

February 2022: Term 1, Week 3



From the Principal

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

Welcome to all the families who are beginning a partnership with our school. Year 9 students participated very well in the induction programme which included sessions on school values, learning to learn, mindfulness, sport, Haka wero, working towards a google certificate and PAT testing. It has also been a pleasure to welcome back returning students and congratulate them on their excellent achievement in the NCEA examinations. Thank you to all senior students for their leadership and support of the Year 9 programme.

Along with new students we also welcomed new staff in our pōwhiri. Our new Deputy Principal Mr Chris Dunn brings significant curriculum leadership knowledge including experience in developing and leading e-learning systems.

We look forward to all of our new staff enjoying and contributing to enabling great learning for our students.

Following a leadership camp held in late January, our prefects are displaying pride and teamwork day by day. Congratulations to head prefects Sylvia McDougall, Aaron Mendonca, Karen Wang and Ceiron Malifa on their appointment.

We are focused on learning safely onsite as the omicron variant of Covid-19 circulates in our communities. Maximising safety includes managing spacing between students and ventilation in classrooms, wearing masks at all times inside buildings, hand hygiene, and staying home if at all sick. It is pleasing that all staff and well over 90% of students are double vaccinated.

Maximising learning includes bringing devices to school every day. Using our blended learning framework gives a great guide in every subject and allows each student to be well set up should they need to learn from home at any time in the year.

Our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern visited the school last week to view building developments first hand and find out how we are managing within the red setting of the Covid-19 Protection Framework. We appreciated the opportunity to show her and Minister Wood around our school. Student leaders enjoyed an informal question and answer session with the Prime Minister traversing many topics including navigating the twists and turns of school life while remaining positive, leadership, and good movies to watch. The Prime Minister confirmed that an additional \$4.5M has been made available through 'shovel ready' funding to further progress remediation of the school's buildings.

Our facilities development is proceeding well. The re-development of the MacLean Centre bathrooms will be completed at the end of this month. A new Performing Arts room and new facilities for Learning Extension will be available at the start of term 2. The Student Hub project will be completed in term 3. We are also in the process of consulting students and staff about the landscaping of the school quad.

We look forward to working with you and your child throughout 2022. We will work with the requirements of the Covid-19 Protection Framework as we plan our usual school events. Where necessary these may be on-line.

We are always available to help families with any questions and to ensure each student enjoys learning safely, while making the most of every opportunity.



Ngā manaakitanga
Greg Watson
Principal

School Board

Welcome to 2022 at Mt Roskill Grammar School.

As the Presiding Member on the School Board (previously Board of Trustees) it is exciting to welcome new taura and whānau to MRGS. We appreciate you supporting our Health and Safety protocols so that our taura can focus on their learning.

Our core values of Tūmanakotanga, Manaakitanga and Whanaungatanga underpin our Roskill Way. For those of you who are new to the school you will have already experienced Whanaungatanga through the warmth of welcome in the powhiri. I would like to thank our senior students who were part of that welcome and all senior students who were involved in supporting our Year 9 induction programme.

To all of our whānau, know that you can best support your taura by knowing what is happening with their learning. Excellent attendance will mean that they know what is happening in every class and can reach their own “heights”.

At MRGS we encourage all taura to make the most of the wide range of opportunities outside of the classroom, where they can create further connections to our kura.

We look forward to welcoming students and whānau at our New Parents' Evening on Thursday 17th February online at 6.30pm.



Marjet Pot
Presiding Member
School Board

New Parents' Evening

Thursday 17th February 6.30pm

We would like to invite parents/caregivers of new students to an online presentation by our Senior Leadership Team, including the Principal, Mr Watson, welcoming your student to our school.

With Covid-19 limitations we cannot do this in person as we usually would so will send the link for this meeting to new families on Thursday morning.

Prime Minister Visit



Head Prefects

Congratulations to our Head Prefects Sylvia McDougall & Aaron Mendonca, and Deputy Head Prefects Ceiron Malifa & Karen Wang. We look forward to you continuing to lead the way alongside our prefect group and other student leaders.



Welcome to our New Staff

We were excited to welcome our new staff on the first Friday of term (they are smiling under their masks!).



