



2022 Term 1 Week 1: Year 9



Kia ora koutou

We are excited to welcome you all next week after what we hope has been a good summer for your whānau.

In this newsletter we have outlined key information for your arrival at Mt Roskill Grammar School. It is good to know that at Red setting, we are able to support everyone learning onsite. The first three days for you will be focused on creating connections with key people in the school, your peers and the way in which we learn at Roskill, which are all vital to you feeling connected in our school.

In the body of the email, Year 9 students have informed which induction group they are in. Staff will have lists so no-one will get lost. Students will gather in their allocated groups on the large field opposite Mt Roskill Intermediate (it will be obvious from signage where each group will stand) to be welcomed to Mt Roskill Grammar School. We ask that only students come through the school gates.

In regard to Covid-19 we have moved fully into the new traffic light framework for all our school activities and events this year. We have a range of health measures in place which include: mask wearing unless eating and drinking, sanitising, good ventilation in all classrooms and gathering vaccination data (see page 2).

We have a contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do. Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in contact with you if needed.

We may need to roster home groups of students in line with capacity of staff to deliver onsite learning. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

As our newest students remember that feeling both nervous and excited is normal! See you next week.

Ngā manaakitanga
Karen Collins
Associate Principal

Year 9 Induction Programme

We are really looking forward to our Year 9's joining our MRGS whānau. For the first 3 days (Wednesday 2nd - Friday 4th February), our Year 9 students will be participating in an Induction Programme. This will involve a combination of:

- Pōwhiri
- Values
- PAT Testing (Maths and Reading)
- Learning to Learn
- Peer Mentoring
- Google Certificate
- Sport
- Haka Wero

Students will be working in groups for these three days alongside Year 13 Peer Mentors, building confidence, connection and skills to start their Year 9 MRGS year. **Each day, students should bring with them their device (if they have one), pens/paper and lunch/water.**

Tuesday 8th February, is our first full school day. At 9am, Year 9 students will go to the classroom they were in on Friday 4th February to get their official timetables to start the day. This will all be reiterated to them on Friday 4th February.

Health & Safety

Returning to school under the Covid-19 Protection Framework means there are key public health measures at each Traffic Light that will be put in place at school to keep everyone safe. Please read through these with your child to understand what they can expect at school under the Red Traffic light system.

RED traffic light health measures:

- **Stay home and get tested if you are sick:** if your child has Covid-19 symptoms, they must stay home. Please email the attendance officer Mel Latunipulu on attendance@mrgs.school.nz to say they are absent and then call your doctor or Healthline for advice about getting tested. If your child is observed by staff on arrival as sick they will be asked to go home and if they present as unwell throughout the day the nurse will also phone you to inform you they must go home immediately.
- **Masks:** Masks are required to be worn at all times unless eating or drinking. Please ensure your child has a mask and brings this to school every day.
- **Basic hygiene:** good hand washing, cough and sneeze etiquette, avoid touching your face and regularly clean and disinfect high touch surfaces.
- **Vaccination:** Vaccination has been mandated for all our staff members. It is not required for students but remains a key step to gaining more protection against the virus. If your child is vaccinated with either one or two doses please share evidence of this via this google form <https://forms.gle/pJib7X7uPshMk9Lq6> or email meagan.gaitau@mrgs.school.nz

Large hui and gatherings especially when indoors continue to be one of the riskier activities we can undertake. We have therefore reviewed all our events and activities for the upcoming term to ensure we meet the health guidance for Red, and in some cases these events will occur online.

Providing good old fashioned fresh air remains the most important thing we can do in our learning spaces to minimise risk for ākonga and kaiako (and the same goes for you at home). We will also be receiving a CO₂ monitor in the coming weeks.

We have all seen the very large numbers of cases overseas and we will very likely see much larger numbers of cases in Aotearoa than we have previously experienced in the last two years. While Omicron is more transmissible than previous strains, most people who get Covid-19 will have a mild to moderate illness and will fully recover in their own home.

However, some of our community who are immune compromised, are ill or have other vulnerabilities, even when they are fully vaccinated, could be more affected by Omicron. We all need to continue to play our part to minimise the spread of the virus.

Devices

Mount Roskill Grammar School is a Bring your Own Device (BYOD) school. We require all students to have access to a device for learning. This has become more urgent now that we are faced with delivering a combination of distance and face to face learning due to the impact of Covid-19.

Since the first lockdowns in 2020 we have an ongoing need to be a school that offers a combination of online and face to face learning for every course so that we are agile in changing circumstances. All teachers use eLearning as part of their courses and therefore every student needs to have access to a device as they are used on a daily basis to access learning activities and resources.

