



VANGUARD MILITARY SCHOOL EFFORT BRINGS REWARD

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

STEVE MUELLER



As we come to the end of Term 1, I've found myself taking a moment to reflect, not just on what we've done, but on how the school *feels*. And the honest answer is... I'm really proud of where we're at.

There's a sense of purpose around the place. You can feel it in the mornings, you can see it on

the parade ground, and you notice it in the way our recruits are starting to carry themselves. It's not perfect yet, but there is a growing consistency and a shared understanding of what it means to be part of Vanguard.

## Terminator. Where It Gets Real.

The Terminator was, once again, one of those moments where everything becomes very real.

You see recruits hit a wall. You see doubt creep in. And then you see a decision get made, to keep going.

That's what I love about that event. It strips everything back. No excuses, no shortcuts, just effort and mindset.

Watching our recruits push through that, support each

other, and refuse to give in... that's Vanguard. Well done to all sections for completing the course but special praise must go to Elliot section for completing the course in the fastest time!

## The Night Market. Seeing Another Side of Our Recruits.

The Night Market was something quite different to the terminator but just as important.

What stood out to me wasn't just the event itself, but how our senior recruits stepped up. Planning it, owning it, solving problems on the go, dealing with people, all the things that actually matter in the real world.

It was one of those moments where you step back and think, *these young people are going to*

*be just fine.* A wonderful intersection competition and congratulations must go to Trent Section for earning the most money on the night.

### **Our Student Leaders. Setting the Tone.**

I've also been really impressed with our student leaders this term.

Leadership here isn't about a badge or a title, it's about what you do when people are watching, and more importantly, when they're not.

We've got young people stepping up, holding the line, supporting others, and setting the standard. That matters more than anything I can say from the front.

They are helping shape the culture of this school every day.

### **What I'm Noticing.**

The biggest thing for me this term has been the small things.

- Recruits taking more pride in how they present themselves
- Better engagement in routines
- A stronger sense of belonging within sections
- Staff aligned and backing each other

None of these make headlines, but together they change everything.

### **Looking Ahead. Sport in Term 2.**

Next term we see the start of basketball, girls rugby and netball, and I'm genuinely looking forward to it.

Sport at Vanguard is more than just sport. It's another opportunity for our recruits to represent something bigger than themselves, to compete, to support each other, and to wear the uniform with pride.

I encourage our recruits to make the most of it.

### **Moving Forward.**

Term 2 is about continuing what we've started.

No big reset. No dramatic change.

Just doing the basics well, consistently, every day. Please be aware that term 2 is what we call the start of the 'grind'... the mornings get darker, the weather gets colder, more effort is required, but at Vanguard we don't shy away when things get tough, we run towards it because we know tough times forges character. Please ensure we are all at school every day!

### **Final Word.**

To our staff — thank you. The work you do behind the scenes doesn't go unnoticed, and it's making a difference.

To our families — thank you for your trust and support. It matters more than you realise.

And to our recruits — keep going.

Be better than you were yesterday. Do the work. Take pride in who you are becoming.



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 STUDENT LEADERS:**

**Head Girl** Dominique Lash

**Head Boy** Ezekiel Rimoni

**Deputy Head Girl** Grace Wallace-Pram

**Deputy Head Boy** Daniel Pringle

### **Leaders:**

Daniella Du Plessis

Anna Robinson

Cale Ferris

Reuben Ebel-Brown

Elgar Sapalia

Bentley Day

Mercedes Hita

Annabel Drew-Ross

Nikki Chand

# FROM THE ADMIN DESK

---

## ABSENCES

A reminder for Term 2 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. We have had many parents last term ask to not CT recruits for their forgetfulness. Please note that this is not Vanguard protocol. When you signed your child up to attend Vanguard, you signed to the process of notifying the school of absences.

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 or absence where a recruit will be late to school, must leave early or will be absent require approval from the Attendance Deputy Principal Staff O'Malley prior to the day they require leave.

We have had an unprecedented amount of PT hire this term. Please remember this system is there for emergencies not as a forgetfulness tool. Some recruits have reached the annual allocation of 20 hires already in Term 1 and will now receive a CT for every hire for the remainder of 2026.



**Welcome**  
**Staff McCoy**  
**Staff Ochse**  
**Staff Gale**  
**Staff Hepler**  
**Staff Shotbolt**

## INTERSECTION LEADERBOARD

Section	Points
WARD	162
HULME	157
HINTON	151
APIATA	147
BASSETT	135
UPHAM	124
TRIGG	123
ELLIOTT	120
LAURENT	114
TRENT	94
JUDSON	68

### WELL DONE WARD!!!



## UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

- 2 APR End of Term 1
- 3 APR Good Friday
- 6 APR Easter Monday
- 7 APR Easter Tuesday
- 20 APR Start of Term 2
- 23 APR Night of the Notables
- 25 APR ANZAC DAY
- 27 APR Anzac Day Observed
- 5 MAY Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 12 MAY Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 15 MAY Volleyball ISC Offsite
- 18-20 MAY Co-Requisite Exams
- 29 MAY Teacher Only Day
- 1 JUN King's Birthday
- 3 JUL End of Term 2

### ANZAC DAY SERVICES

25<sup>th</sup> APRIL

Auckland Museum  
0530

Browns Bay 0815

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

*SHAWN BRAND* - On the 20<sup>th</sup> February, four of my mates and I took part in a 24 hour dirt bike race relay held in Taupiri near Hamilton. The event was organized to raise awareness for Farmers. We raced for Team RDK. Throughout the race, we faced multiple mechanical problems. We blew out our rear shocks and by Saturday night, our gear-box failed. Despite the major setbacks having no first and second gear, we pushed on. We started out 37<sup>th</sup> out of 45 teams and managed to finish 16<sup>th</sup> successfully completing the race doing 390 laps. The event was both mentally and physically challenging as racing for 24 hours straight is no easy task. As it was our first time competing in an event like this, it truly tested myself and my friends. It was an unforgettable experience. Tough but incredibly rewarding. We received a lot of support from our friends and family throughout the race and we are very proud of ourselves for finishing and getting the bike across the line despite the problems we faced. We held it together.



# TERMINATOR CHALLENGE

In March, we held our annual Terminator Challenge which is a highlight of the year for all recruits. This event gives recruits the ability to demonstrate leadership, bond with their section, refine teamwork strategies and gain confidence. It tests a recruit's mental tenacity and drive which falls in line with Vanguard values.

This year our Terminator winner was: **ELLIOTT**





**REMINDER**  
RECRUITS WEAR  
WINTER  
UNIFORM IN  
TERM 2



## ANZAC DAY

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April, our recruits will be assigned an area in Auckland to attend an Anzac Day Service which is classed as a school day. This is a way for our recruits to learn of the sacrifice our men and women made to pave the way for them today. Families will be sent home forms the first week of Term 2 advising where their recruit is allocated with details on the service they will march in. School will be closed on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April as this becomes a national public holiday to observe Anzac Day.



## CONTACT DETAILS

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

[admin@vanguard.school.nz](mailto:admin@vanguard.school.nz)

Vanguard Military School

8 Rothwell Avenue

Rosedale

Phone: 09 443 2969

<http://www.vanguard.school.nz>