

May 2020: Week 6, Term 2

From the Principal



Dear parents and caregivers.

It has been an absolute pleasure to see students enjoying returning to school and re-engaging face to face with their teachers. Everything has gone smoothly and it has been brilliant to see students getting back to their learning and social routines. Thank you for the confidence you have shown in our systems and the support you have offered.

We know some of our families are still feeling a bit anxious about sending their children back to school, which is understandable given everything we have been through these past

two months. Our schools are safe. Even though there is such a low risk of the virus getting in the school gates to start with, we will be keeping up our hygiene practices and other public health measure precautions for as long as we are at Alert Level 2.

Teachers are finding out where each student is up to, and setting short term, manageable learning tasks to get everyone moving in the same direction.

At the same time to ensure success we are:

- reviewing the school calendar to find additional learning time, particularly for senior students. For example, the start of the NCEA examinations has been delayed ten days and so senior prize giving will be moved later in the year, allowing more learning time in Term Four
- adjusting course composition where needed
- adjusting assessment methods and timelines

This review will be completed by the end of next week.

We are confident that with no further lock downs, over the course of the year opportunities for students to reach their learning goals will be unaffected. There is plenty to look forward to. Homework centres and co-curricular activities are resuming this week. School sports are scheduled to get underway in mid-June and many teams will begin training this week.

You are welcome to contact the school with any questions you may have.

‘Lalaga le si'osi'omaga mo se lumana'i manuia'
‘Weave an environment for a better future’.

Greg Watson
PRINCIPAL

Board of Trustees

It is lovely to be able to welcome you all back to school following unprecedented circumstances, knowing that our sense of community remained even during a nationwide lockdown.

I have been thinking about our MRGS community as many of you have simultaneously managed whānau, mahi and learning commitments. One thing that has reassured me about our community being kept safe is the fact that MRGS places the wellbeing of our kaimahi and taura at the centre of their decision making. It has also been great to hear how seriously every taura is taking our hygiene practices and the need for consent to be in each other's space to ensure that our community feels safe, demonstrating manaakitanga in action!

I would like to thank the Senior Leadership Team for their guidance over the school holiday and lockdown. Thank you to the Deans, Heads of Department, form teachers, mentors and support staff for their pastoral care of our students and each other. Thank you to the subject kaiako for their adaptability to teaching and learning in a new world.

To the taura, thank you for doing your absolute best in what became your new normal.

Whaia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei.



Aim high for what is truly valuable, be persistent and do not let obstacles stop you from reaching your goal.

Ngā mihi nui
Marjet Pot, BoT Chairperson

Dates for your diary

Term 2	
Friday 29 May	Holiday (School Closed)
Monday 1 June	Queens Birthday Holiday (School Closed)
Friday 3 July	END OF TERM

Mentoring

Mentoring provides us as a school an opportunity to build strong relationships with our whānau and students. Within our conversations we are able to support each other to ensure our students' success and pathway towards being powerful learners. We are committed to Mentoring in Term 2 with whānau and students involved. We are currently looking at ways we can run Mentoring safely whilst still being in an Alert Level. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Devices for Learning

Every student at MRGS is using a device for learning every day. All courses have online content and many classes make use of digital tools in every lesson. Over lockdown our teachers have excelled in their use of eLearning and we see it as an effective way to support high quality face to face teaching.

Over lockdown we issued 290 devices on long term loan for student with no digital access. Since returning to school we have issued another 140 making up a total of 430 school devices issued to students to support our aim of a device for every student every day. Many students have returned devices because their families have made a decision to buy their own and we truly appreciate getting those devices back so we can support others.

As you can imagine we are running very low now with devices available for loan. If you still wish to borrow a device from school please ask your child to register their name with the B1 Resource Room. A caregiver signed loan agreement is required and can be downloaded here:

<https://www.mrgs.school.nz/byod/>

Buying a Device

Harvey Norman Mt Roskill welcomes families to come and speak to their sales consultant Rosie for any questions regarding BYOD. If you prefer not to visit the store in person you can reach her at 09 621 1500 or else email the query at rosie.kaur@nz.harveynorman.com and she will be happy to guide and assist. Harvey Norman can arrange interest free finance to families purchasing devices for learning.

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IT Support

Students needing support with any IT issues including loaner chromebooks can go to B13 from 8am, during break times and after school. The technicians haven't seen many students asking for help so far but students are more than welcome to seek support.

