

Rangitoto College Term 3 Newsletter 2025

16 September 2025

Important Community Information	Date
Term 3 Ends	19 September
School Holidays	22 September - 3 October
Term 4 Starts	6 October
Arts Awards Evening	14 October Auditorium 6.30pm
Maori & Pacifica Awards Evening	15 October Auditorium 5.30pm
Sports Awards Evening	16 October Auditorium 6.00pm

Board Election Update

Congratulations to the following members of our community who have been elected to the Rangitoto College School Board:

Parent Board Election Appointed Members:

- David Mackrell
- Chris Dalton
- Jen Hanton
- Claire Janes
- Zhen (Frank) Jia

Staff Board Election Appointed Member:

- Ben Pollard

Student Board Election Appointed Member:

- Joshua Zhang

The Rangitoto College Board is essential in providing strategic direction and governance to the school and offers a vast amount of skill, expertise, and time to the effective running of the College - many thanks to all members of our community who stood for election and who participated by voting.

Holiday exam preparation for seniors

For many of our Year 13 students, the upcoming external exams are critical not only for their University Entrance aspirations but also to hone their revision and exam skills. Skills that we know are critical to success in tertiary education. Senior students, therefore, need to set a rigorous exam preparation schedule that targets their key external examinations in these upcoming holidays. Through using proven study techniques, such as the Pomodoro technique, students should structure their study to maximise their revision potential.

Students should ensure that they balance their preparation time across their exams. Rather than passive, low-value activities such as rereading and highlighting, students should prioritise high-value study activities that require them to 'think hard'. This includes activities that build memory, such as testing themselves and checking their accuracy (Test, Check, Repeat). The simplest way students can do this is by using flash cards. Students should look to test themselves on the key concepts and vocabulary for every subject every couple of days.

Students should also look to consolidate and extend their knowledge through 'elaborative' activities like Lotus Diagrams. They can switch between creating these with notes available to them and as Retrieval Practice, when they're relying solely on memory. As exams get closer, students can then start to increasingly create 'exam conditions', such as introducing time

restrictions when sitting practice exams or completing practice/memory tasks. This starts to create *desirable difficulties*, which can be very beneficial to long-term knowledge acquisition.

Reports - End of Term 3

The reports at this time of the year contain a wealth of academic and personal development information for both students and parents to review progress to date.

Entrance exam results for Year 12 & 13 students, as well as Year 11 Diploma assessment results from Term 3 will have been populated by the end of week 10. Please use this information to identify and target areas to support your child in preparation for the final NCEA/IB and Diploma exams. For students in Year 9 and 10, junior examinations will take place on the 13th and 14th of November. The reports will provide detailed information for each subject and help to highlight areas where students need to focus on, ahead of these exams.

Year 11 & 12 Course Counselling - Subject Selection for 2026

All Year 11 and 12 students will have received an email this week, which allows them to select their subjects and pathways for 2026. Students have been through a pre-course counselling process (early Term 3), whereby teachers provided feedback on what they needed to do in order to meet entry criteria for Year 12 & 13 courses. The entry criteria can be found in our Senior Course Handbook [here](#). Students must make their course selections by Tuesday, the 7th October. Each student then meets with their Dean to finalise their courses in Week 2 next term.

NZQA Scholarship Examinations and Portfolio Submissions 2025

We have a record number of Scholarship entries, with over 1300 individual exam entries into the NZQA Scholarship Assessments in November. Students have been reminded that once they are entered, they must commit to each of their assessment entries. We were really pleased with the attendance at the recent entrance exams and encourage students to review their Scholarship exam feedback and continue across the Term 3 holidays to devote time to preparing for each of their Scholarship entries. Our very top academic students who are involved in the Scholarship exams will resume their mentoring programme with staff early term 4. This is designed to help support them through managing a heavy exam workload.

SchoolTV

We would like to remind parents that SchoolTV is available as an ongoing support resource for our school community. Designed to help families navigate some of the challenges young people face today, SchoolTV features expert insights from clinical psychologists Dr Emma Woodward and Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, along with links to a wide range of trusted wellbeing resources.

This platform can be accessed at any time via the Parent Portal or directly at <https://rangitoto.nz.schooltv.me>

Patrick Gale
Principal
Rangitoto College