



# MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NOVEMBER  
2015

# NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As the end of the year approaches we have enjoyed many opportunities to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our students and the rich diversity of our community: our senior prize giving, viewing the NCEA Art portfolios, the Arts Awards Evening, the Sport Awards Evening, the Roskars, the campus Maori graduation, and the community Diwali event. This newsletter provides further information about each of these opportunities which combine to represent the Roskill Way.

Our senior students have almost completed their NCEA examinations, our year 9 and 10 students are receiving feedback on their final exams and are looking forward to participating in the wider education programme. We hope that families will be able to join us at the junior prize giving on December 8th.

As part of our ongoing intent to improve facilities the re-development of the hockey turf is underway. The underlying base structure is being rebuilt, and a new water based turf will be laid. We acknowledge the advice and guidance of Auckland Hockey in planning this development. Thank you to the Auckland Council for your support of the project. Thank you to everyone who helped raise funds for this project through mufti days, quiz evenings, car washes, barbecues, a helicopter drop, Diwali events and many, many more. It's great to have your help getting this project over the line. We expect the new turf will be ready for action in April 2016.

We have been pleased with the purposeful approach students have brought to their learning this term. Senior students have attended countless workshops and tutorials to complete their preparation for exams. Our teachers have been extraordinary in going the extra mile to enable this. Our year 9 and 10 students are making every lesson count. We aim to run all the way to the finish.

Thanks you for your support. Our partnership to advance the learning of our young people is making a difference. **Greg Watson**

## School Donation

Thank you to everyone who has been able to contribute a school donation. The money is used to lift possibilities for our students to the next level. This year we have been focusing on provision of e-learning technology. This donation is tax deductible. If you have yet to make this year's school donation and you can, I invite you to do so to support the education of your children.



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Website: [www.mrgs.school.nz](http://www.mrgs.school.nz)

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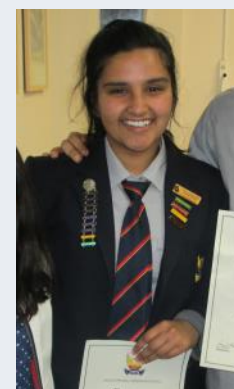
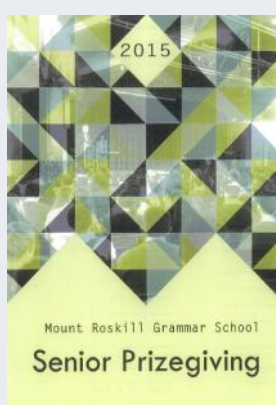
## SENIOR PRIZEGIVING

In week three of this term we proudly celebrated the achievements of our Senior students at the annual prizegiving. The range of excellence from year 11 to our top year 13 academics was honoured by the presentation of certificates, shields, prizes and scholarships. Our BOT chair Marjet Pot opened the event with her review of the year and she highlighted the school's commitment to learning as evidenced by the many achievements of its students. Mr Watson then spoke of another year of Roskill endeavor before handing over to Deputy Principal Mr Hall to read the first set of subject awards. Local MP Dr Parmjeet Parmar was one of the presenters and she was followed by alumna Ms Khylee Quince, and later representatives from tertiary institutions to present a range of scholarships. The groups of subject awards were punctuated by stirring musical performances from students which culminated in the Jazz Combo playing out the audience at the end of the ceremony as prizewinners and their families joined staff for supper. The premier academic awards for year 13 were the last to be announced with Joyce Wong named as Dux for 2015 and Balu Mallela as Proxime Accessit the achievements of these two fine scholars characterize the work of the 2015 year 13 cohort.



Mr Watson with Dux Joyce Wong and Proxime Accessit Balu Mallela

Top Academic Prizes in Year 13		Dux	Joyce Wong
Proxime Accessit	Balu Mallela	Hay Trophy for Academic Excellence in Arts	Pia Puertollano
Hay Trophy for Academic Excellence in Commerce	Alan Wong	Hay Trophy for Academic Excellence in Sciences	Joyce Wong



The achievements of the top students in years 11 and 12 were also celebrated and year 12 student Allanah Leerdam received the Leslie Gunson award for her excellence credit attainment in NCEA.

