



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MARCH 2018

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

It's been a tremendous start to the year, meeting families who are joining our school community and those who are continuing to strengthen the 'learning partnership'. Thank you to everyone who has come along to the new families evening, the first senior mentoring conversation with your child, the NCEA information evening, or the Excellence Awards Evening.



Learning programmes are well underway and there is a real sense of purpose amongst students and staff. Thank you to families who are sending their children to school each day ready to learn. Your support makes a huge difference!

At the start of the year we welcomed eleven new teaching staff. I am delighted with the quality and experience of the teachers who have joined us. We also welcomed experienced MRGS teachers Mrs Kempster and Mr Johanson into new roles as Deputy Principals.

The NCEA results for 2017 are outstanding and the best ever in the history of the school. The lift in University Entrance results is particularly pleasing demonstrating a positive shift in the quality of achievement. Congratulations to the hundreds of students who gained Merit or Excellence endorsements. The 63 subject scholarships gained by our students across 16 different subjects is one of the best results for all schools in New Zealand. Congratulations to Tushar Thakur who gained five scholarships and has been recognised as a New Zealand Outstanding Scholar.

At MRGS we have an unrelenting expectation of success for each student. We want to foster a sense of belonging and partnership to ensure students grow as learners and citizens. I look forward to a year in which we savour success and work through challenges as they come along.

We are here to help and welcome enquiries or concerns at any time.

Ki nga taumata!

Greg Watson, PRINCIPAL

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR— MARJET POT

MRGS 2017 NCEA AND SCHOLARSHIP RESULTS: POWERFUL LEARNING

Once again, Mount Roskill students demonstrated their powerful learning in the NCEA and scholarship examinations. We often say that a little country like New Zealand always punches above its weight on the international stadium and in NZ, Mt Roskill Grammar punches above its weight in the education sector. The Board of Trustees congratulates students, their families and the staff of MRGS for these outstanding results. The big increase in pass rates are a result of considerable thought, planning, time and effort by all and are reliant on a strongly formed three way partnership between students, families and teachers. We all know that a strong team brings in the results. A student's success is enjoyed by families and staff who have also invested heavily in the student's education.



This is the biggest yearly increase in pass rates that MRGS has ever seen. Congratulations to the Mount Roskill Grammar School community.

Some details and graphs are given below:

Whole school

Pass rate for Level 1 was 86.2%, the best ever results at MRGS.

Pass rate for Level 2 at 85.0% and shows a significant increase on previous years and, as with the Level 1, represents the best ever results at MRGS.

Pass rate for Level 3 at 75.2% is the best ever, which is considerably higher than the national average and completes the record year for MRGS with the highest Level 3 results in the school's history.

The percentage of Year 13 students gaining at least Level 2 is now 96.3%.

Level 1 Numeracy and Literacy achievement rates remain at very high levels with literacy at 92.6% and numeracy at 97.8%.

Key points

There is a sustained trend of improvement in Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 pass rates resulting in the **highest pass rates in MRGS history at Level 1, 2 and 3!**

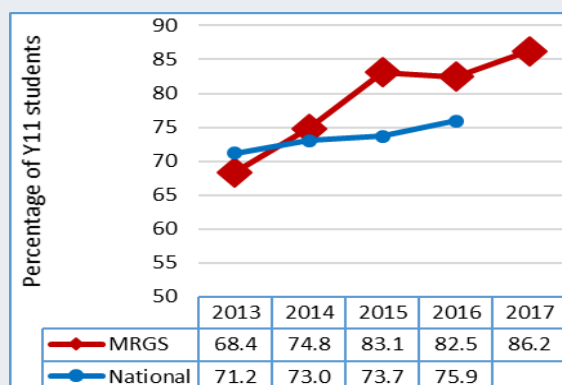
The results of our Maori and Pasifika students continue to rise. Our Maori students continued to exceed previous years' results in level 1 and 2 and our Pasifika students recorded their highest results across all levels in 2017. Level 3 and University Entrance remain good with the **UE results of our Pasifika students more than doubling** over the past year.

