati and Winairangi Nicholas as well as Whaea Bernadette Egan for managing the group and the logistics that this encompasses. Following on from this initial success we look forward to seeing the group continue to strengthen and grow and we encourage other Year 7 and 8 students to take up the opportunity to join the kapa haka group in 2017.



Spencer meets Valerie....

A proud moment (right) for Spencer Kirk (Year 13 2016) when he met Valerie Adams, New Zealand's Olympic Shot Put champion, at last year's NZ Secondary School's Athletics Championships. Valerie gave Spencer advice and tips, encouraging him in his sport.



Te Taumata Restoration

Over the summer holidays, repairs and maintenance of the whakairo (carvings) on Te Taumata (the college's wharenui), were carried out.

An extensive programme was undertaken for the restoration of the central carving as well as the side panels. James (Jim) Schuster, the carver of the original whakairo, oversaw the work which he and his team at Rotoiti completed in time for our new staff and students powhiri the first week of the new term.

Our thanks to Jim Schuster and the college Whanau group for undertaking this impressive work. Jim for his skill and knowledge, and our Whanau group for the support given to Jim and his crew.

Special thanks to Shirley-Marie Coffin for the work she did on behalf of Aquinas in contacting and supporting Jim in his work.

We as your community are proud of your achievements which have given such a splendid result. We appreciate your time given to complete this work over summer holidays.



ITINERANT MUSIC LESSONS

At Aquinas College we are extremely fortunate to be able to offer the following Itinerant Music Lessons in school time.

There is no cost for the actual lessons but there will be a \$15.00 charge to cover folders and music that students receive and may keep.

We do have a small number of instruments available to hire. Please contact lcooney@aquinas.school.nz

If your son/daughter would like to take up this fantastic opportunity they can collect an enrolment form from the school office or from Mrs Cooney or Mrs Hanna (Music Teachers).

Instruments available include:

Strings: Mrs Gardiner violin, viola, cello, double bass

Woodwind and Saxophone: Ms Martin, Mrs Jones flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, bass, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone

Brass: Mr Wilson Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, French Horn, Baritone Horn, Euphonium

Drums and Bass: Mr Barlow

Other instruments may be available upon request. Please contact lcooney@aquinas.school.nz

Out of hours beginner Keyboard lessons are also available Year 7 and 8 students.

Thank you.
Mrs Lynda Cooney
TiC Music

*** Private lessons are also available on Guitar, Voice, Keyboard/Piano.**

Guitar Mr Bodley evolution@xtra.co.nz

***Please contact Mr Bodley directly for private lessons. Fees for Private lessons are paid directly to Mr Bodley.**

SET FREE Catholic Youth Conference

We will be sending a group from Aquinas to this awesome weekend of faith, fun and friendship.

Details: April 7-9 2017

Registration cost: \$85

Who: Open to all years 11-13 students + young adults

Venue: South Waikato Sport and Events Centre

Transport: A free bus will be leaving from Aquinas College on Friday 7th April 2017.

See Mrs Harris or Anna Marie in the RE department for more details or get a group of your friends together and register online at setfree.org.nz.



2017 Term 1 Key Dates

Feb	13-17	Year 8 Camp
	16	Commissioning Mass, 6pm, St Thomas More Church, Mt Maunganui
	21	Honours Assembly, 9:45am, Gym
	21	PTA meeting, AC staffroom, 5:30pm
	22-23	Year 9 Retreat
	23	BOT meeting, 5:30pm, AC Library
	24	Aquinas Athletics Day, Tauranga Domain http://www.aquinas.school.nz/event/ac-athletics-day/
	27-3 Mar	Year 9-10 AsTTle Testing
March	1	Ash Wednesday Liturgy, 12:15pm
	3	Active Cup Y7/8 Cricket
	5	Inauguration Mass, Gym, 10am
	9	PTA Twilight Festival
	14	Caritas Justice Leadership Day
	15	AC Swimming Sports, Y9-13, Baywave Pools
	16/17	Year 7 Retreat
	19	Athletics Waikato Champs
	20-24	Caritas Week
	21	PTA meeting, AC staffroom, 5:30pm
	23	AC Swimming Sports, Y7/8, Greerton Pools

March	24	Y10 Touch Tournament
	27-31	Summer Tournament Week
	27-31	Caritas Week
	30	BOT meeting, 5:30pm, Library
April	7-9	Set Free Weekend
	8	Athletics NISS Champs
	9	Palm Sunday
	11	Swimming BOP Zone Y7/8, Greerton Pools
	12	HPV 1st Dose, Year 8.
	12	Swimming BOPSS Snr Champs Y9-13, Taupo
	12	Cross Walk
	12	School Easter Liturgy, 2:15pm
	13	Hui Aranga Powhiri
	13	Last Day of Term 1.
	14	Good Friday
	15	Holy Saturday
	15-23	New Caledonia Trip
	16	Easter Sunday
	17-21	NZSS Waterpolo Champs
May	1	First Day Term 2