



22 August 2021

## Communication to Community

Thank you to staff, students, and parents for your support in transitioning to the Rangitoto online environment. To have 3250 students and 200 teachers up and running on Wednesday morning was a testament to our community's commitment to education. I also would like to acknowledge those students who have had Covid tests over the past week as we all pull together to try and stop the spread of the Delta outbreak. Following the various announcements made recently, we are prepared for an extension to online learning for students and will continue to schedule online lessons for this week accordingly. Should the Delta strain enter our school community, we have a plan in place, and will make temporary adjustments to our lesson delivery model to enable families and staff to get tested. We will communicate these changes via email if this situation arises.

### **Attendance**

Students are required to attend all timetabled Google Meet lessons with their teacher. There is an optional Q & A session for all classes during a 6-day teaching cycle.

Attendance is taken by teachers at the 2 Google Meet lessons in a 6-day cycle. Students must be online for the beginning of each lesson and only leave the Google Meet when instructed by the teacher. Parents can check their child's attendance in these Google Meet lessons by using the PCSchool parent portal attendance function – click the Student Information link and select Attendance.

We ask that parents continue to account for any absences from online lessons using the PCSchool app or PCSchool parent portal as is usual practice. We also ask that students reply to all emails from their deans in a timely fashion.

### **Careers**

Parents & students in Y10 and Y11 are advised of the cancellation of the Pathways Evening scheduled for Tuesday 31st August. We will now host a Pathways Virtual Experience, with further details and a virtual access link to be emailed to Y10 and Y11 parents and students towards the end of this week.

### **Sport**

In conjunction with AUT Millennium, our Sports Dept is posting workout videos on the [Rangitoto Sport Instagram Page](#) to help our community keep active.

On Friday evening, School Sport NZ announced the cancellation of all winter tournament events due to take place in Week 6. Our Sports Department will be in touch with the players and families affected by this cancellation to organise refunds. Like our students, we are very disappointed that they have been unable to compete in these tournaments for the second year in a row, however, we appreciate the reasons behind this decision.

### **Performing Arts**

Unfortunately, The Big Sing Finale in Christchurch this week has been called off and alternative options are being explored by the organisers. Our sympathies are with our Serenata Choir who have spent many hours rehearsing in order to qualify for this prestigious event.

### **Enrolments**

Emails have been sent to all families with siblings due to start Year 9 in 2022 explaining the delay to this week's enrolment interviews. We hope to reschedule these onsite in weeks 7-9 in order to maintain the richness of the face-to-face communication that these interviews provide.

### **Student workload**

If students were learning on site at Rangitoto College, they would have the equivalent of **5 hours of face-to-face teaching and learning time per subject**. Alongside this, teachers would expect students to undertake some independent home learning. We acknowledge that online learning is more challenging for students; however, we are committed to ensuring our students maintain their academic focus. Below is an indication of our expectations for students regarding leaning time **per cycle per subject** (6 days):

<b>Class</b>	<b>Online learning time</b>	<b>Q and A session</b>	<b>Independent learning</b>
Year 9	2 x 1 hour	1 x 1 hour	30 minutes
Year 10	2 x 1 hour	1 x 1 hour	30 minutes
Year 11	2 x 1 hour	1 x 1 hour	60 minutes
Year 12	2 x 1 hour	1 x 1 hour	75 minutes
Year13	2 x 1 hour	1 x 1 hour	90 minutes

### **Student Routines**

Students should use tutor time to plan their day ahead. This is an opportunity to look at Google Meets scheduled for the day through their Google Calendar. When students don't have Google Meets scheduled with their teacher, they should continue with other school-related work around these meets.

The school day runs from **8:40am - 3:20pm** and having students in good habits will support the transition back to on campus learning when this occurs. Students should take breaks between lessons and ensure the usual morning break and lunch break are taken to keep energy levels high. It is important throughout the online learning period that students have time away from screens within the daily routine.

### **Support**

We wish to remind you that wellbeing support is readily available to students through the Guidance department and through year level deans. Please do not hesitate to book a Guidance appointment through the online booking system on Ranginet or contact the dean for support. Furthermore, our Careers department continues to operate an online booking system through Ranginet during this time.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter; Rangitoto staff look forward to returning to school with the students as soon as it is safe and healthy to do so. Good luck in your bubbles.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a trailing line.

Patrick Gale  
**PRINCIPAL**