



17 August 2020

Kia ora koutou katoa

Students have returned to working and learning from home. Please support this learning by joining us in encouraging students to maintain a healthy routine by taking breaks from their study.

To our students, you are not alone in your learning journey, we are walking beside you. Seek help from your teachers, don't be shy, now is the time to ask. Chances are that the question you ask is one that others also want to know, so you are an integral part of our learning community.

Karen Collins  
**Associate Principal**

### Distance Learning

All students must complete a daily attendance check-in on the Learning Hub, available from our school website: [www.mrgs.school.nz](http://www.mrgs.school.nz) via the Distance Learning link. Students also have access to our subject 'Learning Hubs', which is a website for every subject area which also has a wide array of resources to support learning <https://sites.google.com/mrgs.school.nz/mrgs-learning-hub/home>.

Education Perfect is a useful online resource and students have full access to every subject that it offers. Education Perfect is available via: [www.educationperfect.com](http://www.educationperfect.com) Students all have login details and can contact their subject teacher or email [eLearning@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:eLearning@mrgs.school.nz) for any help.

If students are prioritising a particular subject or subjects for a day they should let their other teachers know, remembering to return to the other subjects.

### Classroom

We know from experience that distance learning can be challenging for both teachers and students. Below is our guidance on how we are running distance learning under Alert Level 3:

- All classes using google classroom
- Teachers have been asked to provide teaching for the equivalent of 3/5 lessons each week or 60% of usual learning
- Each teacher has a 2 hour time frame each day when they will be online for answering questions via email/google meets/classroom forums
- Staff have been asked to refrain from making mandatory "live" lessons that students must attend. We know from that it is difficult for many students to adhere to this expectation
- It is important that students continue to engage in each subject where possible so that their teacher can collect evidence of their understanding in case it is required for derived grades.

## Assessment

We acknowledge that many senior students will be wondering about NCEA assessments. Please be assured that we are working with Heads of Departments to stay on course with as many assessments as possible. Please continue to study for practice external assessments. This year more than ever it is important to participate fully in these practice assessments as we may be in a position of having to award derived grades and those decisions will be made based on student performance in practice assessments.

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. The most important thing students can do to keep on track is to communicate with their teachers or Academic Deans, especially when having trouble meeting deadlines or keeping up with work.

Please note that we have regained learning time by scheduling the practice external examinations into class time instead of having 10 days of examination leave at the end of this term. We will continue to work behind the scenes at MRGS and with the Ministry of Education to support our students.

## Checking in

Under Alert Level 3 maintaining our whānau connections remains a priority to ensure our students feel our support and aroha.

In addition to the daily attendance check-in on the Learning Hub and engaging with their subject teachers, each student will be contacted by phone this week by either a form teacher, mentor or dean to support their learning and wellbeing.

## Wellbeing support

Our Counsellors are readily available to all students during school hours. You can refer students by email [counsellors@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:counsellors@mrgs.school.nz), or encourage them to reach out via Facebook Messenger (mrgrscounselling) or through Instagram by direct messaging (counsellingmrgrs). All communications are confidential, unless there is an imminent risk to safety.

Students can also access the nurses on [nurses@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:nurses@mrgs.school.nz) or 021 320 021 between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday.