

Rangiora High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Rangiora

Whakautea **Respect**
Tohaina **Contribute**
Wawatahia **Aspire**

YEAR 8 NEWSLETTER

May 2018



**WHAKAUTEA
RESPECT**

**TOHAINA
ASPIRE**

**WAWATAHIA
CONTRIBUTE**



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A Message from the Principal

Tena Koutou Katoa

Welcome to Rangiora High School. This newsletter is the first of three newsletters designed to help you and your child learn more about the opportunities offered here at Rangiora High School. Over the next three terms through these newsletters, open days, orientation evenings and talking to your child's teachers we hope to build a partnership with you to ensure that your child's transition to high school is smooth and successful.



In terms of learning, the Year 9 connected curriculum taught in Rakahuri (a new flexible learning space opened in 2017) provides opportunities for students to learn in a way that links their learning across subjects. It also uses project based learning where students learn through real life practical projects. The upcoming open days (Thursday 24 May and Tuesday 29 May) should provide an opportunity for you to see the learning opportunities on offer. As you will see later in this newsletter the student achievement data shows that this way of learning is benefiting our learners' in terms of progress and achievement.

There are also a range of other opportunities on offer here at Rangiora High School:

- Year 9 camps early in Term one at Boyle River Lodge and locally based fieldtrips enable your child to get to know their peers and learn more about how they learn.
- There are a wide range of sporting opportunities available here at Rangiora High School. These are listed on the school website.
- There are also a range of cultural activities on offer - instrumental and vocal tuition, opportunities to participate in school productions and art showcases.
- A range of clubs such as Blue Planet and Space Club provide opportunities for students to follow their interests.

Here at Rangiora High School, we believe that it is important to provide a range of opportunities to meet the needs and interests of our students. On Monday 20 August we are holding an open evening to provide further information on academic and pastoral support programmes. We look forward to seeing you there.

Karen Stewart

Principal / Tumuaki



“So what does Year 9 at Rangiora High School look like?”

The purpose of this newsletter is to give you some idea what Year 9 will look like for your child in terms of teaching and learning programmes and the physical environment. It may seem like this is still a way off, but with Open Days starting this week and course selection coming up, we are sure there will be plenty of questions and discussion. Hopefully this newsletter can provide some answers and reduce the uncertainty.

We made significant changes to our junior programme in 2017, and the outcomes have been very positive. All Year 9 students complete AsTTle tests in both Reading and Mathematics in March and November, and results showed significant improvements across this timeframe in all areas, and in most cases the improvements were even greater than in previous years. We are also seeing improvements in student self-management and organisation, and general attitude towards their studies. This is very heartening given the hard work put in by many staff to make the Year 9 and 10 programme an effective one.

The following part is written “to the student”, and hopefully it answers some questions, or it may raise some. As always, if you have any questions about any topic, be sure to contact us with your thoughts, opinions and questions are important to us.

Organisation and Pastoral Support

You will be placed in a form class of around 29 students, and some of these you will know from your current school, some will be new faces. Your form teacher (you may know this person as a homeroom teacher) will become an important person for you, and is your first “port of call” for any questions you may have around subjects, sports and cultural groups, leadership opportunities, challenges and success, and general school information. Your form class will meet most days, first thing in the morning.

Each form class belongs to a House- we have 6 Houses, all named after famous New Zealand people.

Hillary

Lydiard

Mansfield

Ngata

Rutherford

Sheppard

There will be two Year 9 form classes in each House.



“So what does Year 9 at Rangiora High School look like?”

Classes and subjects

The two form classes will be taught as part of your House Hub. The teachers of the 5 core subjects, (English, Math, Science, Social Studies and PE), will come to your hub space as part of the timetable - always two teachers at any time. So your English and Social Studies teachers may be with you, working on a unit of work that they have designed together. Or it may be Science and Maths, or English and Science. The idea is that you will be working on units of work that may have a variety of links to skills that are important for a range of subject areas, and often these can be learned together, rather than separately. An example is the Movement Unit from Physical Education which may focus on re-enacting a scene from a film that you have studied for your English teacher, or following some learning around Imperial Measurement, you use this to construct a poem. It may be that all of your teachers work together presenting research and ideas around the theme of “Strength and Skill”, that allows you some choice as to what aspect you would like to delve deeper into.

Mixed Ability Classes

Your form class and House Hub will have students of various levels of academic ability. Research shows that effective learning can occur through your peers as well as your teacher, and indeed, learning also happens when explaining something you know to someone who doesn't.

It is important to note that we visit every school, talk to every Year 8 teacher and collate all assessment results before you start here, so we have a very clear idea of your abilities, strengths and weaknesses. We know if you require extra support in a particular area, and our Learning Support Centre will work with you on this. We also know if you should be offered extension opportunities, and we will ensure these are available to you either as part of your classroom work, or outside of school hours. We measure academic achievement across Year 9 and 10, both in terms of specific curriculum areas as well as more general assessments, so we can see where adjustments or changes need to be made to ensure you are achieving to your potential. Your role in all of this is simply to keep doing the best you can, and take the opportunities, even when things might get a bit difficult

Hub Spaces

Our new Year 9 learning space is called Rakahuri. Year 9 students are in distinct House Hub areas, separated by resource rooms, breakout spaces and furniture. You usually cannot see any students from other Houses while you are seated and working. Also, there are a variety of spaces that you can use depending on your current task - either in a group, a class, or a quiet space for yourself. It gives you some flexibility and choice around how and where you work although you need to be able to show us you can learn effectively in the setting you choose!



