



1st November 2021

## Communication to Community

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau whānui o Rangitoto,

We were delighted to return to school last week with the number of students on site outstanding. Our current programme has allowed for a 'soft' opening, with concentrations of students low as we embed new routines and expectations. The assessment process has been very smooth, and students have been working hard to fulfil their potential.

### Student Vaccination Records

Our initial vaccination submission from the first week back showed 97% having received their first dose, 2% exempted, and 91% fully vaccinated.

There are a number of students in Y11-13 who are yet to complete this submission of their vaccination status via PCSchool as requested in our last communication. Students were reminded of the requirement to do this via email on Friday and should now complete this process as a matter of urgency. 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)

Year 9 & 10 students will be asked to submit their vaccination records when we have clarity on their date of return. In the meantime, we strongly encourage all students to get vaccinated where possible.

### Mask Use

It is now mandatory for all students and staff to wear masks at all times whilst on school property, apart from when they are eating and drinking. The vast majority of students have been excellent at adopting this practice. We remind students that social distancing is necessary at all times, not just when indoors and ask them to take responsibility for this.

The leadership many of 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.

### Student Drop-offs and Pick-ups

We would ask those parents/caregivers who are 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.

## **Scheduled Teacher only Day**

We have decided to postpone the scheduled teacher only day that was originally planned for Thursday 25th November. With the extended lockdown period, it is essential that our students are in class. Details of the new date will be communicated once decisions have been finalised; this will most likely be in 2022.

## **Y11-13 Weeks 4 & 5**

Senior students will return to normal in-school classes on Monday 8th November, after the assessment period. This is day 2. The only change to the regular school timetable is that we will continue to run 5 x 60-minute periods (as we have been doing for the online learning period). Staff will be going over assessments with students to target a revision programme to ensure every student reaches their potential in every NCEA standard.

## **Y11 & 12 - 2022 Subjects**

Courses for 2022 are due to be chosen for the current Y11 and Y12 on Thursday 11 November. The link to do this in PCSchool is in an email you received at the end of September. Contact your dean if there is an issue with this. Course counselling for those who require it will happen on Mon 15 to Wed 17 November.

## **Year 11 MCAT**

The year 11 MCAT (Mathematics Common Assessment Task) will be held Period 1 on Tuesday 16th November; this is option F. If students are not entered into the MCAT (1.2) then they will be in their normal option F class. Any year 10 student who is currently studying 11MTX should also attend this assessment - students will receive an email from the Mathematics department with venue details. Year 11 Students will be given more information from their Mathematics teacher once we are back in lessons.

## **Y9 & 10**

We are yet to have definitive guidance from the Ministry of Education on when our Y9 & 10 students will be able return. We are hopeful that this will be at the start of week 6, Monday 22nd November. Our intention at this stage is to have students in class for a week of revision prior to an assessment week. 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. Families and students in Year 9 & 10 will be given information on the content of these assessments and a timetable from their teachers once they return to school.

## **Unexpected Grade Entries (UEG's)**

We have spent time discussing External Exams and Unexpected Grade Entries (UEG's) with NZQA in the past week and the clear expectation is that students in Auckland will attend their exams, with their UEG acting as a safeguard. At Rangitoto College, we strive to deliver challenging academic experiences and believe firmly in the value of exams. Students who sit the exams this year will benefit from the experience, preparing them more effectively for the challenges of school or tertiary education in 2022 and beyond. We do understand that students may be strategic with their efforts if they have achieved outstanding grades in their UEGs.

## **NCEA Certificate and Course Endorsements**

For the majority of students at Rangitoto, the aim each year is to gain credits in order to be awarded NCEA certificate and course endorsements. In 2021, to get a certificate endorsement you will need 44 credits at Merit or Excellence level, instead of the usual 50. To get a course endorsement you will need 12 credits at Achieved or Merit or Excellence level in a course, rather than 14. You still need to gain at least 3 credits in externals and 3 in internals. Students should be identifying which subjects and standards they need to focus on in order to gain these awards.

## **School Ball**

Unfortunately, it has been necessary for us to postpone the Y13 Ball which had been scheduled for the 14th November. We are committed, however, to doing all we can to ensure that our Y13 students do have the opportunity to attend a school ball and therefore a new booking has been made for Saturday 18th December at Ellerslie Event Centre. In the event of this being unable to go ahead in the external venue we will endeavour to hold the ball in our auditorium.

Best wishes



Patrick Gale  
**PRINCIPAL**