



*VANGUARD MILITARY SCHOOL EFFORT BRINGS REWARD*

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ROCKLEY MONTGOMERY



As 2023 comes to an end, we can now reflect on ten amazing years of outstanding educational achievement.

Vanguard Military School, the special character school, has for the last five years, not only matched the first five years as a partnership school, but rather, Vanguard has far surpassed the old school.

Vanguard, now at the end of 2023, can confidently claim outcomes that sit among the very best in education in New Zealand.

### 2023 Academic Results:

Looking at academic achievement in NCEA, over the last four years, we see outstanding results and a very high degree of consistency and equity.

**Level 1** - An average of 92.1% achievement rate for the four years, with the 2022 achievement rate at 95.0%. This is **31.0% above** the 2022 national average.

**Level 2** - An amazing average of 97.0% achievement rate for the four years, with the 2022 achievement rate at 95.9%. This is below our four-year average, but still **21.7% above** the national average.

**Level 3** - An average of 88.9% achievement for the four years, with the 2022 achievement rate at 92.1%, **24.5% above** the national average.

A very interesting statistic can be taken from this NZQA data.

**For 2022**, on average, a student starting Level 1 at any other school and working to the national average, would have a 32.1% chance of finishing their schooling with a Level 3 achievement.

**At Vanguard, any recruit starting at Level 1, has an 83.9% chance of finishing their schooling with a Level 3 Achievement.**

The 2023 academic results for all recruits who were able to remain at the school, without the upcoming external exam credits are as follows:

Level 1 Passed outright 100%  
Level 2 Passed outright 100%  
Level 3 Passed outright 100%

Please note: We await the official 2023 NZQA results for the school, as their data will include all recruits who left the school and who possibly did not pass the year at their new school.

**2023 Attendance Data:**

The **overall school attendance for 2023**, from 23 January to 1 December 2023, was **95.1%**, with an unjustified absence of 0.5%.

The overall year level attendance rate

L1 - 95.2%

L2 - 95.4%

L3 - 94.2%

The overall attendance rate is

Male - 95.3%

Female - 94.7%

The overall year level attendance rate for Māori Recruits

L1 - 94.7%

L2 - 94.6%

L3 - 94.0%

The equity we see in this data is amazing.

Thank you to all the recruits, their parents and caregivers, the staff and the board of Vanguard for your contribution to the team effort that made this all possible.

Congratulations and a big thank you to all our recruits past and present, parents and families, staff, and guests who attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and the graduation ceremony. What memorable occasions both of these were. It is moments in our lives, like graduation, that give us all that feeling of pride in what we do, and the reward for doing it, all in one. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.

With the 2023 school year now complete, we can look back with satisfaction and pride in what we as a Vanguard family have achieved.

To the Vanguard staff, thank you for your dedication, tireless work ethic, and that never-give-up approach, to

teaching our recruits. A more dedicated and focused group of educational professionals would be difficult to assemble anywhere. We are not only proud of you, but also indebted to you.

To the Vanguard recruits, the young men and women who listened to the rhetoric, and were influenced to the degree where they committed to attending Vanguard Military School, you came with a vision of being successful. At first you listened, and learned, and did everything asked of you because that was what you had chosen to do. However, now that you have learned all the lessons and gained the knowledge, you are doing it because you want to do it. You now know that Vanguard is not just another school to attend, but rather a school of your own choosing. A school where, in most cases, you are prepared to get up long before first light, catch multiple modes of transport to get to school, work hard all day to make yourself successful in life, and do it because you now know it's all worth it. Well done Vanguard recruits, we are all very proud of you.

To the parents/caregivers of our recruits, we acknowledge how well you have carried your share of the responsibility and more. To have parents/caregivers who were prepared to become part of their children's educational team and then support this team tirelessly all year, has been truly remarkable from the school's point of view. There is no doubt in anyone's mind as to the enormous part played by our parents/caregivers in the success of our recruits achieving to the degree that they have this

year. A big thank you from the Vanguard staff and recruits for tirelessly supporting the team, by contributing and fulfilling your role as part of your child's educational team and for the school always knowing that we can count on you when needed.

I would like to wish all those recruits who have graduated this year and are leaving us, all the best for the future and I hope that you can take what you have learned here at Vanguard with you, to help you maintain control of your own destiny and guide you positively in the future.

To those recruits coming back next year, I wish you all a safe and awesome summer break and look forward to you continuing your educational development with us next year.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all who have been involved with Vanguard Military School in 2023.



## FROM THE ADMIN DESK

### ABSENCES

A reminder for Term 1 that a parent/caregiver must call in an absence before 0830 to avoid recruits receiving a CT for Non-Contact. A recruit is more than welcome to also call in their absence in the first instance but a parent/caregiver must verify this by call or email by the allocated time.

If the school has to contact a parent/caregiver to investigate an absence, the recruit will also be issued a CT. A timely reminder also that all medical appointments where a recruit will be late to school or must leave early require approval from their Deputy Principal prior to the day they require leave.

### REMINDERS

Please remember that returning recruits must **top up their PT Bonds** to start the year at \$20 again. Emails will be sent to families by Section Leaders regarding the balance to be paid. Please ensure this is **paid prior to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024**.

