

**Friday 26th January 2024**

## **Rangitoto College Start of Year Newsletter 2024**

### **Important Upcoming Community Dates**

<b>Important Community Information</b>	<b>Date</b>
Year 9 students first day (meet at Flagpole)	30th January 9am-3pm
Year 10-13 students new to Rangitoto College in 2024 first day	30th January 9am-1pm
First day for all other students	31st January Y9 9am-3.20pm Y10 9am-1pm Y11 10am-12pm Y12 10.45am-1pm Y13 11.30am-1pm

### **Principal Update**

A warm welcome back to our students and their families for the 2024 academic year. I hope that you have all managed to have a restful break and enjoy the summer sun. We look forward to welcoming our new students next week, with 750 students joining us in Year 9, and a number of other students in years 10-13. We will welcome students from 25 different countries who have chosen to join Rangitoto College as International Students. My sincere thanks to all of our homestay families for your support of these students as they transition to a new country. Our school students have been busy over the course of the summer and we look forward to sharing their successes with you in our Week 2 Newsletter. Our intention this year is to provide our community with more regular communication without overloading your email inbox. You can expect a newsletter at the end of the week, once every fortnight.

### **Head Students**

We are delighted to introduce our four head students for 2024 as (from left to right) Hamish Fleming, Kyel Anderson, Cuba Rihari and Ngaawai Simpkins. The team have been excitedly planning ways in which they can positively impact the kura in 2024 and are looking forward to leaving a lasting legacy.

They will be joined by thirty seven Student Leaders that reflect the diversity of the College. These Student Leaders will lead across portfolios that encompass all aspects of life at the kura from sports, to arts, and pastoral care; through to culture, community and the environment. All will attend Leadership Camp in early February. We wish this cohort of Student Leaders all the best.



### **NZQA and IB Exam results**

The 2023 IB results were very pleasing with 3 students gaining top scholar awards, IB40+ and 7 bilingual Diplomas awarded, which equates to 38% of the students in the cohort. Our school pass rate of 92% and average of IB35 were significantly higher than the global results where the pass rate was 72% and the average IB29. Students performed well in the CORE elements, the Extended Essay and the Theory of Knowledge programme, and IB7 grades were recorded across

many curriculum subjects. The IB programme continues to grow in popularity, with over 80 students in the 2024 year 12 cohort joining the 53 year 13 students.

The NCEA results were well above those of schools within our same equity band index (formerly decile comparisons). Level 1, 2 and 3 all had pass rates over 90% and the University Entrance success rate was 79% (nationally this rate is 47.2%). Excellence and merit endorsement rates were pleasing at Level 1, with 82% of students achieving at least a merit endorsement (42% gained an excellence endorsement). With a number of students taking part in our summer school programmes (within school and at Te Kura), our final results will be updated within the next few weeks

### **Tuck Shop update**

This year we are excited to welcome Tuckr on board as our new tuckshop provider as we look to enhance our tuckshop operation and delivery through greater innovation, flavour, and nutrition. Tuckr has been developed by the team behind the Pita Pit franchise. The new menu offerings are both tasty and healthy with items that include freshly made pitas, burgers, rice dishes, sushi, hot meals, breakfast brioche's, snacks, drinks, and much more. Whilst purchases can continue to be made at either of the top or lower tuckshops, we would encourage students to take advantage of the online ordering system which will guarantee menu selection and speed up collection. Details of the menu and how to order can be found on the College website (search 'tuckshop').

### **Lunar Festival**

This year's Lunar Festival will take place in the College on the 9th of February. The day will comprise of a variety of cultural activities that celebrate the culture of our Asian Peoples in the kura. Students will be able to sample food, learn cultural dance and gain a wider understanding of a variety of cultures as we celebrate the lunar new year.

### **Mobile Phone Expectations**

As a response to legislation which is being developed regarding student mobile usage in schools, Rangitoto College has made an adjustment to our current mobile phone expectations. We will begin the year introducing the below expectation for all students and would ask parents/caregivers to speak with their child about these expectations to support a positive start.

