

Rangitoto College - Community Newsletter

Important Community Information	Date
Class, Portraits, IDs catch up session	17 February
Year 10 Choices and Stress Presentation	17 February
Year 11 Diploma Parent Information Evening	18 February
Top Scholars Evening	17 February
Māori and Pasifika Whānau Evening	19 February
Competitive Athletics Day	24 February
Year 9 Meet the Teacher Evening	24 February
Year 9 Kotahitanga Day	26 February
Year 12 and Year 13 Parent Information Evening	26 February

Principal's Update

We have been delighted with the start of the school year and the ability of students to return to school routines. It has been a pleasure to celebrate academic success in year-level assemblies as well as last week's Year 11 of 2025 prizegiving. On Saturday 31 January we celebrated in Wellington the fantastic success of our IB cohort at the IB Top Scholars event held at the Beehive. The Minister of Finance, as guest speaker, congratulated the outstanding achievement of students and the potential impact of their success on life beyond school. As one of only two state schools in New Zealand offering IB, we are proud of the point of difference this offers in terms of a dual academic pathway for students.



On Tuesday last week, NZQA Scholarship results were released with Rangitoto College breaking New Zealand records with a phenomenal 348 Scholarships awarded to students, 42 of these at Outstanding level. A summary of these results are below. We are truly proud of the dedication of students and staff in achieving these results which puts Rangitoto College at the pinnacle of academic achievement in New Zealand.

One of the key determinants of school success is attendance. I would ask parents and caregivers to prioritise this with their child and ensure timely arrival at school each day. The surrounding streets are very busy in the mornings in particular, and building good habits for students to be up and ready for school before 8:40am is important for success now and for life beyond school.

Scholarship Results

Summary of results:

- 348 Scholarships
- 42 Outstanding Scholarships
- 2 Premier Award (top 13 students in New Zealand) winners. Joshua Wang (Year 12 in 2025) with an incredible 10 Scholarships, and Yunxuan Sun with 8 Scholarships. Both students will travel to the Beehive in Wellington for the awards ceremony and receive their monetary award of \$10,000 each year for three years.
- 3 top in New Zealand subject honours were gained by Rui-Han Ong in Health and Physical Education, Leen Murad in Photography, and Xinyue Hua in Chinese.
- 6 Outstanding Scholar Award winners will receive a monetary award of \$5,000 each year for three years.

We congratulate all students who gained Scholarship passes. The college will celebrate the success of these students alongside our top Year 11 Diploma, NCEA Level 2 and IB results from 2025 on February 17th at the Top Scholars evening.

Year 9 Meet the Teacher

We warmly invite parents and caregivers to attend the Year 9 Meet the Teacher Evening on Tuesday 24 February at 6pm. Transitioning to high school is often an exciting and challenging time for young people, and we value this opportunity to connect with parents and caregivers early in the school year.

The purpose of this evening is to give you the opportunity to:

- Meet your child's tutor teacher, as well as their English, Junior Social Science, and Science teachers;
- Be informed about the Maths Curriculum and the Health Curriculum including sexuality education;
- Hear about the support available from our pastoral team;
- Learn about the expectations of students at Rangitoto College.

The allocated classroom for your child's tutor class will be in B, E or K block. You will need to know what tutor class your child is in before the evening. This information is at the top of their timetable. Please refer the list of allocated classrooms and the school map, which can be found at: <https://www.rangitoto.school.nz/our-school/campus-map-and-location/> Student guides will be onsite and available to assist with finding classrooms on the evening. Please be aware parking is limited on the college grounds.

Year 9 and 10 Testing Days

To better support our Junior students' academic growth, we are refining our assessment process for English (and ESOL), Mathematics, Science, and Social Science. Starting this term, we are moving to coordinated testing dates. This means all students within a year group will complete their assessments at the same time on the same day.

This shift is designed to improve the educational experience for our students by:

- Ensuring Consistency: Every student receives the same assessment conditions and instructions, providing a fairer benchmark for progress.
- Strengthening Data Accuracy: Simultaneous testing allows our departments to gather more reliable data, helping teachers identify specific areas where a cohort might need extra support.
- Reducing Assessment Anxiety: By scheduling specific assessment windows, students can better manage their revision time and feel more prepared for their dedicated testing periods.

Assessment Schedule: Term 1 (details for Terms 2, 3 and 4 will be communicated later in the year).

Please find the designated testing dates for Year 9 and Year 10 below. We encourage you to note these in your home calendars to help your child prepare.

Subject	Year 9 (Date & Time)	Year 10 (Date & Time)
English & ESOL	Mon, 2 March (Week 6, P1)	Mon, 2 March (Week 6, P1)
Mathematics	Thurs, 26 March (Week 9, P2)	Thurs, 26 Feb (Week 5, P1)
Science	Fri, 13 March (Week 7, P2)	Wed, 11 March (Week 7, P1)
Social Science	Thurs, 12 March (Week 7, P2)	Wed, 25 Feb (Week 5, P1)

Year 11 Diploma Parent Information Evening

This information evening is for parents and caregivers who would like to find out more about the Year 11 Rangitoto Diploma, how to support and help your teen to succeed, what opportunities the college offers for our Year 11 students and further support (careers/guidance) available. The Year 11 Deans and Deputy Principal will be presenting, with the opportunity to ask questions at the conclusion of the evening. This begins at 6pm in the college auditorium on Wednesday 18th February.

