



April 2020

From the Principal



Dear Families, Caregivers and Students

We wanted to connect with you before the Easter break to signal to everyone that MRGS Distance Learning will be up and running on Wednesday April 15, the first day of the re-scheduled second term.

The national lockdown has brought an extraordinary mixture of opportunities to learn and connect with those in our 'bubbles', as well as difficulties and worry about the well-being of family and friends, and the security of livelihoods. We have all been part of the national effort to minimise the impact of Covid19. We will always remember these days.

On-line will provide learning challenges and encourage a sense of belonging for our students and staff as we work out together how to learn in new ways. I know that our tech-capable students will have plenty to teach us about the best ways of doing things, and that our teachers are up for the challenge.

Our prefects have put together some tips about making the best of lockdown and there is also some information about how teaching and learning will happen next week.

Noho ora mai rā
Stay healthy

Greg Watson
PRINCIPAL

Dates for your diary

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|--------------------|---|
| 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 will be sent out via email to all caregivers and students on Thursday 9th April. These reports focus on Key Competencies in the classroom during Term 1.

Distance learning

We are really close to the start of Term 2. Many teachers and staff have spent a lot of time over the last two weeks preparing in more detail for Distance Learning. You will be provided with more information in our communications with you on Tuesday, but for now, can you and your student please ensure the following:

- Your student is connected to the Google Classroom course for each of their subjects
- Your student knows their Education Perfect log in and password
- Your student has located the 'Learning Hub' accessible via the Distance Learning link at the top of the school website, and have found their relevant subjects and year levels.

These three connections are going to be very important over the distance learning period, as they will provide all the learning and information students need to be aware of and engaging with.

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.

All students will benefit from reading throughout the lockdown. Reading boosts students' literacy, and supports them in every subject they complete at school. With the latest Government announcement there will also be television channels which are accessible across the nation for up to 15 year olds.

We will provide you with further details regarding distance learning on Tuesday next week. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari, he toa takitini
Success is not the work of one, but the work of many.

Pastoral support

In the first week of Term 2 every student will be contacted by our staff to check on their wellbeing.

The lead nurse has been working throughout the break and at the start of term (Wednesday 15th April) the nurses, counsellors and GP will be available to our students.

Counsellors can be contacted by email counsellors@mrgs.school.nz during school hours, by Facebook Messenger (mrgscounselling) or through Instagram private chat (counsellingmrgs). All communications are confidential, unless there is an imminent risk to safety.

Nurses can be contacted by email nurses@mrgs.school.nz, text or called on 021 320 021 Monday to Friday 8.30-4.30 for text or phone consults or referrals to the GP. The GP is available Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8.15am-12pm. Students can also be referred from the Health Centre to other external Health Providers as necessary. Any Covid-19 related queries please call Healthline on 0800 611 116.

Outside of school hours if you require support, **Youthline** is available 24/7 on free call 0800 376 633 or text #234 or webchat [Youthline.co.nz](https://www.youthline.co.nz) or email talk@youthline.co.nz

If you need to contact your **House** you can 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.overton@mrgs.school.nz

Ngata: stephanie.fraser@mrgs.school.nz

Rutherford: david.syme@mrgs.school.nz

Sheppard: connor.chellew@mrgs.school.nz

MRGS 2020 Prefects



We are grateful for the leadership of our students in challenging times and look forward to them continuing to lead some of our messages to our students.

Our 2020 prefects have created the following message available via Youtube through the link below, the MRGS website, our official Mount Roskill Grammar School Facebook page or on Instagram @mountroskillgrammarschool.

<https://youtu.be/LZn-RsmJhXw>

Thanks to our Prefects for demonstrating the key values of manaakitanga and showing you how much they care about our Roskill whānau.