



Rangitikei College



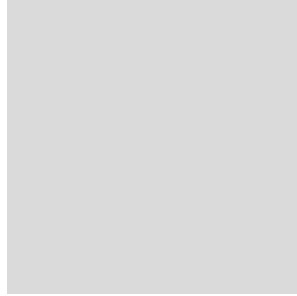
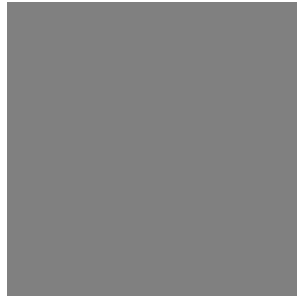
Academic Mentoring

Connecting...

...students

...families

...teachers



Academic mentoring

Academic mentoring is a major school approach to strengthen connections between students, home, and school.

Key features in brief:

- All students are allocated to an Academic Mentoring group
- These groups have about 15 students in each and are led by a teacher – their ‘academic mentor’ (or ‘ACM’)
- mentoring groups are the first – and main – point of contact between the school and home regarding a student’s learning progress
- The groups meet every day for 40 minutes
- Each year there are three ‘Learning Conferences’ between the Academic Mentor, the student, and their parents/caregivers. Each conference will serve a quite different purpose.



the mentoring vision

why do we do this?

The continued development of the academic mentoring programme at Rangitikei College is the result of several related influences:

- Evidence in support of the value of strong home-school relationships to promote learning is overwhelming.
Key messages from research in New Zealand and elsewhere about home-school partnerships includes:
 - Strong home-school relationships have a **positive and convincing impact on a student's schooling**, and are considered to be one of the best **predictors** of student success, influencing curricular and co-curricular achievement, attendance, drop-out rates, and behaviour
 - This positive relationship is **irrespective** of school type, age, gender, culture
 - To be effective a strong home-school relationship must be carefully **planned** for, **integrated** into school life, and **long-term**
 - **Partnership is two way** and involves working *with* home and listening to parents/whanau
 - Problems and issues are **identified early** and sorted out more quickly
 - It leads to better decisions on **options for life after school**
 - They strengthen **family's ability** to deal with everyday demands of raising teenagers

- We are aware that it is too easy for students to 'slip between the cracks' in the school system, and drift through their schooling with little sense of direction, with a poor understanding of 'learning to learn', and with no sense of overview of how different influences on their education and lives could work together to promote success. In short, we felt that students **benefit by structured mentoring through their learning journey.**

- To become a successful 21st century learner, students need to understand *how learning happens* – far more so than for their parents’ generation. Young people will be required to learn, unlearn, and relearn throughout their adult lives to an extent that no other generation has had to. Never before has ‘**learning to learn**’ been more essential to success. So academic mentoring is about **deliberately teaching these skills**.



what can you expect from your child’s mentor?

Academic Mentors are expected to:

- Establish a positive relationship with you and your child focussing on learning and success at school
- Assist all students in developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating their personal school goals
- Hold an individual and personal ‘Learning Conversation’ with your child several times a term
- Have a clear overall picture of your child’s learning progress at school, and be able to support that with comments they have received from subject teachers and assessment data
- Offer constructive, practical suggestions to promote your child’s learning and achievement
- To facilitate Learning Conferences where all three parties can make contributions and be respectfully listened to
- Follow through and provide feedback to you or your child on commitments agreed to gather information or communicate with other teachers
- Encourage the development of personal responsibility and resourcefulness by assisting students to recognise their own strengths, capabilities, and potential for change