

Rangitoto College - Start of Year Newsletter

Important Community Information	Date
Year 9 and other new students: optional tour with student leaders (meet at Flagpole)	Tuesday 27 January 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm
International students new to Rangitoto College in 2026 orientation	Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 January (as per details sent)
Year 9 students' first day (meet at Hockey Turf)	Wednesday 28 January 8.40 am - 3.00 pm
Year 10 - 13 students new to Rangitoto College in 2026 first day (meet at Hockey Turf)	Wednesday 28 January 8.40 am - 1.00 pm
Second day for Year 9 students / first day for all other students	Thursday 29 January Year 9 9.00 am - 3.00 pm (Year 9 attend tutor class at 9.00 am) Year 10 9.00 am - 1.00 pm Auditorium start Year 11 10.00 am - 12.00 pm Auditorium start Year 12 10.45 am - 1.00 pm Auditorium start Year 13 11.30 am - 1.00 pm Auditorium start
Day 1 of timetabled classes	Friday 30 January - all students in class 8:40 am

Principal Update

Happy New Year from Rangitoto College. We hope you were all able to enjoy a fantastic break and spend time with friends and whānau. We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to welcoming over 800 Year 9 students and a number of new Year 10 - 13 students joining us in 2026. 245 International students from 25 countries will bring diversity and culture, and further enhance life to the school.

There has been a huge amount of property work occurring in the holidays, with various school improvement initiatives which students will no doubt enjoy and appreciate, including additional outdoor shaded seating spots, outdoor activity areas and a project recognising alumni. Along with this, there have been large-scale maintenance projects across various parts of school buildings. The new-build Technology/Library block began construction in early December with significant earth works taking place over the summer. We are excited to finally have this build underway and for the opportunities this will provide our school. My thanks to the school board and our parent community for their support in bringing these projects to fruition.

The following information will help students and families prepare for a smooth start to Rangitoto in 2026.

New Students: Wednesday 28 January

All Year 9 students and Year 10-13 students who are new to Rangitoto College for 2026 are required to meet on the Hockey Turf, which is located at the front of the school, before 8.40 am. Students should be in full school uniform with a packed lunch for the day. The school day will conclude for new students at 3.00 pm. Year 9 students will be notified of their tutor class allocation by email before Wednesday 28 January. Students must note this down for their first day.

Course Consultations: Friday 23 & Wednesday 28 January

A reminder that there is a specified time before the academic year begins for course consultation for Year 10-13 students. Deans and Subject Heads of Department are available in their offices on Friday 23 January from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

and Wednesday 28 January from 9.00 am - 12.00 pm. We request that any students in these year levels who have a valid reason for considering changing subjects from those initially chosen during the course consultation process in October/November 2025 come into school and speak with their Dean or a Head of Department to discuss subject selection and availability on these two days only. Please note, students cannot change courses because they have just changed their mind; however, a change may be approved with the support of an external examination result that clearly indicates there is a more suitable option for a student. Timetables will be finalised from Wednesday 28 January making these two course consultation days essential for any last-minute changes.

NCEA / IB / Year 11 Diploma Highlights

Our senior students continue to set a high bar, with NCEA Level 2 and 3 pass rates once again exceeding 90%. We are particularly pleased to see a lift in high-level achievement: Year 12 Excellence endorsements rose by 3%, while combined Merit and Excellence rates also climbed. This improvement reflects the academic rigour of our Year 11 Diploma, which replaced NCEA Level 1 in 2024 and is already providing our students with a superior foundation for senior success.

Our University Entrance (UE) rate remains exceptionally strong at 80%, a figure that stands in proud contrast to the national average of 49.9%. Across the board, Rangitoto College continues to outperform both national benchmarks and schools within our socio-economic equity band.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) results were equally impressive. With a 95% pass rate, our students achieved a college average of 34/45, surpassing the global average of 30.5. Individual excellence was a highlight, with 17 students gaining scores of 40 or more (up from nine in 2024). Special mention goes to the eight students who scored 43 or higher, including two students who achieved a remarkable 44/45.

In its inaugural years, the Year 11 Diploma has proven its value. Within an overall pass rate of 71%, we saw a 6% increase in Blue Endorsements (the equivalent of NCEA Excellence). This diploma is designed to prepare students for the demands of the senior school, and we encourage students to be mindful of the diverse criteria required to pass. Often, those who fell just short could have bridged the gap through higher attendance or increased participation in our many school-based extracurricular activities.

Finally, our focus on core skills remains a highlight. Our Year 13 school leavers achieved literacy and numeracy levels 6% higher than those at comparable schools nationwide, ensuring our graduates leave Rangitoto well-equipped for their next steps in life.

NZQA Exam Results

All 2026 Year 12 & 13 students should have checked their exam results on the [NZQA website](#). We have now imported these results into the school system, FACTS so caregivers can access NCEA results if these have not been shared. NZQA Scholarship results are released on 10 February.