Endorsement rates at all levels continue at high levels.

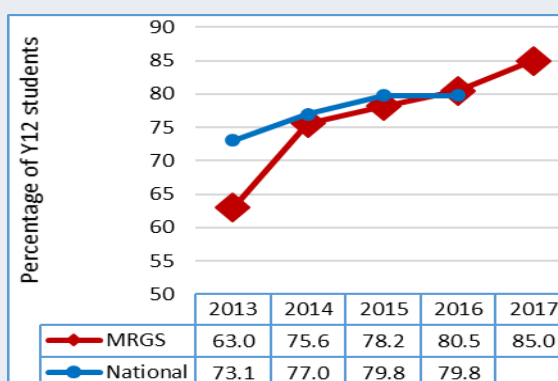




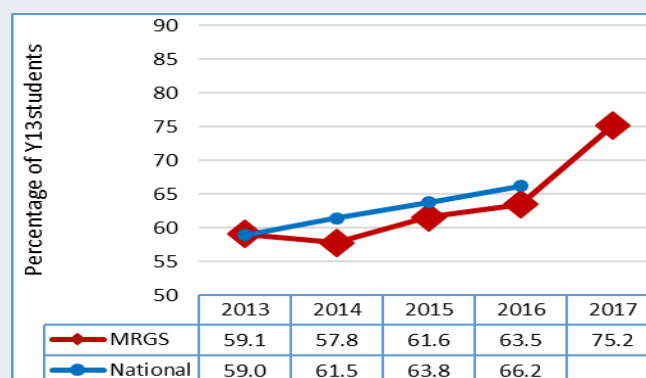
NCEA Level 1 Pass Rates



NCEA Level 2 Pass Rates

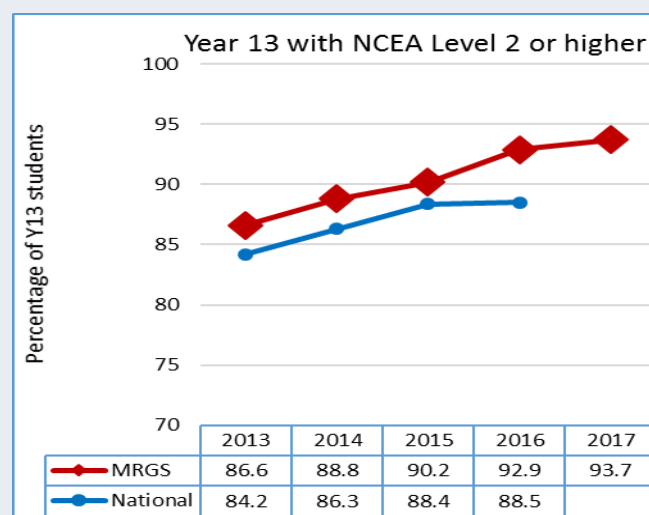


NCEA Level 3 Pass Rates



MRGS EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENTS FOR 2017 EXAMINATIONS

Once again, the school achieved high numbers of Excellence endorsements and continued the outstanding achievement across a range of subjects that the endorsements represent. A student's NCEA will be endorsed with Excellence if they gain 50 credits at Excellence. This year a total of 187 MRGS students achieved at this highest level across NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3. These results once again attest to the committed, resilient and engaged learning within our student community.





EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENT WALL OF FAME

The following students were awarded overall excellence endorsement for 2017.

