



# QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE PĀNUI

MARCH 2025

## A Message from our Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

We are coming to the end of our first term and the pupils and staff are looking forward to a break. This term has been full of a wide range of activities, which are highlighted within this newsletter.

Of special note is our first Parent teacher interviews, we are excited to connect with you to discuss your child's progress. Please find the link for making an appointment here:

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/khetj>.

During this initial meeting with the Poutama teacher, you and your child will have the opportunity to discuss their progress, understand their ATL grades, review attendance and any notes that teachers may have that require further discussion.

Interview bookings can be made between 3pm - 7pm on Thursday the 10th of April and from 9am - 3pm on Friday the 11th of April, the last day of term. Classes will not run on Friday the 11th of April, although pupils should attend the interviews in school uniform with their caregivers. If you wish to meet with specific teachers following this meeting, this can be arranged.

Recognising the potential impact on the learning environment, we are currently discussing the use of headphones and ear pods among our pupils. Our teachers have raised concerns about the ability of learners to engage with programmes if they are connected to devices. We are also mandated to comply with the cell phone ban during the school day. For headphones to work they must be connected by Bluetooth to a phone or computer, indicating that a lot of devices are active during lesson time. Our teaching staff will be monitoring this to ensure that pupils are actively listening and engaging in their learning programmes. We have generally been pleased with attitude and effort of the vast majority of our pupils, and we thank you for your part in this.

Nāku noa,  
Nā Chris Moller  
Principal

### IMPORTANT DATES

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| • 2-4 April     | Year 12 PE Camp  |
| • 10-11 April   | Poutama Interviews - Thursday 3pm-7pm and Friday 9am - 3pm |
| • 11 April      | Last day of Term 1   |
| • 12 - 27 April | School Holidays  |
| • 28 April      | First day of Term 2  |
| • 30 May        | Teacher Only Day - No school                               |
| • 2 June        | Kings Birthday - Public Holiday                            |
| • 20 June       | Matariki - Public Holiday                                  |
| • 27 June       | Last day of Term 2   |



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## Term 1 Poutama Interviews

**Thursday 10th April: 3pm - 7pm**

**Friday 11th April: 9am - 3pm.**

Please note there will be no school on Friday 11th April



Please use the following link to book a time with your child's Poutama teacher to discuss how they are tracking at school.

**<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/khetj>**

If you require assistance with booking or confirming your child's Poutama Teacher, please email Amy at [afisher@qec.school.nz](mailto:afisher@qec.school.nz)

## Welcome to our new staff

### Mrs Louise Baynes - Assistant Principal

My name is Louise and I have been in Education for nearly thirty years. I come from the North of England and have been living in New Zealand since 2008. I live in the Pohangina Valley with my husband, Mark and our daughter, Josie.

I have had many different roles and have taught all age groups. I am Assistant Principal and SENCo here at Queen Elizabeth College. I am also enjoying working with the Year 7, 8, and 9's as Dean, and I am getting to know everyone really quickly. I love being part of the hardworking Pastoral Team; supporting our students to be the best version of themselves.



### Eta Elkington - Junior Service Academy Director

Ka tu au ki te tihi o ngā maunga o Whitireia, o Wetekia.  
Hoea rā te waka o Tainui i ngā waitārere, ngā waitukukiri o Wharariki.  
Ko Rangitoto ki te Tonga te Kōhatu.  
Kei reira hoki ngā hapū o Ngāti Kimihia, o Ngāti Haumia.  
E noho nei i raro i te korowai o Ngāti Toa Rangatira me Ngāti Koata iwi.  
Ko Te Rauparaha te rangatira.  
Ko ngā marae o Whakatū me Takapūwahia e tu ai te Kotahitanga.



Tena koutou katoa!

I am Staff Elkington, and I am the new Junior Service Academy director.

I was a student here at Queen Elizabeth College (Head girl) and went off and studied Outdoor Adventure. I have a huge passion for the outdoors and am here to gift my kete of knowledge to our kura!

I am very excited to be back as a teacher and am looking forward to all the adventures yet to come!



