

Rangitoto College - Community Newsletter

Important Community Information	Date
Year 13 Leadership Camp	2 - 4 February
Year 11 (current Y12) Prizegiving	5 February
School closed for Waitangi Day	6 February
Class Portraits & ID Photos	10 & 11 February
Lunar Festival	13 February
Top Scholars Evening	17 February

Principal's Update

A warm welcome back to our students and their families for the 2026 academic year. It's been wonderful to see our students walk back in the gates this week and build routines for the school year ahead. We welcomed 788 Year 9 students along with a number of other students in years 10-13 on Wednesday with a mihi whakatau before the start of the Year 9 two-day orientation in tutor classes. Building connections is key to transitioning to a new school and our personnel, systems and procedures are structured to support this. It is always exciting to welcome new students to our amazing school and share the opportunities available to them.

Our students have been busy over the course of the summer and we look forward to sharing their successes in the weeks to come. Our intention this year is to provide our community with regular communication without overloading your email inbox. You can expect a newsletter each fortnight this term.

Head Students



Our four Head Students for 2026 have already been hard at work preparing to lead the College this year. Their servant leadership will focus on ensuring our student body takes up as many opportunities as possible and reach their potential in all aspects of College life.

From all of us within the Rangitoto community, we wish Ryen Anderson, Joshua Wang, Brody Donald and Maya Al-Damluji all the best for the coming year.

Leadership Camp

Our team of 43 student leaders will soon embark on a three-day Leadership Camp at Shakespear Regional Park from February 2nd to 4th. The camp is designed to set the tone for the year ahead, focusing heavily on teamwork, goal setting, and strategic planning. The itinerary balances outdoor activities aimed at challenging personal limits, along with seminars delivered by senior staff and past student leaders.

We aim to equip these students with the tools they need to lead with confidence. We look forward to seeing the 2026 cohort grow together and leave an incredible legacy for our kura throughout the year.

Top Scholars Awards Evening

This prizegiving evening will recognise the very top academic results from our students in Years 11 to 13, from both the NCEA and IB academic pathway, as well as students who have been successful in the NZQA Scholarship exams (Scholarship results released on February 10). Students and parents will receive invites to attend the evening, which will take place at 6:30pm on 17 February. *(Note: this is a change in date from what was originally published at the end of 2025).*

School Drop-Offs/Pick-Ups

Our school roll of over 4000 students requires significant logistical considerations to ensure the health and safety of everyone on site. The school continues to liaise with Auckland Transport to address the safety and access issues that our community faces at the start and end of the school day.

We also continue to ask all of our parents not to drop off and pick up students on site at either end of the school day. If pick-ups or drop-offs are essential, please delay your meeting time to avoid creating congestion. Please also use the Gravel Pit off East Coast Road for this purpose. There is no parental access to the Top Carpark (off East Coast Road) between 8:00am and 9:00am and 3:00pm and 4:00pm daily.

Where possible, we encourage all students to take public transport, bike or walk to the College to prevent additional congestion on our busy access roads. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our campus safe and accessible.

Parking

As we settle into the term, we would also like to remind families and students of the College's parking regulations. For student drivers:

- Year 13 parking (AUT Millennium): Our Year 13 cohort has received communication regarding parking at AUT Millennium. This area is strictly for Year 13 students holding a valid parking pass issued by the deans.
- The Gravel Pit: Students are permitted to park here; however, please be aware this is a shared public space. It is also used by staff and building contractors currently working on our grounds. There is very limited space available.
- Windsor Park is strictly out of bounds for student parking at any year level. This is private property.
- Additionally, students are not permitted to park in designated staff car parking areas on campus at any time.

Class & ID Photos

Tutor class and ID photos are scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th, and Wednesday, February 11th. All students will have a group tutor class photo taken first, followed immediately by their individual ID photo. To ensure everyone is included, students should arrive on time wearing their school uniform correctly and meeting all presentation expectations. Please note that students who do not meet these requirements may unfortunately be unable to have their photo taken. Specific scheduling details, including the exact date and time for each class, will be shared with students directly.

Attendance

Regular and consistent attendance is a key factor in students achieving well at school and reaching their full potential that will open opportunities well beyond school. As we begin the school year for 2026, we wish to remind parents of returning students to use the Parent Portal through FACTS for absence notifications. The Parent Portal can be accessed using a mobile phone or appropriate device. Indicating clearly the reason for your child's absence is important to ensure we can code this absence against MOE attendance codes.

The Parent Portal has other useful features for parents such as a daily period-by-period breakdown of your child's attendance and also live academic reporting. Both of these features 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.

The absence in FACTS is not updated automatically. Please allow our Attendance staff time to process these absence entries. We request that parent login details be kept private from your child to ensure that only parents are notified of a child's absence. Students should under no circumstances have access to absence notifications through the Parent Portal.

New students and their caregivers were sent an email last week giving information on how to access FACTS. If you are an existing parent and you need any assistance to access the Parent Portal, please contact ranginet@rangitoto.school.nz for a password reset. Please note there may be a delay in response due to volume in emails during this busy period.

Homework

Homework serves as a vital bridge between the classroom and home, providing students with the opportunity to reinforce new concepts and practice skills independently. Beyond the academic benefits, regular home learning fosters essential life skills such as time management, self discipline, and problem solving. By engaging with their studies outside of school hours, students move from passive receivers of information to active owners of their own learning.

Homework will generally be set cyclically, and will generally be assigned and due on the same day each 6-day cycle to help students build a reliable routine. Students can expect homework to be assigned from the start of the year. The target amounts across all subjects are as follows:

- Year 9 & 10: 30 minutes per subject = 3.5 total hours per 6-day cycle
- Year 11 & 12: 60 minutes per subject = 6 total hours per 6-day cycle
- Year 13: 72 minutes per subject = 6 total hours per 6-day cycle

We encourage whānau to chat with their child about managing these tasks, as taking ownership of their out-of-class learning is a vital step in becoming an independent, lifelong learner.

Aristotal: Teacher Coaching

Following a very successful pilot in 2025, we are excited to be rolling out a new AI-based teacher-development tool this year. This is part of our ongoing commitment to teacher improvement, continuing to support better outcomes for our students. The tool analyses specific lesson transcripts, then coaches individual teachers on their strengths and development areas. We encourage you to read [this document](#) for more information.

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 at this busy time of year.

Sport



Before Christmas, our Premier Volleyball teams headed to the Gold Coast to compete in the Australian Schools Cup and we are delighted to celebrate their achievement. A huge congratulations to our boys team who were victorious and took

out the Open Division title, a great showing after also being crowned champions in 2023. Our girls team had a strong week and eventually finished 4th in a highly competitive Open Girls division. Well done to everyone involved in both teams and a big thank you to the staff and coaches who gave up their time.

Student school sporting achievements (at all levels) can be recorded on their school profiles and are also used as the data base for our annual Sports Awards. It is extremely important for our sports department to be informed of all results, both for teams and individuals. Information can only be submitted once, so please provide full details of the achievement via [this link](#) to ensure we have all important results.

This week we had our club and sports expo. For those wanting all the information about your sport, please follow [this link](#) from the school website and scroll down to find your sport.

We are always looking for parent coaches and managers at all levels, so if you are able to provide any support please email sport@rangitoto.school.nz

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Morton'.

Peter Morton
Acting Principal