

Kia ora e te whānau

Government has kept with their cautious approach when responding to COVID-19, and as a result, we will stay at Alert Level 3 for a bit longer. From Monday 18 October, Term 4 will start with online learning until further notice. The school grounds, including our sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts, remain closed.

At the end of Term 3 we surveyed our learners, staff and you the community asking for feedback on our online learning platforms and readiness to return to school. Yesterday, the Senior Learning Team met and considered the feedback. We heard that there was a strong desire from all to engage further with the learners and to ensure no learning has been missed and to prioritise our senior learners as they prepare for external examinations.

Therefore, the revised timetable for all learners, as of Monday 18 October will be:

- 10.00 – 10.15 Rōpū Whānau
- 10.15 – 10.45 Period 1
- 10.50 – 11.20 Period 2
- 11.25 – 11.55 Period 3
- 12.00 – 12.30 Period 4
- 12.30 – 1.00 Lunch/break
- 1.00 – 1.30 Period 5

Additional lessons will be run for learners in Years 12 and 13 on the following roster, giving them additional teacher contact of 2 hours per subject per week:

Monday

2.00 – 3.00 - option line 1 - Normal Monday p1

3.00 – 4.00 - option line 2 - Normal Monday p2

4.00 – 5.00 - option line 3 - Normal Monday p3

Tuesday

2.00 – 3.00 - option line 4 - Normal Monday p4

3.00 – 4.00 - option line 5 - Normal Monday p5

4.00 – 5.00 - option line 6 - Normal Tuesday p1

Wednesday

2.00 – 3.00 - option line 1 - Normal Monday p1

3.00 – 4.00 - option line 2 - Normal Monday p2

4.00 – 5.00 - option line 3 - Normal Monday p3

Thursday

2.00 – 3.00 - option line 4 - Normal Monday p4

3.00 – 4.00 - option line 5 - Normal Monday p5

4.00 – 5.00 - option line 6 - Normal Tuesday p1

At this time, we are uncertain whether school practice exams or NCEA exams will go ahead. Therefore, it is very important that all learners, but especially Year 11-13 learners, are engaging in their online lessons and completing set work, so that teachers can be gathering evidence of their understanding for Unexpected Event Grades. For an Unexpected Event Grade to be awarded, teachers must have evidence that learners have demonstrated appropriate understanding for each standard.

If school practice exams, or NCEA exams, are unable to go ahead, we will be communicating further in the near future.

Year 7 camp is still planned for week 7. A survey will be sent to all Year 7 whānau to ascertain the validity of running this camp.

Year 10 camp has been cancelled due to the uncertainty we are faced with. Further communication regarding refunds will be sent to those affected by Year 10 Dean, Rebekah Hawthorn.

It is now legally required that we hold a COVID-19 vaccination register for all eligible learners and staff.

We need to know if your child has had their first or second vaccine dose or is exempted from being vaccinated. This information will be held by us in accordance with the Privacy Act and will only be shared with public health authorities. Please send proof of your child's COVID-19 vaccination/s or exemption with their name and Rōpū Whānau as follows:

- For Year 7-9 learners use covidvax1@wgpcollege.school.nz
- For Year 10-13 learners use covidvax2@wgpcollege.school.nz

If we were to have a case of COVID-19 in our school, public health authorities will want to know if we are a school with a high vaccination rate. This information will then be used as part of the local health authority's risk assessment. The more highly vaccinated we are (staff and eligible learners), the less likely it will be that we will have to close down for a long period of time, or we might not need to close at all.

We are proud of how our community has responded to this outbreak, but the mahi isn't yet done. Please continue to follow all the alert level requirements including staying at home and getting tested for COVID-19 if you are feeling unwell, and for your own sake and for the health of your whānau, please get vaccinated. I have included some [information about vaccinations](#) to support decision making.

At Alert Level 3 you legally must stay within your household bubble unless for essential personal movement, including going to work and going to school. We are therefore open once more from Monday 18 October for only the small number of children who need to attend. All our usual safety precautions for Alert Level 3 will be in place, which include all the recommendations from the public health experts. This means learners will be kept in bubbles of no more than 10. While we know how difficult it is trying to work from home as well as support your child's learning, please keep your child at home if there is an appropriate carer available. For those of you with no other option, we look forward to seeing your child at school next week. Please email Graeme Williams graemewi@wgpcollege.school.nz by 1 pm on Friday 15 October if your child/ren will need to be at school from Monday 18 October, and he will give you more information.

Please note that face coverings are now required to be worn on school transport for learners in Years 7–13 in addition to being worn when at school.

Our staff on-site will also have been tested for COVID-19 before they get back to work and we are moving toward having 100 percent of our staff vaccinated – so we are all playing our part in keeping our community safe.

You can also assist everyone's safety by keeping your child at home if they are feeling unwell and please do contact your GP or Healthline, to seek advice about getting tested.

These are the very best things we can do to keep our community as safe as possible and get everyone back to school.

Ngā mihi

Steve