



9 November 2021

From the Principal



Kia ora koutou

The commitment of our senior students to learning onsite is tremendous. We have completed the external practice exams which not only prepare students for the NCEA externals, but strengthen the information needed to be able to provide 'unexpected event grades' to NZQA. Once we have clarity from the government about years 9 and 10 we will develop a plan for them to return to site. Thank you to families who are continuing to work hard to support these students.

There were some outstanding results in the recent Auckland Showcase Awards with the Year 13 production of 'Flint Street Nativity' winning best overall school show in Auckland, the production of 'Antigone' winning best ensemble in show, Corrin Ansin winning best female in a minor role, and Videsh Sreeram Babu winning best male in a supporting role. Congratulations to all the students involved, and to our Performing Arts Department.

Ngā manaakitanga

Greg Watson
Tumuaki | Principal



Junior Exams

While we do not have information on a possible return date for year 9 and 10 students, we would like to confirm some aspects of teaching and learning for juniors for the remainder of 2021.

Online learning will continue while students are prevented from returning to school. If we are given the opportunity to welcome junior students back to school, we will provide face to face learning here at school. Whether the students return or not, we have decided to cancel formal end of year exams for juniors. All families will still receive a report on their student's achievement, engagement and participation in the wider life of the school. Subjects may conduct some assessment in the form of tests or assignments to ascertain curriculum level achievement, but we will not hold formal exams for juniors this year.

Student Vaccination Register

We are required by the Ministry of Education to collect the Covid-19 vaccination status of our students. The Student Registration form can be found here: <https://forms.gle/TCu2pqBh5SGcSiC8>

If you have not completed this yet please complete it as soon as possible. We are aware that some people are awaiting their proof of vaccination from the Ministry of Health. As soon as you receive this, please email a copy to meagan.gaitau@mrgs.school.nz

Mentoring

We will be holding a Group Mentoring Meeting this week, Thursday 11th November **for students only**. This will happen onsite with your mentor (in your Hui Ako classroom), from 12.00pm – 12.30pm, with the afternoon lesson being from 12.30pm – 2.00pm. In the mentoring session, students will receive information about their current progress towards their achievement and will identify what they need to complete before the end of the academic year.

Attendance

It has been great to have our senior and accelerated Year 10 students back attending school onsite this week. A reminder that school begins at 9.30am and students should not be at school prior to 9.15am so we can maintain safe physical distancing at the dean's gate. Also, if your child is sick they should not come to school and if they have COVID-like symptoms should phone Healthline.

For our senior and Year 10 accelerated students our Attendance Officer will resume sending a text alert if your child is not attending so please continue to notify the school either by phone on **6210069** or by email attendance@mrgs.school.nz if they are absent.

For our junior students they should continue to log-in to complete the daily check-in on the school website.

Key Dates

Key Dates Term 4 2021

Thursday 11th November	Mentoring: students only (during school day)
Tuesday 16th November	Sports Awards (online)
Thursday 18th November	Arts Awards (online)
Monday 22nd November	NCEA External Exams begin
Tuesday 23rd November	Māori Graduation (online)
Friday 26th November	Senior Prize Giving (online)
Monday 29th November	Teacher Only Day Accord Day

As we receive further updates we will communicate other key dates for the remainder of Term 4.

2022 Term Dates

Term 1	Wednesday *2nd Feb - Thursday 14 Apr
Term 2	Monday 2 May - Friday 8 Jul
Term 3	Monday 25 Jul - Friday 30 Sep
Term 4	Monday 17 Oct - Friday 9 Dec

*First day for Year 9

Community Support

Every year our Mt Roskill Grammar students donate food which we donate to a local charity to give back to our community. This year has been a challenging time for many of our families and we will be supporting our locally Sursum Trust alumni food bank. If you would like to contribute this year, please bring a non-perishable food item to school **before Friday 19th November** and drop it into the Deans' Centre. Non-perishable items such as: cans, rice, pasta, packaged foods. This is one way that MRGS students walk the talk of one of our core values of whanaungatanga.

Sports Uniform and Tracksuit Return

A reminder to all students that have participated in sport this year to please return their Sports Uniforms and Track Suits to the Sports Department and School as soon as possible. If uniforms are not returned the students will be charged for the replacement value.

School Sports Uniforms can be returned to the front office between 9.00am-3.00pm and senior students can also return theirs to the Sports Department in the Gym 1 Foyer in the morning from 9.15-9.30am and during the school lunch break 11.30am-12.00pm.

