



VANGUARD MILITARY SCHOOL EFFORT BRINGS REWARD

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ROCKLEY MONTGOMERY



With the 2020 school year now complete, we can look back with satisfaction and pride in what we as a Vanguard Community have achieved. 2020 has been an amazing year for Vanguard. Through all the strife and turmoil of the Covid-19 pandemic, with its lockdowns and other restrictions, the Vanguard school

community has persevered and remained on track.

As mentioned at the graduation ceremony the amazing results achieved this year would not have been possible without the enormous support from the parents and families of our recruits. The support you gave our recruits during those tough lockdown periods was outstanding, as without the motivation, the continual reassurance and undoubtedly the odd kick in the backside, they would have found self-starting much more difficult. And yes, our recruits have to also be praised for their effort this year, for believing in the school and their parents and families, because without this strong belief in being able to still achieve the goals for the year, we would have faltered.



A summary of the 2020 results clearly highlight just how well the school performed this year.

## 2020 Academic Results to date:

The 2020 academic results for all recruits who were able to remain at the school, without the addition of the gifted learning recognition credits or the upcoming external exam credits are as follows:

**Level One** Passed outright 100%

**Level Two** Passed outright 100%

**Level Three** Passed outright 100%

Please note: We await the official 2020 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.

## Attendance

Recruit attendance for 2020 has dropped off slightly from our expected level for this year, but will still be well above our decile cohort and the national average. The effect of recruits not being able to come to school when even slightly sick (Ministry of Health requirement), has been the reason for this slight drop in overall attendance rates.

### 2020 Attendance Summary:

Level One Overall	93.2%
Level Two Overall	91.4%
Level Three Overall	91.4%

### 2020 Attendance Rate for School 92.0%

The 2020 unjustified absences and intermittent unjustified absences are the lowest we have ever had, at 0.6% and 0.1% respectively.

### Attendance Rate by Ethnicity:

NZ European	91.5%
NZ Maori	93.1%
Pasifika Combined	91.7%
Overall Female	90.2%
Overall Male	93.0%

Well done to all. These results would have been fantastic in any normal year, but to have gained these results in 2020 is even more outstanding.

A big thank you to all our recruits past and present, parents and families, staff, and guests who attended the 2020 graduation ceremony. What a memorable occasion, one that was made so special by all of you. It is moments in

our lives, like our graduation, that give us all that feeling of pride in what we do and is the reward for doing it well.

The 2020 Graduation Ceremony was again an outstanding event. Thank you to the staff and recruits for all your hard work you put in to get the event to such a high standard. The performances were outstanding and it was an honour to be able to report the fantastic achievements for this year. Congratulations to all the recruits for your amazing performances and to those of you who won awards.

The Vanguard community has every right to be so proud of you all, and I hope everyone enjoyed the ceremony as much as I did.

Congratulations to DP Montgomery and his Hinton Section for setting a new all-time Vanguard record, by winning the inter-section competition for the fourth time. Hinton recruits have won the ISC four times out of seven, with DP Montgomery winning four out of six with two second places, since joining the school. Well done to all the recruits that have ever been in Hinton section. As it stands, it will take at least another four years before another section could theoretically take this record away from Hinton.

To the Vanguard staff, thank you for your dedication, tireless work ethic, and that never-giving-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. You have truly set the benchmark for teachers everywhere, when it comes to demonstrating what can be done in education with the right amount of effort, the right education system and a never give up attitude.

Thank you, the Vanguard Staff, from the school board, school management, recruits and parents. Have a great end of year break and an enjoyable festive season, you all earned and deserve this rest.

To the Vanguard recruits - the young men and women who listened to the rhetoric and were influenced to such a degree that they were prepared to attend Vanguard Military School 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 now know it was all worthwhile. You also know that Vanguard is not just another school to attend, but rather a special school, one where you have been successful. Well done Vanguard recruits, we are all very proud of you.

To our parents/whanau/caregivers, thank you for your ongoing support of your children and this school. Be safe and look after yourselves. **I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

## FROM THE ADMIN DESK

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### ABSENCES

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A reminder for the new year that a parent/caregiver must call in an absence before 0830 to avoid students receiving a CT for Non-Contact.

A student 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 student will also be issued a CT. A timely reminder also that all medical appointments where a student will be late to school or must leave early

students Deputy Principal prior to the day they require leave.