Alex Anderson, Jonathan Leung, Kelly D’Mello, Zachariah Hamilton, Chad Wright, Mario Jensen, Amr Soliman, Barnaby Lawrence, Sheerin Kazemi, Helen Scott, Chris Dunn, Jasmine Peate-Garratt, Swatna Lal, Suzy Smith-Roy, Valerie Clapham, Elyse Turnbull, Hasley Stephens, Ceri McVinnie, Kerry-Jane Boggs, Shareel Mishra

Provisional NCEA Results

Year 11 - Level 1 pass rate %

Level 1	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MRGS	81.6	84.4	76.7	80.9	78.8
Natinal	75.7	73.5	68.5	72.8	69.3

Year 12 - Level 2 pass rate %

Level 1	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MRGS	80.8	81.8	77.4	82.5	86.8
Natinal	80.3	79.1	76.1	81.4	78.8

Year 13 - Level 3 pass rate %

Level 1	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MRGS	71.7	73.2	73	78.7	71.6
Natinal	67.4	68	65.5	73.7	71.9

UE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MRGS	54.3	50.5	48.3	53.6	54.4
Natinal	50.1	50.4	46.8	54.7	51.9

Here at Mt Roskill Grammar School, *Tūmanakotanga*, is one of our values promoting high aspirations and excellence. The provisional NCEA results illustrated in these tables demonstrate, *Tūmanakotanga*, in action and the high level of academic achievement our students enjoyed in 2021. Despite last year continuing to present Covid-19 related challenges, Mt Roskill Grammar School students showed resilience and we are incredibly proud of their achievements. Our Level 2 results are our best yet as is the percentage of our Year 13 students leaving with University Entrance which has steadily increased to be our highest result in the last 4 years at 54.4%.

At Level 1 and 2 we continue to exceed national results and have produced results at Level 3 that are on par with the rest of the country. The perseverance and success of all our students has been impressive. We are very proud of our *taura*.

Provisional results are:

- Pass rate for Level 1 at 78.8% is similar to last year's results and is well in advance of the national pass rate.
- Pass rate for Level 2 at 86.8% is our highest to date and exceeds the national average of 78.8%.
- Pass rate for Level 3 at 71.6% is similar to the national average.
- Pass rate for University Entrance at 54.4% is the best ever and in advance of the national rate.

NCEA Information Evening

Parents and Caregivers of Year 11 students and students new to MRGS are warmly invited to the NCEA Information Evening.

This year it will be held online via Google Meet. There will be a brief overview of NCEA and mentoring followed by an opportunity to ask questions. Please be online by 6.30 pm

Meeting Link

<https://meet.google.com/rsb-bcmv-tjs>

Calendar

Term 1	
Tue 15 Feb	School Swimming Sports
Thurs 17 Feb	New Parents Evening 6.30pm online
Tue 22 Feb	PPTA Meeting - Early Close
Wed 23 Feb	NCEA Information Evening
Wed 2 Mar	NCEA Excellence Awards online
Wed 9 Mar	Mentoring Conference 1 (Y11-13)
Thurs 17 Mar	Class Photos
Fri 18 Mar	School Holiday - Closed
Mon 21 - Fri 25 Mar	Year 13 Camp
Thurs 7 Apr	Mahurangi Sports Exchange @ MRGS (TBC)
Tue 12 Apr	Pukekohe Sports Exchange @ Pukekohe (TBC)
Thurs 14 Apr	END OF TERM 1

The Roskill Way

We are focused on ensuring we provide the best possible learning environment for our students - a Learning Focused Culture in our classrooms and school environment. Part of this is ensuring our students, staff and whānau have a clear understanding of what our expectations are in regards to learning and behaviour.

We have shared the Roskill Way, our school-wide expectations, below to enable you to discuss this with your student.

Students will also be expected to meet the expectations of their class teacher. At Mt Roskill Grammar School we take pride in behaving in a way which brings credit to ourselves, our family and our school. The Roskill Way applies at school, on trips and on the way to and from school.

We all have the right to:

- Feel safe
- Be respected

You have the right to:

- Clear instructions
- Be challenged at your level
- Ongoing feedback on your learning

Student responsibilities:

Learning

- Be ready to learn with the correct equipment
- Attempt all learning activities
- Attend all classes on time
- Respect others' right to learn and don't distract others
- Keep your phone in your bag unless your teacher allows it for learning purposes
- Students out of class must have a pass

Behaviour

- Be Kind
- Use respectful language - no put downs or swearing
- Respect individual and cultural differences
- No violence. Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Wear uniform correctly
- Respect school property - put litter in the bin, no tagging
- Respect the property of others
- Do not bring to school or use forbidden item cigarettes, vapes, alcohol, drugs or weapons

Devices

Devices are really important at Mount Roskill Grammar School. Because we are a BYOD school it is important that students bring their device for learning every day.

This ideally should be a small laptop or Chromebook-sized device so that it is manageable to carry throughout the school day.

If access to a device is difficult, we can help your child out with a loaned device upon payment of a fifty dollar deposit. See reception, accounts or our website for a form. If you have a Community Services Card then you will get preferential access to these devices. If the deposit is too high, then we encourage our students to make contact with their Dean.

