



10 September 2021

From the Principal

Malo e laumalie e Kainga kotoa

Thank you to all the families who are doing the 'heavy lifting' of overseeing the learning of your children, at the same time as many of you are juggling your own work commitments. Asking to 'look in' on some google classroom work can be a great starter for a conversation about how the learning is going.

Congratulations to every student who is continuing to try hard with their learning. This week we are half way between the start of lockdown and the end of term three. It's a good time for each of us to take stock of our progress, to celebrate progress, not to be too hard on ourselves when we haven't met targets but use any healthy discontent to motivate us to recommit to reachable goals. You are not alone in your learning. Reach out to your teachers, kaiako, mentors, Deans, or a friend from school if you are stuck.

Everyone's thoughts and prayers are with the victims of the attack by an individual at Lynn Mall last Friday. As a school community every action we take to live by our values of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga and tūmanakotanga, - caring for each other, enjoying our diversity, and aspiring to be successful powerful learners contributes to an enduring counter to extremism.

Congratulations to Baraa Zara (Year 10) who has been selected for the New Zealand Secondary School U16 Football team. The team will play games in January 2022. This is a fantastic achievement for him. Congratulations also to the premier basketball team and coach Martin Windsor who have been confirmed winners of the Auckland Senior A competition. They will play a promotion game to enter the Premier competition in 2022.

It's very encouraging to see the number of vaccinated people across Aotearoa increasing sharply each day. It's free and the Prime Minister is encouraging everyone to seek out ways of getting the vaccination. When we get back to school the more of us who are vaccinated, the less likely the virus will be able to spread amongst us and to our families. By now most people will know someone who has got the vaccination. If booking online is not easy for you, ask family or friends about the easiest way to get a vaccination.

Fakafeta'i pea fakatauange ke mo'u ma'u ha taimi 'oku malu mo fiefia.

Thank you so much and wishing you all a safe and happy week.



Greg Watson
Principal

Assessment

A message for senior students

This year the practice externals are scheduled to be held during class time in weeks 1 and 2 of Term 4. We remain on timetable and you will be attending class as usual. In some of your classes practice externals will be held. The schedule has been posted on the school website, emailed to students and families, and put on facebook.

Remember:

- As always (but especially during the assessment weeks), being on time to class is critical for your achievement and to ensure you do not cause disruption for others.
- Exam conditions are required - phones and watches turned off and in bags at the front of the room.
- There will be no hui ako during weeks 1 and 2 apart from the first day of Term 4 as the examinations are scheduled to begin on Tuesday of the first week.

Please continue to study for these practice external assessments. This year more than ever it is important to participate fully in these 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.

Thank you and best of luck.

Dates and Timeline

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
18/10/2021 Normal School Bells	19/10/2021 In class practice assessments Exam Bell times	20/10/2021 In class practice assessments Exam Bell times	21/10/2021 In class practice assessments Exam Bell times	22/10/21 In class practice assessments Exam Bell times
25/10/21 LABOUR DAY	26/10/21 In class practice assessments Exam Bell times	27/10/21 In class practice assessments Exam Bell times	28/10/21 In class practice assessments Exam Bell times	29/10/21 In class practice assessments Exam Bell times

Examination Bell times are:

Period	Bell times	There is no late start on Wednesday during this two-week examination period.
Period 1	9:00 - 10:00 am	
Period 2	10:00 - 11:00 am	
Interval	11:00 - 11:20 am	
Period 3	11:20 - 12:20 pm	
Period 4	12.20 - 1.20 pm	
Lunch	1:20 - 2:00 pm	
Period 5	2:00 - 3:00 pm	

Practice External Schedules

[Year 11 Term 4 Practice Externals Schedule](#)

[Year 12 Term 4 Practice Externals Schedule](#)

[Year 13 Term 4 Practice Externals Schedule](#)

How whānau can help?

Accessing your student's Digital Classrooms

All distance learning is available for students via Google classroom.



Go to classroom.google.com

Signing in is via your student's email address - studentID@students.mrgs.school.nz and their school password.

Each subject is using a weekly plan document called a blended learning framework which looks like this:



If your student is taking 5 subjects they will have 5 subject plans for the week with links to revision, learning resources, assignments and tasks to practice their learning.

We have entered our fourth week of lockdown. In three weeks of school your student would have engaged in about 12 hours of learning in each of their subjects. Teachers are not expecting the same amount of time devoted to learning at home but we are expecting engagement with the tasks and resources in the

framework planning documents.

Please check in and check up on your student and their progress through the learning framework each week. Students may need help with their time management skills - you can help them bite off small chunks of learning for every one of their subjects and not neglect their weak areas. Practice and regular engagement reduces the impact of missing so much school at this time of the year.

