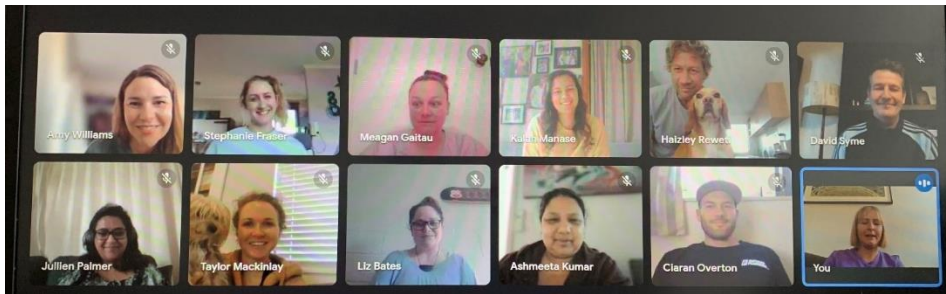




26 August 2021

From the Principal



Kia ora koutou

"He taonga rongonui te aroha ki te tangata".
Goodwill towards others is a precious gift.

This Covid Delta outbreak, Auckland lockdown 5.0 is resulting in an extended period of time away from school. Many of us will have reflected on how close we came to locations of interest in the days when the virus was undetected in the community. Many of us will have loved ones who are anxious about test results for friends and family. The virus is indiscriminating in who it infects. We uphold our value of manaakitanga – respect, care and kindness especially when things are difficult.

It is fantastic to hear that online chat is being used by students to help each other with learning. It is also pleasing to see the numbers of students who are signing in for learning online growing every day. Over 80 % of students have signed in and we are reaching out to those who have found difficulty getting started on learning while at home.

We have learned in previous lockdowns that if we keep making our best effort every day to accumulate the best learning we can, even if it doesn't feel enough, persistence over time will make it enough. This week we learned that the end of year NCEA exams will be held two weeks later, and it's likely that learning recognition credits will be offered depending on the duration of lockdown. This means there is time to achieve and the number of credits to achieve NCEA or University Entrance will be fair. Good news!

With our usual patterns of life halted for a while, it's worth thinking about forming our own routines and patterns to provide shape to the day. I'm missing the simple, special things that being part of our school offers. Sitting in on classes, working out with students what the learning intention for the day is, enjoying the ups and downs of sporting contests and greeting students at the gate even on a rainy day.

While at first, the release from having to keep up with the rigours of turning up to school each day can feel liberating, the separation from what we normally do and our friends and colleagues can be hard. Ryan Ramsey, a submarine captain, knows what it means to feel isolated and limited. He recommends that by creating a routine, doing the same things in the same order every day and changing at the weekends, time can be differentiated. He also stresses the importance of exercise.

His final piece of advice is to enjoy what's there - focus on what you have got rather than what you are being denied.

One thing we do have now is the opportunity for all of our students to be vaccinated against Covid. You can take your child with you to your vaccination or book them in. Lockdown is a temporary way of staying safe. In time, the huge majority of the population will have Covid antibodies, either by catching the disease from someone else or getting vaccinated. Getting a vaccine as soon as possible is the best way to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Covid is again disrupting what we normally do. To provide structure we can create a daily routine, we can exercise and we can choose not to look too far ahead. At MRGS we are kind to others, but in these ways can be kind to ourselves too.



Ngā manaakitanga

Greg Watson
Principal

School Board

Kia ora koutou

These are indeed strange times but we have been here before. We have all learnt a lot from the last lock down about how to look after ourselves and our whānau and how to support our taura in their learning.

You will have read in the newsletters about the support which the school has to offer our taura. Please don't hesitate to access this support, it is there for them. Reach out to the kaiako who teach you or mentor you, or to our student services team if you need support both with learning or mental health support.

Remember the basics

Please continue to do the basics that we know help keep us safe:

- practice good hand hygiene and coughing and sneezing etiquette
- keep track of where you've been, using the COVID tracer app
- physically distance, ideally two metres at all times
- wear a face covering everywhere when outside your home.

If you do develop symptoms get tested and stay home. Together we can back from this and enjoy the freedoms we have previously enjoyed.



Marjet Pot
Presiding Member

School holiday

Teachers and support staff have been working hard to implement online learning and connect with students to check on wellbeing. Friday 27th August was a planned School Holiday. To enable students and staff the time to focus on wellbeing there will be no formal teaching on this date. Staff and students are encouraged to spend this day connecting with their whānau, take time to reflect and refresh for the rest of the term ahead.

Teaching and learning

Please remind your students to continue to complete a daily attendance check on the Learning Hub. The Learning Hub is available from our school website: www.mrgs.school.nz via the Distance Learning link.

All students have access to a google classroom for each class which will provide subject specific learning and each teacher is providing a blended learning framework plan for each class for the week. 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. Doing practice exercises on Education Perfect is an effective way to prepare for summative assessments later in the year. Education Perfect is available via: www.educationperfect.com. Students all have login details and can contact their subject teacher for any help.