Year 11 and 12 Academic Awards		Leslie Gunson Award for Highest Total Excellence credits in 2014	Allanah Leerdam
1st in Year 12 studying at level 2—Thomas Cup	Anirudh Bhatnagar	1st in Year 12 studying at level 2 and 3	Allanah Leerdam
1st in Year 11 studying at level 1	Winnie Chen	1st in Year 11 studying at level 1 and 2	Jahnvi Trivedi



### SENIOR PRIZEGIVING (CONTINUED)

In addition to the school's own prizes our high achieving young men and women were also recipients of tertiary level awards and scholarships. These honours acknowledge the great work done at school but they also herald the next stage of learning at universities by providing financial and mentoring support.

Year 13 Tertiary Awards		First Foundation Scholarship	Nola Finau
Unitec Partner School Scholarship Award	Ben Deverell	Unitec Partner School Scholarship Award	Chris Wedding
University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship	Kaaj Pala	University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship	Korine Rosario
The AUT - Vice Chancellor's Scholarship	Zoe Brown	University of Auckland –Faculty of Arts Entry Scholarship	Srishaa Iyer
University of Auckland –Faculty of Arts Entry Scholarship	Taruki Gunawardana	University of Auckland –Faculty of Business & Economics Entry Scholarship	Ethan Bell
University of Auckland –Faculty of Business & Economics Entry Scholarship	Hasnain Cheena	University of Auckland Jubilee Award	Iqra Khan
University of Auckland Jubilee Award	Jenny Lee	University of Auckland Jubilee Award	Lianne Chacko
University of Auckland Jubilee Award	Sneha Patel	University of Auckland Jubilee Award	Phillip Quach
University of Auckland Jubilee Award	Joyce Wong	University of Auckland Chancellors' Award for Top Maori and Pasifika Scholars	'Aisake Havea
Enterprise Foundation Scholarship	Parneet Kohli	Enterprise Foundation Scholarship	Nicholas Laufoli
Enterprise Foundation Scholarship	Mandie Galea	Enterprise Foundation Scholarship	Pearl Lazaro









## ARTS AND CULTURAL AWARDS EVENING

The talents of our students in artistic and cultural areas was celebrated at this entertaining evening. Colours were awarded and there were some fine examples of performances in music, dance and drama. We were also privileged to have as a special guest and presenter Joshua Iosefo. Josh is remembered for his contribution to the performing arts while at Roskill



and for his stirring 'Brown Brother' Prefect speech. Since leaving Roskill he has pursued studies and is working towards becoming a film director. He has also established himself as a motivational speaker and this was very evident as he captivated the audience's attention and urged our students to pursue their passions in the arts. Among the various presentations there were a number of particular prizes which acknowledged the commitment of many of our top artists.



Pah Homestead Exhibiting Artist Award	Myles James	Raewyn Winny Award for Music	Aryaman Parulkar
Bryss Trophy for Leadership in Music	Joyce Wong	Composition Cup	Mark Bingham
Performing Arts Co—Curricular Contribution	Chernade Prasad	Performing Arts Leadership Award	Shaden Smith

## SPORTS AWARDS EVENING

Once again students, staff and guests were privileged to celebrate the sporting endeavor and prowess of individuals and teams in our annual sports awards. The evening opened with a focus on our special presenter adventurer and motivational speaker Kevin Biggar and then the event moved to the award of colours in the many sporting codes. As each code was mentioned we were reminded of the success and commitment of all our sportsmen and women in 2015. The climax of the evening was the announcement of the top awards which fittingly recognized the sporting talent at Roskill.

