



Special Newsletter

10 March 2025

Kia ora koutou

Road Safety Education (RSE) is the leading provider of youth road safety education programmes in New Zealand. We have signed up and paid for our Year 12 students (Thursday 13 March) and our Year 13 students (Friday 14 March) to participate in the flagship RYDA programme for senior high school students across New Zealand and Australia.

More specific details about the RYDA programme are outlined in the rest of this Special Newsletter but please also note that a free presentation and information session is being held for parents and whānau of students of all ages at 5.00 pm, Thursday 13 March (Whanganui Jockey Club, Whanganui Racecourse).

Drivers are at their highest risk of being in a crash during their first year driving unsupervised. Several factors contribute to the higher rate including: inexperience, risky behaviours such as speeding, driving while fatigued, distraction (phones in particular), not wearing seatbelts, and driving smaller/older cars with fewer safety features.

The RYDA programme addresses this by helping students build social resilience and providing them with the tools needed to make safe choices on the road. RYDA offers a unique opportunity for young people to set goals and develop strategies alongside the friends and passengers they are most likely to be driving with.

RYDA had a segment which aired on 'Seven Sharp'. You can watch it on demand here:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/seven-sharp>

RYDA also had an article on the 'One News' Website. See link below:

<https://www.1news.co.nz/2024/12/09/toyota-partners-with-ryda-programme-to-give-teen-drivers-a-safe-start/>

Organisation details for the two days at Whanganui Racecourse have been sent to each student's email address:

Year 12 students (Thursday 13 March)

Year 13 students (Friday 14 March)

Essential points:

- Wear school uniform
- Bring a water bottle
- Bring food. Students cannot leave the venue to get food.
- Some workshops are outside – bring a jacket
- Begins at 9.15 am
- Finishes shortly after 2.00 pm
- Photographs and videos may be taken by RYDA to use for advertising or for educational purposes. If you do not give permission for this please contact the school's Main Office on 06 349 0178

All Year 12 and Year 13 students are expected to attend.

If you do not wish your child to attend please contact the Student Centre on 06 349 0177.

This is an extremely timely and useful youth road safety programme for all of our senior students, our whānau, and our wider community.

Ngā mihi nui

Martin McAllen
Principal
Whanganui High School