Level 1 Excellence

Janice Ah Sam, Isope 'Akau'ola, Wanya Ansari, Amra Arshad, Emaan Asad, Kerwyn Bennett, Kate Bonnici, Akash Boppana, Dhiraj Bora, Joel Castelino, Krisha Chandnani, Asif Cheena, Ano Chitando, Parth Desai, Skanda Deshpande, Ishita Dwivedi, Jessica Fang, Glorielle Filisi, Gwyneth Garcia, Catharine George, Saakshi Hegde, Emily Huang, Abdullah Islam, Wooyoung Jang, Christine Fangzhi Jian, Dezil Jojo, Akash Kanamala, Simran Komalan, Jenice Kuzhikombil, Youxiang Lei, Ima Li, Jojo Liang, Caitlin Low, Jacob Madgwick, Sean Malone, Niharika Mandadi, Neil Mario, Sarah McKenzie, Asem Mohamed Arif, Amnashara Mohamed Shuraik, Vinodhini Murali, Manasija Nandagiri, Justin Ng, Max Noller, Kunj Patel, Tayla Pennell Tupou, Amisha Prasad, Shameer Prasad, Lovely Pulotu, Aruni Ramalingam, Pranav Rao, Adithi Rathnayake, Manav Rathod, Rinesh Rattan, Jessica Rigg, Gianluca Salva-Bascur, Sangavi Shanthinathan, Fahad Shehzad, Snehal Sibi, Susan Su, Anna Sue, Nadia Suhaimi, Jack Sun, Daniel Torrey, Lillian Tualau, Ala Vailala, Lauren van Laarhoven-Hargreaves, Carlton Varela, Sheng-Ya Wang, Kevin Wu, Caroline Yan, Julie Yi, Abdullah Yousef, Cindy Yuan, Jabez Zeleke, Nancy Zhang, Wendy Zhao, Rebecca Zhao, Sophia Zhou

Level 2 Excellence

Deesha Bhatia, Akash Boppana, Matthew Carey, Mahir Chand, Carmen Chen, Cathy Chen, Kinsh Chhabra, Amanda Chow, Jenny Chung, Rae Cruz, Michael Dang, Chantal Deverell, Zara Deverell, Thea Dickson, Alison Huanzhu Dong, Rebecca Ferguson, Isabella Fong, Dion Fonseca, Hana Galea, Pankaj Ghodla, Jamie Gibson, Anna Greaves, Ayla Hawthorne, Selena He, Aaron Huo, Abdullah Islam, Stephaan Jacques, Christine Fangzhi Jian, Syed Kazmi, Adam King, Youxiang Lei, Liam Liang, Mahalakshmi Manthramoorthy, Vakhtangi Mestvirishvili, Miguel Mitra, Alexander Nicholson, Pansy Ou, Rocky Parsons, Krupa Patel, Meghna Patel, Ellen Peng, Emily Power, Elizabeth Qian, Axl Rada, Aashna Rahi, Janna Rana, Pranav Rao, Khushi Sehajpal, Jill Shukla, Gunjan Soeny, Dilsha Sudu Dewage, Ann Maria Tomy, Kelis Tosala, Tania Tribhuvan, Lillian Tualau, Sheng-Ya Wang, Davis Wu, Sachi Yamamoto, Sarah Yan, Hannah Yu, Rebekah Yu, Cindy Yuan, Wendy Zhao, George Zhou

Level 3 Excellence

Shristi Anand, Caleb Baptista, Yasmin Bell, Catherine Benny, Ellen Bingham, Tessa Brown, Winnie Chen, Shuen Shuen Chu, Dhanada Dave, Sheldon Desa, Ruba Firowze, Ding Gao, Sannan Hafeez, Jay Kuang-Yi Huang, Naomi Inoue-Rajapaksa, Hiromi Inoue-Rajapaksa, Vyshni Ishwaran, Breearna Johnson, Pranavan Kailainathan, Gajanth Kanakaratnam, Shivam Kapoor, Vibhasrita Kasha, Cindy Ko, Youfei Lei, David Lin, Vanros Jiarui Lin, Josephine Mavaega, Callum McKenzie, Mihika Mehta, Karthik Menon, Arshiya Mohamed Arif, Sam Anhad Paul, Priya Prakash, Madhulika Ravuri, Shaineel Reddy, Thuluksiga Shanthinathan, Ojas Shukla, Anna Sin, Bineprit Singh, Elizabeth Tan, Natalie Tan, Tushar Thakur, Alan Thomas, Srishti Toora, Jahnvi Trivedi, Siosaia Tuitupou, Alice Wang, David Wong, Jaime Wu, Felix Yang, Kevin Yang, Elvin Zhang





NEW ZEALAND SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

Our school's record of achievement in the premier national examination continued as MRGS students gained **63 scholarships**. Our congratulations to all the scholarship recipients. Among these, Tushar Thakur will receive New Zealand Outstanding Scholar Awards. Scholarships were awarded across 16 different subjects with 18 scholarships and 4 outstanding scholarships achieved in Accounting. In addition, students achieved two outstanding scholarships and four scholarships in Chemistry plus one outstanding scholarship and five scholarships in Statistics. 33 students gained at least one scholarship and eight students gained three or more scholarships.