“So what does Year 9 at Rangiora High School look like?”

BYOD

Rangiora High School has a Bring Your Own Device policy for Year 9. Expectations around what this device might be are on our website, however the most common and cost effective option is a Chromebook- they will not play Fortnite, but they are great for learning. Most of the resources, instructions, templates you use will be accessed through an electronic platform, which means you can work anywhere at any time, and your parents can also see your work and progress. You will still use pen and paper at times because we don't want you looking at a screen all day, but your device will be an important learning tool. There is also a place in your hub where you can keep it safe, but we highly recommend you having your own case as well.

As always, the opportunities are there for you to take, and the experience you have at Rangiora High School will most likely be determined by the approach and attitude that you have to the people and environment around you.

Following is the contact information for staff who may be best placed to answer any questions.

Scott Wright- Deputy Principal (Oversight of Learning Support and the Year 8 Transition process)

wrs@rangiorahigh.school.nz

Rob Courtney- Head of Guidance (Main primary school liaison for Year 8 Transition)

crr@rangiorahigh.school.nz



From Strategic Leadership team

Pictured below are members of the Strategic Leadership Team. From left is Alison Cleary (Deputy Principal - Dynamic Curriculum), Chris Quigley (Deputy Principal - Student Success), Brian Hays (Deputy Principal - Enriched Environment, Achievement and Resourcing), Karen Stewart - Principal, Scott Wright (Deputy Principal - Innovative Learning) and Julia Malcolm (Deputy Principal - Student Engagement).



Head Students 2018

Head Students for 2018. They are from left to right in the photo below) Brianna James, Tom Lindsay, Ben Spark, Quintin Jane and Holly Maxwell.



The Uniform Shop

Rangiora High School Uniform Shop is operated and managed by UNIFORM GROUP. Opening hours may be subject to change. Please note that all garments needing to be exchanged will need proof of purchase and to be in original packaging, view the Exchanges and Returns page for more information.

Here is the link: <http://rhs.uniformgroup.co.nz/>

The shop is located at 115 East Belt, Rangiora (next door to the school).

2018 - TERM 2

OPEN HOURS | Term 2 - School days (30 Apr - 5 Jul)

DAY	OPENING HOURS
Mondays	8.00am - 10.00am
Tuesdays, Wednesdays	1.20pm - 2.20pm
Thursdays	3.00pm - 5.00pm
Fridays	CLOSED
Saturdays	CLOSED UNLESS STATED BELOW
Sat 5 May	9.30am - 11.30am
Sat 19 May	9.30am - 11.30am

Mon 7 May - TEACHER ONLY DAY - CLOSED.

Mon 4 Jun - QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY - CLOSED.

*Hours may be subject to change.

The shop will be closed on Public Holidays and Teacher only days.



Student Services

Uniform

The Rangiora High School website has a detailed outline of the RHS uniform.

Girls' trousers in all sizes are now available from the Uniform Shop. These can be worn by any year level.

A reminder about SOCKS. They are plain black. We are trying to maintain a standard of tidiness in the uniform and sticking to the uniform code is our best way of keeping to the high standard which most students reach every day.

Please feel free to contact me by phone 033118888 or email mmj@rangiorahigh.school.nz if I can help you with hardship issues around uniform. We have lots of ways to help.

Julia Malcolm

Deputy Principal

Student Engagement

The Pastoral Team

Each of the six Houses is headed by a pastoral team comprising of a Head of House and Dean of House. The pastoral teams are here to support you with any matter relating to your child's progress and are always very keen to work together with parents and caregivers for positive outcomes. If you would like to make contact with your child's pastoral team, for an appointment or for any general queries, please note their contact details as below:

For all email contact with your pastoral team, please note that their cypher should be attached to our High School email address. For example: slk@rangiorahigh.school.nz

Hillary House

Head of House - Kerry Sullivan (SLK) ext: 2101

Dean of House - Emma Gibson (GBE) ext: 2100

Lydiard House

Head of House - Ian Johnson (JNI) ext: 2103

Dean of House - Jonathan Cowey (CWJ) ext: 2102

Mansfield House

Head of House - Robyn McGrath (MGR) ext: 2104

Dean of House - Anna Commons (CMA) ext: 2105

Ngata House

Head of House - Vanessa Wilkins (WLV) ext: 2107

Dean of House - Tim Berg (BRT) ext: 2106

Rutherford House

Head of House - Jonny Sim (SMJ) ext: 2108

Dean of House - Gillian Koster (KSG) ext: 2109

Sheppard House

Head of House - Keith Anderson (ADK) ext: 2111

Dean of House - Mel Anderson (ADM) ext: 2110

Our Houses

