



VANGUARD MILITARY SCHOOL EFFORT BRINGS REWARD

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

STEVE MUELLER



As we close out Term 2, I've found myself doing what I do at the end of every term, taking a moment to stop and really look at where we're at. Not just the results on a page, but how the school feels when you walk through the gate in the morning. And once again, I'm proud. Genuinely proud.

Back in April I told you Term 2 was going to be the grind. Darker mornings, colder weather, more required of everyone. I said we don't shy away from that at Vanguard, we run towards it, because tough times forge character. Recruits, you did exactly that. You didn't just survive the grind. You grew through it.

Showing Up. Every Day, On Time.

I want to spend a moment on something that doesn't always make headlines but matters more than almost anything else we do here... attendance.

Nationally, school attendance is being talked about as a crisis. I don't say that to score points off other schools. I say it because it tells you something important: showing up every day, on time, ready to go, is

no longer something we can take for granted anywhere in this country. At Vanguard, it has to remain non-negotiable.

Here's what I know to be true, and what I'll keep saying until it's heard: belonging drives attendance more powerfully than any policy ever will. When a recruit has a section counting on them, a Parade to stand in, an ISC they don't want to miss, they show up. That's not a coincidence. That's design.

Term 3 is where I'm asking every recruit and every family to go again on this. If your attendance has slipped, this is the term to fix it. If it's been strong, keep going, you are the standard the rest of the school is being measured against.

The 300 Club. The Pinnacle.

If you want to know what Vanguard's PT programme is really about, look no further than the 300 Club. It sits at the very top of everything we build physically here, the hardest standard we ask our recruits to reach, and the one that means the most when it's earned.

This term I want to congratulate four recruits who did exactly that.

Joash Lamerton, Bentley Day and Archie Kendall each earned their place in the 300 Club for the very first time, taking home their **bronze badge**. That first badge is never easy, it takes months of consistent, disciplined work, and all three of you should be walking a little taller for it.

A special mention to **Elgar Sapalia**, who backed up last year's effort to earn his **silver badge**, the second year in a row he's hit this standard. That's not talent. That's character showing up, week after week, when no one's watching.



Well done to all four of you. This is what effort brings reward looks like in its purest form. A big thank you also to **Staff Harrington** who drives the standard!

College Youth Games

This term saw our team head off to the College Youth Games, and I want to take a moment to properly acknowledge the effort that went into getting them there.

First, a huge thank you to **Staff Mew**, whose enthusiasm and effort in preparing this team did not go unnoticed. The hours she put in behind the scenes are exactly the kind

of commitment that makes this school what it is.

Second, and I want to really sit on this one, a massive thank you to **Matiu from Legacy Strength and Conditioning**. Without Matiu's help, we simply would not have been able to prepare the way we did. He gave up his own time to train alongside our team in the lead-up and to be there with us on the day itself, and every hour of that time, along with his facilities and his expertise, was given to us completely free of charge. That is a genuinely selfless thing to do, and it tells you everything about the kind of person he is. Matiu has a real heart and desire to see our recruits succeed, and we thank him from the bottom of our hearts.

If you are ever looking for strength and conditioning coaching that is delivered with genuine care and real expertise, I could not recommend Legacy Strength and Conditioning more highly. You can find Matiu and the team at legacysc.co.nz. Support like this is rare, and it deserves to be supported right back.



Model United Nations

This term also saw three of our recruit's step into a very different arena, Model United Nations, or MUNA. For those unfamiliar, MUNA is a simulation where students take on the role of diplomats representing a country at the United Nations, researching that country's positions, debating real global issues, negotiating with other delegations, and working towards resolutions, all through formal diplomatic process. It is public speaking, critical thinking, and negotiation under real pressure.

Danni Du Plessis, Anna Robinson and Ezekiel Rimoni represented Vanguard at this year's event, assigned to represent Uruguay. This opportunity was made possible through the generous support of **Albany Rotary**, and we are genuinely grateful to them for opening this door for our recruits.

All three came away from the experience having grown in ways that are hard to replicate in a normal

classroom, sharper on their feet, more confident speaking in front of a room, and with a far deeper understanding of how complex global issues actually get negotiated. This is exactly the kind of experience that builds the kind of young people we want walking out of our gates.

Our Amazon Partnership

A big thank you also needs to go to **Kerry Van Rensburg**, through whom we were lucky enough to welcome the team from **Amazon** into an assembly this term. They spoke with our recruits about the range of occupations and backgrounds within their organisation, giving our young people a wider lens on the career pathways available to them beyond school.

It was wonderful to connect with them, and the relationship has already gone well beyond a single assembly. Through their community outreach, Amazon has generously supplied the school with new lockers and 30 food packages to support families in our community. A genuinely fantastic relationship has formed off the back of this visit, and we are so very thankful for the support of our local businesses. It's partnerships like this one that remind us we don't do this work alone.

Beyond Our Gates

One of the proudest moments of my term happened when we hosted the Tautai o le Moana principals, a Pacific principals' collective, for a

full day here at Vanguard. I stood in front of experienced school leaders from all over the country and walked them through our systems, our results, and the thinking behind them.