If you have any issues or questions around sports uniform return, please contact the Director of Sport cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz

Showdown Awards



Congratulations to the Level 3 Drama whānau for their work on their productions this year. In 2021 we were fortunate to have two year 13 Drama classes, who performed 'Flint Street Nativity' and Splendid Company's 'Antigone'. Both performances made Miss Gillies incredibly proud, and MRGS was nominated for several Auckland Showdown Awards, which celebrate the best of Auckland secondary school productions.

The MRGS nominations included acting nominations for Sonam Bagwe, Melinda Sun, Corrin Ansin, Lily Horgan, Anushka Adkar, Yousif Faisal, Abhishek Ravichandran, Videsh Sreeram Babu, Jayden Drubé, Joel Ioelu-Siemu and Lijah Mavaega.

Technical Design nominations for Freya Grant, Jayden Drubé and Corrin Ansin, and nominations for costume design, set design.

MRGS deservedly received a large haul this year at the Showdown Awards.

Congratulations to **Corrin Ansin** and **Videsh Sreeram Babu** for their wins in acting categories.

Antigone won for Best Production Ensemble, acknowledging the strongest cast in a production.

Flint Street Nativity won for Best Overall Production, which was the premiere award of the evening! We are so proud of the cast and crew of both shows for their mahi and commitment.

Mt Roskill Youth MP



Abhishek Ravichandran was selected for the role of Youth MP of Mt Roskill 2022. His online application advocated for a holistic approach to ensure student safety and respect of individual identity, on the basis of hate speech.

Abhishek takes on the role following MRGS alumna Saakshi Hegde. He will attend Youth Parliament in July 2022 to speak on the issue of stamping out hate speech in schools.

Tikara Jallow selected for USUE Women's Basketball team



Congratulations to Tikara Jallow on being selected for Utah State University Eastern on the USUE Women's Basketball team in Price, Utah.

Tikara had a few colleges recruiting her before deciding on Utah State University-Eastern. We are incredibly proud of you Tikara and look forward to following your journey.

Tikara will join the August 2022 semester. Thank you to all those who have supported, inspired and guided Tikara in her journey to date.

Aotearoa New Zealand Spelling Bee Test



Six finalists from Auckland selected by their results in the Aotearoa New Zealand Spelling Bee Test.

The top six spellers have a result of 96 or greater. Abubakr Shaikh from MRGS with the incredible result of 97/100.

The 2021 Aotearoa Spelling Bee Final is on Saturday 27 November. It will start at noon and finish around 2.30pm. The finalists will compete remotely. There will be a pronouncer and host and judge to support them.

Student Voice



It is exciting to be back onsite after a rollercoaster of lockdown. My family and I had to think about the risks but we trusted the school and safety protocols that were put in place.

It is my final year in school. I praise God for the opportunity to be back at school, to have the chance to learn again, sitting in a classroom with the excitement of something new. Seeing teachers and sitting down to talk about assessments and getting support for my learning.

The return has also meant spending time with friends, catching up on the new and reminiscing on the old. Being back at school was something that I thought was impossible midway through the year, but it felt great to be back in our learning environment.

I was able to get the help I needed for my exams and stay committed and not distracted. Seeing friends and teachers was great and it was different to be smiling even though I forgot half the time I was wearing a mask and people couldn't see. 2021 has been a mercurial experience.

Joel Ioelu-Siemu, Prefect

MRGS Job Vacancy



Mount Roskill Grammar School - 1st XV Rugby - Head Coach

Mount Roskill Grammar School is seeking applications for the Head Coach position of our 1st XV Rugby team. The 1st XV Rugby team is traditionally a team which holds a lot of mana within any Auckland School community, and it is no different at Mount Roskill Grammar.

Applicants should have a combination of the following attributes:

- Rugby specific coaching experience within a school or club setting
- Experience working with rangatahi
- Great interpersonal and communication skills
- A sound knowledge of the game and a willingness to learn more
- An ability to work independently and as part of a team

The appointed coach will be required to take two training sessions per week on a Tuesday and Thursday after school and attend all Saturday matches.

Any appointment will be conditional upon a satisfactory police vetting check and be fully vaccinated as per Ministry of Education regulations.

All applications can be sent to the Director of Sport cameron.bitchener@mrgs.school.nz and include a cover letter and CV outlining all appropriate qualifications and experience.

Applications will close Friday 26th November at 5.00pm. All inquiries into the position can be made to the Director of Sport at the above email address.