

Morena Whanau

Thank you once again for your feedback, support and patience at this time.

Ministry announcement re Year 12 & 13

There are some cases in which Year 12 and 13 learners can study on site, so long as we can ensure that the strict public health guidelines can be met. We have identified situations where continued progress is very reliant on specific resources and equipment. Learners from the following classes can work onsite on Monday 24 August. They will need to contact their teachers to confirm their attendance.

Technology :

- Combined L2/3 CLTX with Mrs Davies, 8.30-11.30am.
- Combined L2/3 BCON with Mr Moran, 8.30am-3.00pm.

Visual Art:

- L3 ARTP with Mrs Copley, 8.30-11.30am.
- L2ARTC with Mrs Boyd, 12.30-3.30pm.

The learners who are attending will be sent the public health guidelines.

Staff Only Day - postponed

The planned Staff Only Day on Friday 21 August will now be postponed as our guest speaker is unable to come to Auckland during Alert Level 3. Teaching and learning will continue on Friday – as normal as possible for a lockdown day.

School email issues

We are having ongoing issues with our school email system. Some emails from myself and others at the College may be going straight to your Spam or Junk folders! Also, our ability to send emails is very 'on-again-off-again'. We are working on this with Spark and hope these issues are resolved quickly.

Social Media

Please talk to your children about staying safe online, including when using social media. Sometimes our young people do and say things online that they would never do or say in person. Social media can be an excellent method of staying in contact, but our young people need regular reminders to think before they post, keep their comments kind and make use of their privacy settings.

Encouragement

Encourage your sons and daughters to get on with their work but we don't want them to drown in it. These are strange and uncertain times and there are many other issues 'competing' for our attention. Understanding and encouragement – as well as some engagement with learning – are important.

NCEA

A number of learners are concerned about what might happen with their NCEA assessments. Where possible we are continuing with assessments as planned. Subject teachers will have details.

Next Steps from School

I've heard concerns from some of our Year 13's about their next steps. I certainly understand why they may be feeling a bit 'wobbly' about 2021. Be assured that if their intended pathway is towards University, the university will be really keen to have learners enrol and are modifying entrance requirements because of the Covid-19 situation. So Year 13's should aim for their 52 level 3 credits, ensure they have UE Literacy, and 12 credit in each of 3 UE approved subjects. Remember, the

universities will be suffering terribly with the lack of International Students and need Kiwi kids to enrol.

Trades: if the pathway was more towards the trades there are also plenty of opportunities. A huge amount of building is going on in our part of New Zealand and we desperately need folk to join the trades, as we are not able to 'import' the necessary skills at this time.

Option Choices for 2021

We had a very successful Option Choice Evening just before lockdown. We will be opening the online option choice portal in a few weeks for learners to indicate their preferences. As always, we cannot guarantee everyone will get all their choices – but we will do the best we can.

Enrolments

A few folk have asked about 2021 enrolments. While there may need to be some adjustment to when and how we do this, there will be no problem with enrolments for 2021. We'll keep you posted.

Special Education Needs Coordinator (SenCo)

Our Special Needs coordinator, Mr Chris Brown, has recently retired. I'd like to thank Chris for the passion and commitment he showed for our learners who required extra support in a wide range of ways. Mrs Jo White will be our Acting SenCo for the remainder of 2020.

All the best with the week ahead.

Hopefully we'll be back at school on Thursday 27 August

Kia kaha

James