What stood out to me wasn't just the conversation. It was watching our senior recruits step up around them, presenting, leading, representing this place with genuine pride. Visitors who have seen a lot of schools left here talking about what makes Vanguard different. That's not something I can manufacture from the front of the room. That's culture, built by all of you, on display.

Behind the Scenes

None of what recruits experience this term happens by accident. This term our staff used a Teacher Only Day to start serious work on what the future of Vanguard looks like in light of the government's curriculum changes and the changes currently being rolled out to the National Qualifications over the next few years. That's not a small undertaking, it means rethinking parts of how we deliver academically while holding on to everything that makes Vanguard, Vanguard. It doesn't make the highlight reel, but it's the reason the highlight reel exists at all. Thank you to every staff member who's put in that graft this term.



Final Word

To our staff, thank you. What you do in the background, the parts nobody sees, is what allows the parts everybody sees to happen. It matters.

To our families, thank you for trusting us with your sons and daughters. That trust is not something we take lightly, and it shapes every decision we make.

And to our recruits, you've earned this break. Reset, and be ready to go again.

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

FROM THE ADMIN DESK

ENROLMENTS FOR 2027

We are currently processing enrolments for 2027. If you know of anyone who may be interested in attending Vanguard Military School next year, please direct them to the school website to complete an Expression of Interest as the first step. Our second Orientation Evening is approaching after our first in May was at full capacity.

All students are required to be in full winter school uniform for Term 3. Please ensure your recruit plans ahead for next week with all correct uniform meeting our grooming standards. School policy haircuts are expected.

INTERSECTION LEADERBOARD

Section	Points
HULME	395
APIATA	382
WARD	380
ELLIOTT	379
HINTON	377
BASSETT	348
TRENT	330
TRIGG	319
LAURENT	305
UPHAM	304
NGARIMU	183
JUDSON	167

WELL DONE HULME!!!



UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

3 JUL	End of Term 2
10 JUL	MATARIKI
20 JUL	Start of Term 3
21 AUG	Teacher Only Day
8-10 SEP	Co-Requisite Exams
25 SEPT	End of Term 3



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

RENEE BIGGELAAR Year 11

Recently I fought at a national taekwondo tournament in Christchurch. This event brought together many different clubs from all over New Zealand. I competed in one division, it was me and two other girls, both higher belts than me, and one being two years older than me. I won against both of them, leaving me with the gold medal, and the winner of my division. One of the highlights was the entire club and parents watched everyone's fights and supported each other. I would also like to thank my Master and all my friends for all the encouragement and support, and my family travelling all the way down there just to watch 2 fights of mine. Out of all the clubs at the tournament our club came 2nd and beat a huge number of clubs including ones from Christchurch. Overall the tournament was a fantastic experience, and am very proud of what I achieved.



PAYTON van RENSBURG Year 12

On 29 April, I had the opportunity to attend a short forensic science course with a highly respected forensic scientist, Thomas Coyle. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget.

During the afternoon, I went with Staff Gail to the Forensic Insights building, the office place of the course. We met Thomas Coyle, who was very welcoming and kind. As he led us into his office, we spoke about forensics, and how we both found our passion for it. The conversation flowed easily, and I found myself being able to comfortably talk about the topic we both love.

As he led us through the building to his office, I noticed the display shelf that held a variety of items, such as fingerprints, guns and even teeth. Thomas saw my interest in the shelf, and he explained how he came in possession of some of the items. He then led me and Staff Gale to sit by his desk. There was a monitor and the start of a slideshow. Before he started the course, he warned me that there would be real crime scene photos, that contain graphic details. Then he began the presentation.

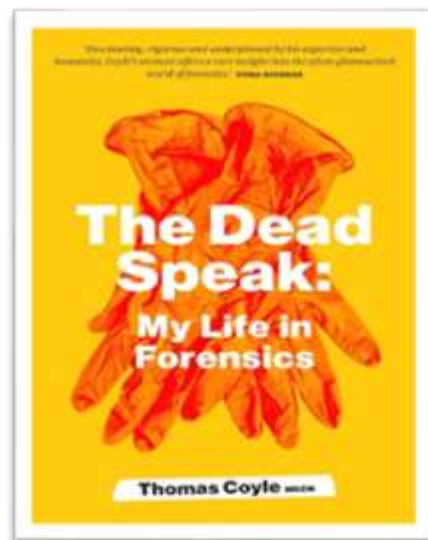
In his presentation, he spoke about many things, such as what I need to do to become a forensic scientist and even the progression of technology in the field. After he finished the presentation, he then brought me to the counter, just to the side, where he taught me the correct way to take prints. Once we did that, he put me to the test. He gave me photos of

preprinted prints and he asked me to compare them to the ones I took up. He then asked me to match them to the photos. I did this for both shoeprints and fingerprints. He had told me that I had done a fantastic job, completing in record time.

After an amazing course, we sat back down for a final discussion. It was here where I bought his book, *The Dead Speak: My life in Forensics*. Finally, it was time to go. I thanked him for an amazing course and bid him farewell. Upon arriving home, I began to read his book, which allowed me to understand what life will be like when I go into that field.