What you could ask your student

- Show me your google classroom for [pick a subject]
- Can I see the Blended Learning Framework (as pictured above), weekly plan document?
- What have you completed so far this week?
- What are you finding hard?
- Show me your classroom assignment feedback from the teacher.
- Show me the classwork tab on your google classroom and where you are submitting your assignments? (you are looking for this icon)



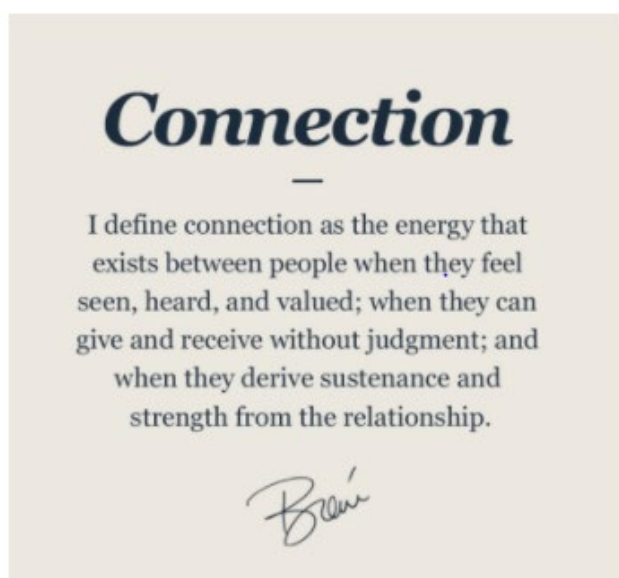
Kaiako and Mentors

You will be receiving a weekly connection from your Kaiako, Mentor, Dean or another staff member at school. We prioritise this connection so we can hear from you how you are going, how your learning is going and if you need any support from us. Please respond to any communication you get - this may come via email or phone call to your caregivers. We are here to help!

Three reasons why this is important (there are many!):

- Connection to school is maintained
- Hearing from someone outside your student bubble who can support you and encourage them
- Knowing that someone from their 'normal' routine (school) cares about them and wants to talk to them is really important

As a parent, please feel free to contact your child's Kaiako or Mentor, or talk to them yourself when they call. Please continue to positively encourage your child to make progress with their learning as much as they are able to. We acknowledge that this time is incredibly challenging and people are using different strategies to deal with this. Reach out, let us know if we can help in any way.



Brené Brown

Tongan Language Week

Tongan Language Week

5 - 11 September 2021

Theme: Fakakoloa 'o Aotearoa 'aki 'a e Ako Lelei, which means Enriching Aotearoa with Holistic Education.

Malo e lelei! In order to celebrate Tongan Language Week while in Lockdown, we are sharing the following resources:

This has been provided by the Ministry of Pacific Peoples: Easy to use Lea Faka Tonga language Cards:

<https://www.mpp.govt.nz/assets/Pacific-Language-Cards/Lea-Faka-Tonga-Language-Cards.pdf>

Students can complete the general knowledge quiz below. Prizes will be awarded to some students who do really well in the quiz when we return to school:

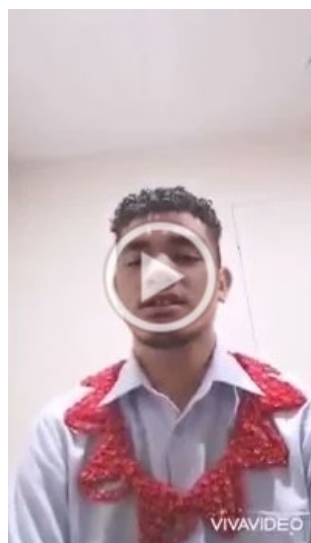
General Knowledge Quiz:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BGikm0dAhjCtnFzSdO4EZskA7BxcQuidRnuVwWDBKZ0/edit>

Malo 'Aupito

This video is a message from one of our Tongan Prefects Talilotu Tuitupou to celebrate Tongan Language Week. Talilotu talks about the pillars and values of Tongan society and that education is not only academic but caters for the whole person.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G6qK0tZBny03ie5uh2Glprk3thNaoNi2/view?usp=sharing>



Consent awareness

This week is our school's on-line "Consent Awareness Week" organised by the PSSP student leaders. Our Peer Sexuality Support Programme team consists of Sonam Bagwe, Karmella Reedy, Ansh Angurala, Melanie Spence and Karen Wang.

They are using Instagram to promote knowledge and awareness of the need for consent, both in real life and with digital communication.