Recipient	Award
Caleb Baptista	Physical Education and Technology
Yasmin Bell	Accounting
Catherine Benny	Accounting
Pranav Bhulabhai	Accounting
Ellen Bingham	English and Music
Winnie Chen	Accounting and Geography
Sheldon Desa	Accounting
Alison Huanzhu Dong	Chinese
Peiyang Du	Accounting, Biology and Statistics
Ding Gao	Accounting
Sannan Hafeez	Calculus and Physics
Neesha He	Accounting
Naomi Inoue-Rajapaksa	Accounting and Japanese
Cindy Ko	Chemistry
David Lin	Physics
Vanros Jiarui Lin	Calculus
Callum McKenzie	Accounting, Classics, Physical Ed. and Statistics
Mihika Mehta	Accounting
Jelisa Rana	Physical Education
Madhulika Ravuri	Accounting
Thuluksiga Shanthinathan	Accounting
Ojas Shukla	Accounting and Classics
Anna Sin	Accounting
Tushar Thakur	Accounting, Biology, Chem., English and Stats.
Alan Thomas	Biology
Srishti Toora	Accounting
Jahnvi Trivedi	Accounting, Chemistry, Physics and Physical Ed
David Wong	Accounting
Jaime Wu	Accounting, Calculus, Chemistry and Physics
Josette Xu	Accounting, Calculus, Chemistry and Statistics
Felix Yang	Accounting, Chemistry, Physics and Statistics
Karen Zhang	Biology, Economics, Physical Ed. and Statistics
Oscar Zhong	Design



POWHIRI

We began the school year with a Powhiri for those new to MRGS. We extend a very warm welcome to all the students and families this year. In addition to new students we also have 11 outstanding new members of staff joining our community, they are:

- Mrs Tamati and Mr Syme in ESOL
- Mr Chida in Mathematics
- Mrs Prasad and Mrs Nelapati in Computing
- Mr England in Technology
- Ms MacIntyre, Mr Bluck and Mr Singh in English
- Ms Wright in Art
- Ms McRae in Social Sciences





SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL—AUCKLAND CHAMPIONS

Following on from their success in the division championships our senior girls volleyball team moved on to the Auckland Championships.

After some strong play in the group stages, the girls took out a comfortable semi-final win against Kelston Girls to set up a title match against Howick. In the words of one spectator, "It really was a nail biter of a final game, with one out with injury and only one sub!"

Howick won the first game. Roskill regained their composure, with some serious pep talking from their coach, and won the second game. This gave our girls the confidence to go into the final game. They were ahead 14-11 then Howick equalised. A fantastic tussle ensued with a lot of shouting and cheering as each team went one up, until the deadlock was broken by MRGS who showed a great deal of composure, pride and strength to eventually take out the final set by 2.

A huge congratulations to the girls, the coaches and all those that came along to support.





2018 PREFECTS

Congratulations to our 2018 Prefects and in particular to our Zane Chaudhry (Head Boy), Kiana Damu (Head Girl), Hana Galea and Ainsley Lim (Deputy Head Girls) and Chrsitian Turner and Yusuf Guessous (Deputy Head Boys).