Overall, I had a fantastic learning experience. It allowed me to expand on my knowledge that will help me with my future. I am grateful for the opportunity given to me and hope that there will be similar opportunities for others in the future.

<https://www.forensicsinsight.co.nz>



VANGUARD COMMUNITY

AMAZON WEB SERVICES -

The AKL InCommunities team showed up for the students of Vanguard Military School — and the students showed up right back.

The team brought brand new lockers and groceries for every student at the school, then opened the floor for real conversations about what it's actually like to work inside an AWS Data Center.

Students went beyond the textbook, connecting face-to-face with team members across departments and getting a genuine look at the people and work powering the cloud. ☁💡

But the moment that stopped everyone in their tracks? The students opened the event with a traditional haka — a powerful, heartfelt expression of gratitude that reminded every person in that room exactly why this work matters. ❤️

This is what community obsession looks like in action.

Not a checkbox.

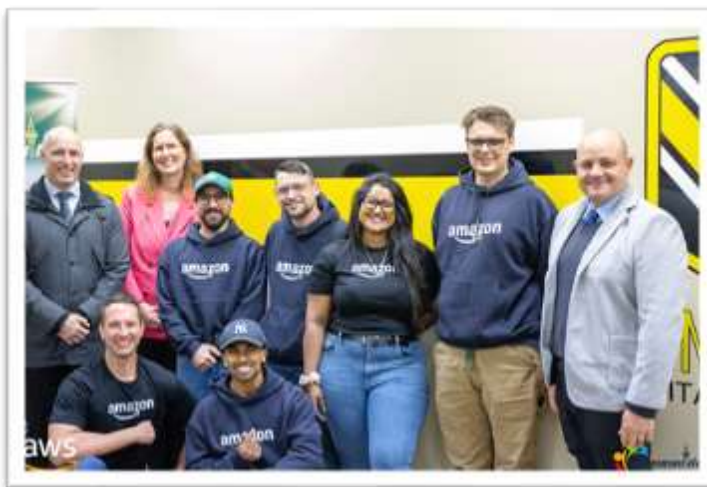
Not a photo op.

A real investment in the next generation of builders. 🧑🏫

A heartfelt thank you to Vanguard Military School for opening your doors and making this all possible — your partnership allowed AWS New Zealand to connect with and inspire the next generation of young minds.



<https://deveshanmoodley.pixieset.com/awsaklincommunitiesvanguardmilitaryschool/>



WASTE-ED-

Delivered by Charlotte Baker from Waste-Ed and with support from Auckland Council, the Waste Free Period Programme is designed to educate students on reusable menstrual products and break the stigma around periods. It's an open, practical and positive conversation, helping students better understand the environmental, financial and social impacts of disposable period waste. The session covers how much period product waste can be created over a person's lifetime, what happens to disposable products after use, and how reusable options can reduce waste and save money over time.

Students are introduced to a range of reusable period products, including menstrual cups, period underwear and reusable pads. The discussion focuses on how each product works, how to use and care for them safely, and how people can make an informed decision that best suits their body, lifestyle and comfort level.

The session also creates space for questions and honest discussion around periods, stigma, product choice, access and confidence. It is a valuable opportunity to support students with practical information, normalise conversations about menstruation, and encourage more sustainable choices. For more information please click on the link below.

<https://www.waste-edkate.co.nz/?srsltid=AfmBOorUVSNYsAbeS7SGna3jysPSNXfXfmYSFUhCxKpbYJ4wyt-kNRwd1>



RAPID RELIEF TEAM-

The Rapid Relief Team (RRT) donated over 100 FreshStarrt Care Kits to Vanguard Military School. Each kit is packed with personal hygiene items such as shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, and deodorant, and help to educate students on the importance of hygiene. These essential items provide students with the tools to be the best they can and help them release their potential! The Rapid Relief Team is the charitable arm of the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church. Established in 2013, the RRT has more than 16,000 volunteers around the world who support community events and assist emergency services in times of disaster and crisis by providing meals and other support. For more information on RRT, please go to www.rrt-global.org/nz.

COLLEGE YOUTH GAMES TEAMS

TEAMS	Members
YAY WHEY	Nikki Chand Tahliana Berggren Mercedes Hita
A-K-A	Anna Robinson Azariah Lamerton Kayla Tappan
VMS UNICORNS	Zuneldi Horn Sienna Harris Chante Peens
POWERPUFF BOYS	Cale Ferris Lucas Nel Bentley Day
MUMBO JUMBO	Pablo Snowden Trey Church Rylee Cotton
BREAK POINT	Isaac Gatfield Connor Underwood Riwan De Beer
THREE BLIND MICE	Jonathan Bridgman Nico Hesse Boston Stubbs
BLACK OUT	Chase Hopkins Cody Stanley Daniel Pringle
VANGUARDIANS	Ezekiel Rimoni Kyle Badenhorst Joash Lamerton
OREO	Elgar Sapalia Kory Saunders Ezra Elu



Supported By:





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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