



12th October 2021

## **Communication to Community**

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau whānui o Rangitoto,

The Prime Minister's announcement on Monday has necessitated the College making further adjustments to our plans. We have been working in the background in anticipation of not being able to return to school as we had hoped and are well placed to continue in an online learning environment. This is a detailed communication with important information for all students, and we appreciate you taking the time to discuss this with your family members.

### **Senior Entrance Exams**

These exams were rearranged for Weeks 1 and 2 of the coming term and were an important part of our assessment programme, enabling students and staff to get a good understanding of the progress they have made and areas where improvement is needed. To replace the Entrance Exams, we will move to an [Online Assessment Programme](#) where students will be tested on individual standards in lesson time. This method has been used successfully in other Auckland schools and will allow us to gather crucial information if derived grades are required for NZQA in case of NCEA external exams being cancelled. The success of our online teaching programme has prepared students effectively for these assessments and we have adapted the upcoming assessments and online timetable to alleviate the worries some students may have.

For students who only have a small number of online external assessments and still have internal assessment credits to complete, we will be offering a number of further assessment opportunities throughout Term 4. Deans will contact individual students to offer these opportunities. Our Online Assessment procedures are attached to this email.

### **Term 4 Timetable**

The school will continue with the [online extended model](#) that has been successfully applied through term 3. This will mean that on Monday 18th (Day 6), Tuesday 19th (Day 1) and Wednesday 20th (Day 2) students will be invited into Google Meets from their teachers. The only difference is that for Years 11, 12 and 13, the [Q and A sessions](#) are now MANDATED; this will ensure all students in Y11-13 will have a Google Meet meet with their teacher, at least once, in these three days. These sessions will appear in students' Google Calendars.

The Online Assessment Programme will begin on [Thursday 21st October](#) (Day 3 of the school timetable) and will run for 9 school days. For subjects with external assessments, a programme of online practice assessments will run during some of their regular Meet times over this 9-day period. For subjects that do not have external examinations, classes will continue as normal through their regular Google Meets; students will need to check their Google calendars carefully.

## **IB exams**

Year 12 - The IB Diploma is a 2-year programme of learning that does not have the pressure of an external examination at the end of year 1. Consequently, we have decided to postpone the Year 12 IB exams. This allows students to continue with their teaching and learning programme. These practice examinations have been rescheduled for Weeks 6 and 7 of Term 4. Year 12 IB students will continue to be taught online, via the online extended model that has been successfully applied through Term 3.

Year 13 - The IB final examinations will continue as per the IB examination timetable. Rangitoto College has successfully applied to the government for an exemption to have the Year 13 IB exams at school, in two small bubbles, allowing our students to complete their exams for the Diploma. On Monday 18th October (Day 6 of the school timetable), students will have a Google Meet with each of their teachers. On Tuesday 19th (Day 1 of the school timetable), students will have a Google Meet period 1 with their option A teacher. Period 2 all students will have a pre-exam briefing Google Meet with Mrs. Brandt; it is essential that all Year 13 IB students attend this Meet. Year 13 IB students will then go on study leave, in preparation for their final IB exams that commence on Monday 25th October (Labour Day).

Further information will be sent to students and their families by Mrs. Brandt, the IB coordinator.

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

As with any return to school from a holiday period it is important to have students back into good routines and prepared for the school day.

Moving back into online learning is not an ideal situation but it is important students are prepared to start the final term for the year from Monday 18th October. We ask parents to support the return to online learning by using the end of the holiday period to regulate students back into good sleeping and eating cycles along with daily routines. Please also encourage your child to get outside, exercise and prioritise their hauora to ensure they are ready for a return to learning in a school online environment.

Once Term 4 begins we would also ask parents to continue to monitor their child's attendance to ensure students are engaged in the online learning. We saw phenomenal attendance rates throughout the online learning period of Term 3 which will serve our students very well. It is important this continues as we prepare for an eventual return to learning on campus again.

We would encourage students to contact the school's Guidance department next week should they seek further support for the beginning of Term 4. There will be ongoing uncertainties around COVID-19, and it is our intention to support all of our students where possible. Our deans will also be readily available for the start of term should students or parents need to discuss pastoral matters.

## **Prizegiving**

Due to the value that we place on celebrating and acknowledging the achievements of our students, and the uncertainty around us being able to hold our Senior Academic Prizegiving Ceremony in Week 5 of Term 4, the decision has been taken to postpone this event until Week 9 of Term 4, following the completion of the NZQA examinations.

## **Vaccinations**

In anticipation of our physical return to school, we hope that as many students as possible will be vaccinated. If most of us are vaccinated, we can also reduce the risk of outbreaks which can lead to ongoing lockdowns and put our health system under pressure. Through vaccination we will be able to return to some sort of normal as soon as possible. Our family went to the [Albany vaccination centre](#) for our second jab this week; no booking was required and the whole process was very easy and efficient. As mandated by the Ministry of Education, we will be asking each student for evidence of their vaccination status. Further information on this will be given to families when provided to us by the authorities.

## **Onsite learning**

We ask the parents of any student in Year 9 or 10 who requires their child to attend school in Level 3 due to a lack of adequate supervision at home to contact the appropriate dean to advise the school. In this email, please indicate if your child will be catching a school bus, and the number of the run; we can then give this information to the bus companies. Our Level 3 Health and Safety protocols will be passed to you should you email advising of your child's attendance.

## **Face coverings**

Masks are required by students and staff if we return to school at some point in Alert Level 3. They will be highly recommended at Alert Level 2. Please plan for this and stock up accordingly.

## **Year 13 School Ball**

We currently still have our Plan C Year 13 School Ball booked for 14th November. We are committed to doing everything that we can to ensure that our Year 13 students get the opportunity to attend a Ball this year, particularly as last year the Year 12 Ball was cancelled because of COVID-19 restrictions. We are now planning for Plan D which will be for the Ball to be held on the weekend following the end of Term 4. For any venue to be able to host this event as currently planned, we must be in Alert Level 1. However, if necessary, we will use the school auditorium for this event and restrict invites according to the Alert Level in place on the proposed date.

## **Uniform Shop**

We now have the temporary shop ready to occupy and plan to open on the 18th October, but Level 3 will restrict our ability to trade. Please contact the Uniform Shop via email:

[uniforms@rangitoto.school.nz](mailto:uniforms@rangitoto.school.nz) for supply information if you require new uniform ahead of our future return to school. Uniforms can also be purchased online from [Argyle Schoolwear](#).

Many thanks for your time; we appreciate the support you are providing, and the efforts you are making to ensure we have a successful year despite the challenges we are having to navigate.

Ngā mihi nui,



Patrick Gale  
**PRINCIPAL**