### UNIFORM

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Orders for uniform can still be placed at any time during the school holidays via our website. They will however not be processed until the office reopens in 2021.

Going forward, second hand uniforms are no longer available to purchase. If for any reason, it is not possible to purchase new uniforms, please see Staff Clarke in the office.

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2021

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18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Vanguard Office Closes
18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Vanguard Office Reopens
25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Induction for New Recruits Begins
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Waitangi Day Public Holiday
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	All Recruits Return for 2021
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School Photos
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Terminator Challenge in Matakana
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day of Term 1

## PARENTAL PERSPECTIVES

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As a parent of a child that attends the school I'd like to say, without your dedication, hard work, rules and care and compassion, I truly believe my child would not be here today without the emotional support you have all shown on a daily basis! The advice you offer, the stories told, the weekend checking in when you're with your own families but still you make time for the recruits. It is above and way beyond your job, but you do it never the less and I am warmed to know my child is safe, secure, comfortable and looked after daily. I see the school as extended family and when I speak about the school proudly, I wonder why anyone would send their child anywhere else! With regular contact with parents and also emotional support for us, from teachers, DP's and even the admin staff, it's fantastic and amazing and my family will always be humbled for what you guys do.

Thank you!!

- Soraya Butterworth

**We'd love to hear your feedback on what it's like to have your child attend Vanguard.**

If you would like to contribute to the next edition, please contact us at: [admin@vanguard.school.nz](mailto:admin@vanguard.school.nz)

# INTERSECTION LEADERBOARD



Section	Points
Hinton	701
Ngarimu	592
Ward	589
Laurent	546
Trigg	532
Upham	508
Trent	484
Apiata	470
Hulme	427
Elliot	425
Judson	414

Congratulations to HINTON for winning Section of the Year.

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

One of our students was lucky enough to experience The Spirit of New Zealand in 2020 after the second Lockdown. Here she tells us what her experience was like:

*The 15th of September is a day I'll never forget.*

*I woke up at 6.30, to get to Princes wharf where I would board The Spirit of New Zealand a trainee. I had no idea what to expect from this journey except for an ocean swim at 6.00 am every morning. At 11 I said goodbye to my mum and carried my bags onto what was going to be my home for the next 10 days, I was really nervous and didn't know how I would survive without my phone, family and friends but a part inside of me told me that I needed to see this adventure through. After my little moment of doubt, I am shown to the girls cabin which consisted of a room of 20 stretcher beds and one draw for all of our stuff. Before I can even complain, about three girls ask if I needed help, the immediate kindness I was shown reassured me that this voyage would be a good experience, and it was.*

*Over the next ten days I grew in ways I didn't know I could, I mentally grew in areas I didn't know I needed to. I could use my voice when I had to lead, and make the words I spoke meaningful, I got back some of my social skills I had lost during quarantine. All of us on the voyage were so different and we all came from different backgrounds and having so many different people around me made me realise that the world is so much bigger than I thought. Hearing everyone's stories about where they came from reminded me how important it is to acknowledge people's backgrounds and cultures and to never assume that their life is the same as yours because I didn't*

*meet a single person on the voyage whose life was even a bit similar to mine.*

*One stand out highlight of the whole adventure was when me and my friend got picked to cook for the whole crew and all the trainees. Although cooking for 50 people was one of the most stressful things I've experienced, it made me realise that no matter how bad things go, a good meal fixes everything, a good lesson to learn for someone who loves to cook.*

*Throughout the voyage, we all grew as individuals and as a team and sometimes the really quiet person would be the leader for the day and that's when I realised that you don't have to be the biggest, loudest or most good-looking person to be a leader, you just have to want what's best for your team and thoroughly communicate how you think you can achieve your team's betterment.*

*The Spirit of New Zealand was something I'll always remember, it truly was an adventure, and even though it was difficult at the time and I wanted to rest, I would do it all again a million times if I could.*

*A quote I heard from one of the crew resonates with me to this day, it goes like this, "It is when you are safe at home, you wish you were on an adventure and when you are on an adventure, you wish you were safe at home." Even though my calluses have calluses from hauling ropes and steering sails and I was seasick, I saw sunsets and views I thought only existed in movies, I stargazed, I*

*laughed, I cried, I climbed the mast, I jumped off the ship and swam in ice cold water, I remembered what it was like to live without technology and best of all, I met amazing people I'll never forget. I loved every bit of it. Thank you, Vanguard and The Spirit of New Zealand, for this experience and learning opportunity.*

- Charlie Mckenzie-Linnell  
Year 12



As a Trustee of the Vanguard Military School Charitable Trust- I was very honoured and so happy to again be present and enjoy this wonderful Graduation. The recruits did you all so very proud today. Outstanding achievements for so many.

-Bridget McMullen

**Congratulations to the 2020 additions to The 300 CLUB!**

Jackson Smith, Preet Tavadia,  
Matthew Quintal,  
Oscar Mckenzie-Linnell &  
Samuel Hardy.

## 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)

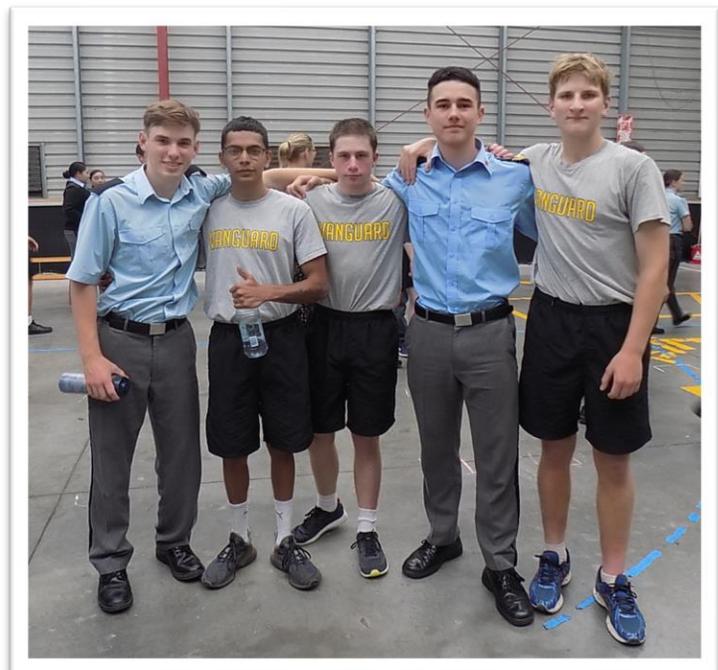
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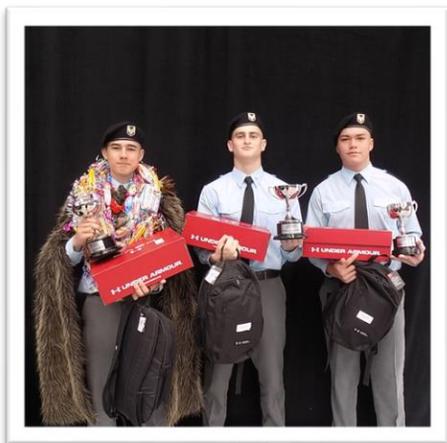
## GRADUATION PHOTOS

Graduation took place on December 9<sup>th</sup> and was an incredibly moving and memorable ceremony. We will miss our Year 13 recruits around school but we wish them all the best on their next journey. Here is a snippet at a few of our awards.

Our Year 13 Charitable Trust Recipients Kawawuwua Cannon, Tahae Asher-West, Safia Adams & Sharon Epshteyn.



The recipients of our PE Awards sponsored by Under Armour:  
Level 1 – Orion Turner  
Level 2 – Heath Chamley  
Level 3 – Oscar Mckenzie-Linnell



Heath Chamley won the RSA Bayonet Award which means he will be the next Vanguard Recruit to experience The Spirit of New Zealand in 2021.



The Prime Ministers Vocational Pathway Award this year was won by Jonathan Nagel who we wish the very best to for his chosen field and further studies.



The recipients of our Gallipoli Shield for Section of the Year are HINTON led by DP Montgomery.



The Vanguard Challenge Cup is a highly sought-after award as the recruits work hard both mentally and physically to win this award for perseverance and team work. This years winner is LAURENT led by Kaio Albert-Singer.



The most coveted of all is the Pride of Vanguard Award. It is the highest honour a Vanguard recruit can receive. This award epitomises all the values and characteristics of the school and is awarded to the recruit who shows leadership, enthusiasm, motivation, a high standard of academics and heart. This years winner is our 2020 Head Boy, **Oscar Mckenzie-Linnell!** Presented to Oscar by our 2019 Pride of Vanguard recipient Seren Cooper.

