



11 November 2021

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau whānui o Rangitoto,

With the latest Ministerial announcement signalling that all Year 9 and 10 students can return to school this term, we have our plans in place to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our students as well as providing a safe environment for students returning to school.

In providing a safe environment for all, we have made the decision to welcome back Year 9 and 10 students to campus on Monday 22 November. The reasoning for this is to limit the number of students on campus given that the final day for Rangitoto Year 11-13 students at school before they go for study leave is Friday 18 November. As a reminder, if all caregivers in a household are essential workers, we continue to offer the ability for students under the age of 14 to be supervised at school. Please contact your child's dean if this is required.

The Government has made the decision for Year 9 and 10 students to return to school following extensive discussion with public health experts. The full time return of Year 9 and 10 students is supported by the high vaccination status for students. The decision also recognises the learning and mental health needs of young people.

The wellbeing of students remains the number 1 priority for schools, kura and their communities. Senior secondary students and staff who have returned onsite are already well practiced in following the public health requirements and understanding why that is important, not only for themselves but also for their whānau and friends.

Rangitoto College is following advice from the government and is enforcing all of the protocols (and more) that we have been asked to put in place. These protocols are outlined below, and we would ask your child to be familiar with these before returning to school on Monday 22 November. If your child has a health-related issue preventing them from returning at this time or an immunocompromised member within your household, please obtain medical documentation and forward this on to their dean.

## Health and Safety Measures

We have a strict set of Alert Level 3 Health and Safety protocols that all students must adhere to.

Masks are mandatory for all students and staff on site and are to be worn at all times (other than when eating and drinking). This includes both indoors and outdoors. We would also encourage students to wear masks on their way to and from school. Classrooms are set up to ensure that social distancing is maintained. We ask that students also respect the social distancing protocols in outdoor environments and when transitioning from one classroom to another.

Contact tracing measures are in place in classrooms and sanitation procedures operate over the course of each day, with classroom windows and doors open to aid ventilation.

Rangitoto staff have a 100% vaccination rate to support our students and have also presented negative test results before coming back to school. We also mandate 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.

The leadership our students have shown in wearing their masks to and from school has resulted in positive feedback to the College. The community recognises how serious our students have taken the suggested precautions and are appreciative.

### **Timetable**

Year 9 and 10 will move back to a full timetable from Monday 22 November. This includes Tutor Time which begins at 8:40am each morning. We will not be running year group assemblies for the remainder of the year to support health and safety protocols.

Students must be on time each day and ready for learning from 8:40am. We would also remind students of our uniform and jewellery requirements before they return to school given the significant time away.

At the conclusion of the school day at 3:20pm, we would ask students to return straight home. Again, we would encourage mask use to and from school, however the wearing of masks is only mandated inside the school gates.

Our return to school will allow our students to have one week of preparation in class prior to an assessment week. As previously indicated the assessment week will begin on Monday 29th with Science and Mathematics assessments, then Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 1st will have English and Social Science assessments and any assessments in Option subjects will occur on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd December. This week's assembly videos for Year 9 and 10 has focussed on preparation for upcoming assessments. Teachers are currently outlining the structure and content of these assessments in online classes.

### **Student Vaccinations**

On Thursday 4 November we forwarded separate emails to all parents and to all students regarding the requirement to hold a vaccination register for all students. This information is due by Friday 12 November via the students eForm, and we thank everyone for their response to this request.

As indicated, it is a directive issued by the Secretary of Education in accordance with the Education and Training Act 2020, that the school is required to request the vaccination status of students and maintain an up-to-date register of this status for all eligible students over the age of 12. The eForm allows students to indicate whether they are vaccinated with single or double doses, exempt from vaccinations, or can choose not to divulge vaccination details by selecting 'Not Selected' on the eForm.

The vaccination status of students will be critical information should a case arise as Public Health have indicated these details assist in determining who may be considered close contacts, casual contacts or casual plus contacts.

If your child has not completed the eForm from the information sent last Thursday, please work with them as a matter of urgency to complete this process. Should the vaccination status of your child change beyond completing this process, please email the Health Centre directly on [healthcentre@rangitoto.school.nz](mailto:healthcentre@rangitoto.school.nz)

Our current vaccination submission from Year 9 and 10 to date indicates 92% of students are fully vaccinated and 96% are partially vaccinated.

Our attendance system will support the school with contact tracing should this be required.

### **Student Drop-offs and Pick-ups**

We would ask those parents/caregivers who will be dropping off their child before school or picking up after school to do so in the streets surrounding the College. This reduces the number of visitors on campus and again supports the safety precautions which are in place. Should you need to drop off or pick up your child due to their inability to walk distances, please remain in your car for this and do not enter the bus bay area. This again supports the health and safety of our community.

### **Buses**

All AT buses are currently running normal school services, and this will continue from the 22 November. We would remind all students of the requirements to wear masks while on public transport.

Unfortunately, Ritchies have informed the school that they will not be running school bus services for the remainder of the year. We would ask you to make alternative arrangements should you have previously used this service.

We look forward to seeing our Year 9 and 10 students soon.

Best wishes



Patrick Gale  
**PRINCIPAL**