Ensuring you access consent is an important part of Manaakitanga: respecting and maintaining the dignity of others.



They are using the FRIES acronym:

Consent must be Freely given, it is Reversible, Informed, Enthusiastic and Specific.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, legally you need to be 16 years of age to be able to give consent for sexual activity with someone else. It is the responsibility of the older person to ensure the younger person is at least 16.

To give consent, you need to be sober. You cannot be coerced into giving consent, and you can change your mind at any time.

Check out the team's great interactive posts on Instagram: @psspnrms or @counsellingmrgs

Puketāpapa Community Volunteer Awards 2021



Nominations are open for the Puketāpapa Community Volunteer Awards 2021. The Puketāpapa Local Board, working together with the Puketāpapa Youth Foundation look forward to recognising voluntary efforts that benefit the people and places of our Local Board area. Nominations close on Friday 1 October 2021 at 5pm. You can nominate online [Auckland Council \(ubiquity.co.nz\)](https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/ubiquity) and get more information <https://bit.ly/2WHtpq1> or access through the QR code.

Afghanistan support

A significant number of our community are affected by the atrocities in Afghanistan. Through our mediation service and counsellor Donna we have a decades long strong connection with the Peace Foundation. We would like to share the following message with you for those of you who would like to offer some support to refugees arriving in New Zealand in the next few weeks.

Tamkeen Saied, Youth Ambassador at the Peace Foundation:

"I am sending out the link for the Give a Little campaign my mother is running to help the Afghan refugees arriving in New Zealand over the next few weeks. She has been a registered counsellor providing mental health support for refugees in Aotearoa for many years here. She now runs an organisation called NFACT, which provides wraparound support for refugees, by refugee service providers. The money raised will go towards providing psychological, emotional and social support for those arriving to Aotearoa to rebuild their lives with dignity and to ensure the trauma they have experienced is not left untreated. Any help would be absolutely amazing. Thank you so much."

Here's the link with more information: <https://givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/help-refugees-fleeing-from-afghanistan-set-up>

Well-being support

Counselling

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.

Health Clinic

Nurses are available for students from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Nurse Mobile 021 320 021 for text and phone consults (Monday - Friday) throughout the isolation period.

Nurses can book the doctor for virtual consultations as needed and students can be referred from the Health Centre to other external Health Providers as necessary.

Other support networks:

- Youthline is available 24/7. Chat or text for support (youthline.co.nz, txt 234, 0800-376633)
- 1737 Free call or text to a counsellor
- Lifeline -Chat or text for support (0800543354 or txt 4357)
- The LowDown-Info on low mood and stress (thelowdown.co.nz)
- Mental health 24/7 crisis number ph 0800 800 717
- Free apps for chilling out and stress management: Headspace, Calm

Prefect voting

This week we began one phase of our Prefect selection process for 2022. On Wednesday all Year 12 students were emailed a voting form which gave them the opportunity to nominate some of their peers who have exhibited leadership in a variety of ways within our school and shown themselves to be active responsible citizens.

The google form will close at the end of the day on Friday so please remind your Year 12s to check their school emails to ensure their voice is heard in this part of the nomination process. We would like to assure you that we have monitoring processes in place to ensure that all students who would like to vote do not miss out on this opportunity to do so.

Student Voice

Talofa lava everyone!

I hope you and your families are all looking after yourselves and are well during these unpredictable times. Being away from school for so long can put greater stress on making sure we are doing our daily attendance and keeping up with our school-work the best we can. It is also important we take time to look after our own well-being and spend time with our family. If you are finding it difficult to keep up with school-work or aren't sure what to do, know your teachers, deans and mentors are all here to support you and get you on track, just flick them an email. Be sure to check up on your friends to see how they're going too!

It is also Tongan Language Week this week! Big shout out to all our Tongan students and teachers at our school and representing such a beautiful culture proudly. Hopefully we can all take some time out of our day this week to learn about the Tongan language and culture.

Stay safe.



Phoenix Tupa'i Samuel
Head Boy

MRGS eBooks

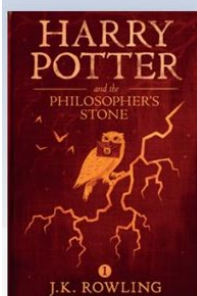
Need a novel for English or to help with lockdown boredom? Don't forget about the great MRGS eLibrary!

Thousands of eBooks - all genres! check it out!