Student Vaccination

Student Vaccination Register

To support a strong Covid-19 response as a school, an awareness of the vaccination status of our students plays a contributing factor. This will be done in a secure and confidential manner. If you haven't yet, could you please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/pJib7X7uPshMk9Lq6>

This information will need to be used to enable participation in some events associated with school, which includes Sports, trips and events where the organisation (outside of school) requires a vaccination pass.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Meagan Gaitau, Associate Principal, meagan.gaitau@mrgs.school.nz

Health & Safety

A reminder while we are under the Red Traffic light setting there are key public health measures we have in place at school to keep everyone safe. A really important one is **mask wearing**.

Masks are a proven way to stop the transmission of Covid-19 and our government has made it a requirement that everyone must wear one while indoors at school.

Please make sure your student brings a mask to school every day and talk through the proper way to wear a mask. A mask should cover their nose, mouth and chin without gaps above, below or on the sides.

Facilities Development

We have several remediation and renovation projects scheduled for 2022. Weather tightness remediation is currently underway on the staffroom, while work on H block and P block is scheduled to start in April, and work on E block and the Administration block is scheduled for later in the year. These weather tightness projects have been in the pipeline for some time and will ensure our buildings last us well into the future.

We saw several renovation projects get underway at the end of 2021. Our renovation work is exciting because it has provided us with an opportunity to re-imagine the way that our existing spaces are utilised and to re-configure and re-design spaces, so they better serve our students and staff.

Our largest renovation project for 2022 is the development of a 'Student Hub'. Designed by Ignite Architect Group, the Student Hub will offer library facilities, careers support, a common space for all year levels to use during breaks, bookable collaboration spaces and a range of flexible seating zones that can be manipulated to suit a range of contexts. The Student Hub will be a wonderful facility for students, and we look forward to welcoming whānau into this space for school events once completed.

Other renovation projects happening around the school include the Maclean Centre toilets, a Dance Studio and new home for the Learning Extension Department in H block, and a new space for the year 13 Common Room in B block. All of these projects are currently underway and will be completed at different times during terms 1-3. Our last renovation project for 2022 is the Quad. We are in the early stages of working with Landscape Architects on a new landscaping plan for the school quad. The design process for this project will continue throughout term 1 and we are excited to see their ideas for how we can make this important part of the school more exciting, functional and inclusive.



These images show concept renders of the student Hub. Please note that these are early concept renders and do not reflect the final finishes for the space.

Sport update

College Sport Mandate Vaccination for all School Sport:

This is a reminder that all students who wish to take part in College Sport Auckland Competitions this year must be fully vaccinated before they are able to play. This extends to all Coaches, Managers, Officials and parent helpers who are associated with teams. Please ensure you have provided proof of your child's vaccination to the school to ensure they are able to attend their sports matches. You can submit your child's vaccination proof through the following link: <https://forms.gle/pJib7X7uPshMk9Lq6>

Any parents who are interested and able to coach, manage and volunteer to support their child's teams, you can complete your proof of vaccination through the following link: <https://forms.gle/ak6qXuwtbd5piHzh7>

Spectators at Sport:

This is a reminder that there are to be no spectators at any Mount Roskill Grammar School sporting fixtures while we are under the RED level setting of the Covid-19 Protection Framework. If you wish to be involved as a coach/management support you must provide your proof of full vaccination through this link: <https://forms.gle/ak6qXuwtbd5piHzh7>

Please contact the Director of Sport if you have any questions or queries regarding this - cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz

Summer Sport Registrations:

A reminder that any students wishing to sign up for any summer sports can do this through the school website on the Sports Page and can also visit the Sports Department during break times to register for sport and ask any questions regarding sport at the school.

Cricket Congratulations:

Congratulations to Dev Ratra of the 1st XI Boys Cricket Team who scored 108 not out in a pre-season match vs. Rangitoto College on Saturday. We hope Dev continues this form into this Saturday's first official match of the season vs. Pakuranga College.

Achievements

Otago University Junior Maths Competition

Congratulations to:

Pratyush Khatiwada 10 RYNG

Jessica Huang 11 CEBM

Christopher Mara 11 CCRZ

These students were three of the top 30 students in Auckland. Some schools only had one top 30 students but we had three!



Year 13 Camp

We are really excited to let you know that Year 13 Camp is planned for Monday 21st - Friday 25th March. Camp will be held at Motutapu Outdoor Education Centre on Motutapu Island, where we will be the only group present. This means that as we are a school bubble whilst there and are meeting the Covid-19 Protection Framework guidelines.

The cost of camp per student is \$340. This includes transportation, accommodation, food and instructor fees. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

More detailed information will be provided to Year 13 students and whānau this week. If you have any questions regarding Year 13 Camp, please contact Mr Cornes.

Alumni

Jeremiah Ruawhare (2020)

Congratulations to Jeremiah for receiving the inaugural Winston Reid scholarship to Biola University in California. Link [here](#) to the TV1 coverage of this achievement.