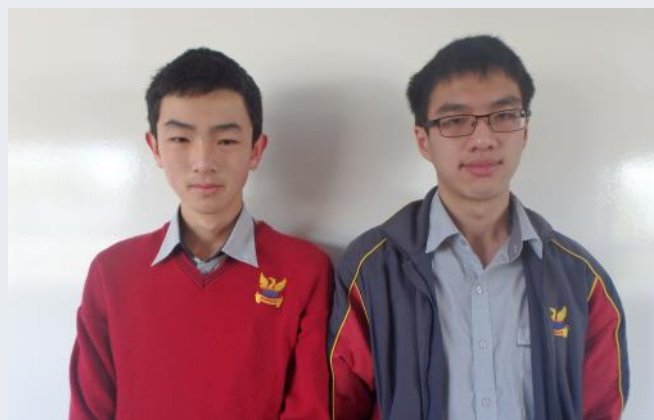


Student Coach of The Year	Samal Krishna	Staff Coach Of the Year	Mr C Christopher
The Robert Laing Trophy - Contribution to School Sport	Mr Tillam Kapsin	The Natrass Family Cup	Mandie Galea
Boys Team of the Year	1st XI Football	Girls Team of the Year	Girls Rugby
Best All Round Sportsman	Josef Power	Best All Round Sports-woman	Sapphire Sami
Sportsman of The Year – DUX LUDORUM	Glen Lewis	Sportswoman of The Year – DUX LUDORUM	Toru Arakua



### INFORMATICS OLYMPIAD SUCCESS

Roskill students Jonathan Khoo and Albert Ou both gained medals at the September Australasian Informatics Olympiad exams. This Australasian event is a computer programming competition held annually. Students write computer programs to solve three problems that vary in difficulty and are focused on problem solving through programming skills. Jonathan gained a Gold medal score with 270 out of 300 and was the first New Zealander and Albert won a Bronze medal. These great results give Jonathan and Albert entry into the January training camp for the NZ Olympiad team for 2016 in Russia.



### HIGH ACHIEVEMENT IN THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHEMISTRY QUIZ

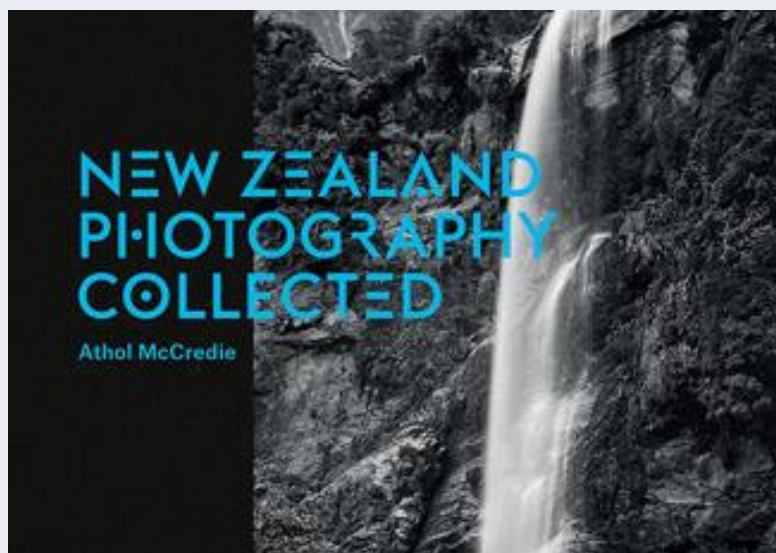
A number of Roskill students received awards in the Australian National Chemistry quiz—which is a competition for secondary students testing particular chemistry as well as general science knowledge.

Year 9 student Asif Cheena and year 11 student Lily Li both gained Distinction awards for their age group by achieving a result in the top 25% of this international competition. Year 13 student Nathan McDougall was placed in the top 10% of students in his class and received a High Distinction. Josette Xu a year 11 student performed at the highest level in the competition and was awarded a High Distinction of Excellence for her work.

### NATIONAL PUBLICATION FOR HOD VISUAL ARTS

Mr. Stone, HOD of the Visual Arts Department, is a highly respected creative photographer with many of his works in public and private art collections throughout New Zealand. In early November he attended a photographic book launch and exhibition at Te Papa in Wellington which includes one of his own photographs. The book, "New Zealand Photography Collected", a survey of important New Zealand photography by Athol McCredie, published by Te Papa Press, was released at the end of October.

Mr Stone has just completed making a major donation of 160 photographic prints to the Auckland Art Gallery. The works are from a series of portraits of people living in the Hibiscus Coast area north of Auckland that Mr Stone completed in the 1970s and 1980s. These prints will become a part of the gallery's permanent collection and the images will be uploaded onto their website in the coming weeks.







