



April 28, 2020: Week 3, Term 2

## From the Principal

*"It is not beyond our power to create a world in which all children have access to a good education. Those who do not believe this have small imaginations." Nelson Mandela*

While the move to Alert Level 3 has enabled some to satisfy their fast food cravings and others to enjoy a coffee from the local café, the way most of our students are learning remains the same. During Alert Level 3 all students, even the few Year 9 and Year 10 students being supervised at school, will be learning on-line.

Many students are continuing to make the best of the situation, creating timetables of their day and setting learning goals for small, manageable chunks of time. They are also planning in plenty of 'down-time' to relax and refresh. What downtime looks like for each person varies.

Thank you to parents and caregivers who are supporting your children in any way you can – you don't have to know what's in the individual subject to be able to help with planning and motivation. A large part of what makes great learners are capabilities such as self-management and persistence that families can model and support. Your quiet help can make the difficult seem possible.

Our Prime Minister reminds us that we are not 'out of the woods' yet. It is fantastic that we are moving to open up the economy in every safe way that we can, yet we know that we are in this for the long haul. Any vaccine or cure could be a year away at least and so physical distancing measures which will affect the way the schools operate will continue in one form or another. Even as more and more students are able to safely return to school, the learning we are doing about on-line learning over these weeks will stand us in good stead over the coming months.

Noho ora mai rā - **Greg Watson, Principal**

## Distance Learning

As we move into Alert Level 3 School, and continue with our distance learning, we wanted to give you and your student a few reminders:

- **Workload:** expectation of teachers is to provide 60% of the normal classroom work.
- **Connection:** you should be communicating with your mentor once per week minimum, and asking your teachers questions via google classroom/email if you have questions and need help.
- **Support:** everyone is in a new situation currently, so supporting one another is really important - check in with your friends, classmates and teachers.

**Engagement** - Please ensure your child is completing your daily attendance check in via the Learning Hub once per day. This helps us to support our students as much as possible.

**Pastoral Support** - Your student should be contacted by their Mentor/Form teacher once per week. If they need any other form of support, they should reach out and make contact with their mentor or their House Dean.

**Assessment** - Heads of Departments and teachers are working hard to make courses work online and make any necessary adjustments to ensure students can still gain the credits they need. Remember that NCEA is a flexible qualification and teachers are using its flexibility to reduce the impact of the Covid-19 disruption.

The most important thing you can do to keep on track is for your students to communicate with their teachers especially if they are having trouble meeting deadlines or keeping up with their work. We know that circumstances vary and that there are varying levels of disruption going on for students and their families. NZQA have sent out a [bulletin on NCEA specifically for whanau](#) to address any questions you may have.