The Ministry of Education has communicated the following with schools:

**The government has an expectation that schools should have policies/procedures covering mobile phones 'away for the day' in place as soon as possible in Term 1 2024. The Ministry of Education references: 'Both international and local evidence shows that cellphones can be a distraction from learning during class time, as well as reducing important face to face interaction during school breaks. A UNESCO report published in July describes the move towards cellphones being away for the school day as supporting addressing issues of classroom disruption, improving learning and helping protect children from cyberbullying'.**

#### Expectation:

*Mobile phones to be turned off and placed in bags before entry into school gates. Phones will not be used by students on site between 8:00am and 3:20pm (exit bell for the day signals the use of mobile phones for students). Mobile phones to remain off and out of sight at all times. If phones are brought to school, they must be kept in a student's own school bag.*

*Other student devices/laptops are not permitted to be used at break times unless in the Rangitoto Centre for Year 13 or the library for other year levels, for the purposes of curriculum.*

At Rangitoto College, we have supported the classroom environment in recent years with students relinquishing their mobile phone on entry into classrooms. This has removed the temptation to use phones during lessons and the subsequent impact on the learning environment. The above expectations further supports the importance of face to face interactions in the academic and social development of young people.

We will be working on a soft launch with students to support the conditioning of students having mobile phones 'away for the day'. Over the course of Term 1, we will refine expectations to ensure that students meet these requirements.

## **Directors of Sports introductions:**

We are excited to be able to introduce four new people joining our sports department in newly created roles. Individual Director's of Sport will be working with players and coaches from across our programmes and will be supported by an incoming Strength and Conditioning coach.

### **Director of Rugby:**

Leota Filo Tiatia has been involved in professional and high-performance sport as a former player and successful coach for over 3 decades in both the UK, Japan and domestically here in Aotearoa. He is passionate and cares about the development of the region's players. Filo was very fortunate to have played for the All Blacks, as well as over fifty times for both the Hurricanes and Wellington Lions and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the role. Filo and his family are looking forward to joining the Rangitoto community.



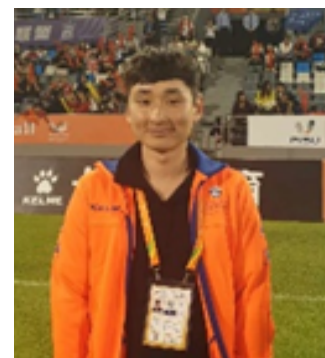
### **Director of Basketball:**

Mike Robinson has a real passion to work with young student-athletes in the basketball space and is excited to be working in the programme at Rangitoto College. He has spent the past 7 years working at Sacred Heart College (Auckland) as their Head of Basketball, and coached previously at Birkenhead, Glenfield and Whangaparaoa Colleges respectively. Mike is also involved at Harbour Basketball in both the academy and representative spaces and has previous experience in individual and group skill development work with Precision Movement. He also has a Postgraduate Diploma in Sport and Exercise from AUT, alongside working there as a part-time Teacher Aide in the School of Sport and Recreation and aims to complete his Masters in the future.



### **Director of Football:**

Adam Mingi So has been coaching for 6 years, having started as a Director of Football and Men's First team coach at Greenhithe. He then moved onto West Coast Rangers as assistant to the First team before now working at East Coast Bays as Football Development Officer and Men's Premier Assistant Coach. We are really excited to welcome Adam Mingi and look forward to further enhancing our relationship with ECB FC.



### **Director of Hockey:**

Olympian Thornton McDade currently works at Harbour Sport as a Healthy Active Learning Advisor. Prior to that he was a teacher for 17 years having most recently taught Business Economics and English in Auckland. He lives on the North Shore with his family and enjoys getting down to the local beach and any of the family-friendly community events. He competed at the Beijing and London Olympic Games as part of the South African Hockey team. In NZ, he played club hockey for Takapuna and currently coaches Somerville Men's Premier team. He has also completed two Auckland marathons which is his greatest personal sporting accomplishment since moving to NZ. Thornton is very much looking forward to the great hockey opportunities that lie ahead at Rangitoto College



## **Windsor Park Baptist Church private car park**

Due to ongoing congestion and safety concerns, students will no longer be able to park in the Windsor Park Baptist Church's private car park and parents will no longer be able to use this as a drop-off or pick-up site. This includes the entire car parking area that is accessed via Noel Williams Place and the small entrance roads off East Coast Road next to Small Fries Childcare and to East Coast Bays Rugby Club.

We ask that parents who have used this private land in previous years as a drop-off or pick-up site to organise an alternative location. We also ask students who choose to drive to school, and have previously used this private car park, to

park elsewhere, such as in the gravel parking area slightly north of the college on East Coast Road or on other local roads. Windsor Park's private car park will be monitored by church staff and we have been advised that parking enforcement may be deployed. Where possible, we continue to encourage all students to take public transport, bike or walk to the College to prevent additional congestion on our busy access roads.

We look forward to meeting all Rangitoto students next week and hope you all have a fantastic Auckland Anniversary weekend.

Kind regards,



Patrick Gale  
Principal