Adam	King	Mafi	Helu
Ainsley	Lim	Mahir	Chand
Anna	Greaves	Maia	Brewster
Ayla	Hawthorne	Miguel	Mitra
Eisley	Brown	Natascha	Bates
Chantal	Deverell	Puru	Bakshi
Christian	Turner	Rebecca	Ferguson
Ellen	Peng	Reon	Bell
Gaayathri	Edwards	Rocky	Parsons
Halym	Smith	Rohan	Bhonsle
Hana	Galea	Ruth	Ramatalei
Harjot	Johal	Sammy-J	Leuii
Isaiah	Halafihi	Sidrena	Sapoi
Isla	Mayo	Tafadzwa	Chikomba
Jamie	Gibson	Tara	Dawood-Abadi
Janna	Rana	Tessa	Brown
Jenny	Chung	Tevita	Lotoa'atu
Jessica	Gao	Tina	Peau
Kelis	Tosala	Yusuf	Guessous
Khushi	Sehajpal	Zane	Chaudhry
Kiana	Damu	Zara	Deverell

INTERNATIONAL BADMINTON HONOURS

Lucas Mitchell (Year 9) won through to the second round of Yonex North Harbour International men's singles. This is a great result for Lucas at such a young age particularly as it is the first time he has played in international tournaments.

Lucas was also selected into the U15 National team by Badminton New Zealand. He will be travelling to Indonesia with the team for Pembangunan Jaya Raya Junior Grand Prix and training camp in early April.

Lucas is top row, fifth from the left.


BADMINTON
New Zealand

INDONESIA 2018

Congratulations to the following players who have been selected to travel to Indonesia for the PEMBANGUNAN JAYA RAYA Junior Grand Prix and training camp:



U15 SQUAD
Daniel Yang (AK), Jerry Jian (AK), Guang Ho Fan (AK), Ethan Chuang (AK), Lucas Mitchell (AK), Daniel Hu (AK), Anna Ryu (WTK), Ashley Tan (AK), Grace Xiong (AK), Vivan Wang (AK), Angelina Ung (AK), Camellia Zhou (AK)



U19 SQUAD
Clive Luna (AK), Evan Wong (NH), Jack Wang (CAN), Jacqueline Yu (AK), Roanne Apalisk (WTK), Oscar Guo (NH), Edward Lau (NH), Jenny Zhu (CAN), Ella Smith (SH)





2018 POLYFEST

This year we have two groups competing on the Polyfest Diversity stage. The Indian group had lots of students to turn up to the audition and the student leaders, Sachin Dutt, Siraanika Govindu and Abhishek Ravichandran, are looking forward to choreographing and teaching the group. The three styles of dance they will be showing are Classical Indian dance, Bhangra and Bollywood.

The African group, representing Ethiopia, is being tutored by Fathe Tesfamariam, an all-round performing artist out of the East African part of the Continent. In 2017, he had a leading role in *On Transit*, a show about African people's journeys to New Zealand. He is a graduate of South Seas Film & Television School, and has been working independently running community dance classes since 2012. The group is already working extremely hard in their rehearsals, with high intensity movement and energy. We are looking forward to the performance day and can't wait to see if we place as well as MRGS did last year.





ARCHERY CONTINUES TO BE ON TARGET

On Sunday the 11th of February, six students and one staff member of the Mount Roskill Grammar Archery club took part in a one day training programme at Cornwall Park, to become coaches for the club. The six members were, **Daniel Balderrama Real, Rikkisha Raju, Davis Wu, Ali Tariq, Ann Maria Tomy** and **Gurnoor Mushiana**. The training covered the health and safety requirements regarding Archery, along with shooting and coaching techniques. Coaches came away with confidence in how to facilitate beginning archers and manage a shooting range. Congratulations to all our members who qualified as coaches.

On Wednesday the 14th of February, our Mount Roskill Grammar Archery Club competed against a dozen other Auckland schools in their first ever Archery tournament at One Tree Hill. Our team consisted of four archers: **Ann Maria Tomy, Rikkisha Raju, Daniel Balderrama Real**, and **Zane Chaudhry**. Overall, the team put in great effort and performed exceptionally well for their first time. The experience of taking part in our first ever competition was nerve racking, seeing all the other schools that had already been competing for years. However, it was also an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for our team to take part in. The team have many other matches in the coming weeks ahead, and we look forward to competing further.





PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM



YEAR 10 TEA CEREMONY





FROM THE MRGS COUNSELLING TEAM

A warm welcome to Mt Roskill Grammar School from the counselling team!

Our four Counsellors are members of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors, and abide by their Code of Ethics. All counselling is confidential, unless there is an imminent risk to safety.

Common issues we deal with include family stresses, traumatic experiences, loss and grief, depression, anxiety and harassment. If your child may benefit from ongoing psychological support, with your consent we can refer them to a psychologist at no cost to you.

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing, please feel free to make contact. We are here to help!

You can find us on the school website: www.mrgs.school.nz> Student Services> Counselling

We also have a Psychologist and three Counsellors from Auckland Sexual Abuse Help working on our premises part-time. Again, help is confidential and discrete. Teachers in our school will not find out what counselling is about.

YEAR 9

This term all Year 9 students will meet with two members of the Counselling team. We will run a Anti-Harassment workshops with all Year 9 core classes to explain how we effectively stop harassment in our school. Students will be told that if they tell on harassment, their identity can be kept confidential. We know harassment causes long-term psychological harm, and we will always treat it as unacceptable, even when students say it's just "friendly mocking".

Also, all Year 9 students will be asked to fill out a confidential, internet-based "Travellers" questionnaire in the Library. This helps us identify students who may benefit from extra support. The results are confidential to the counsellors only, and will not be shared with the school.

We are proud to run the exciting Year 9 small group TRAVELLERS programme to help students build resilience and enhance connectedness. This programme was written by the University of Auckland specifically for Year 9 students. It is a safe small group programme with at the most 10 students per group.

Nga mihi,

Margaret Hoogendoorn, Head of Guidance

Margaret.Hoogendoorn@mrgs.school.nz

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS COLLINS

Deputy Principal Karen Collins received a TeachNZ study award for 2018 and will be on study leave from March until November.

I became a teacher because I like learning. I am grateful for what I have learned, alongside both colleagues and students, over the past 20 years at MRGS – as a Deputy Principal, English teacher and dean.

I am looking forward to learning in a different capacity this year; completing my Post Graduate Diploma, and starting my Masters in Educational Leadership, at the University of Auckland.

I am constantly reflecting on how I can improve what I do to benefit both students and staff and appreciate the support of Mr Watson and the BOT enabling me to take up this opportunity.

I will miss MRGS this year as I genuinely see it as not just a place to learn but a place to be nurtured. Look after each other.

