

Term 2 Week 1: 15 April 2020

From the Principal



At Easter, families expect to come together and friends to gather. These last few weeks have shown how much we seek connection, and how creative, funny and kind people can be in maintaining it. I hope you and your 'bubblemates' have enjoyed what this most unusual Easter break, with the usual intensity and predictability of city life suspended, has offered us.

At the same time managing anxieties about the well-being of family and friends who are elderly, or have underlying medical conditions, or are somewhere else in New Zealand or the World takes fortitude – and a listening ear.

There is talk beginning about a possible return to school from April 29. Exactly what this looks like is still to be worked out and will depend on the trajectory of Covid cases and Ministry advice. We will take a cautious approach – most likely returning students progressively. Whether we begin to return to school or not on April 29, Distance Learning is going to be an important part of our toolkit for the foreseeable future.

An exciting, partly 'unknowable' school term is upon us and our teachers are looking forward to providing learning programmes and a sense of connection, belonging and purpose for our students. Quite plainly the way learning will happen is going to be different, sometimes fun, sometimes frustrating. Doing the best you can in the circumstances is good enough. Our Deans and form teachers, counsellors and nurses will be available to help talk through issues with students day by day.

Noho ora mai rā



Greg Watson
Principal

MRGS Board of Trustees

I would like to welcome you all to Term 2.

To our students I am sure you will continue to do your best in the coming weeks. Enacting the value Tūmanakotanga in your learning and your wellbeing in what is a different world, you will need to manage your time well. This may mean setting up times of the day that work best for you to access your learning so that you can continue to support your family. We are fortunate that we have staff who care about both your learning and your wellbeing. Staff will be contacting you regularly so please be honest with them if you need help.

As an essential worker myself I understand the additional challenges this brings for many of our parents and caregivers, and I would like to thank you for your contribution.

I would also like to thank the teachers and senior leadership team for their work over the holidays ensuring that our students are able to maintain some momentum in their learning, as well as including connectedness as a Roskill whānau in their planning.

I am grateful that our school continues to live our values not only when things are settled but most importantly when faced with unexpected challenges. It was great to see Whanaungatanga and Manaakitanga demonstrated so well by our prefects in their video last week.

Thank you all for staying home, being kind and being patient.

He waka eke noa
We are all in this together



Marjet Pot
BOT Chairperson

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 15 April	Term 2 Week 1 begins Distance Learning starts online
Monday 20 April	Term 2 Week 2
Saturday 25 April	ANZAC Day
Monday 27 April	ANZAC Day holiday
Tuesday 28 April	Distance Learning continues

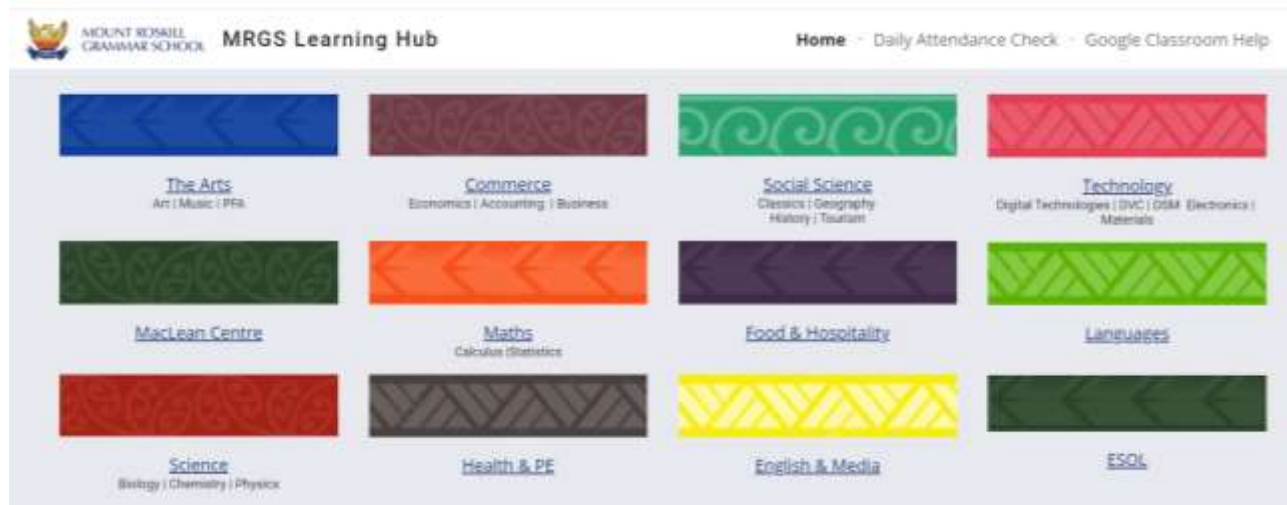
Reports

Term 1 reports were sent out via email on Thursday 9th April.

