



20th October 2021

Communication to Community

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau whānui o Rangitoto,

With the latest Ministerial announcement signalling that all Year 11-13 students will return to school next Tuesday, we have adjusted our plans once again to try and provide the best possible outcomes for our students. We are pleased with the decision to retain NCEA and Scholarship exams at the end of the year and are confident that our students' hard work over the lockdown period will enable them to perform to their potential in these assessments.

Senior NCEA Assessment Programme

We are delaying the assessments planned for this week until we are back at school on Tuesday. This will ensure all students do assessments under the same conditions with teacher supervision. For the remainder of this week, students should attend each session as currently timetabled in Google Calendar (regardless of whether it was to be a normal lesson or an assessment).

Next week, senior assessments will start as per the current assessment timetable which each student is able to access via Google Calendar. These assessments will now take place in each teacher's lessons at school under the assessment timetable. Rather than scan their work, students will hand in the assessment paper that they complete in the class. For those students who do not have assessment sessions planned due to the internal nature of their course, they will physically attend classes as per their normal timetable with their teachers. Portfolio subjects such as Visual Art, Technology and DVC will host classes as per normal lesson times. Initially, these classes will be scheduled through Google Calendar.

Study Leave for Year 11-13

Students in Year 11-13 who do not have scheduled assessments or lessons during timetabled periods in the 9-day period of senior assessments will have the opportunity for study leave. This will enable students to be fully prepared for their assessments as would be the case in a usual Entrance Exam period. Students will be allowed to return home to study or remain on site at school in a designated supervised study area. No students will be allowed to wander the school grounds given assessments will be taking place in classrooms.

Any individual Y11-13 student unable to attend school for health reasons (e.g. underlying health issues) should contact their Dean to discuss a way forward. Please be prepared to provide medical certification if needed.

Scholarship

These exams will continue to run as planned, with students completing papers as per the instructions given to them by their teachers. Feedback from these papers is crucial in enabling students to be best placed to perform well in the end of year exams, marks are not needed to pass onto NZQA for derived grade purposes.

Special Assessment Conditions

For students in Y11-13 with Special Assessment Conditions, you will be contacted by the Learning Support Department to explain how the changes will affect you.

Health and Safety Measures

We have a strict set of Alert Level 3 Health and Safety conditions that all students and staff will have to meet. Masks will be mandatory for all students and staff on site and are to be worn at all times (other than when eating and drinking). Classrooms will be set up to ensure that social distancing is maintained, and students will initially only be on site when necessary. Strict contact tracing measures will be in place in classrooms and sanitation procedures will operate over the course of each day, with classroom windows and doors open to aid ventilation. We have mandated that all contractors working on site have to provide us with a negative Covid test and proof of double vaccination prior to coming into school. Rangitoto staff have exceptionally high rates of double vaccination and will also be presenting negative test results before coming back to school.

Year 9 & 10 Online Lessons

These lessons will continue in the same format as they are now, the only difference will be that teachers may be teaching from their classrooms at school.

Student Wellbeing

No doubt students will have a sense of relief with the return to campus for their assessments and then normal teaching beyond the assessment period. We would encourage any student who may be anxious about a return to campus to communicate with their dean or a school counsellor. We wish to support all students via the pastoral networks we have at the College and reassure them given the degree of change we have been experiencing.

Sport

As with everything else, we are waiting on alert levels to determine when a resumption of sport might be possible. We are remaining connected with key competition and event organisers for advice on the status of these and will provide updates as they happen.

Term 1 Sports, 2022

Sport registrations are open for 2022. Please go to our website, select the sport and fill in the relevant form. <https://www.rangitoto.school.nz/sport/>

Sport Performance Academy (SPA), 2022

Applications are now open for our SPA programme for next year. Please go to our website for information and the application form <https://www.rangitoto.school.nz/sport/sport-performance-academy/>

Awards Evenings

The Sports, Performing Arts and Maori & Pasifika Awards Evenings are unfortunately unable to proceed in the existing live attendance format due to covid restrictions. A virtual award ceremony for each area will now be undertaken with further detail to come. This virtual award ceremony will be pre-recorded for each group and released on a date to be confirmed for our community to enjoy.

Student Vaccinations

We are awaiting advice from the MOE over when, and how, we are to collect the Covid 19 vaccination status of students.

Year 13 School Ball

This is still under review while we wait for information on Alert level updates that will determine how, and when, we can hold this event before the end of the year.

My thanks to all of you for the patience and flexibility you are showing while we navigate the changes to schooling conditions.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Gale
PRINCIPAL