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## Intermediate Department News

### Introducing two new staff members to the Intermediate department

#### Miss Eliana Turu

Tēnā koutou katoa  
Ko Tūhua toku maunga  
Ko Taringamotu tōku awa  
Ko Tainui tōku waka  
Ko Ngāti Maniapoto tōku iwi  
Ko Kaitupeka tōku marae  
Ko Turu tōku whānau  
Nō Papaioea ahau  
Ko Miss Turu tōku ingoa  
Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa



Kia ora! My name is Miss Turu, and I am the new Year 7/8 Maths teacher here at Queen Elizabeth College. I have lived in Palmerston North my whole life. I have an awesome family which includes my mum, dad, sister, brother-in-law, and my niece and nephew. Some of my hobbies including Swimming and playing Ultimate Frisbee. Other things I like to do is build Lego, sing and play guitar, and trying new arts and crafts. My favorite food would have to be sushi and my favourite colour is green! I'm very much looking forward to meeting my new students and getting to know them. My goal is to challenge students in a safe environment, so they are not afraid to learn and grow.



#### Mr Jason Binsted

My name is Jason Binsted. I've been teaching for 10 years and enjoy seeing young people succeed. I am a previous student (head boy) of the College and am excited to be back as a teacher. I am passionate about sport and keen to pass my knowledge on to the next generation. I am teaching PE and Health.

### Year 7/8 Top Student Award

Twice a term, the intermediate teachers have a meeting to discuss their students' progress. The following students have been working above expectations in all of their subjects, have over 90% attendance and are always neatly presented.

Congratulations to:

#### 78IMO

Nevaeah Campbell-Daniels  
Dayton Mahony  
Caspar Tucker-Howes  
Antonio Ulrich

#### 78ETU

Emma Meehan  
JJ Judd  
Jax Martin  
Jaykin Smith-Wilshurst

#### 78JBI

Kaylin Bester  
Rylan Moore  
Alihya Swart  
Brooklyn Wakefield





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## Pōwhiri

A wave of energy swept through Queen Elizabeth College on Tuesday the 28th of January, as we welcomed our new students and staff. The day began with a pōwhiri, setting a foundation of respect and connection. The school hall, packed with our enthusiastic taura and their supportive whānau, was a testament to the exciting year ahead. We look forward to witnessing the growth and achievements of our new students.



## Student Centre Reminders

**STUDENT CENTRE NEW PHONE NUMBER: 022 506 8976**

### ABSENCES

If your child is absent, you can:  
Use the KAMAR Portal  
Txt 022 506 8976

Call 06 358 9033 (option 1 or 2)  
Ensure you provide student details,  
and the reason for their absence.

### UNIFORM

Please ensure all students are wearing correct  
uniform.

### DRIVING LESSONS

If students are interested in free driving  
lessons, please see Sandie in the Student  
Centre.

### MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

Our school provides free menstrual products.  
These are available to all students and can  
be accessed through the Student Centre or  
Te Whare Pikiora.





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## International School News

### Students from No 48 Middle School, China



We hosted a group of students from No 48 Middle School, in the city of Shijiazhuang, capital city of Hebei Province in China. They spent 2 weeks here in February. During this time, they participated in a wide variety of school subjects and activities as well as visiting Wellington and Himatangi Beach on the 8th and 9th of February. These students were a welcome and valued addition to our school community, and we thank them for their contribution to our school. They were presented with a certificate and small gift on behalf of Queen Elizabeth College at assembly before departing.



The success of the visit of No 48 Middle School from Shijiazhuang, China, was made possible by the wonderful support of the teaching and professional staff at Queen Elizabeth College and the students of the wider College.

The visiting students were paired up with Year 9 hosts ("buddies") who looked after them during the school day. Without their outstanding hospitality the visit would not have gone as well as it did.

The Queen Elizabeth College International Department would like to publicly acknowledge the following Year 9 students for their support and willingness to share their time and assistance with their visiting students: Arya Timoti, Micah Puia, Tarah Rubay-Ponga, Muamua Samuela, Keera Kaur, Lucas Lorrigan, Kiara Graham, and Riley Hoseason. They were a great example of the values of inclusivity and good citizenship that the College strives to promote to all our students.





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## Student to Student Global Conversation

Our Head Girl, Tarshay Rawhiti Fiti, conducted herself and represented Queen Elizabeth College very well during her zoom call for the "Student to Student Global Conversation," run by Kate Harridge, Palmerston North City Council, with students from Montana, USA.

The Montana World Affairs Council hosted 500 high school students from across Montana for their annual Academic World Quest conference in Missoula, MT, from Sunday 2 March to Tuesday 4 March 2025.