Alternatively email helpdesk@mrgs.school.nz or call our team on the school number - extension 732.

Storage

A locker is ideal as a secure storage option for students. There are spare lockers - students wishing to get a locker should see Mr Pemerika.

Charging

If a student wants to charge their device they can make use of a charging trolley in the library and remain responsible for the security of their device.

Outstanding Loans

B1 does not issue devices until outstanding loans are returned. If students are able to return the item owed they should do so. If there are problems with returning items we do not want this to be a barrier so please see Ms Donald - Rozanne.donald@mrgs.school.nz - to resolve the issue.

Assessment and Learning

Our teachers are pleased to have welcomed students back into classrooms for face to face teaching and learning this week. This coming week we will resume normal internal assessments. At a national level we are heartened to hear that the Ministry of Education and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) are making changes to NCEA this year in a two-step process designed to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

The **changes, effective immediately**, are to:

- **delay** external NCEA examinations and New Zealand Scholarship examinations so they **start on 16 November instead of 6 November**, allowing another week for teaching, learning and internal assessment in Term 4
- **extend** the submission date for subjects that require students to submit a portfolio, such as Design and Visual Communication, **from 28 October to 12 November 2020**, giving students more time to prepare
- **waive** the requirement for NZQA verification of Level 1 and 2 Visual Arts portfolios, allowing students more time to complete their portfolios and teachers more time for marking.

NCEA examinations will now finish on 9 December 2020. An amended examination timetable is available on NZQA's website.

We welcome these changes as they will help as we restructure the school year and regain a significant amount of teaching and learning time. This will allow us more space for the teaching and learning required for students to complete internal assessment and be well prepared for external assessment.

There may be further changes as a result of analysis on the impact of the lockdown on student progress. NZQA is also consulting with Universities New Zealand on whether there should be changes to the requirements for University Entrance this year, in light of COVID-19's impact. We will keep you informed as we receive further information.

Uniform

As we begin to move in to the colder months of the year it is important that we continue to maintain our high uniform standards. Students must be in correct uniform as they arrive. Any student in non-uniform clothing will be asked to correct themselves before entering classes. Boys are reminded they are to be clean shaven unless they have a pass issued through Mr McGibbon. We will be having a focus over the next few weeks on ensuring this is happening across the school so a few reminders include:

- Black leather shoes – no sandals
- School jumpers and jackets only
- No beanies or non-uniform hats
- Navy trousers or shorts – not black

If a student cannot correct their uniform we will support them where we can and also make contact with families. Any questions regarding school uniform please email Deputy Principal Mr McGibbon callum.mcgibbon@mrgs.school.nz

Staying Healthy

The students have been fantastic ensuring they are closely following hygiene protocols.

Under Alert Level 2 any student or staff member who is sick must stay at home. If they are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms we recommend they get tested, as a negative test will enable them to return to school more quickly once symptom free.

If a student or staff member has any symptoms they need to stay away until those symptoms are well clear. Once symptom free they are welcome to return, with the recommended timeframe from the ADHB being 48 hours symptom free before returning.

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19



Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds). Then dry.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.



Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.



Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.



Stay home if you feel unwell.

For updates and more information on keeping yourself safe, visit [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

New Zealand Government

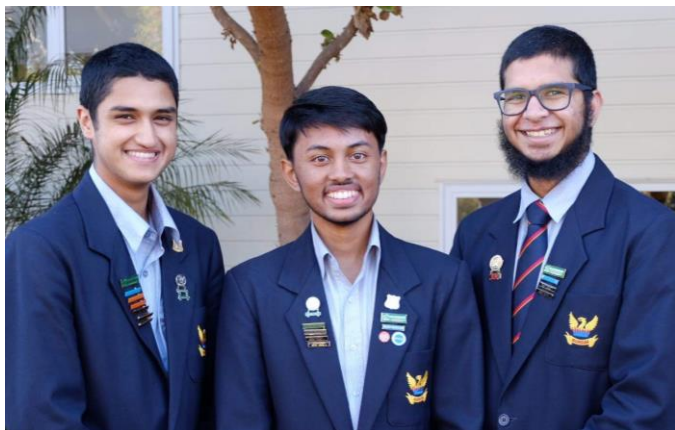
Unite
against
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MRGS Homework Centres 2020

Peer Mentors are available to students who would like support in specific subjects. This can be arranged by contacting an Academic Dean.

