



VANGUARD MILITARY SCHOOL EFFORT BRINGS REWARD

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

STEVE MUELLER



As we close the 2025 school year, I find myself reflecting not only on what we achieved, but on who we have become. This year has been one of unity, pride, growth, and a renewed sense of what it truly means to be part of Vanguard Military School.

From the very beginning of Term 1, our recruits, staff, and wider community lifted this school to new heights. Now, standing at the end of Term 4, it is clear:

We certainly finished strong!

Celebrating Remarkable Moments of 2025

The 2025 Terminator — Strength, Spirit, and Pure Vanguard Pride

The Terminator event at Action Matakana was another unforgettable highlight. Every recruit who stepped onto that course demonstrated grit, determination, and heart. It was a day where the Vanguard spirit was unmistakably on display: loud, proud, and unstoppable.

The Vanguard Challenge Cup — Competition at Its Finest

This year's Challenge Cup, the VCC, saw our recruits pushing themselves to their absolute limits. It was a showcase of discipline, intensity, teamwork, and a deep pride in representing one's section. Watching our young people rise to the occasion, every single one of them, was a proud moment. Congratulations APIATA Section for putting it all together on the day so you can enjoy the taste of victory.



Our First-Ever First XV — A Milestone in Vanguard History

What an extraordinary moment it was to field our first ever Vanguard rugby team. Under the passionate leadership of Staff Alvis, this group set a foundation that will be remembered for years to come. Their commitment, courage, and pride both on and off the field represented everything our school stands for.

The year culminated in an outstanding Rugby Awards Dinner, a night filled with energy, gratitude, camaraderie, and celebration. We honoured not just athletic performance, but character, teamwork, and resilience.



Year 13 Leavers' Lunch — A Time to Honour Growth

Our Year 13 Leavers' Lunch was a classy, heartfelt moment where our senior recruits presented themselves with maturity and dignity. Seeing them dressed up, confident, laughing with staff, and reflecting on their journeys reminded us why we do what we do. Many came to us unsure of themselves and left as young adults ready to take on the world.

Graduation 2025 — A Day of Achievement and Transformation

And of course, Graduation this year was simply exceptional. It was a celebration not only of achievement, but of personal transformation.

At Vanguard, we teach that:

"The effort you put in is the reward you get back."

This message was lived out in every handshake, every smile, every tear, and every proud family member watching their young person take that final walk across the stage. It was a day none of us will forget.

Looking Ahead to 2026 — A Year of Purpose and Higher Standards

We enter 2026 completely full, with every place taken and a long list of families eager to join us. That alone speaks volumes about the trust placed in our school and the proven success of our model.

Next year, we will return to what makes Vanguard truly special:

A renewed focus on our Military foundation:

- high expectations
- discipline with purpose
- PT as a backbone of growth
- attitude as the difference-maker
- character as the measure of success

A challenge to every recruit:

Be better than you were yesterday.

Do something your future self will thank you for. Carry yourself with pride. Represent your section with honour.

Live our standards, don't simply follow them.

A commitment from staff:

Staff and I will continue to work tirelessly to ensure every recruit meets our expectations not through fear, but through belief, consistency, and a shared commitment to excellence.

A Final Message for 2025

As we finish the 2025 school year, I want to acknowledge every part of our Vanguard community. Our recruits have shown genuine growth, meeting challenges with resilience and often surprising themselves with what they can achieve. Our parents and whānau have stood alongside us with trust and support, strengthening the partnership that underpins our success. And to our staff, thank you for your professionalism and commitment throughout a demanding year.

With the holidays approaching, I encourage everyone to rest, reconnect, and reflect. We look toward 2026 with confidence and clarity, ready to welcome new recruits, raise expectations, and continue building on the strong foundations of this year.

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. A recruit cannot call in a days absence for themselves.

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 requires approval from the attendance Deputy Principal 48 hours prior to the day they require leave. Please try to ensure that ALL appointments are booked outside school hours.

REMINDERS FOR 2026

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 5th February 2026**.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

19 th Jan	Office Re-opens
26 th Jan	Auckland Anniversary
27 th Jan	Induction Begins
5 th Feb	Returning Recruits start
6 th Feb	Waitangi Day Observed
1 st March	Enrolments Open 2027
10 th March	ID/Class Photos
27 th March	Terminator Challenge
2 nd April	Last Day of Term 1
3 rd April	Good Friday
6 th April	Easter Monday
7 th April	Easter Tuesday
20 th April	First Day of Term 2



FAREWELL STAFF THOMSON

It is with great sadness that we farewell an integral member of staff who has been with Vanguard Military School since 2022. **Staff Alyssa Thomson** is our Science and PE Teacher who is venturing overseas. Staff Thomson has been such a valued member of staff and the school will not be the same without her. Her efficient and stress-free approach to the school and our recruits has been a breath of fresh air. She has seen 4 groups of students through the school and made a long lasting impact on those around her. Staff Thomson leaves behind a huge hole in ELLIOTT section who will miss her a lot. We wish you all the best in your next adventure across the pond in Australia. Please come back and visit us every chance you get.



CONGRATS & FAREWELL TO OUR 2025 LEAVERS

With much pride, we farewell our Year 13 recruits who have been with us since 2023. These recruits have worked hard and produced amazing pass rates towards their next chapter in life.

We held our end of year Graduation Ceremony last Thursday 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 2025** is.....
TRISTAN DE HAAST!



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

RACHEL HALLIDAY!



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

SCARLETT KNOWLES!



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

DANIELLA DU PLESSIS!



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

TRENT with 768 points



SUBJECT AWARDS

ENGLISH:

L1 Ciara Kraatskow
L2 Annabel Drew Ross
L3 Coree Falwasser



MATHEMATICS:

L1 Harper Crummer
L2 Annabel Drew Ross
L3 Tristan de Haast



SCIENCE/BIOLOGY:

L1 Payton van Rensburg
L2 Jack Murphy
L3 Reagan Shalley



PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

L1 Rachel Halliday
L2 Mercedes Hita
L3 Tristan de Haast



TE REO MAORI:

L1 Gaia Huirama-Garvey
L2 Mercedes Hita
L3 Reagan Shalley



ENGINEERING:

L1 Gaia Huirama-Garvey
L2 Kyle Badenhorst



COMPUTING:

L1 Ciara Kraatskow
L3 Zakary Russell



DEFENCE FORCE STUDIES:

L2 Lucas Nel



PT CUP AWARD:

L2 Elgar Sapalia



THE EAST COAST BAYS RSA SERVICE AWARD for outstanding recruit who provided service to the community at an exceptional level went to.....

MAX CLAXTON!



INTERSECTION LEADERBOARD

Section	Points
TRENT	768
UPHAM	689
APIATA	677
TRIGG	581
ELLIOTT	573
WARD	573
JUDSON	538
NGARIMU	520
BASSETT	511
LAURENT	496
HULME	457
HINTON	242

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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**WISHING YOU
ALL A VERY
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW
YEAR!
SEE YOU IN
2026!**