



7th November 2021

Communication to Community

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau whānui o Rangitoto,

From Monday, normal classes will resume on site for Y11-13 with a full 5 period a day timetable recommencing. All lessons will be one hour, with lesson start times continuing with the online timetable lesson times.

Assessment papers will be returned to students in person from this date and teachers will work through answers in class. The focus of the two weeks will be working towards getting students achievement to a level they are capable of in preparation for their external examinations. Teachers will not be teaching across two modes, i.e., online and in class, as this is not possible to do effectively given the significantly different approaches and given the Ministry of Education's directive that students should return to school. The school now has a responsibility to teach the students who are on site.

Effective online teaching requires different ways of teaching – and that includes different planning and resourcing. When a teacher in a classroom has a Google Meet open, they cannot give their full and best attention to the students in the room with them – and teachers have a responsibility to do this. Teachers have been instructed to make resources available to all students via Google Classroom, so that all students will have access to these.

The final day for Year 11-13 students will be Friday 19 November. NZQA information will be delivered, during a tutor group which has been scheduled for period 5, and NZQA slips handed to students in person. Term 3 Special Assembly certificates will also be issued during this period. School will finish at the usual time of 3:20pm.

Unexpected Event Grades

All students entered into an NCEA external standard will receive a UEG grade that will be visible on school reports from November 17th. Students are expected to attend their exams and will receive the better of the UEG or the NCEA external exam grade.

Vaccination Records

With the media focus at the moment, I am delighted to be able to report that all Rangitoto staff have been vaccinated and we will face no staffing issues with the 15th November deadline mandated by the Public Health Order.

Course Counselling Y11 & 12 for 2022 Courses

Course counselling is in the Auditorium over 3 days from Monday 15th to Wednesday 17th November. The Deans will have individual consultations with any student who needs advice about their course or wants to change a subject for 2022. They will touch base briefly with other students for whom their course is all OK. The purpose of this is to give students help and advice to ensure they get into courses that will both challenge them and meet their future needs (as recommended by their teachers') and taking into account their goals for the future. Further details have been emailed to students.

International students will go to the International Dean's Office over 2 days (Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th November) at a time scheduled by Mr Lee (International Dean).

IB students course counselling will be with Mrs Brandt in the IB office over 2 days (Thursday 11th and Friday 12th November) at a time scheduled by Mrs Brandt (IB Dean).

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 this week.

Y9 & 10

On Monday 8th November Year 9 and 10 continue with their online learning under the online learning extended timetable they have become accustomed to. We reminded students in the email sent to Year 9 and 10's on Thursday that it is important to remember that during this period of online learning we are all learning to do things differently and to be flexible in our approach. Students should remind themselves of everything they have achieved during this time and to be proud of their own personal accomplishments in an online learning environment.

Support is always available to students through their teachers, deans, and the guidance staff at school. Should students wish to reach out for support they shouldn't hesitate to do so.

Academic Prize Giving Ceremonies

On Tuesday, 14 December, we will be acknowledging the achievements of our Year 13 students. The ceremony will be in the auditorium if Alert Levels allow, if this is not possible, we will host a virtual ceremony. The ceremonies for all other year levels have been postponed until the beginning of Term 1, 2022. We hope to be able to invite parents and whanau to these events and start the year with a celebration of the outstanding achievements from 2021.

Year 13 Ball

Arrangements have been made for the Ball to be held in Ellerslie Convention Centre on Saturday, 18 December. Year 13 students will be emailed information about this closer to the time. In the event of this being unable to proceed at the external venue, arrangements will be made for the Ball to be held in our auditorium, Alert Levels permitting.

Best wishes



Patrick Gale
PRINCIPAL