Year 12 & 13 Parent Information Evening

We invite you to join us on Thursday 26th February (6:30pm – 8:15pm) for an evening dedicated to navigating the final two years of senior school. Starting in the auditorium, the night will feature guest speakers from UoA and AUT, followed by two breakout seminars of your choice covering Tertiary entry, scholarships, apprenticeships, study skills, resilience, and wellbeing. We will also cover NCEA and IB-specific academic support. This is a fantastic opportunity for students and whānau to meet with Deans, Careers Advisors, and Deputy Principals. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finance Office

Thank you to parents and caregivers who have used the OfficeMax MySchool facility (www.myschool.co.nz/rangitoto) to pay student-related costs.

Now that the final student timetables have been confirmed, student accounts are being updated. All payments made via OfficeMax MySchool, will be applied to these accounts during February. We ask for patience while we update accounts across the school. By the end of February, individual updated statements will be emailed out for any outstanding accounts.

The Parent Portal is open now for Sports/Music/Blazer Hire and other Extra-Curricular Activity payments.

Parent Presentations

We are endeavouring to support our parent community with presentations which may assist in parenting teenagers. In 2026, as part of our Parent Series, we are delighted to offer three presentations facilitated by outside speakers:

1. Success Integrated (Darren Pereira) - Wednesday 25th March, 7-8pm, Auditorium
Darren presents 'Road to Resilience' which focuses on developing resilience in your child, becoming adaptive & dealing with their current challenges.
2. Parenting Place, Staying Connected - Wednesday 29th April 7 - 8pm, Auditorium
Parenting Place will present on staying connected during teen years with a focus on understanding the teenage brain, emotions, anxiety and navigating your teens needs for autonomy.
3. Tāima Kōrero Brett Harvey - Wednesday 27th May, 7 - 8pm, Auditorium
Brett shares his breadth of experience and knowledge on keeping children safe online and mitigating the harmful effects of pornography.

Kotahitanga Day

We are excited for Year 9 Kotahitanga Day on Thursday 26th February. This event is a day of fun and exciting team-building activities for our Year 9 students. Kotahitanga is a te reo Māori word which means unity, togetherness, and solidarity among people, and this is what we aim to foster in our Year 9s as they embark on their high school years at Rangitoto College.

Students will participate in activities and competitions as a tutor class, accompanied by their Tutor Teacher and Year 13 Peer Support leaders. Students should attend school in non-uniform in the colour of their house (red, white, or blue). Students should leave laptops and valuable items at home, and bring their morning tea, lunch, water, and sunblock.

Zushi Kaisei Junior High Visit, 3 – 7 March 2026: Invitation to Host

Since 2004, Rangitoto College has welcomed students from Zushi Kaisei school in Japan and will do so again this year. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and staff to interact with students from a different culture and to also share our New Zealand culture. As in previous visits, there will be two groups of students arriving two days apart, requiring two nights' homestay each. Visiting students will spend one of their days as an activity day at school interacting with Rangitoto College 'buddies' from Year 9 and 10. The students are all aged 14 – 15.

The dates are:

Group 1 (115 boys): Tuesday March 03 to Thurs March 05

Group 2 (151 boys): Thursday March 05 to Sat March 07.

Families may host up to two students from each group (a maximum of four students). For further information and boarding allowance, please contact Paddy O'Grady, ogrady@xtra.co.nz

School Uniform Shop

The school uniform shop is open 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.

PTA 2nd Hand Uniform Shop

Opening hours:

- Friday 1.30pm – 2.30pm (term-time only)
- Wednesday 1.30pm – 2.30pm (first week of each term only): 22 Apr, 22 Jul, 14 Oct
- Sunday 1.30pm – 2.30pm on the following dates: Mar 1, May 3, Jun 7, July 26, Aug 30, Oct 18, Nov 15

Volunteers Needed:

The PTA is currently short several adult volunteers for the Friday opening hours. If you can spare an hour from 1.30 - 2.30pm on Fridays, every other week, we would love to hear from you. Our shop cannot run without your support. Please email: uniformshop.rangitotocollege@gmail.com for more information, or follow our Facebook Page: Rangitoto College Parent Teacher Association

Buses

Although Auckland Transport has put on additional afternoon buses to some school routes, we are aware that the service to Browns Bay via Murrays & Rothesay Bay is very full with some students missing out. The same problem is also happening in the morning service of this route. We are currently in contact with Auckland Transport to see if they can add additional buses to both the morning and afternoon services of this route. Unfortunately this may take some time as Auckland Transport will need to assess the situation and then look into the availability of spare buses to accommodate this extra capacity. Students can access public buses from locations outside of our school.

Kind regards,



Peter Morton
Acting Principal