

April 24, 2020: Week 2, Term 2

From the Principal



Congratulations to families and caregivers who have been supporting their children with on-line learning, helping with motivation, providing words of encouragement, and watching over a balanced approach to learning and refreshment time.

We are using daily data to track how students are going and are identifying those who need support. Most students are feeling positive about their learning, and their workload, and feel that they are getting the right amount of time for questions and feedback from their teachers. Staff are contacting students who we can see need help with connectivity or getting started with their learning. Special thanks to our prefects who continue to provide motivating messages for everyone.

During Alert Level 3, learning for all students will continue to be on-line using google classroom, gaining momentum from interactions with teachers day by day. Students should contact their subject teacher in the first instance when not sure what to do or mentor, form teacher or Deans if still stuck.

The physical school site will be partially open. Very few students have enrolled to carry out their Distance Learning at school, enabling us to best meet the principles of Alert Level 3. Almost all of our teachers will continue teaching on-line from home. We will only be providing supervision for students who have contacted the school to arrange this prior, ensuring health and safety measures are able to be maintained.

This week is ANZAC weekend and we have asked all teachers to turn off their computers and take a complete break. Many teachers are teaching while supporting their own children and other family members. Juggling responsibilities has sometimes been challenging. Tuesday April 28 is a teacher only day and on-line learning will re-commence on Wednesday April 29. Students who wish to continue with learning will have plenty of work to continue with.

While we cannot gather in person this ANZAC Day, we can remember together, the service and sacrifice of New Zealanders in times of war and crisis. We can commit to looking after each other in this difficult time, upholding our values of whanaungatanga and manaakitanga.

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Greg Watson, Principal

Distance Learning

We are really proud of the level of engagement we are seeing from our students. As we move into Alert Level 3, it is important to remember that Distance Learning will still be the method of education. For the few students who will be physically at school because they are children of essential workers, they will still be participating in Distance Learning.

We are feeling really positive about how Distance Learning is progressing. We are making refinements along the way, and encourage students to provide their mentors, form teachers and subject teachers with feedback about their learning. Asking questions of their subject teachers in their google classrooms is really important for their own learning, as well as the learning of others in the classroom.

Students are encouraged to continue to manage their learning, through creating timetables of their day, writing goals for their learning each day and/or week to help them to remain focused and plan their time wisely. Planning their time should also include time to relax, exercise, eat, hydrate and have fun!

Pastoral Support

We would like whānau to know that we continue to support the pastoral needs of all students throughout this time. We are lucky to have a fantastic team including our Deans, Nurses, Counsellors, form teachers and mentors who are working hard to support the pastoral aspect of our school.

As always, students and families are encouraged to reach out to a form teacher, a mentor, Deans, Senior Leaders or any other adults within our Roskill whānau who act as a support for each student in usual circumstances at school. We are all available and happy to help with anything that you need - even if that is just a conversation.

Student Wellbeing

In our communication with students we continue to advocate for them to contact the school counsellors or school nurse during the day, and Youthline after hours if needed.

Mentemia – Wellbeing App

You may have seen or heard of a new wellbeing app that has been developed and launched by Sir John Kirwan. It is a free resource that has a range of ways to cope with stress and can help you feel more energised, more productive and better equipped for whatever the world throws at you today. Find out more here <https://www.mentemia.com/>

Anzac Day – Lest We Forget



6am Saturday 25th April

This year we are unable to express our usual gratitude by marching in the local ANZAC parade.

We have invited our students to stand at 6am in correct school uniform, at the end of your driveway, to represent our school honouring those who have gone before us, for us.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them. We will remember them."

Please share any photos for an MRGS tribute with callum.mcgibbon@mrgs.school.nz.

NCEA Assessment

As a school we are continuing teaching and learning by distance and for our seniors, that includes NCEA assessments. In some courses we are having to make adjustments to our assessments but in most cases assessment can continue.

NCEA is a flexible system and teachers are working with students to ensure they have the opportunities to submit evidence to demonstrate their learning and achievement of assessment criteria. **We expect to receive more information from NZQA and will provide more detail on assessment next week.**

We are aware that students' ability to access distance learning varies and we are able to make allowances for that variation. The most important thing is for students and families to engage and communicate with teachers about their learning, so that we can offer help and support for students to gain their NCEA credits.

School Grounds

Under Alert Level 3 access to the school grounds, including the gymnasium, remain closed to the community.

Head Prefects

Our head prefects have continue to lead from their bubbles and have created a short clip to help encourage students in their distance learning.

<https://youtu.be/7qTPldoalkw>