On Monday 3 March, the Montana World Affairs Council highlighted the sister city relationship between Missoula and Palmerston North. Students from Missoula and Palmerston North were connected for one hour by zoom, engaging in conversations about various topics ranging from daily life to global matters.



## Create Global Connections: Open your home to International Students

Imagine sharing your home and culture with students from around the globe!

We are inviting families to become homestay hosts, offering students a unique chance to immerse themselves in New Zealand life and improve their English. Imagine the impact you can have on a young person's life, and the enriching experience your family will gain in return. We have witnessed firsthand the joy and connection these exchanges create, from the vibrant energy of our recent Chinese students to the warm smiles of our current Brazilian students.

If you are ready to embark on a journey of cultural discovery and create lasting memories, consider becoming a homestay host. Let's explore how you can make a difference, contact our Homestay Manager, S-J Moller, on 027 813 8482 or [homestay@qec.school.nz](mailto:homestay@qec.school.nz).







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## Sports News

### Tabloid Sports

The field and pool were alive with energy on the afternoon of Thursday 13th of February, it was all about sunshine, house rivalry, and pure fun! The air buzzed with excitement as teams tackled challenges with hilarious results. More than just an afternoon of games, it was a celebration of whanaungatanga, bringing together students from all year levels in a spirit of unity. The sound of laughter was the perfect soundtrack to an afternoon filled with unforgettable moments. A huge congratulations to everyone involved, you made it a day to remember!



### Athletics Day

Our recent Athletics Day was a great success! Students showcased incredible talent and sportsmanship across a range of events. Congratulations to all participants, the spirit of healthy competition was great to see. Thank you to everyone involved who made the day run so smoothly.



### Swimming Sports

It was great to see so many students taking part in our school Swimming Sports at the Lido Aquatic Centre. From competitive races to fun novelty events, students dove into a day of exciting races, impressive skills, and fantastic house spirit. Ka pai to everyone who got involved and made a splash!







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## Community Notices

### The EPIC Holiday Program

The EPIC Holiday Program is an OSCAR-approved, music-focused program led by our experienced EPIC Music Academy team. Based in Palmerston North, we've been providing fun, creative, and engaging holiday experiences for over four years. Alongside music, we offer a variety of exciting activities at our venue and often head out on awesome trips. For more info, check out our website at [www.epicma.nz/hp](http://www.epicma.nz/hp)

MON 14TH APR	TUE 15TH APR	WED 16TH APR	THU 17TH APR	FRI 18TH APR
<b>Aquatics Day</b> 	<b>Music Rotations</b>  <b>Easter Crafts</b>	<b>Memorial Park</b>  <b>Easter Hunt</b>	<b>Percussion &amp; Band</b>  <b>Engineering</b>	<b>NO HOLIDAY PROGRAM</b> <b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>
MON 21ST APR	TUE 22ND APR	WED 23RD APR	THU 24TH APR	FRI 25TH APR
<b>NO HOLIDAY PROGRAM</b> <b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Music Rotations</b>  <b>Pizza Making</b>	<b>Percussion &amp; Band</b>  <b>Bowling</b>	<b>Gymnasium</b>  <b>Movie</b>	<b>NO HOLIDAY PROGRAM</b> <b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>

FOR DETAILS AND SIGN UP FORMS GO TO [WWW.EPICMA.NZ/HP](http://WWW.EPICMA.NZ/HP)

### MHT Diabetes Youth and Family Support

Do you know anyone under the age of 24 with Diabetes?

Our mission is to create an environment of support, connection and community for our youth and their family/whānau. Our youth service provides opportunities to enable our rangatahi and tamariki who have diabetes, live their best lives alongside their whānau and those who care for them.

We achieve this through camps, support groups, social events and education workshops, where our community meet and connect with others sharing the same journey, whilst having fun.

Events include:

- Social events for family/whānau – all ages
- Family/whānau camps
- Youth/rangatahi camps – 9 to 13 year olds
- Parent/whānau support groups – meet at local cafes
- Young adult/rangatahi dinners and coffee groups – 18 to 30 year olds
- Young adult/rangatahi Zoom 'Connect and Chat' meetings – 18 years and up
- Education workshops – parents/rangatahi.

For more information visit [www.diabetestrust.org.nz](http://www.diabetestrust.org.nz) or email [youth@diabetestrust.org.nz](mailto:youth@diabetestrust.org.nz)