



MAY.

TBC ARTS & CULTURAL

2025

WELCOME TO OUR  
*Arts Newsletter* ★

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF ARTS:

Kia ora koutou,

It's been an action-packed month in the Arts at TBC, with our students achieving outstanding success and representing our school with pride and passion.

A huge congratulations to all those involved in this year's Super 8 Cultural Festival. Tauranga Boys' College placed 2nd overall, with 1st place finishes in Group Music (Big Band), Senior Debating, Junior Visual Art, and Dance. A special shout-out also goes to our Chess team, who achieved their best-ever result with a strong 2nd place finish.

Beyond Super 8, our students have continued to shine — from competing in the Manu Kōrero regional competitions to our senior Drama students travelling to Wellington for the National Shakespeare Festival — an incredible opportunity for creative growth and national recognition.

It's a privilege to celebrate the talent, dedication, and spirit of our young men. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Arts and Culture at TBC — we hope to see you at these events, backing our students and enjoying the incredible work they are creating.

Ngā mihi,

John Page

Assistant Principal – Director of Arts  
Tauranga Boys' College



In this  
newsletter:

Super 8 success,  
RockQuest, Shakespeare,  
Pasifika updates, and so  
much more!

Add to your calendar:

**TBC/TGC Multicultural Night**  
Thursday 12 June, TGC Hall

**TBC Big Band Fundraising Concert**  
Friday 20 June, GYYT

**TBC/TGC Arts Showcase**  
Tuesday 24 & Wednesday 25 June, GYYT

# Super 8 Arts & Cultural Festival

**Group Music – 1<sup>st</sup> (Big Band)**

**Senior Debating – 1st**

**Junior Visual Art – 1st (Tasman Struthers)**

**Dance – 1st**

**Chess – 2nd (*Best ever result!*)**

**Senior Solo Music – 3rd (Harry Das – Drums)**

**Junior Theatre Sports – 3rd**

**Senior Theatre Sports – 3rd**



Overall: Tauranga Boys' College placed **2nd** in the Top School standings.



Here's a few of the many highlights from our amazing team of 91 students and 14 staff:

## JUNIOR DEBATING

'The team of Blake Slater, Marcus Rundell and Noah Harrison had a great time debating down at the Super 8 competition in Rotorua. While Blake and Marcus had debated before in the Regional Competition, Noah was new to it all. He had a quick lunchtime session to learn how to debate and then did an astounding job on the day. The team won their first debate, advancing to the semi-finals, where they unfortunately did not come out on top. The students were able to meet other students from across the motu, expand their knowledge in debating, and learn how to better themselves for future debates. A favourite experience was watching the TBC dance team perform. Overall, the event was a great experience, and we can't wait for next year!'

## ORATORY

'Hiamo Martin represented Tauranga Boys' College at the Senior Oratory competition. He spoke on the importance of diversity in New Zealand, showcasing a heartfelt message. Gem Gamble was our junior representative, with a lighthearted commentary on idioms. Both boys were lovely to listen to and enjoyed experiencing the wide variety of speeches presented to the audience.'

## DANCE

'With only two and a half months to prepare, the Super 8 Dance crew earned a remarkable win at this year's Super 8 Festival. Despite disruptions, we proudly returned home with the winning title, with support from teacher Amy McFetridge. The boys contributed creatively, designing formations and adding acrobatics like handstands and cartwheels to elevate the performance. The crew's dedication and creativity shone on stage. We look ahead to 2026, ready to defend our title with even more strength and passion.'

## CHESS

'The Tauranga Boys' College Chess team recently competed in the Super 8 Festival held in Rotorua, showcasing strong strategic skills and teamwork. Team A delivered an impressive performance, securing second place overall with a total of 16.5 points. Every player contributed to the team's success, reflecting the collective effort and determination of the group. Special recognition was given to Jacob Askin, who was glazed as the MVP of Team A, and Johan Joji, who earned MVP honours for Team B. Their outstanding individual performances highlighted the depth of talent within the TBC Chess teams. We are now looking forward to our next competitive matches, specifically the Bay of Plenty Regional Championships.'



## SGCNZ Nationals

Over King's Birthday weekend, a talented team of 19 students travelled to Wellington to take part in the SGCNZ Victoria University of Wellington National Shakespeare Festival. Not only did the boys have the opportunity to perform at the beautiful St James Theatre, but they also immersed themselves in a celebration of Shakespeare, supporting and drawing inspiration from a range of outstanding performances by schools from across Aotearoa. Well done boys!



## NZ Schools Debating Nationals

The Cooney Lees Morgan BOP team—Jacob O'Toole-Corrigan, Oliver Larsen, Pearl Vahey-Bourne, and Layla Clarke—travelled to Wellington to compete against the nation's best. Over two intense days and seven rounds of debating, the team excelled, reaching the semi-finals against Hawke's Bay on day three. In a close finish, Hawke's Bay edged ahead, but the Bay team delivered an outstanding performance. Pearl received a converted Promising Speaker Award, while Oliver was named Most Promising Speaker and selected as First Reserve for the New Zealand National Team. A highlight of the event was a formal dinner at the Basin Reserve, offering a chance to connect with past and future debating talent from across the motu. Jacob's 'fire intros and rhetorical prowess' will be missed in 2026, but the remaining trio are eager to carry the torch forward.

**LET'S GET  
OUR BOYS  
TO JAPAN!**

**TICKETS ARE  
NOW LIVE!**

# BIG BAND FUNDRAISER

FRI. 20 JUNE | 7PM | GYYT | \$20




## Big Band – Japan Fundraiser

Support the TBC Big Band on their journey to Japan in September 2025! Join us for a special fundraiser concert on **Friday 20 June** at 7pm in the GYYT. Visit the [Tauranga Boys' College website](#) to book your \$20 ticket, or to make a donation. Enjoy a night of high-energy jazz featuring performances by the TBC Big Band, the Tauranga Big Band, and a special appearance by our All-Stars Staff Band.