## WIDER EDUCATION FOR JUNIOR STUDENTS TERM 4



Wider Education (2nd–4th December, Week 8) is a school tradition at MRGS. It is an opportunity for Year 9 and 10 students to take their learning outside the classroom. They will learn new skills, make new friends and develop as individuals whilst having fun! Year 9's will have a series of day trips and activities to choose from, while Year 10's are encouraged to attend overnight camps. The main camp for Year 10 students is at Motu Moana this year with a variety of outdoor activities. There are also smaller camps and day trips. Attending a camp or trip is compulsory for all students and there are fundraising opportunities available.

## JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING

**The Junior Prize giving will be held in the Hall at 9.30am on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.**

The prize giving is the culmination of the junior school year and all junior students must attend.

Junior students are required to be in their form room in uniform by 9.00 am for roll call. All students will be escorted by their form teachers to the hall to take their seats at 9.15 am for a 9.30 am start to the ceremony. Caregivers and family of students are invited to attend and must be seated by 9.15 am in the hall.

We hope that you are able to be present on morning of December 8<sup>th</sup> to applaud our high achievers, to celebrate the commitment of many junior students to the school community and to enjoy items provided by some of our school music groups.

After the ceremony students will go by house group to designated areas to receive reports and will then be dismissed by form teachers to go home for the summer holidays.



## SALVATION ARMY DONATIONS AT JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING

**At MRGS we are Active Responsible Citizens:**

Please consider those less fortunate over the upcoming holiday season. At Junior Prizegiving we will be presenting gifts and food to the Salvation Army to distribute in the Mt Roskill community. Please bring donations of toys and/or non-perishable food stuffs to the main office. If you have wrapped the gift please put a tag on regarding the age the toy would suit. Thank you in advance for your care of our wider Roskill community.





### FRANCE HOMESTAY TOUR EXCHANGE: MRGS-LYCÉE JEAN XXIII

From 18th September to 10th October this year, 23 students and three teachers took part in a student exchange to France with French high school Lycée Jean XXIII. The group of 26 people flew for almost 30 hours to reach the small town of Yvetot in Normandy. They met there the host families that they would spend the following two weeks with. During the two weeks in Yvetot the party gave well-received presentations in which they shared their Kiwi culture with the French schools they visited. They were also taken on trips in the wider Normandy area visiting Bayeux and its tapestry and the famous island monastery of Mont St Michel.

There was also a special World War I day, tying in with the centenary commemorations of the Great War. They visited the WWI museum at Péronne, then a Commonwealth Cemetery at Caterpillar Valley near Longueval where there are the graves of 214 New Zealand soldiers and also a wall on which are engraved the names of a further 1,200 NZ soldiers who died during the Battle of the Somme. In addition they visited the "Carrière Wellington" in the city of Arras where New Zealanders (NZ Tunneling Company) had dug impressive tunnels in preparation for the Battle of Arras. It was a very emotional day for most with the students as they performed a waiata for the fallen soldiers. After these two full weeks sharing daily life with French families the party went on to Paris for its last week on French soil.

The group packed everything into its seven days in the capital - visiting museums such as Musée du Louvre and the Musée Rodin. There was a day trip to the Palace of Versailles and all the landmarks of the city were also seen by night and day –the Musée d'Orsay L'Arc de Triomphe and La Tour Eiffel.

The trip was supported by the **New Zealand-France Friendship Fund** and was led by Mr McAlpine HOD languages. In February of 2016 the second part of the experience will take place when the Roskill students and their families becomes hosts of the students from Lycee Jean XXIII and show them the culture, sights and hospitality of New Zealand.







### CHINESE BOOK DONATION FOR MRGS



At the end of October, Mr. Watson, HoD Languages Alistair McAlpine and TiC Chinese Grace Risetto accepted 400 Chinese books donated by the China International Publishing Group and the NZ Chinese Language Week Trust at the opening ceremony of the 7<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Chinese Cultural & Book Festival. Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-liga presented Greg Watson with the books. This Festival is held on an annual basis to help

New Zealand Chinese maintain their heritage and to help Kiwis who are studying Chinese learn more about Chinese culture. At the ceremony local MP the Hon Phil Goff also recognised the establishment of Chinese at MRGS.