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Induction starts for all New Recruits
29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Auckland Anniversary
1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Returning Recruits start
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Waitangi Day Observed
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Enrolments Open 2025
5 <sup>th</sup> March	ID/Class Photos
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Terminator Challenge
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Monday
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter Tuesday
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day of Term 1
25 <sup>th</sup> April	ANZAC DAY

## VISIT TO WAIOURU ARMY BASE CAMP

2023 marked the start of a tradition that the NZ Defence Force and Vanguard would like to continue beyond this year. Our Defence Force Studies (DFS) students were given the opportunity to attend a Waiouru Defence Experience Day (DED) that involved a guided tour of the NZ Army Museum, an overnight stay in the 4-man Terendak barracks, meals at the Soldiers Mess, presentations by various NZ Army Corps, sports at the Waiouru Eru Brown Gymnasium, and a weapons and vehicles display that concluded with attendance to the All Arms Recruit Graduation Parade for the NZ Army's newest soldiers.

Upon arrival in Waiouru, we headed directly to the NZ Army Museum where the students were taken on a guided tour through the museum highlighted



by a visit to the Valor Room where historic medals and Victoria Cross recipients are honored. This was a significant experience for our students as they also had the opportunity to see the Roimata Pounamu (tears on greenstone) wall, where every soldier in the NZ Army takes the pledge and signs on the dotted line.

Students were then introduced to barrack procedures/protocols and were given instructions to occupy their respective rooms. Dinner was at the Soldiers Mess where students had the option of



either steak, chicken or some sort of stew conjured by something most likely found in the training area. Waiouru is renowned for its delectable delights. The students then had the opportunity to burn off some of Waiouru's delicious cuisine with a game of Turbo

Touch at the Eru Brown Gymnasium. Soldiers from the base even joined in on the game and spoke to some of our students about their experiences so far with the NZ Army.

After a rough night where the 4-seasons in 1-day Waiouru weather hammered Terendak Barracks, students had to conduct their morning routine to prepare for breakfast at the Soldiers Mess. This was followed by attending an Army Display that was organised for whanau of the graduating soldiers of AARC 412, which included various weapons systems, military vehicles and a rare appearance of the new Bushmaster vehicles the NZ Army have recently purchased.

The Waiouru DED concluded with our students attending the AARC 412 Graduation Ceremony. The new soldiers of Ngati Tumatauenga had to persevere through tough weather conditions during the 2.5 hour ceremony; displaying top quality drill, discipline and delivering a strong traditional NZ



Army haka to their whanau and distinguished guests. As our students watched on, they excitedly express their goals and dreams of a potential future career after Vanguard.

A special thank you to Sgt Trinidad and Sgt Ge for organising the Waiouru DED for our students. They were very appreciative of the hospitality the Army showed and the experience ignited the flame for some, as they look to add their name to the Vanguard Honour Wall and join the few who take that step towards being a part of Ngati Tumatauenga.

**-Staff Patrick Pritchard  
Head of Defence Force Studies**

**WISHING YOU ALL  
A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW  
YEAR!**

# CONGRATS & FAREWELL TO OUR 2023 LEAVERS

With much pride, we farewell our Year 13 recruits who have been with us since 2021 when the pandemic began. These recruits sadly had their senior experience interrupted by COVID for a few years yet have continued to work hard and produce amazing pass rates towards their next chapter in life.

We held our end of year Graduation Ceremony last Wednesday which was a great time of celebration and triumph for all our recruits.

These are a few of our special awards:

With great pleasure, the **PRIDE OF VANGUARD** for 2022 is.....

**MAIA BERRYMAN!**



The **NATHAN KRAATSKOUW Award** for the Level 1 recruit of the year went to .....

**BIELLA GHIRARDELLI**



The **EL ALAMEIN Plate** for leadership from a Level 3 recruit went to.....

**LOGAN SHORE**



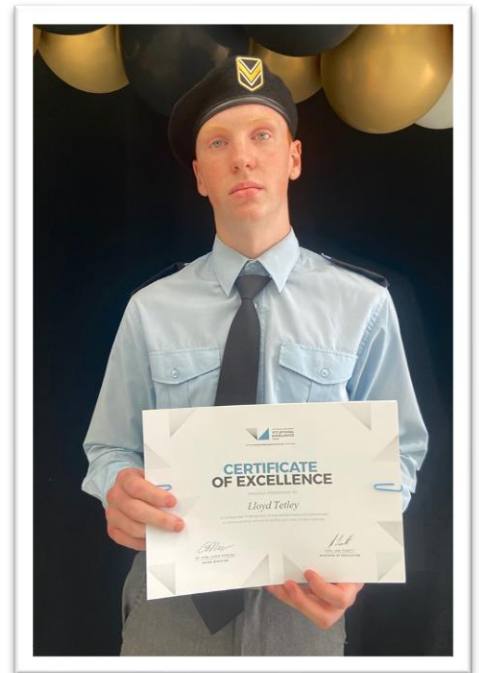
**THE RSA BAYONET** for outstanding Level 2 recruit of the year went to.....

**DAVID DAKUITOGA**



The **PRIME MINISTERS VOCATIONAL Award** went to.....

**LLOYD TETLEY**



The **GALLIPOLI SHIELD** for the Section of the Year went to.....

**HINTON** with 748 points



## FAREWELL STAFF ERASMUS

It is with great sadness that we farewell an integral member of staff who has been with Vanguard Military School since well before its inception starting at Advanced Training Centre. **Staff Marilize Erasmus** is our Principals Nominee and Head of Computing. Staff Erasmus has been such a valued member of staff and the office will not be the same without her. We wish you and your family all the best in your new adventure across the pond in Australia.



## CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions about this Newsletter or would like to contribute to the next edition, please contact us at:

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