

Rangiora High School

Timetable 2021

Community Update



21 August 2020

Tena koutou katoa,

This is the second of a series of newsletters designed to keep you informed of what these changes look like and answer the questions you have. If you have further questions please complete this [feedback form](#) and we will endeavour to answer your question in the next update.

Why Learning Advisory?

As detailed in our [7 August newsletter](#), *The New Zealand Curriculum* starts with a vision of young people who will develop the competencies and values they need for study, work and lifelong learning and go on to realise their potential. Therefore, Learning Advisory aims to create the time and space to empower students to fill their kete with tools and strategies for lifelong learning.

While Learning Advisory will have an academic focus, the key focus will be on developing the “dispositions” that we know our learners need to be successful in what is often an unknown future in order:

- To support each student to achieve to their potential,
- To track student achievement and provide individual programmes where needed,
- To provide young people with the thinking tools and strategies they need to be successful in and beyond school.

Learning Advisory will operate for 4 hours a week in Years 9-12. In Year 13 Learning Advisory will operate for 2 hours per week (as Year 13 students will also have 2 hours per week of independent study time).

Responses to Your Feedback

Thank you to the 10 parents and students who provided feedback after the Timetable 2021 update on [7 August](#). Our responses are below:

Why can't my child gain a subject endorsement?

Rangiora High School has a focus on overall Excellence certificate endorsement as this is what scholarship acceptances are based on.

Which other schools use this model?

There are many examples of similar models across New Zealand and overseas. Over the last five years, various groups of staff have visited a range of these schools including:

- Rolleston College
- Rototuna High School
- Hobsonville Point High School
- Alfriston College
- Rotorua Boys' High School
- Rotorua Girls' High School

What research is it based on?

As well as the visits to the schools listed above, investigations into overseas school systems were undertaken. The philosophy of [Big Picture](#) schools (in the USA and Australia) formed the beginnings of our research.

New Zealand research around student learning and well-being (notably the 2018 ERO Report on [‘What drives Learning in the Secondary School’](#)) has highlighted over-assessment as having a major impact on the well-being of high school students. Since the introduction of NCEA in 2002, most students have been taking courses of study that offer credits well above what is required to gain the national qualification. Focussing on fewer credits at a higher level is aimed at improving student outcomes and improving well-being.

Project-based learning in Learning Advisory will enable all students, not just GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) students, to explore their passion or interest area.

If you are interested in reading further information, please let us know via the [feedback form](#).

What does “student-centred” mean?

Student-centred education implies that the focus of teaching and learning is centered around the students' learning needs. In the past, education at a secondary school centered around learning particular bodies of knowledge for examination purposes. A student-centred approach means that both the needs of the learner and the body of knowledge are integrated into the Learning Advisory programme.

Can you provide an example of a timetable?

In 2021 student timetables will look very similar to this year's timetables. For Year 11-12 students, the only change will be that one of the four-hour subject lines will be Learning Advisory. Year 13 students will have two hours of Learning Advisory and two hours of independent study. Year 9-10 students also have Learning Advisory for four hours, in addition to more time in “elective” subjects.

Will classes be streamed on ability?

Students will not be streamed on ability for Learning Advisory. In Years 9-11 students will be in House-based Learning Advisory groups. There will, however, be available (at different times of the year) support programmes for identified students in areas such as literacy and numeracy.

We currently run an Enhancement programme for a number of Year 9-10 students. These students come out of their existing subjects for this programme, which supports self-directed research into

a topic/aspect of their choice. With the Learning Advisory model in place, this concept can still be delivered, but in a way that removes interruptions to other classes, and allows other students access to this learning approach.

For Years 12 and 13 students, Learning Advisory will provide the opportunity to place students in Learning Advisory groups based on their pathways. For example, those young people enrolled in the Trades School will have one of their specialist teachers as a Learning Advisor while those students planning to go on to University who also have a programme that supports their transition to tertiary education.

Does my child have to attend a Learning Advisory?

Yes, this will be a key part of young people's learning programmes. A programme where they learn key skills to be a successful learner and citizen of Aotearoa New Zealand - problem solving skills, study skills and life skills.

Research has shown that the model of Learning Advisory will benefit all students. Also, last year's community consultation clearly indicated that our community wanted us to strengthen our focus on preparing young people for further training, the workplace and with life skills. Employers and tertiary providers tell us that they are increasingly interested in students who are work ready, i.e. have the dispositions and skills that enable them to be responsive to our rapidly changing world - this is where Learning Advisory sits. It will involve all students.

Feedback

If you have further questions, please complete this [feedback form](#) and we will endeavour to answer your question in the next update.

Ngā mihi,

Karen Stewart
Principal / Tumuaki