

28 July, 2023

Rangitoto College Week 2, Term 3 Newsletter 2023

Open days and Enrolment

In week one of this term we had our college open days, when Murrays Bay Intermediate and Northcross Intermediate students visited the kura to get a sense of what a day in the life of a student at Rangitoto College is like. Then we opened the school for students and their whanau to visit, with an open evening in the school auditorium and an open day where our wonderful students acted as tour guides for whanau members. These three days were exceptionally busy yet highly successful, with over 800 people attending the open evening and about the same number joining the guided tours of the school.

I was incredibly proud of our young people as they represented the school beautifully, demonstrating the school values of pride, courage, integrity and respect.

If you would like to enrol your child at Rangitoto College in 2024, please can I ask that you prepare all the required documentation and then upload this as soon as possible; this enables us to get an accurate picture of enrolment numbers. The enrolment process is outlined clearly on our website: <https://www.rangitoto.school.nz/enrolments>.

Pathways Evening

Our annual Pathways Evening is a valuable opportunity for parents and students to come and ask specific questions about courses and subjects for 2024. It will be held on Tuesday 22nd August from 4.30pm – 7.30pm in the College auditorium. There will also be a presentation in the staffroom (repeated during the evening), covering an overview of the new Level 1 Rangitoto Diploma. Prior to the evening, a 'Virtual Pathways' experience will be emailed out to the community, giving you a chance to preview before attending the event. This virtual experience comprises a range of videos, FAQs and the option to 'ask an expert'. Further details will be provided in the coming weeks.

Teacher only Day and Rangi Day

We had scheduled a teacher only day (TOD) in the college in Week 7 of this term; however, we have had to change this date after Ministry guidance on the national 'timing window' which did not coincide with the original chosen date. We have moved this TOD to Monday 13th November, Week 6 of Term 4. We have consulted with our Kahui Ako schools and many of them are also choosing this day for their TOD to support whanau in the local community.

Thursday August 31st will be a normal school day for all students - it will be a **DAY 3** (please note this is not in numerical sequence). Teachers will remind students closer to the time to ensure all students have the right equipment for their timetables classes.

Scholarship 2023

We have very strong interest from students to enter Scholarship Exams this year with 475 students entered for at least one exam. Students can still register their interest in a Scholarship exam entry by completing the Scholarship e-form prior to Friday Aug 11th. We are running a range of group preparation sessions this year using ex-students Ashley Huddart, Cameron Senior and Caitlin Hodge. Students involved in Scholarship must ensure they attend the sessions they are allocated into as these are crucial to ensuring preparedness ahead of the Week 8 and 9 Entrance Exams.

Entrance Exams

Entrance Exams for Years 11-13 take place beginning in Week 8 from September 13th to the 22nd. Students will receive a personalised timetable closer to the exam window and attendance to exams is compulsory for all students. These exams serve to provide students with the opportunity to experience a formal exam situation as well as receive vital feedback prior to the final end of year November NZQA exams. They also allow staff to assess students' suitability for entry in courses for 2024.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Information Evening

Wednesday 9th August - 6.30pm Auditorium

The IB Diploma is an alternative curriculum pathway to NCEA and is offered at Year 12/13. IB is an internationally minded curriculum valuing critical thinking and problem solving. This evening is your opportunity to learn about the IB curriculum from staff and students in preparation for 2024. Rangitoto's results are well above the world average - in 2022 Rangitoto College's average was 37 and the world average was 32 - and a significant percentage of our students gain top scholar status by scoring IB40+, placing them in the top 10% of the world. Students take the same 6 subjects for the two years of the programme and also complete the Core, which involves an extended essay, a theory of knowledge course and CAS (creativity, activity and service). This gives IB students a well rounded education. IB offers a wide variety of languages and IB only subjects like Psychology, French and ESS (a science option combining Biology & Geography). This evening is a wonderful opportunity to ask questions of staff and students who are involved in the programme and get a great oversight of this alternative academic pathway.

Student parking and parent drop off

Staff parking at the college is very limited. We remind everyone that there are no student parking spaces on site. If students choose to drive themselves to school, they are required to use on-street parking in the surrounding area or the gravel parking area on East Coast Road just north of the main gate. Some Year 13s have been granted the privilege of parking in a section of the Millennium Institute of Sport and Health; parking permits for these spaces are organised via the Year 13 deans. We also remind students that they should not be accessing their cars off site during the school day.

We are hearing concerns from members of the community, parents, teachers, and students about some of the parking behaviour in the gravel parking area. If your child parks in this area, we ask that you speak to them about parking etiquette: about leaving enough space between cars for that cars can be entered and exited, and that all cars are able to exit the area. We also ask that student only park on the gravel area: some cars are being parked on the grass area nearby and this may result in Council infringement notices.

This is a further reminder that no students are to be dropped off or collected in the front carpark in the morning between the hours of 8am and 9am and in the afternoon between 3pm and 4pm. This is for the health and safety of all of our students. Students should be dropped off either at Windsor Park, in the gravel parking area, or on any one of the surrounding roads.

Attendance

We continue to see excellent attendance and engagement from our students which leads to exceptional educational outcomes. Attendance is a focus within NZ education currently and parents play a key role in ensuring their children are attending school or notifying their child's absence.

We do ask parents to monitor your child's attendance on a regular basis via the PCSchool Parent Portal or PCSchool App. Should you have a query regarding your child's attendance please contact their year level Dean. You can also access our attendance details and procedures from our website [here](#).

Rangitoto College's preference is for parents/guardians to use the PCSchool Parent Portal or PCSchool App to explain student absences. We would ask parents to communicate absences on the day of absence or as soon after to allow us to process absences within our student management system. The Ministry of Education collects student attendance data at the end of each week.

When using the PCSchool Parent Portal or PCSchool App, it is essential for you to keep login information private. Please do not share the login details with your child as this may compromise the integrity of the absence system.

Kind regards

Fay Meiklejohn

Acting Principal