These reports focus on Key Competencies in the classroom during Term 1.

Distance learning

What your child will be accessing looks like this:



As we begin Term 2 and engage our Distance Learning programme, we will be sharing more information with you about what to expect and what is expected of students. This is a new venture for everyone involved, moving towards a full programme of distance learning. We know that there will be challenges and that it won't be perfect from the beginning, but we will all be learning a lot along the way.

Google Classrooms

Our teachers have been working hard to ensure all Google Classrooms are in operation, and are ready in preparation for Term 2. Teachers will be providing learning for you on Google classrooms, however the tasks may come from a variety of platforms for you to complete your learning in. This may include, but is not limited to Education Perfect, the Google Suite, Kahoot.

Checking in

Each student is asked to "check in" each day via a google form. This will enable us to ensure that our students are engaging with their google classrooms regularly. We will then be able to get in touch with students who aren't engaging, and provide support where needed.

Device access

If your student does not have access to a device, the Ministry of Education is working towards ways they will support your student with learning throughout the lockdown. This may be provided in the form of a device, or hard copy materials which in either case will be delivered to your home. The information we have at this stage is that Year 11, 12 and 13 NCEA students will be the first priority.

These provisions from the Ministry may not be with you from the very first day of Term 2, however with the latest Government announcement, there will be the television channels which are accessible across the nation for up to 15 year olds. All students will benefit from reading throughout the lockdown. Reading boosts a student's literacy, and supports them in every subject they complete at school.

Online expectations

As working online is more common practice it is essential that we hold manaakitanga at the centre of online interactions. Students should 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.

Cyber Security

During COVID-19 Alert Level 4, please maintain good cyber security practices at home to help keep yourself and your personal information safe and secure.

Device and information security:

- Take reasonable precautions to safeguard your device.
- Lock the screen when away from the device.
- Take steps to secure the device when not in use e.g. lock your house if you go out and don't leave it unattended in your car.
- Avoid using personal hard drives and USB sticks. These can introduce malware onto laptops.
- The use of unsecured public Wi-Fi hotspots poses a cyber security risk and should be avoided. Sensitive data transmitted via these Wi-Fi networks may be intercepted and stolen.

Increase in phishing scams during heightened COVID-19 Alert Level

- Expect more phishing emails and COVID-19-themed cyber-attacks. Criminals have increased attempts to use the COVID-19 pandemic using information about how to fight the virus in order to trick people to download malware from COVID-19 maps, or enter their details into phishing websites. [CERT has issued an advisory on this, which you can read here.](#)
- Avoid clicking on any links in unsolicited emails and be very cautious of email attachments.
- Do not provide personal or financial information in emails, texts, or instant messages and do not respond to requests for this information.

Support

If students need support throughout the lockdown, the same people are available to support you, as they are in school. Subject teachers, form teachers, Deans, Counsellors, Nurses, Senior Leaders, are all available via email. Please reach out and make contact with them.

We've got this

We know all teachers and school staff are missing all our students and whānau very much during this time. We're really looking forward to starting Term 2 and making connections with you all again. We feel very well prepared for this new avenue of learning, and we're also really prepared to continue to learn and develop as we go.

Mentoring and Pastoral Care

Reaching out

During Week 1 (Wednesday 15th - Friday 17th April), all students will receive a phone call from their mentor, form teacher or Dean. This initial phone call will be a check and connect phone call, to check on the wellbeing of each student and to ensure they have connected with their Distance Learning. This will then allow us to provide any follow up support requested by our students. In the subsequent weeks of Distance Learning, students will either be contacted via email or phone, depending on their situation.

Learning support

If students are having any issues with their courses, or need extra support, they should contact their classroom teacher or Dean. If there are any pastoral support needs please contact your child's Dean.

“Assembly”

Students will receive a weekly ‘Assembly Communication’. We are creating a weekly communication which will act in place of our usual assembly. There will be information in the email from our Principal Mr Watson, from our Senior Leadership team as well as your Deans’ Teams. This is another useful way for students to remain connected to the school and their House whilst at home.

Staying connected

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.

Thank you all for your work in preparation for starting Distance Learning. Take care.

Whanaungatanga

We have a range of initiatives supporting our students to feel connected, one of which is the Pasifika Lead Team termly newsletter.

Thanks to the team and student contributors for offering their thoughts on how to make the most of learning at MRGS.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1AwP5rxrAGL4DKq6RR51swcC3HeBtbZ4Z>