Subject Area	Times	Venue	Description	Teacher in Charge
Catch Up All subjects	Thu 3:10-5:00	Learning Extension	Students seeking help and support for any subject should attend the Homework Club or "Catch Up" time at LXTN. Some snacks are available to keep you going.	MKT/LEN
Chemistry	Thur lunchtime	S6	Chemistry teachers are available to help with any Level 2, 3 or scholarship chemistry.	MCS
Computer Science/ Digital Tech	Thu 3:15-4:15	B7	Help with work from any Year Levels and opportunities for students to catch up on work not completed in class.	NLL
English	Tue 3:15-4:30	H6	Any help with assessments or questions about the course work can be answered.	GYC
ESOL	Tue 3:15-4:15	R6	Assistance with ESL, NL homework. Support for English Language Learners in mainstream English. A quiet place to study after school.	RYJ
History	Mon lunchtime	C3	Any help with assessments or questions about the course work can be answered.	HTG
Languages	Tue 3:15-4:15	R3	Japanese (included in R-Block Homework Centre)	KOJ
Mathematics	Wed 3:15-4:15 Thursday 3:15-4:15	R9, A18, A7 A10, A20, A21	Y12's Y13 Calculus Students Juniors, Year 11's & Y13 Statistics A range of maths teachers are available	SBV
Media	Wed 3:00-4:30	T7	Help with assessments or questions about the course work can be answered. Computers available	BGV
Performing Arts	<i>Email PFA teacher to book a time</i>	Studio	Always happy to sit with individuals and families anytime Tues-Fri after school with a previous booking to go over any work. Please email your PFA teacher to book a time.	GSE
Technology	Wed 3:20-4:30	D4	Help with portfolios in DSM and DVC as well as non-practical work from TMM, BCT and TCE	PGD/GRW
Tongan Homework Centre	Wed 6:00-8:00pm	D11	All levels in all subjects. Started two weeks ago & runs every Wednesday without fail. Very dedicated experienced tutors. Any other students needing help are welcome. Cheese & crackers available at the end of session.	TNG
Visual Arts	Tue 3:20-4:20	A13 to A16	Supervised homework, students can get help from teachers. All other days after school and lunchtimes students can use facilities to work by themselves.	GRO

Debating



MRGS are into the final of the Aotearoa Online School's Debating Competition.

During the lockdown period teams from Mount Roskill Grammar competed in the Aotearoa Schools Debating Competition. This included five rounds of debating via Zoom, video call, which had challenges in a competition which heavily relies on clear communication.

MRGS had teams competing in both the Senior Advanced and Senior Premier grades.

In the Senior Advanced grade more than sixty teams from high schools across the country competed. Mount Roskill Red (Rishi Shukla, Huthaifa Ibrahim and Ihsanullah P A) competing in the Senior Advanced grade qualified for the quarter finals after the end of the preliminary rounds.

In the quarter finals MRGS successfully negated the moot: police should have the power to conduct warrantless searches to enforce covid-19 restrictions in NZ. They defeated the top ranked team (Auckland Grammar) and advanced to the semi-final of the competition.

In the semi final, MRGS successfully affirmed the motion "This house believes that New Zealand families should be able to choose any school to send their children to regardless of where they live." They defeated a combined team of St Peters (Cambridge) and Hamilton Boys High School and will compete in the Grand Final on Monday 25th May.

To the Heights!

Sports

Training for our winter sport teams will start this week.

A survey was sent out to all students who registered to play for a school team this season. Overwhelming feedback from the 150 students who responded expressed their keenness to play and they are looking forward to the season ahead.

College Sport Auckland hopes to start inter-school sport from Monday June 15 enabling teams two weeks to train before their competition begins. College Sport have identified that it would allow three games before the school term ends on July 3, with games to continue through to the end of Term 3 as the national winter tournaments for this year have been cancelled.

If you can assist in any capacity of coaching, managing or supporting with transport to and from games we would love to hear from you.

Please contact our Sports Director Tarun.Nathula@mrgs.school.nz

Samoa Language Week: Sunday 24 – Saturday 30 May 2020



The theme for Samoa Language week is '**Tapena sou ōso mo lau malaga**' which in English means 'Prepare yourself a gift for your travels'.