### CYBERSECURITY COMPETITION

Congratulations to Sakhsham Arora on being a runner up at the IBM sponsored Cyber Security Competition held on 12 September at Unitec Institute of Technology Department of Computing. This has been a highly contested competition with a large number of participants and a very high standard of problem solving.

Sakhsham won an iPad and a \$2000 scholarship to study at Unitec Institute of Technology Department of Computing.



### STRONG SEASON OF DEVELOPMENT FOR BOYS' LACROSSE TEAM

It has been a good season of progress for the boys' lacrosse team under the fitness coaching of leader Ben Deverell and the term three strategic and game play support of coach Vaughan Thompson. The team, with its highest fitness levels ever, won their final pool play game to win a position in the playoffs for top four in the Auckland region, finally coming 3rd after a win over Orewa. They also had wins over St Peters College and Mount Albert Grammar in a recent mini tournament. The skill and performance of Ben Deverell our top scorer was also recognized by his selection for the U18 New Zealand Squad, travelling to Adelaide to represent NZ this year.





## DIWALI CELEBRATION

At the start of the term the community staged another successful Diwali event that was larger than previous years. Students and community members performed to the delight of the audience and there was rich display of talent. Over \$4,000 dollars was raised for the Hockey Turf Fund and the organisers would like to acknowledge the following individuals, groups and businesses whose sponsorship was a valuable ingredient in evening's success:

***Future Print, HummFM 106.2, 0800 Mandap, Indian Gate Restaurant, Dominoes Mt Roskill***

***South, Mt Smart Superette Pravin and Puspa Keshoor, Roskill South Superette, New World Stoddard Road, The Red Warehouse, Precious Beauty Parlour, Countdown General Merchandiser, Reckitt Benckiser, Sports First, Roop Darshan, Mega Choice St Luke's, Tony Martin's Gym .***

**CELEBRATE DIWALI 2015**  
for all of Puketapapa (Mt. ROSKILL)  
FUNDRAISING FOR THE  
**MT. ROSKILL  
WATERBASE HOCKEY TURF**  
Come Along & Enjoy Dance Performances, Garba,  
Raffles, Cultural Stalls & Henna Application

**DIWALI 2015**

Date: Friday 30th October 2015  
Time: 6:30 PM Food & Stalls Open  
7:00 PM Performances  
8:00 PM Garba  
Venue: Mt Roskill Grammar School Hall,  
Frost Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland  
Tickets: Mt. Roskill Grammar School Office  
For more information contact Ella Kumar 09 629 0660 | 021 0477642

**\$5**  
Per Person  
Includes Dinner & Drink

EVENT SUPPORTED BY

Logos of sponsors: hummfm, BARNETT & HARRIS, 0800 Mandap, INVERCARTER, DOMINO'S, and others.



## MEDIA AWARDS EVENING—'THE ROSKARS'

MRGS Media students were able to demonstrate their production skills at the annual 'Roskars'. A large and appreciative audience viewed a range of student films across three categories: Best Music Video, Best Horror Trailer and Best Documentary. A Judging panel of present staff, and ex- Students now taking part in tertiary studies made their decisions on the award winners. In addition the audience after viewing every film on the hall's projection screen were able to vote themselves for a People's Choice winner.

Best Music Video	Tayla Dawson, Theshalia Pillay, Emma Thompson (Yr 11)
Best Horror Trailer	Nikhat Nisha, Aditi Ramalingam, Tanaya Sonar (Yr 12 )
Best Documentary	Mike Qiu and Parneet Kohli (Yr 13) with "Turbans Are Sikh"
Peoples' Choice	Mike Qiu and Parneet Kohli (Yr 13) with "Turbans Are Sikh"



## KEEPING IN TOUCH—IMPORTANT CONTACTS AT SCHOOL

Talking with Parents/Caregivers about their child's learning and wellbeing is important to us—we have listed below some of the contacts /names to help you in the event of any concerns or enquiries: All staff can be reached by phoning the school main number 09-621-0050 to request a contact or by e-mailing to [admin@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:admin@mrgs.school.nz) detailing the person you wish to contact in your subject line.