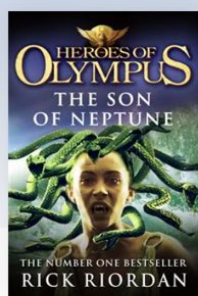
<https://mrgs.wheelers.co/> - (login with school ID number and password)

Popular Titles

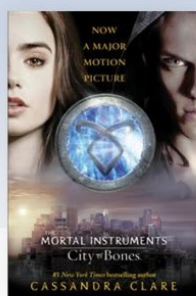
[view more >](#)



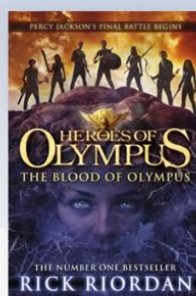
Harry Potter and the...
by J.K. Rowling
★★★★★ (4.6/5)



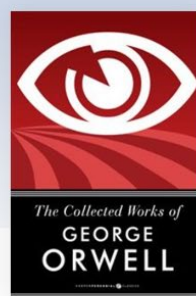
The Son of Neptune (He...
by Rick Riordan
★★★★★ (4.6/5)



The Mortal Instruments...
by Cassandra Clare
★★★★★ (4.5/5)



The Blood of Olympus...
by Rick Riordan
★★★★★ (4.8/5)



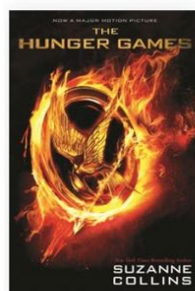
The Collected Works Of...
by George Orwell
★★★★☆ (3.4/5)



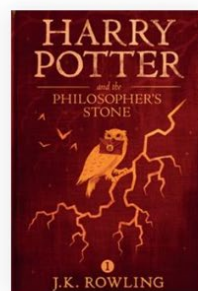
1984
by George Orwell
★★★★★ (4.1/5)

Recommendations

[view more >](#)



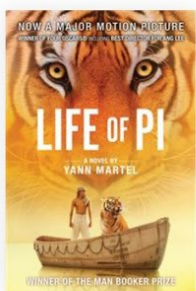
The Hunger Games
by Collins, Suzanne
★★★★★ (4.6/5)



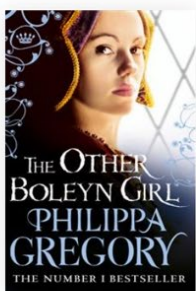
Harry Potter and the...
by J.K. Rowling
★★★★★ (4.6/5)



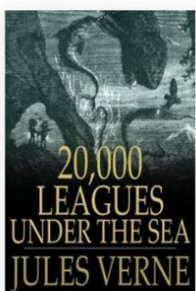
The Power of One...
by Bryce Courtenay
★★★★★ (4.5/5)



Life Of Pi
by Yann Martel
★★★★★ (4.3/5)



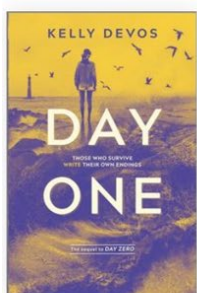
The Other Boleyn Girl
by Philippa Gregory
★★★★★ (4.2/5)



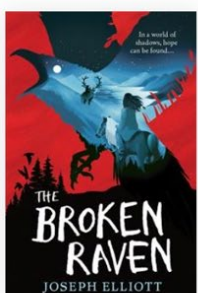
20,000 Leagues under t...
by Jules Verne
★★★★★ (5/5)

New / Recent Releases

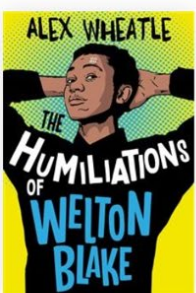
[view more >](#)



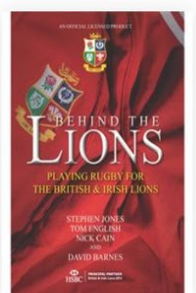
Day One
by Kelly Devos
☆☆☆☆☆ (0/5)



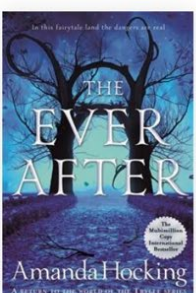
The Broken Raven (Shad...
by Joseph Elliott
☆☆☆☆☆ (0/5)



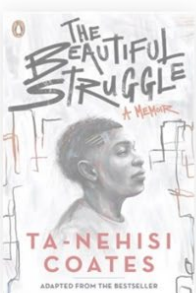
The Humiliations of Wel...
by Alex Wheatle
★★★★★ (3.4/5)



Behind the Lions: Playin...
by Stephen Jones
★★★★★ (5/5)



The Ever After
by Amanda Hocking
☆☆☆☆☆ (0/5)



The Beautiful Struggle
by Ta-Nehisi Coates
☆☆☆☆☆ (0/5)