



26th September 2021

## Communication to Community

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau whānui o Rangitoto,

This week's communication will be the last prior to the holidays. There is a lot of specific information relevant to Year 11-13 students, please read this carefully to ensure these students are fully aware of changes to NZQA and advice about the upcoming Entrance Exams. A further communication will be sent to parents at the end of the school holidays advising of protocols for the start of Term 4.

We have noticed that the start of Alert Level 3 has led to some students receiving pressure from employers to take shifts during school time. We ask that parents support the school in having students available for all online lessons during school hours.

### **Lockdown Tips for whanau and communities**

The link below is to a short, but helpful and useful video hosted by Dr Hinemoa Elder (Child Adolescent Psychiatrist) and Nathan Wallis (Neuroscience Educator) with lockdown tips for whanau and communities.

<https://parents.education.govt.nz/essential-information/covid-19-information-for-parents-and-whanau/lockdown-tips-with-dr-hinemoa-elder-and-nathan-wallis/>

### **Student Wellbeing Preparation ahead of Term 4**

With almost 6 weeks of learning away from the school campus and an added 2 weeks of holiday time, this is a significant amount of time when students will be out of routine and will find it difficult to manage themselves in preparation for the beginning of a new term.

We would ask parents to support the potential transition back to school for the beginning of Term 4 by using the second week of the holiday period to regulate students back into good sleep and eating cycles along with daily routines. Please also encourage your child to get outside, exercise and prioritise their hauora in preparation for a return to school.

### **Assembly**

A final assembly video will go out to students this week with specific information regarding each year level.

### **Special Assemblies**

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold our Term 3 Special Assembly Awards ceremonies this week. However, we do want to acknowledge our students who would have been recognised at these assemblies and therefore teachers, sports staff and performing arts staff have made their nominations.

The Junior Diploma will be awarded to Year 9 and 10 students that have achieved them and senior students will receive subject awards. Certificates will be printed, and these will be issued to students in Term 4. On Wednesday, an email will be sent to parents of students who will be receiving their awards, congratulating them on their child's achievements. Students who receive awards this term should be particularly proud of themselves, considering the circumstances.

### **Revision for Senior Entrance Exams**

Next week is the last week of Term 3 and when we return to school for Term 4, Entrance Examinations will commence (starting Tuesday 19th October) for our senior students. This week in your child's Google Meets, teachers will be giving targeted revision material to expose students to NCEA type questions and increase students' confidence going into the school holidays.

Lockdown has been particularly challenging for senior students and we understand they need a break away from their computer screens to rest and recuperate. We are however aware that students will need to undertake some revision in the school holidays to ensure they are prepared for the Entrance Exams and NCEA exams which will occur in Term 4. This will also allow students to get back into the habit of managing their time effectively, which will support their return to school.

Staff have been asked to set some revision material for students in the holidays and students can choose when to complete this; if we are fortunate enough to be in Level 2 in the holidays, we understand that families might want to travel for a holiday, hence we are not mandating when these revision activities are to be attempted. Staff will go over this work in class on the first Monday of Term 4.

The Entrance Exams are an important component in your child's learning. They provide the student with valuable information about areas for improvement before the external NCEA exams. They assist teachers in making recommendations for class placements for the following year and will be used as evidence for derived grades should the need arise. With the uncertainty of further lockdown conditions, these exams could be even more important than normal to all students.

### **NZQA Qualification Adjustments**

To recognise the extended disruption for senior secondary school students in Auckland, the Minister of Education has announced a full reintroduction of the measures which applied for students in Auckland last year, when a similar total amount of time was spent in lockdown.

Students will be entitled to 1 Learning Recognition Credit (LRC) for every 4 credits they achieve through assessment in the 2021 school year. Our students will be eligible for up to 16 LRCs at NCEA Level 1, and 12 LRCs at levels 2 and 3. These LRC's will be included in the credit totals for each level.

The credit threshold for Rangitoto students to be awarded a Certificate Endorsement will be 44 credits at Merit or Excellence level, rather than the usual 50. Excellence endorsements are a key target for many of our students.

University Entrance and Course Endorsements:

To be awarded University Entrance, students will need to achieve 12 (instead of 14) credits in each of 3 University Entrance Approved Subjects, as well as attaining NCEA Level 3 and meeting the usual

literacy and numeracy requirements. Rangitoto students will require 12 credits at Achieved, Merit or Excellence level to receive individual Course Endorsements.

### **Current Year 9 Course Selection for Year 10 2022**

Emails have been sent to the current Year 9 students for them to choose their Year 10 option subjects for 2022.

The email has [a link](#) to the Y10 Subject Information Handbook and the list of subjects for them to choose from. These choices are due next term on **Wednesday 20 October** (Week 1, Term 4).

- There are **no prerequisites** for the subjects, so students can choose a new subject/s.
- Each student must **choose 3 option subjects** to do alongside English, Mathematics, Science, Junior Social Science and Health and PE.
- If you or your child require any help or advice on this process, then please email their option teacher/s for further information or one of the Year 9 deans.

### **Sport**

You can register now via the forms on the website for: [Cricket](#) (Colts 2, 2nd XI and our Girls team), [Junior Tag and Junior Touch](#)

### **Public Health Information**

For those students wanting to get vaccinated, there are currently plenty of GP's and pharmacies across Auckland who are also vaccinating. To find out where all the community vaccination sites and all GP's & Pharmacies are, click [this link](#) (scroll down to see GP's and Pharmacies). All community vaccination sites are also now accepting walk-ins for those that don't want to book.

### **Year 13 School Ball**

Following the Prime Minister's announcement, the decision has been taken to cancel the 15th October booking for the Y13 Ball. We remain committed to holding this event (which can only take place when we are at Alert Level 1) and have confirmed a booking for 14th November with Ellerslie Convention Centre.

Best wishes



Patrick Gale  
**PRINCIPAL**