Your child's <b>Academic Programme</b>			
<b>Academic Deans</b>			
Year 9	Mrs F. Burns	Year 13	Mr A. Gipps
Year 10	Mr K Hays		Mr R Cornes
Years 11 and 12	Mrs S Singh		
	Mrs A Gosai		
Your child's relationships with students and staff— <b>Pastoral welfare</b>			
<b>House Deans— (Head of Deans = Mr D. Williams)</b>			
<b>Cooper House</b>	Mrs N Fell	<b>Ngata House</b>	Ms F Leigh
<b>( Blue )</b>	Ms T Mackinlay	<b>( Orange )</b>	Mr A Ferguson
<b>Rutherford House</b>	Ms M Cranch	<b>Sheppard House</b>	Mr C Chellew
<b>( Red )</b>	Mr C McGibbon	<b>( Yellow )</b>	Ms N Dekker
<b>Hillary House</b>	Mr D Williams		
<b>( Green )</b>	Mr C Overton		
Your child's <b>attendance</b>			
Attendance Officers	Mrs E. Hyland	Mrs Nisha Bhana	
Your child's <b>emotional welfare</b>		<b>Guidance Team</b>	Head of Guidance Mrs M Hoogendoorn
Your child's <b>health</b>		<b>Nursing Team</b>	Receptionist Ms J Pace Student Services
<b>Wider Issues of Concern</b>		<b>Deputy Principals</b>	
Cooper House		Mr K Hall	
Rutherford House		Ms J Small	
Hillary House		Ms K Collins	
Ngata House		Mr T Pune	
Sheppard House		Mrs X Sulzberger	

## CONTACT DETAILS

If you have a new address, phone number, cellphone number or email address please pass this information through to the school: [admin@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:admin@mrgs.school.nz)

Emergency contact details should also be kept current so please update the school when either the person or their contact details change.

**Please ensure that you have given the school a current email address which enables us to keep you up to date with information and newsletters.**





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### TERM FOUR EVENTS

Dec 1	Prefect Camp	Dec 4	Wider Education Day 3
Dec 2	Wider Education Day 1 Prefect Camp	Dec 8	Junior Prizegiving End Of Term 4
Dec 3	Wider Education Day 2 Prefect Camp		

### Term Dates 2016

Term	First Day of term	Last Day of term
Term 1	Tuesday 2nd February	Friday 15th April
Term 2	Monday 2nd May	Friday 8th July
Term 3	Monday 25th July	Friday 23rd September
Term 4	Monday 10th October	Friday 9th December

## SCHOOL DAILY NOTICES—PARENT PORTAL ACCESS

Parents and caregivers can now view the school's daily notices by logging into the parent portal .  
At 4p.m each day the next day's notices will be uploaded

## ASB VOUCHER OFFER—SUPPORT THE SCHOOL

Supporting success in your school.

For new ASB home loans over \$150,000 drawn down before 31 December 2015, ASB will donate:

**\$500** cash to participating schools.

To take up this offer you must be a parent, staff or member of the participating school. ASB's lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. 20% equity is required in the security property. Other terms apply. Fees may apply. For Ts & Cs and to download the voucher visit [asb.co.nz/schoolbanking](http://asb.co.nz/schoolbanking). Offer ends 31 December 2015.

ASB Bank Limited PPU49035

**ASB**



### SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

Mount Roskill Grammar School would like to thank the following businesses for their ongoing generous financial sponsorship and support ;

Libelle, Barfoot & Thompson – Mt Roskill, Mc Donalds ,Three Kings Dental and Fletcher Living and Fuji Xerox.

Proudly Supported by

**Barfoot & Thompson**  
Licensed REAA 2008

**Mt Roskill, 09 621 0912**



**Fletcher Living**



### SPONSORSHIP OF GIRLS 1ST XI FOOTBALL TEAM

Mount Roskill Grammar School also would like to thank Pak' n Save Royal Oak for their sponsorship of the Girls 1st XI Football Team this year



Any business or organisation wishing to offer sponsorship to the school—please contact Mr Ben Horne—Director of Sports Ben Horne [Ben.Horne@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:Ben.Horne@mrgs.school.nz)