

Rangitoto College Term 4 Newsletter 2025

17 October 2025

Important Community Information	Date
PPTA & NZEI Strike Day: School closed for instruction	Thursday 23 October
Labour Day Public Holiday: School Closed	Monday 27 October
IB Exams	Begin Monday 27 October
Year 12 Senior Prizegiving	Wednesday 29 October
Year 13 Senior Prizegiving	Thursday 30 October
Year 11 Diploma Exams	Begin Tuesday 4 November
Level 2 and 3 Exams	Begin Tuesday 4 November
Junior Exams	Thursday 13 & Friday 14 November
Year 11 Profile Data due for Prizegiving	Wednesday 19 November
Year 9 and 10 Profile Data due for Prizegiving	Friday 21 November

Principal's Update

This week has been one of celebration as we have gathered to acknowledge the exceptional achievements of our community in the awards evenings for Performing Arts, Maori and Pasifika, and Sports. These evenings have again served to highlight the diversity and depth of talents of our students; my thanks to all who have contributed to the exceptional outcomes these programmes have achieved in 2025. Our Kapa Haka performance at the Ahurea Festival was a fantastic demonstration of our Maori whanau's pride in and knowledge of culture; my congratulations to all students and tutors involved in this performance.

My personal thanks go to those in our community who have generously taken time to reach out in response to the news of my impending move to King's College in 2026. The Board is now in final discussions with a recruitment company and will then map out a timeline for the recruitment process. Term 1 2026 will see one of our existing Associate Principals become Acting Principal as Rangitoto transitions into the future. I have every confidence that our fantastic leadership team will ensure this is seamless with our students continuing to thrive in the aspirational environment that Rangitoto fosters.

Please be aware of our notification sent last week advising all parents that the school will be closed for instruction for all students on Thursday 23rd October due to strike action by PPTA and NZEI. Supervision will be available for students if required. These students are asked to gather at the Rangitoto Centre at 8:45am.

Technology and Library Building



Our current Library building, which also houses two levels of technology classrooms, has suffered from weather-tightness issues for more than a decade. We have been planning for its replacement for a number of years and are excited to announce that the Ministry of Education has recently confirmed funding to allow us to construct a new building. The new building, occupying three levels, will be located between the Maths Block and the top tuckshop and will have a total floor area of 2460 sqm.

The ground floor will comprise a staffroom, three food technology classrooms, a commercial kitchen hospitality room with associated servery room, and a tuck shop. The second level contains four multi-purpose materials technology classrooms. Also on this level is a 223 sqm technology innovation space, which will provide students the ability to interact with cutting-edge manufacturing equipment. This space was not part of the Ministry agreement and has been made possible through a significant contribution from the Board of Trustees using local funds. The Library will occupy the third floor and include a variety of breakout spaces. It has been designed in a way to take advantage of the panoramic views and provide dual functionality as an event space.

Construction is due to start in early December this year, with completion in August 2027.

NZQA, IB and Diploma Exams

IB exams begin on Monday 27th October, with NCEA (Yr 12-13) & Diploma (Yr 11) exams from Tuesday 4th November.

Year 11, 12 and 13 students are at school on the 31st October, and will be given exam briefings during the day before being released. Please note that some Year 11 students may be required to come into the college for internal assessment catch ups on the 3rd November, and all Year 11 students return to school after their exams for a three-day exam review on 19-21 November. Students must attend all of their exams. Derived grades (estimated grades) are only authorised by NZQA and require the endorsement of a registered medical professional.

For all exams, all normal school rules and uniform/dress requirements apply. This includes before and after exams, and while students are arriving and leaving.

Junior Exams

Year 9 and 10 exams run on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th November. Students will sit a two-hour exam in each of their core subjects of English, Maths, Science, and Junior Social Science, with content from the whole year assessed. We

encourage students to begin studying now to ensure they are well prepared for these assessments. In Years 9 and 10, young people benefit from close guidance and oversight from parents and guardians in supporting their exam preparation; for example, by ensuring they have a quiet space to study, without the distraction of their phone.

Tutor Teachers will be introducing Year 9 and 10 students to our [Study Skills website](#), along with this [study planner](#), which you may download a copy of if you wish. Finally, we know that exams can be a time of stress for young people, and the support of parents and guardians is important in working through this. The [School TV guide on Exam Jitters](#) is an excellent source of information on supporting your child through exams, and please reach out to your child's Tutor Teacher or dean with any queries or concerns you may have.

Exams are an excellent opportunity for young people to practise the skills necessary for success in the senior school, and we look forward to supporting our students to achieve their full potential in these assessments and beyond.

Year 10 NCEA CAA Reading Results

86% of our Year 10 students passed the Reading assessment in the recent September testing window. This is a pleasing result, up 2% from 2024. The college has put significant resources into ensuring our students are well prepared for success within the numeracy and literacy space, including an emphasis on the evidence-informed Teaching Principles that our teachers use. Numeracy and Writing results to be released within the next two weeks.

Attendance

Student attendance continues to be a school and government priority. Daily data on student attendance is collected from schools by the Ministry of Education, with the expectation that students are attending school on a regular basis. It is important for our students to understand that poor attendance will impact opportunities and academic outcomes.

We would strongly urge parents to consider any missed learning and to prioritise their child's attendance unless there is a very good reason for absence, such as illness, medical reasons or something similar, which is unavoidable. Term 4 is a time to continue good habits and ensure your child is attending school every day, up to and including, their final day of timetabled attendance.

Parents should continue to track their child's attendance using the PCSchool Parent Portal's live attendance function. If you have concerns about your child's attendance, please contact their dean for clarification. Parent Portal access should not be shared with your child, as this can compromise the integrity of attendance reporting. Please, under no circumstances, share your password with your child.

Profile Data for Junior Summit Diploma and Year 11 Diploma

In order for us to celebrate students appropriately at Junior and Year 11 Prizegivings, it is important that students' profile data is up to date and correct. All profile data must be completed by the dates below in order to be included in Prizegivings:

Year 11: Wednesday 19th November

Year 9 & 10: Friday 21st November

If a student has been involved in an extracurricular activity in the college and has met the requirements for these to be added to their profile, they should reach out to the Teacher in Charge as soon as possible to have this uploaded to their profile. If a student has participated in a sanctioned extracurricular outside of the college that the college does not offer (Surf Lifesaving, for example) please email your dean to have this added to your profile. If a student has participated in service or leadership activities outside of school, please email evidence of this to your dean, who will pass the matter to the relevant Deputy Principal for approval.

PTA 2nd Hand Uniform Shop

Summer Sales

December 2025 (11:30am - 2pm) - Sun 7, Wed 10, Fri 12

January 2026 (11:30am - 2pm) - Wed 14, Fri 16, Sun 18, Fri 23

Late Opening (5 - 7pm) : Thurs 22 January 2026

Do you have Rangitoto College uniforms you no longer need?

Consider donating your uniforms to the Rangitoto College PTA 2nd Hand Uniform Shop. Proceeds from the shop are used by the PTA to help support the College. We also sell uniforms on your behalf. All uniforms must be clean and in good, unaltered condition ready for sale.

We are also looking for more volunteers to assist in the 2nd Hand Uniform Shop. If you are available a few Friday lunchtimes each term or during our Summer Sales, we would love your help. Email uniformshop.rangitotocollege@gmail.com for more information.

Mauri ora,

Patrick Gale
Principal
Rangitoto College