We are aware that many households will have a range of situations in terms of parents working from home and multiple students needing access to devices. We hope that our students can maintain their learning as much as possible, and ask for your support to encourage their online learning. To support students in managing their time with other commitments we have asked that any teachers who choose to have "live" lessons ensure they record the lesson so it can be posted on google classroom.

Assessment

On Wednesday NZQA and the Ministry of Education announced some decisions that have been made to mitigate the impact of the lockdown.

The start of the NCEA exams will be delayed by two weeks to begin November 22 and conclude December 14. Due dates for portfolio subjects such as Art and DVC will also be two weeks later. The MCAT maths assessment due to be held in mid-September will also be delayed by two weeks.

The letter sent to schools also stated that NZQA and the Ministry of Education are discussing further measures such as those used last year (learning recognition credits, lowering the thresholds for University Entrance and Course Endorsement), but those announcements will come later. Any further decisions will be dependent on the length of time we are at alert Levels 3 and 4. We will keep you posted as soon as we hear more information.

Mentoring

Kaiako and Mentors:

This week your Kaiako, Mentor or Dean will have been in contact with you to check on your wellbeing and your learning. Each week, this person will continue to check in with you. Please ask them for support as you need, and remember that you don't have to wait for them to contact you - you can contact them if you need support.

Attendance

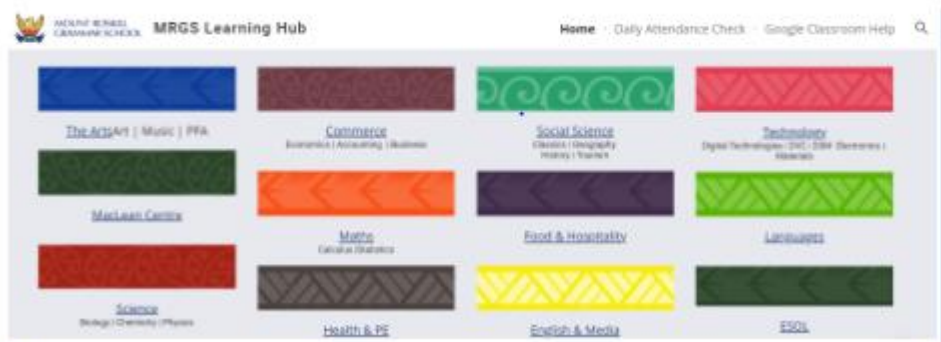
Please make sure your child completes the **daily attendance check-in Monday - Friday before 11am**. If your child is sick, please continue to let our attendance officer know via email attendance@mrqs.school.nz or you can tick the "sick" box on the daily attendance also.

If your child needs help with logging-on to do the daily attendance check-in, follow these simple steps.

STEP 1: go to www.mrqs.school.nz. Click on the **Distance Learning link**



STEP 2: click on the **Daily Attendance Check link** at the top of the page



STEP 3: Complete all sections of the google form and click submit.

NOTE: you will not be able to access the google form through a personal email account. Students must be logged-in to their school gmail account.



MOUNT ROSKILL
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MRGS Learning Hub

Student Daily Check-in

Each student is required to log on each day before 11am with their google account. Remember you can connect with your Dean, Mentor or Kaiako if you need help . accessing learning for any subject or have questions.

Your email address will be recorded when you submit this form

Not sarah.singh@mrgs.school.nz? [Switch account](#)

*Required

Check-in *

☐ Present

☐ Sick

To change gmail accounts, you can go to google.com, click on the round profile icon in the top right corner - either select the school account if it has already been added, or select "Add another account".

Climbing

On Sunday 15th August Mount Roskill Grammar had its first students compete in the third and final competition of the year for the Auckland College Climbing Series.

Mount Roskill Grammar had 4 Junior students compete in the competition with some outstanding performances by Year 9 Stella Boyd. Stella in the Year 9-10 division finished 6th place in top rope and 4th in the speed climb resulting in 4th equal for the combined events. Congratulations to Stella and all of our climbers who competed for the first time.

Full results below:

Stella Boyd: Year 9-10 – 6th in top ropes, 4th in speed. Combined score of 4th equal

Jessica Huang: Year 9-10 – 25th in top ropes, 21st in speed. Combined score of 24th

Sumayyah Parker: Year 9-10 – 26th in top ropes, 20th in speed. Combined score of 23rd equal

Rayyan Mohamed Faizal: Year 9-10 - 29th in top ropes, 27th in speed. Combined score of 30th equal



Student Voice

Kia ora Roskill whānau!

I know for some lockdown isn't the easiest and for some lockdown is the best thing! Whatever boat you are in, I hope you are doing well and trying to look after yourself during this time. For those who are doing well, check in with your friends! I know they would appreciate that. For those who aren't doing so well, know that you have lots of people who are here to help and if you want to talk to a trained counsellor, text or ring #1737 or text #234 any time, day or night!

Also, I just want to acknowledge all the sports teams who found out their tournaments have been cancelled. I know a lot of you were looking forward to them, as was I and I'm so sorry that for the second year in a row they have been cancelled. Hopefully, you and your team can have dinner or do something fun to celebrate the end of your season once we are in level 1. Shot for doing the hard mahi this season. It's been so good seeing different teams play throughout the year!

Sending all the aroha to you and your whānau,



Chloe Vos
Head Prefect