



April 21, 2020: Week 2, Term 2

From the Principal



Kia ora koutou,

I am incredibly proud of how our students have committed to distance learning and would like to thank families for their support of this learning. Please remind your child to complete a daily check-in in addition to their classes so that we can continue targeted support for those in need.

As you are aware from the latest decision from the Government, we are now moving to **Alert Level 3**. The overriding principle for Alert Level 3 is stay at home wherever possible. Our expectation is that the majority of students of all year levels will continue working from home, connected to distance learning. All year 11-13 students remain at home during Alert Level 3.

Year 9 and 10 families have been sent a google form so that where parents or caregivers are essential workers who need to send year 9 or 10 students to school they can 'enrol' their child if necessary.

Our students have made an excellent start in the first full week of distance learning and our message to them is "keep learning, keep connected, and know that trying your best is good enough".

'So'o le fau i le fau'. Join the hibiscus fibre to hibiscus fibre – Unity is strength.

Greg Watson, Principal



Distance Learning

Thank you all so much for your support of your students in the first week of Term 2. This support and encouragement will be really important throughout the duration of the Alert Levels. There has been a significant amount of learning in the Distance Learning space over the last few weeks. This hard work and rapid change of circumstance, whilst different and challenging is going to be beneficial in the long term as well as the current situation.

Our teachers are aiming to provide your student with online learning which is equivalent to about 60% of our normal timetable at school. For example, if your student has 5 periods of a subject each week, they will have about 3 periods worth of work each week. The reason for this is that we know every student's situation is different and we are wanting to be flexible and mindful of wellbeing as well. Please remain in communication with subject teachers if you have any questions. Remember, there are also the support tools of Education Perfect as well as reading books - which can be done online via the library's online book collection.

Lessons will be provided differently for different subjects. They may include video conference, however it is not an expectation that every lesson, for the whole hour, this will take place. Teachers have been asked to record video conferences where possible or provide a video or written summary. This will support students to manage their day and balance the contact time that is available to students with their teachers.

Devices

This week, we sent out a significant number of chromebooks to our students who were in need of a device. Year 11, 12 and 13 students were the first priority. We are continuing to receive information about students' access to devices, which we are providing to the Ministry of Education. Students who are Year 9 and 10, and have limited or no device access should be receiving hard copy learning from the Ministry of Education shortly.

Online expectations

As working online is more common practice it is essential that we hold manaakitanga at the centre of online interactions. We ask that students show respect for their classmates and teachers. No-one knows the individual challenges each person is facing during this time - we need to support each other in a positive way and be conscious of how we word our messages.

Cybersafety Assistance for Families

Network for Learning, The Ministry of Education and Netsafe have created Switch on Safety for NZ families. When children learn from home, it's important to make sure they stay safe online. Here's a simple, **FREE** way to block the worst of the web. To Switch on Safety, you need to change the 'DNS' setting on your child's device. Simple instructions on how to do this are at <https://switchonsafety.co.nz/>.

Mentoring

All students should have received a phone call from their Mentor in Week 1 of Distance Learning. Please ensure you have your Mentor's email address, so your student can easily contact them for any support that is needed. Throughout the duration of Alert Level 4 and 3, your student will receive weekly contact from your Mentor or Form Teacher to provide connection and support.

Support

Students have been informed that if they have any concerns about their learning to please contact the Deans through the following email addresses. All of the Deans are available but having one point of contact per House means that they can redirect any questions or make referrals as needed.

Cooper	haizley.reweti@mrgs.school.nz
Hillary	ciaran.overtton@mrgs.school.nz
Ngata	stephanie.fraser@mrgs.school.nz

Rutherford	david.syme@mrgs.school.nz
Sheppard	connor.chellew@mrgs.school.nz

Student Services

Nurses can be contacted by:

- Email nurses@mrgs.school.nz
- Text or call 021 320 021
 - Monday - Friday 8.30-4.30 for text
 - Phone consults or referrals to the GP.

The **GP** is available:

- Tuesday 8.30am – 4pm
- Thursday 8am-12pm.

Students can be referred from the Health Centre to other external Health Providers as necessary.

Rheumatic fever: The ADHB are currently monitoring for rheumatic fever. If your child has a sore throat please call the nurse.

Emergency dentist: If your child needs a dentist 0800 TALK TEETH (0800 825 583) is a free/funded dental service during Lockdown for urgent care for under 18s.

Any Covid-19 related queries please call Healthline on 0800 611 116.

Counsellors can be contacted by:

- Email counsellors@mrgs.school.nz during school hours
- Facebook Messenger mrgscounselling
- Instagram private chat counsellingmrgs.

It has been great to hear that students are looking out for other students and their wellbeing. Students are encouraged to let the counsellors know if they have any concerns – either for themselves or about a friend. All communications are confidential, unless there is an imminent risk to safety.

Outside of school hours if anyone in your family requires support, **Youthline** is available 24/7 on:

- Free call 0800 376 633
- Free text #234
- Web Chat at www.youthline.co.nz
- Email talk@youthline.co.nz.

Alumni News



Jason Walls
[2010]

We would like to acknowledge Jason Walls, political reporter for the New Zealand Herald.

He is currently reporting on the Covid-19 Coronavirus, regularly questioning the Prime Minister and the Director General of Health in these unprecedented times.