

## Rangitoto College - Community Newsletter

| Important Community Information                     | Date                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Arts Awards Evening, Auditorium (invitation only)   | Tuesday 20 October, 7pm                |
| Sports Awards Evening, Auditorium (invitation only) | Wednesday 21 October, 7pm              |
| Māori and Pacifica Awards Evening, Auditorium       | Thursday 22 October, 6.30 pm           |
| Year 13 IB Exam Leave Starts                        | Thursday 22 October                    |
| Labour Day Public Holiday, School Closed            | Monday 26 October                      |
| IB Exams                                            | Monday 26 October - Friday 13 November |
| Technology Industry Awards, Staffroom               | Thursday 29 October, 3.45 pm           |
| Year 12 Prizegiving                                 | Wednesday 4 November                   |
| Year 13 Prizegiving                                 | Thursday 5 November                    |
| NCEA and Diploma Exams Begin                        | Tuesday 10 November                    |
| Junior Exams                                        | Thursday 12 - Friday 13 November       |
| Year 11 Diploma Exam Review - students in class     | Wednesday 25 - Friday 27 November      |

### Principal's Update

I am excited about this term and, in particular, the coming weeks of celebrations as we acknowledge the incredible success of our students across the year in academics, sports, performing arts, culture, clubs and service. I look forward to seeing many of you at these Awards evenings and encourage you to use Windsor Park as an alternative for carparking at these significant events.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to welcome to Rangitoto College Mr Chris Waugh, who joined the Senior Leadership Team at the start of the term. He joins us as the Deputy Principal responsible for Year 10 and brings a wealth of experience from teaching English, PE and Drama in co-ed and single-sex schools across the South Island and London. Mr Waugh comes to us from Christ's College in Christchurch where he was Head of the English Department.

### Limited-Edition Supporter's Kit - one more chance to apply for funding in 2026



The limited-edition supporter's kit just arrived this week and it was great to get it across to the raffle winners. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and supported students to access the great opportunities at Rangitoto College.

Through the funds raised, we were able to support: startup resources for a club, Performing Arts workshop fees, Winter Tournament Week involvement and Winter Sports fees.

The student leaders are keen to run it again in 2027, so keep an eye out for the next version. We also want to open up the application once more this year to support our juniors and those involved in summer codes. So, if you want to get involved in the great opportunities at Rangitoto College and need a little financial boost to join in, apply [here](#) today—we'd love to help. Applications close on Monday 26 October.

### **NZQA, IB and Diploma Exams**

IB exams begin on Monday 26 October (Labour Day), with NCEA (Year 12 - 13) and Diploma (Year 11) exams from Tuesday 10 November.

Year 11, 12 and 13 students must attend as normal on Friday 6 November, 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 9 November, and all Year 11 students return to school after their exams for a three-day exam review on 25 - 27 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 12 and Friday 13 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 [Junior Study Planner](#) and our [Exam Study Strategies booklet](#), 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.

### **SMART Testing Years 9 & 10**

All Year 9 and 10 students will sit round two of SMART testing in Week 3. This will assess progress across reading, writing and numeracy since the first round of testing in April this year. These results allow us to better target interventions for students who need additional support moving forward as well as celebrate the progress of others. Testing will take place within normal lessons across three days.

### **Year 10 NCEA CAA Reading Results**

80% of our Year 10 - 13 students passed the Reading assessment in the recent September testing window. 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 will be released within the next two weeks. Students can access their literacy and numeracy corequisite results by logging into the MyNZQA Learner Portal using their username, password, and National Student Number (NSN).

### **Year 9 Subject Selection for 2027**

All Year 9 students have been sent an email outlining how to select and enter their subjects for Year 10 into FACTS. These should be selected from the subjects in the [Junior Course Handbook](#) on our school website. The deadline for students to make their entries into the FACTS Student Portal is **5pm Friday 23 October**.

Students should consult with their tutor teacher, subject teachers, or dean for subject selection advice and to have any questions answered. Year 10 courses are mostly open entry, meaning students are not required to have studied the subject in Year 9.

English, ESOL and REACH placements are determined by the curriculum departments, based on each student's individual needs.

Maths placements are recommended by the Maths Department and selected on FACTS by the student. The majority of students will take 10MAT, while some students may be invited into accelerated courses (11MTA or 12MAX), based on their results and further extension testing. If students are unsure which Maths course to select, they should speak to their Maths teacher.

Students are not required to have studied a language in Year 9 to select that language in Year 10, as the courses in Year 10 are designed for beginners with some continuation from Year 9 content. Heritage and native speakers of a language must choose a language different from their own, and the Deans will review these selections carefully to ensure students are appropriately placed.

### **Ellie Rowbotham, Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award**



A huge congratulations to Ellie Rowbotham in Year 13 who has become the first student at Rangitoto College to complete the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award since 2022.

Gold is the third and final level of the award, and this accolade highlights Ellie's commitment to service, physical recreation, and developing a new skill over the past 18 months. Furthermore, Ellie completed the residential component of the Award on the Spirit of Adventure and enjoyed her adventurous expedition on Great Barrier Island. The assessor for her expedition noted that Ellie showed "exceptional perseverance in overcoming natural challenges, collaborating with fellow participants, and embracing every moment with enthusiasm and grit".

We are so proud of Ellie and this fantastic achievement and hope that she will serve as an excellent example to younger students and inspire them to sign up to complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Award will be re-launched in Term 4 for students to follow in Ellie's impressive footsteps. Please contact Ms Cat Hoaresmith, our Award Leader, for more information: [cat.hoaresmith@rangitoto.school.nz](mailto:cat.hoaresmith@rangitoto.school.nz)

### **Bus Route 76**

This week has seen overcrowding on the after-school 76 bus to Torbay. Buses 13 and 61 can be used as an alternative between the College and the Northcross shops.

Kind regards,

Greg Thornton  
Principal