"...people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel" Maya Angelou



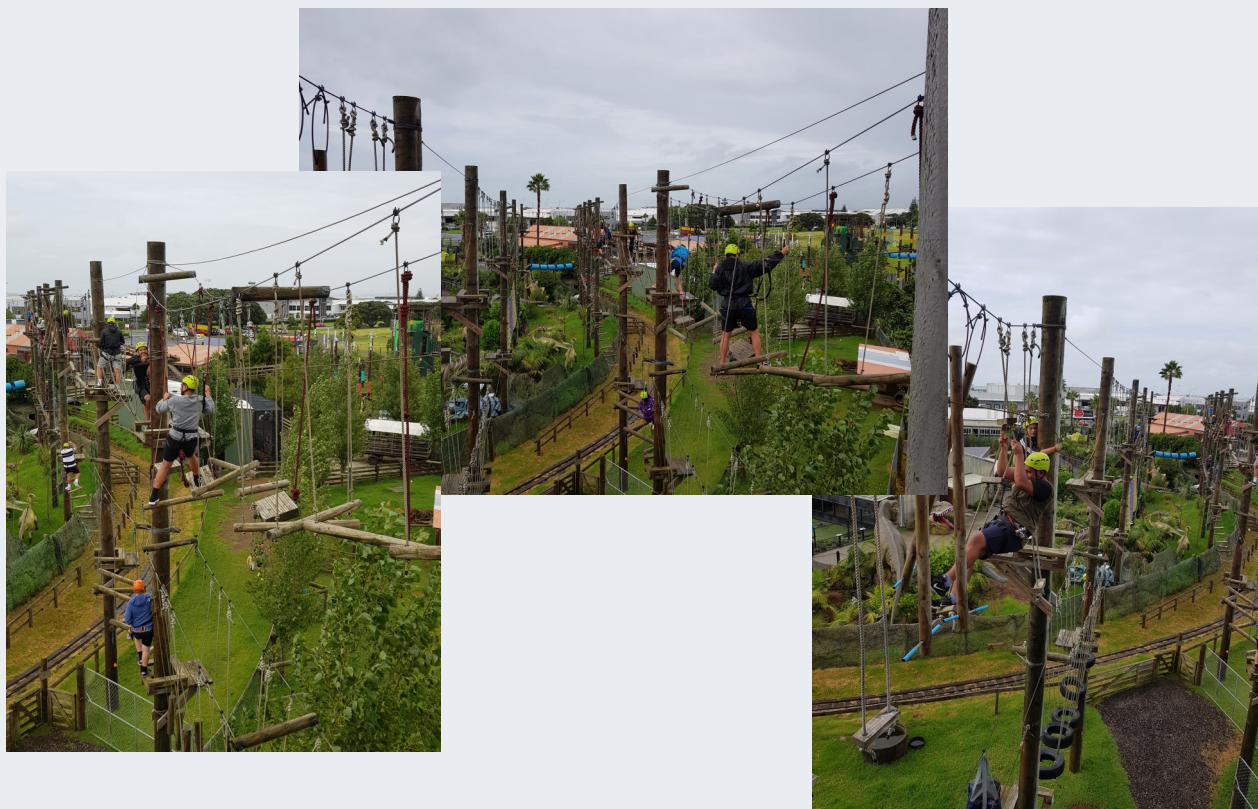


YEAR 12 RAFTING TRIP

As part of their Year 12 P.E. programme our Exercise Prescription class went rafting at the new Vector Wero Whitewater park in Manukau. Vector Wero is New Zealand's first artificial world class river (only opening last year) and provided the perfect setting for students to demonstrate their risk management strategies in a challenging outdoor activity for their current internal assessment. The teamwork/leadership and support amongst students was fantastic as they worked together navigating the thrilling but challenging whitewater. With plunging drops, raft capsizes and swirling eddies, much fun was had by all and made for an exciting start to Year 12 P.E.



ROCKET ROPES





PARENTAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

School donations are voluntary and may be tax exempt. The funding provided by the government meets basic education costs. However this funding alone is inadequate to provide the high quality of education expected by our community. Parent contributions greatly increase our ability to provide this.

We are extremely grateful for your on-going support. In recent years parental donations have assisted the school in providing class sets of chrome books to enable a wider range of students to use these devices as part of their learning. We completed the upgrade of the hockey turf, installing drinking fountains and a practice turf facility. The senior common room was re-furbished and re-branded as the Hodge Learning Commons and provides an excellent flexible learning space for lessons and for co-curricular groups. We installed further perimeter fencing and donations also helped with the running of our afterschool homework centres.

Last year we began looking at a three year roll out of a new uniform for sports teams, completing the refurbishment of the swimming pool changing rooms and performing arts classrooms. We will install a new CCTV system to strengthen our monitoring of a safe and orderly environment. Your help in enabling these improvements will lift the learning experience for all students. The parental contribution remains the same this year as previous years at \$180 for one child or \$300 for two or more children.

The Accounts Office is open from 8.00am to 4.00pm each day. Alternatively you can pay in one of the following ways:

- *via the parent portal link

<http://kamarportal.mrgs.school.nz/student/index.php>

*This method is the preferred option

- via EFTPOS, VISA or MASTERCARD at the School Office by phone or in person.
- Direct Credit or Internet Banking payment can be made to Account No: 12-3033-0358045-02. Please include your child's Student ID number in the reference column of the bank statement.





NZQA FEES

Although it is still very early in the year, to assist parents in their planning please note that NZQA payment of fees will be due Wednesday 9th May – Friday 11th May.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