This year's theme urges us to prepare for the journey ahead. The Ministry for Pacific Peoples describes the theme as highlighting the need to honour, respect and share the gifts of our life's journey. As Pacific Peoples when we prepare for travel, we take our traditions with us, allowing us to share our ōso (gifts/food) with everyone we meet along the way. And with these gifts we build, nurture and strengthen our language, culture and identity.

The links below from Te Papa and the Auckland Library may be of interest.

<https://www.news.library.auckland.ac.nz/2020/05/21/samoan-language-week-2020/#.XspRY2gzY2w>

https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/learn/for-educators/teaching-resources/samoan-language-week-resource?fbclid=IwAR1ynfUGolkb0Ktmq3gonLQwDEfIN9c_91ynIL3xJR5zH_cs3sG4BPDAYXY

MRGS School App



Keep up to date with the MRGS App.

1. From your device go to the App Store/Play Store.
2. Search for "School Stream" and tap the install button.
3. You will be prompted to accept push notifications - select OK.
4. Type Mount Roskill Grammar School into the search bar then select it.

The App will give you access to daily notices and newsletters as well as allowing you to update personal details and notify the school about absences.

Student Safety



Please ensure that when you collect your child from school that you are always parked safely and aware of all students. We have students from our school and students from the primary and intermediate who may not be as easy to see. Stopping on yellow lines is not legal or safe.



Mount Roskill SAFER COMMUNITIES

under Alert Level 2

Our project in this area aims to make roads safer for everyone. Changes include putting in new footpaths and more pedestrian crossings. Construction began in early March but stopped due to Covid-19. We resumed work under Alert Level 3 on Wednesday 29 April with a more robust health and safety approach and we are now at Alert Level 2.

- The next stages of work will see the removal of existing footpaths and construction of new wider footpaths on Frost Road by the roundabout outside the school, shops and reserve. We will also be installing drainage and streetlights. There will also be a stop/go during the day when we are completing drainage work in the area, but we will do our best to minimise disruption in the area.
- The pace of work under different alert levels may not be as rapid as it is under normal circumstances, but our aim is to minimise further delays and help spur on the economy. Our priority continues to be able to ensure the safety of our workers and the public.



Mt Roskill Grammar students crossing Frost Road by the roundabout island.



For more information call **09 355 3553**
or email us on **projects@AT.govt.nz**

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Alumni News

Michael Shepherd [1968]



Michael Shepherd was born in Hamilton in 1950 and graduated with a Diploma of Fine Arts (Honours) from Elam, the School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland in 1979. In 1982 he was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council travel grant, which he used to study 17th century Dutch painting materials and techniques at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. He has employed those techniques in his work, often working from photographs and historical documents. Michael Shepherd was awarded the M.N.Z.M (Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit) for services to the Arts in 2008. His work is collected within NZ and internationally, and is held in the collections of Te Papa Tongarewa, Auckland Art Gallery and the Christchurch Art Gallery.

Roskill Stories

If you have Roskill stories about the success of current or past pupils, please share to: alumni@mrgs.school.nz or message the MRGS Facebook page.

Nominating MRGS with ASB Home Loans



Supporting success in your school.
If you're a parent, staff member or member of the school community and you take out a new ASB home loan of \$250,000 or more, ASB will donate \$500 to your chosen participating school.

ASB's lending criteria and terms apply. Fees may apply. Eligibility criteria - Documentation of the facility agreement must be done by 30 June 2020. For this promotion to apply, you must make mention of it during the home loan application. Only applies to loans which are secured by residential owner-occupied property with a minimum of 20% equity. The offer is limited to one donation per new home loan. The donation will be made to the chosen school on complete draw-down of the home loan. Excludes lending through brokers. Full eligibility criteria, exclusions, terms and conditions are available at asb.co.nz/promotions/supporting-success-in-your-school.html

If you are applying for a home loan with the ASB, and it meets the criteria outlined below, you can support Mt Roskill Grammar by nominating the school and ASB will donate \$500. ASB's lending criteria and terms apply.

Mount Roskill Early Childhood Centre

Located on the Mount Roskill School Campus, the Mt Roskill Early Childhood Centre has had 27 years of supporting our tamariki take their first steps in their Roskill learning journey. Low child-teacher ratios and a home away from home environment is a rare find in Auckland. Spaces are available now.

Check out our website www.mountroskillearlychildhood.co.nz and contact Nerys on (09) 629 0732 with any queries.