Further information that may be useful to parents and students regarding post examination processes can be accessed at the links below:

- Return of examination material [here](#).
- Information for students viewing their exam answers can be found [here](#).
- An example of a results record and marks for a learner can be found [here](#). Students can access their summary of marks and exam scripts from 21 January.
- Students can access information on reviews and reconsiderations at this [link](#). This applies to NCEA and NZ Scholarship external assessments.
- The last dates a student can submit online applications are: NCEA - Wednesday 18 February; NZQA Scholarship - Friday 6 March.

Activities Expo

On Thursday 29 January all students will have the opportunity to attend the Activities Expo held on site. Here, students will have the opportunity to learn about the 90 clubs and services groups, and 35 sports Rangitoto College has on offer in 2026 by visiting each of the student-led stalls. Students are encouraged to sign up for as many opportunities as possible.

Students in Years 9 - 11 should carefully consider the requirements of both the [Year 9 and 10 Summit](#) and [Year 11 Diplomas](#), whereas Years 12 and 13 should consider their service leadership in the college and growing their student profiles. Involvement and leadership in the wider life of the college is highly encouraged for all students.

Parent Portal - rebrand

PC School, our school's student management system, has been rebranded to 'FACTS Student Management'. Throughout 2026 there will be some cosmetic changes but the features will remain the same.

The Parent Portal is a great tool for accessing student results and school reports, viewing student attendance, submitting absence notifications and paying student accounts. The Parent Portal can be accessed for submitting absence notification using a mobile phone or appropriate device. Indicating the reason in writing for absence is important to ensure we can code this against Ministry of Education attendance codes. Some other features in the FACTS Parent Portal (e.g. attendance records and live reporting) are designed to be viewed on a larger device.

Please refer to this [link](#) for images displaying the use of the FACTS Parent Portal for absence notification.

We request that parent login details be kept private from your child to ensure that only parents are notifying of a child's absence. Students must not have access to the Parent Portal under any circumstances.

New students and their caregivers should have received an email outlining how to access FACTS. Existing caregivers who have forgotten their passwords are able to reactivate their passwords via the Parent Portal link on the [school website](#).

Stationery / Google Classrooms

Current Year 10 - 13 students made their subject choices at the end of 2025; these can now be viewed by parents and students under the Subjects tab under Student Information on the Parent Portal. Unless a dean has been in communication, either at the end of 2025 or in 2026, these subjects are the ones that have been timetabled.

Year 9 students and new students in Year 10 - 13 received confirmation of their subjects at the end of 2025 via email.

Please ensure all the stationery requirements for subjects are finalised in the next few days, before school commences, to ensure teaching can commence on the first day. A reminder that stationery can be ordered by following the link on the red banner at the top of the home page of the [school website](#). If you have any concerns regarding subject choices, please contact your child's dean before school starts and attend the course consultation days indicated above.

Google Classrooms will be populated and available from Friday 30 January.

School Uniform Shop

The school uniform shop is again open this week for all uniform requirements. For opening times and further information please refer to the [school website](#). We advise booking a visit time to avoid a queue at this busy time of year.

Timetables

Student timetables for Year 10 - 13 will be released on the evening of Wednesday 28 January; these can be checked on the FACTS school portal.

Year 9 students will receive their tutor class allocation via email by the evening of Tuesday 27 January. Students need to know their tutor class allocation for their first day on Wednesday 28 January. Year 9 students will receive their full school timetables on their first day of school.

Lunar Festival

To celebrate the Lunar New Year, Rangitoto College will host our annual Lunar Festival on Friday 13 February. Rangitoto College students will be joined by students from our local primary and intermediate schools in a celebration of culture consisting of food stalls, traditional and contemporary dance, games and traditions. A very happy New Year to all those celebrating.

Year 11 Prizegiving

On Thursday 5 February we will celebrate the achievements of the 2025 Year 11 cohort at our annual Year 11 Prizegiving. Students who have achieved exceptional academic results in the Year 11 Diploma, as well as those who have achieved a Blue Year 11 Diploma, will be recognised in front of their parents and peers. Students and parents will receive invites for the prizegiving ceremony.

Buses

The first day for bus services will be Wednesday 28 January. Whether you are a returning family or new to the school, we encourage you to check the designated routes and stop times early: [click here to view the 2026 bus timetables](#).

Please treat the current times as a guide. We strongly suggest that parents revisit the website one week before school starts to make sure that no changes have been made to a specific route.

Electronic Waste Drop-Off Day

Following on from last year's successful electronic waste drop-off day, we are having another one on Saturday 14 February (9 am - 3 pm). Full details can be found [here](#).

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

Kind regards,



Peter Morton
Acting Principal