## Student of the Month: Ollie Larsen

This month, we're celebrating Year 12 student Ollie Larsen, who's been busy representing Tauranga Boys' College in Dance, Shakespeare, Debating, Big Band, Jazz Combos, Chamber Music, Aronui, Production, and the Student Arts Council. At the recent Super 8 Festival, Ollie took part in four events: Senior Debating, Drama, Group Music, and Dance, often running between them! Well done, Ollie!



## Chamber Music

The past few weeks have been very busy for our Chamber Music groups, including the Guitar Ensemble, Sax Quintet, and Brass Quintet, who have been competing in both the Tauranga and Hamilton regional competitions. On 30 May, the Guitar Ensemble delivered an outstanding performance, earning three awards: Best Performance of a New Zealand Work, the Adjudicator's Award, and a Highly Commended. We would like to congratulate all of the students involved for their commitment and hard work in preparing for these competitions:

**Guitar Ensemble:** Lachlan Cole, Josiah Emmett, Ngakorau Turipa, Taylor Williams, Harry Das (Percussion)

**Sax Quintet:** Daniel Barback, Tom Crisp, Joseph Goodjohn, Marcus Louie, Daniel Willis

**Brass Quintet:** Hugo Broad, Xavier Churchouse, Oliver Larsen, Zack Norwood, Gabriel Whitlock

## Auckland Writers Festival

The Aotea Centre in Auckland recently held NZ's annual Writers Festival for students and potential future authors. It was another very successful excursion for the TBC students and teachers who travelled up for the day; among them, some very keen writers wanting to further their craft.

The event started with three multi-published authors, who gave inspiring presentations about their journeys into the profession, and the ideas behind their published works. They took time to answer multiple questions from many student representatives, who were enthusiastic about finding inspiration for their own writing. This was followed by an interactive workshop that allowed students to express their creative thinking and writing skills by being guided through the process of how to construct a fictional world for their next potential best seller. Overall, a great educational and inspiring experience for the students in attendance.

## Pasifika Rise

Pasifika Rise will continue this term on Monday mornings – commencing at 6am in the main gym at TBC, followed by a breakfast upstairs in the Health Rooms at 7am until 8am. For those who don't know what Pasifika Rise is, it is a space for the Pasifika students of TBC to get up nice and early, come into school for an hour of activities and then have a hearty breakfast upstairs with their peers. This year, the breakfast part will alternate between a speaker one week and activities led by the Pasifika Leaders the next. It is a great space for Pasifika students to connect, engage in healthy activities and learn about goal setting and healthy lifestyles. Faasalalau atu le upu (spread the word)!

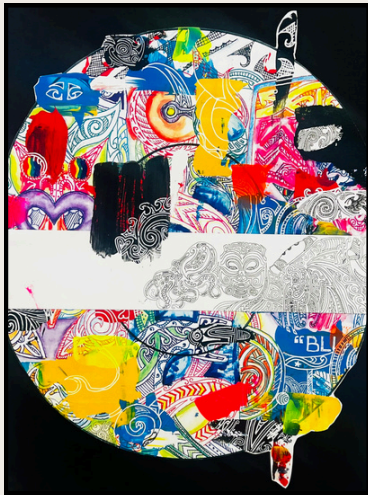
Any parental help is always greatly appreciated! If you are available to help out for one morning a week, please contact Derek Stewart at [d.stewart@tbc.school.nz](mailto:d.stewart@tbc.school.nz).

## Staff Member of the Month: Hemi Tulemau

Hemi, a Kaiako in Aronui (Carving & Te Reo Māori), leads the Pasifika Performance Group and has supported performances at Super 8, Greerton Village School, and the upcoming Multicultural Night. As an old boy who once performed in the group himself, it's been meaningful for him to return in a teaching role. He'd like to give a big shout out to Mary, who's been a huge help this year, especially with performances and costumes. Hemi's positive energy brings a great vibe to everything he's involved in.



## Visual Arts Highlight: Tasman Struthers



Congratulations to **Tasman Struthers**, who was recently awarded the Top Junior Visual Artist at the Super 8 Festival for an outstanding piece he created in Year 10. Tasman's work weaves the ancestral with the contemporary, drawing inspiration from the traditional designs and stories within our school whare. Through a bold interplay of colour, texture, and modern materials, he honours the whakapapa of Māori visual language while reimagining it in a present-day context. Now in Year 11, Tasman continues to pursue his passion for Visual Art and is currently enjoying painting a skateboard deck as part of his ongoing artistic journey. Ka rawe, Tasman!

## Smokefree RockQuest

It was fantastic to see so many of our students performing at the regional Smokefree RockQuest heat at Baycourt Theatre in late May. Representing TBC were three bands – 3B1R, Lithic, and The Foamies – along with two combined TBC/TGC bands, Yanarchy and Subpar. Missed it? Open your Spotify app, tap the Camera icon, and scan the code to the right to enjoy original tracks by our talented TBC musicians.



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ARTS at  
Tauranga Boys' College



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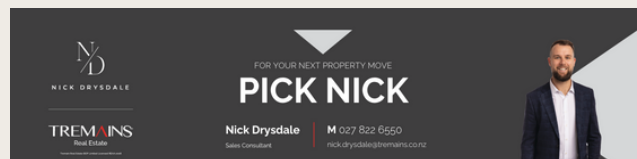
Be part of the arts at TBC!  
Stay informed and reach out here:



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS:



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WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

*See you next month!*



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BOYS' COLLEGE**  
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