

Rangitoto College - Start of Year Newsletter

Important Community Information	Date
Year 9 students optional tour with student leaders (meet at Flagpole)	Friday 24 January 3.30pm - 4.00pm
Year 9 students' first day (meet at Flagpole)	Wednesday 29th January 9.00am - 3.00pm
Year 10-13 students new to Rangitoto College in 2025 first day	Wednesday 29th January 9.00am -1.00pm
Second day for Year 9 students First day for all other students	Thursday 30th January Y9 9.00am-3.00pm (Year 9 attend tutor class at 9.00am) Y10 9.00am-1.00pm Auditorium start Y11 10.00am-12.00pm Auditorium start Y12 10.45am-1.00pm Auditorium start Y13 11.30am-1.00pm Auditorium start
Day 1 of timetabled classes	Friday 31st January All students in class 8:40am

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 2025. 225 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 major refurbishment and upgrades to two wings of A block, a commercial kitchen installation in the Rangitoto Centre and a canopy cover over the main courts being the major projects that we are racing to complete ahead of next week. My thanks to the school board and our parent community for your support in bringing these projects to fruition.

The following information will help students and families prepare for a smooth start to Rangitoto in 2025.

New Students: Wednesday 29th January

All Year 9 students and Year 10-13 students who are new to Rangitoto College for 2025 are required to meet at the flagpole area, which is located at the front of the school, before 9:00am. Students should be in full school uniform with a packed lunch for the day. The school day will conclude for new students at 3:00pm. Year 9 students will be notified of their tutor class allocation by email before Wednesday 29 January. Students must note this down on their first day.

Course Consultations: 24th January

A reminder that there is a specified time this week for course consultation for Year 10-13 students. Deans and Subject Heads of Departments are available in their offices on Friday 24th January from 10:00am - 2:00pm. We request that any student in these year levels who is considering changing subjects from those initially chosen in October/November 2024, come into school and speak with their Dean or a Head of Department to discuss subject selection and availability.

Activities Expo

On January 30th all students will have the opportunity to attend the Activities Expo held on site. Here, students will have the opportunity to learn about the 84 clubs and services groups, and 35 sports Rangitoto College has on offer in 2025 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. Student involvement and leadership of the wider life of the College is highly encouraged for all those that attend the school.

NZQA Exam Results

All 2025 Year 13 students should have checked their exam results on the NZQA website. We have now imported these results into PC School (now named FACTS) so caregivers can access NCEA results if these have not been shared.

NCEA / IB / Year 11 Diploma Highlights

Our NCEA pass rates for Levels 2 and 3 have again exceeded 90%. Year 13 excellence endorsement rates increased by 5% and University Entrance rates also increased marginally up to 80%. Results across the college continue to be well above the national average and also above the average of other comparable schools within our equity index band (few socio-economic factors). IB results were very pleasing, with nine students gaining scores of 40 or more, and three students gaining scores of 43. The Rangitoto IB average was 33/45 which exceeds both the NZ and global averages.

The Year 11 Diploma pass rate was 72%, highlighting the importance of students ensuring that they are on track for all of the criteria within the diploma. For those students who missed out, many could have gained this via participation in school-based extracurricular activities, or meeting the attendance criteria.

PC School Parent Portal Access

As we begin the school year for 2025, we wish to remind parents of returning students that the school has moved to solely using the PCSchool Parent Portal through PCSchool and no longer has the PCSchool App in operation. As indicated last year, the PCSchool App is no longer supported and has poor functionality in comparison to the PCSchool Parent Portal hence the reason to remove the App from January 1 2025.

We would encourage parents who have been using the App for absence notifications to transition to using the Parent Portal before the start of the school year. The Parent Portal can be accessed using a mobile phone or appropriate device and the process for absence notification is the same as it appears in the PCSchool App. Indicating the reason in writing for absence is important to ensure we can code this against MOE attendance codes. Some other features in the PCSchool 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 PCSchool Parent Portal for absence notification.

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 can expect an email to arrive on Friday afternoon showing how to access PC School. Existing caregivers who have forgotten their passwords are able to reactivate their passwords via the Parent Portal Link on the [school website](#).

Stationary / Google Classrooms

Current Year 10-13 students entered their option choices at the end of 2024 and unless a dean has been in communication, either at the end of 2024 or in 2025, these subjects will be the ones that have been timetabled. Please ensure all the stationary 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 stationary 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. Google Classrooms will be populated and available from Friday 31st 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 29th January; these can be checked on the PC school portal.

Year 9 students will receive their tutor class allocation via email by the evening of Tuesday 28th January. Students need to know their tutor class allocation for their first day on Wednesday 29th January. Year 9 students will receive their full school timetables on their first day of school.

Homework

The school has recently refined its guidelines regarding homework, centering around the elements of intentionality, feedback, communication, amount, due date, and personal responsibility. We are adopting a schoolwide approach to use homework to its fullest potential and achieve consistency across the College. More information from subject teachers can be expected in the next few weeks; this will include ways that you can support your child to ensure homework is effective and purposeful.

Lunar Festival

To celebrate the lunar new year Rangitoto College will host our annual Lunar Festival on Friday the 14th of February. Rangitoto College students will be joined by students from our local Kahui Ako 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 Monday the 10th of February we will celebrate the achievements of the 2024 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 Y11 Diploma, will be recognised in front of their parents and peers. Students and parents will receive invites for the Prizegiving ceremony.

Buses

Full bus services for the start of 2025 will be available from Wednesday 29th January. Please refer to [our website](#) for services available.

Top Scholars Awards Evening

This prizegiving evening will recognise the very top academic results from our students in Years 11 and 12, from either the NCEA or IB academic pathway, as well as students who have been successful in the NZQA Scholarship exams. Students and parents will receive invites to attend the evening which will take place at 6:30pm on February the 20th.

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

Kind regards,



Patrick Gale
Principal