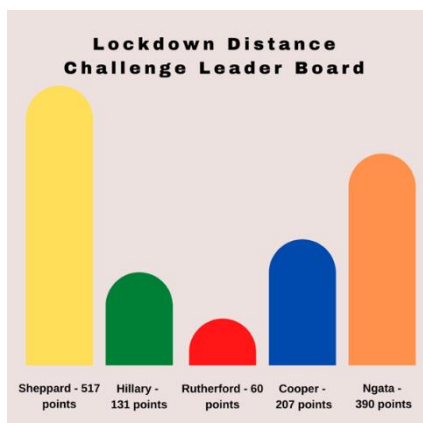




3 September 2021

From the Principal



Kia ora koutou,

We're just over two weeks into this COVID-19 community outbreak and the Prime Minister has announced that Auckland will be in level 4 lockdown until at least September 15. Our city is doing well to slow the Delta outbreak, however it is too early to know where this lockdown will land.

I hope that you are continuing to find ways to maintain well-being and chip away at work or learning from home. Thank you to all our essential workers who are leaving home to help keep important services in our city going.

Thank you to families for the support you are providing our students. Your quiet help day by day can make the difficult seem possible. Picking moments to get alongside your child to talk through successes, challenges, and the day's list of planned learning, any support for the household, and activities to maintain well-being can provide an appreciated sounding board.

To our students - you are doing so well. Each day over 70% are checking in with online learning and the large majority are reporting that you are doing OK. I encourage you all to show the Roskill spirit of always finding a way to succeed each day – writing a list for each day, doing the hardest things early in the day, doing even a little bit when it feels too hard, exercising each day and connecting with friends online.

Remember, your subject teachers, kaiako, and mentors are there to help you. Reach out and explain problems to them whenever you get stuck. Our aim for you is to get through lock down in a good enough position to be able to complete a very successful year. Every little bit you can do now helps.

While we are looking forward to returning to school as soon as possible, we can see that most or all of Term 3 will be learning off-site. It is great news that learning recognition credits will again be available to students and that the UE and endorsement requirements have been modified to make the credits needed to gain each qualification fair. This provides added motivation for students to keep going with their learning.

If there's an upside to this outbreak, it's been the huge increase in vaccination numbers. Testing, tracing and vaccinating will help us get back to normal. From this week all secondary school age students can get a vaccine. I encourage whānau to seek out ways to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The more of us who are vaccinated when we get back to school, the safer everyone will be.

A huge thank you to everyone who is doing their bit to help us get through.

Noho ora mai rā
Stay healthy



Ngā manaakitanga

Greg Watson
Principal

Assessment

You will have received a [letter](#) yesterday outlining the changes to NCEA, including the addition of Learning Recognition Credits. If you need any more information, Check the NZQA website <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/>, talk to your classroom teacher or Dean, or email Senior Assessment Manager Mr Gavin Parratt Gavin.Parratt@mrgs.school.nz

Engaging with Distance Learning

All students will have a learning plan for the week supplied to them by their subject teachers. The plan will contain links to learning resources, revision information, quizzes and assignments. Your student can access this at the beginning of the week and plan their time so they complete what is required.

We understand that circumstances vary for our students but we encourage everyone to engage with all their subjects and keep up as much as they can so that this valuable learning time is well used. For year 9 and 10 students, time spent reading, writing and engaging with course material directly prepares them for when they enter NCEA. For all students learning to plan their time and work through tasks is a critical skill for success at school, tertiary and in the workforce. Please support your students to access their work on Google Classroom and do as much as they can each day.

MRGS Practice External Assessments

We have decided to delay our within school practice external assessments to the beginning of Term 4 commencing Tuesday October 19. The results of these assessments are used to track whether students are on target to achieve NCEA. They are also used in a situation where a student is unable to attend an external exam due to medical reasons or a bereavement.

The results from practice externals give us evidence to create an estimate grade for NZQA. It is critically important for all senior students to participate in these assessments and make their best effort as we have to plan for a situation where NCEA may not be able to take place. At present the focus of most senior courses is preparation for external assessments and engaging in this work is the best way for your students to be well prepared.

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@mrgs.school.nz or you can tick the “sick” box on the daily attendance.

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

Step 1: go to www.mrgs.school.nz. Click on the Distance Learning link

Step 2: click on the Daily Attendance Check link at the top right of the page

Step 3: complete all sections of the google form and click submit

Peace Symposium



On Friday 13th August, 38 MRGS Mediators attended and presented at the exciting Peace Symposium generously organised by the Peace Foundation. The theme of “**Inner Peace for Outward Action**” was captured incredibly well by the inspirational speakers:

*Jase Te Patu (TedX speaker, wellbeing advocate and founder of M3)

*Genevieve Mora (Co-founder of Voices of Hope and Love Your Kite, an app to support those struggling with eating disorders)

*Talei Bryant (Founder of the Find Your Fish movement that supports Rangatahi to find their ‘why’, develop practical life skills and realise their potential).

A Big thank you to Nico, Caroline, Hebah, Ansh, Clara, Suvatiga, Harshita, Layla, Hunter, Cynaika, Neron, Shevon, Joshlyn, Aliza, Adil, Pranav, Mell, Shravya, Riley, Michael, Aamina, Lucy, Anannya, Aarya, Amonica, Dalia, Rishi, Diya, Shreya, Faadhilah, Aaron, Eli, Sharikh, Damien, Mika, Ruth, Amy, and Layba for being such great Peace Leaders. You did Roskill proud once again!

“**Inner Peace for Outward Action**” i.e. the importance of looking after ourselves as well as others, is even more important now than ever before with the challenges of Covid lockdown and the uncertainty it brings. Please be gentle with yourself and reach out to others to offer and receive support.

Ehara tāku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.

My strength is not as an individual, but as a collective.

Sports Department Challenges

Last week the Sports Department started their first Lockdown challenge – The Distance Challenge. The competition ran for 7 days ending on Tuesday 31st August where students and staff were encouraged to get active and log the distances they had covered while walking, running or cycling around their local areas. Below are the top 3 individual students who will be receiving Rebel Sports Vouchers for their efforts! You can see the House results graph at the top of this newsletter.

- 1st = Daniel Ferguson Year 13 with 161km.
- 2nd = Sharikh Syed Year 12 with 111km.
- 3rd = Rhea Bhonsle Year 11 with 96km.

The next challenge is the “Trick Shot Challenge” and will begin on Thursday 2nd September, finishing on Thursday 9th September. Students and staff can enter a new trick shot each day of the week to earn a point for their house. Next Friday the Sports Department will judge the best student and staff trick shots and tally up the house entries to see which house will have bragging rights for this challenge!

Keep an eye on the Sports Instagram page @mr.gs.sport for challenge information and updates. All entries can be sent in a direct message to the MRGS Sport Instagram account or emailed through to renee.silvester@mr.gs.school.nz

Student Voice

Kia Orana Roskill Family,

I hope you are all doing great! For most of us I know that this lockdown period can be hard and focusing on our assigned work can be hard. I myself am finding it a bit stressful to cope, but just keep in mind that we can do this! I know it seems as though everything serves as a distraction because we are not in the normal learning environment but you just have to keep your head in the game and do what you need to do to complete your work.

If you're finding things too hard and it seems a little too stressful, don't be afraid to contact your teachers and tell them about your workload. Remember we also have school counsellors and student help groups. Contact them anytime you need to, they are always ready to help.

Either way I hope you enjoy this lockdown period with your family and hopefully we can all get back to school to finish off the rest of this year smoothly.

Thank you.

Rachel Ogbuze