We are able to support families without the means to provide a device, but our resources are limited and the best option for students is to provide a family owned device. Families wishing to access loan devices are asked to provide a \$50 deposit. Please see your student's House deans if you are not able to pay a deposit. A signed Loan Agreement is required to access MRGS devices. Please print this agreement and bring it to school. The agreement is duplicated so families can keep a copy for themselves and provide one for the school. [MRGS Device Loan Agreement 2022](#)

Our IT support provider New Era Technology in partnership with Acquire has created an online School BYOD Program portal to support families in choosing a BYOD device and accessories. The following link shows a range of devices that are suitable for school use. Families are not obligated to buy from this provider but it may be useful to see the device recommended as suitable. Mt Roskill Grammar - Recommended BYOD Devices - acquire.co.nz <https://newera-byod.acquire.co.nz/byod?school=mt-roskill-grammar>

Uniform

The uniform shop is currently open and the hours are below.
Stationery can be obtained online through Office Max.

Uniform and Stationery Shop Opening Hours

January 28th 8.00am - 4.00pm
January 31st – SCHOOL CLOSED (Auckland Anniversary)
February 1st 8:00am to 6.00pm
February 2nd 8:00am to 10:00am
February 3rd - 10th 8:00am to 9:00am
February 6th - SCHOOL CLOSED (Waitangi Day)
February 10th - Normal Hours will resume (see [here](#))

Key Dates: Term 1

Wednesday 2nd February

Entry to school via Intermediate gate (near the roundabout)

Powhiri - Year 9, New students, Prefects, Peer Mentors (all other Year 13s - first day now Friday)

8.15am - All Prefects and Peer Mentors to the field

9.00am - Year 9 and new students meet on the front field entry via Intermediate gate.

9.30am - Pōwhiri start

10.00am - Year 9 Induction Programme - Year 9 students only and Peer Mentors

2.00pm - End of school day

Thursday 3rd February

Entry to school via Deans Gate

Year 9 Induction Day 2 (all Year 9 and Peer Mentors)

Year 10/11 students only on timetable (Year 12/13 at home)

9.00am - Hui Ako

3.00pm - End of school day

Friday 4th February

Entry to school via Deans Gate

Year 9 Induction Day 3 (all Year 9 and Peer Mentors)

Year 12/13 students only on timetable (Year 10/11 at home)

9.00am - Hui Ako

3.00pm - End of school day

Monday 7th February

Waitangi Day - School Closed

Tuesday 8th February

Normal School day

Other Key Dates

Thursday 10th February - New Parent's Evening

Thursday/Friday 10/11th February - Student Photos

Thursday 24th February - NCEA Excellence Awards

Tuesday 2nd March - NCEA Information Evening

Monday 21st - Friday 25th March - Year 13 Camp

Please note due to Covid-19 regulations some events may be held online, further information will be shared with whānau.

School Uniform

Our school uniform identifies us as a school and represents the pride our students have for Mount Roskill Grammar School. To support each student's return to school we would like to outline the uniform expectations. Students should be in correct school uniform on the way to and from school. Our expectations are outlined on our website and can be accessed by using the link below:

<https://www.mrgs.school.nz/school-uniform/>

A particular focus will be on:

- Correct footwear - **sandals are not currently part of the MRGS uniform**
- Regulation jumpers and jackets
- MRGS hats only
- Facial hair - clean shaven

Senior members of staff and House Deans will be checking uniform as students arrive at school. In Week 1 entry to school will only be via the Deans' Centre Gate. If there are uniform concerns you will be contacted to ensure that these are addressed for the following day. If whānau need further support please contact your House Deans.

Incorrect uniform items worn in school will be confiscated and returned to students on Friday after 3.05pm as per the school guidelines.

Stationery

Stationery is purchased through Office Max <https://www.myschool.co.nz/>

Entry to School (except Wednesday 2nd Feb)

Entry to school until further notice will be via the deans entry only. The Deans Gate be open at 8.30am (please do not arrive too early). Entry will be supervised by SLT/Deans to ensure the following takes place:

- Hand Sanitizing on arrival
- Each student is wearing a mask
- Each student is wearing correct uniform

When you leave school in the afternoon you will be able to exit via the Deans Gate and Intermediate Gate. It is important that you arrive to school BEFORE 9.00am (9.20am on Wednesday).

NOTE: Students with bikes will need to park behind the Cricket Nets (near the Turf) as there is currently no access to the bike shed.

Bell Times for 2022

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY		
First Bell	8.55	
Period 1	9.00 – 9.55	(55)
Period 2	9.55 – 10.50	(55)
Form Time	10.50 – 11.15	(25)
Break 1	11.15 – 11.40	(25)
Period 3	11.40 – 12.35	(55)
Period 4	12.35 – 1.30	(55)
Break 2	1.30 – 2.10	(40)
Period 5	2.10 – 3.05	(55)
Assemblies will be held online in Hui ako whilst at Red Level.		

WEDNESDAY		
Staff PD	8.20 – 9.05	(45)
First Bell	9.15	
Period 1	9.20 – 10.15	(55)
Period 2	10.15 – 11.10	(55)
Break 1	11.10 – 11.35	(25)
Period 3	11.35 – 12.30	(55)
Period 4	12.30 – 1.25	(55)
Break 2	1.25 – 2.05	(40)
Period 5	2.05 – 3.00	(55)