



21st July 2022

Rangitoto College Start of Term 3 Newsletter

Covid 19 Update:

With the rolling 7-day average of cases topping 10000 cases per day, we have made the difficult decision to revert to mandatory masks for all students indoors, unless they are in possession of a mask exemption pass. With an important term of academic and school activities ahead, we are placing priority on trying to ensure that students and school staff are in the best of health in order to attend school. The rise of flu-like systems has also led to significant absence and mask use will help reduce student and staff exposure to the various respiratory viruses that rise in wintertime.

For those students who are no longer in possession of a mask, we will have a limited supply available in week 1 and ask that students get organised before the start of term and source an appropriate mask. Our classrooms remain well ventilated with sanitiser available, and we will continue to monitor daily case numbers when evaluating options in the future.

Entrance Exams:

The College's Entrance Exams will take place from Wednesday 14th of September until Friday the 23rd of September. These exams serve as an opportunity for all students who are enrolled in the final NCEA external examinations (November 7th to December 2nd), to gain valuable feedback, in order to be well-prepared for these external exams. The entrance exams also allow Year 11 and 12 students to demonstrate that they have the required level of knowledge to be able to transition into the subjects they select for 2023. This year, the entrance exams take on even further importance as they will be the primary source of evidence that the College would need to provide to NZQA, should there be a derived and/or Unexplained Event Grade process, similar to the one that took place in 2021. This means that student attendance and engagement in Term 3 as well as during the Entrance Exam period, is vital to ensuring successful outcomes for our ākongā.

Buses:

Masks continue to be mandated by the government on all buses, with students required to wear one for the duration of their journey. These environments have been identified as of high risk and ask that parents make their children aware of the requirements for masks to be worn on all buses to and from school.

Emergency Lockdown Practice:

Following recommendations that came out of the Christchurch tragedy we have updated our emergency lockdown procedures. We will conduct a trial run of these on **Tuesday 9 August at 11.35 am**. This will involve the entire school moving into a lockdown situation with messages posted on our website and through our social media channels. Please be reminded that in the event of a real lockdown situation it is imperative that you do not arrive at the College. Our website is the prime source of information during any such event. So as not to heighten concern and to prevent misinformation, students may only use their cell phones to communicate with you when directed to by a teacher.

I look forward to seeing students and staff on Monday.

Kind regards

Patrick Gale
PRINCIPAL