



COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

Monday, May 18



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It was a pleasure to welcome our young men back to school today. We hope that the return to school and the opportunity to catch up with friends and teachers, and the chance to talk about their lockdown experiences, was a positive experience for your son. The Alert Level 2 restrictions and the time away from school as a consequence of the lockdown will mean that teaching and assessment programmes, along with many of our planned events, need to be reconsidered and rescheduled. This communication is to provide you with an update in this regard. I hope that you can understand that it will take some time to work through all of the implications so we will not have all of the answers at once. We will continue to keep you informed as decisions are made.

Teachers and Heads of Departments have been asked to look at their course planning for the remainder of the school year. It is unrealistic to simply try and get through the content that was previously planned. Consequently, junior examinations this term have been cancelled and will be replaced by a one-hour assessment to be completed in class time towards the end of this term. Assessment loads at NCEA Level Two and Level Three are also being reconsidered. At Level Two this could result in a reduction in the number of credits assessed in some subjects but will still allow young men to gain the qualification. At Level Three courses still need to provide opportunities for young men to meet the requirements of University Entrance so there is not quite the same flexibility (ctrl + click or copy and paste into your web browser to see the requirements for University Entrance:

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/awards/university-entrance/>).

Teachers will work with students to ensure that the assessment programme available to them will meet their needs.

The start of the NCEA examinations has been delayed by creating extra teaching time before study leave commences for senior students. An updated examination timetable is attached to this communication. Please ensure that you are familiar with



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it as the NCEA examination period will now continue beyond the end of the school year.

Many of our young men will be keen to get back into sport and cultural activities. We will continue to adhere to the advice provided by the Ministry of Education, Public Health and sport administrators in this regard. It is hoped that we will be able to get underway in the coming weeks.

Parent-Teacher Interviews were scheduled for early this term. Under the current restrictions these are unable to go ahead. Providing an opportunity for parents to meet with their son's teachers is important and we are hopeful that interviews will be able to take place early in term three.

Alert Level 2 restrictions and the uncertainty of what might happen over the coming weeks and months make it imprudent to continue with planning for the School Ball. Consequently, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the ball for 2020. We appreciate that this will be disappointing for many young men, particularly those in Year 13.

A reminder to the young men who have been loaned school Chromebooks over the lockdown period that these need to be returned by your son to Mr. Truter by Monday, May 25 at the latest. Students who have Chromebooks are welcome to use them this week to catch up work as necessary.

Thank you for your continuing support of both your son and the school as we continue to work through the requirements for our 'new normal' in the COVID-19 world.

Yours faithfully,

D M Bovey
RECTOR



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