

Kia ora koutou

Transition from Alert Level 3 to 2

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister yesterday. Alert Levels 4 and 3 have not been easy, but our "...team of 5 million..." has done well. My heart goes out to people in other countries where covid-19 is spreading at alarming rates.

A key message from the Prime Minister is when we get to Alert Level 2 schools will be open and are safe. Of course, there will be public health measures in place, and I will get in touch again next week with more details. Practices such as coughing into our elbows, washing and drying of hands, and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces continue to be important. In terms of social distancing, the Alert Level 2 guideline is simply to keep out of someone else's breathing space.

As always, we advise any learners and staff to stay at home if they are sick. A very small number of people are immuno-compromised and the public health guidelines ask that they stay at home.

We look forward to welcoming learners back to our school site. On Monday 11 May we will learn more about the transition to Alert Level 2, including dates. I will keep you informed.

NCEA

Considering the situation with covid-19 and the huge disruption to our normal school year some changes to the way we do NCEA are clearly required. The Ministry of Education and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority acknowledge changes will be needed this year and remind schools and their communities of the flexibility that is inherent in the NCEA qualification.

- The priority this year is to ensure that pathways are open for our leavers. This includes all our Year 13 learners, plus other learners for whom NCEA is critical to their pathway.
- We will start to give opportunities for learners to complete internal assessments. This process will be very carefully managed to avoid inappropriate workload, and additional stress. There will be considerable flexibility with completion; and opportunities for further learning and assessment will occur later in the year.
- We are considering changes to how we do NCEA Level 1. We will, of course, ensure Year 11 learners have every opportunity to get what they need to succeed with their Level 2 qualification, ie, experience with NCEA assessments (both internal and external), 20 credits to take into 2021; plus their literacy and numeracy.

These are certainly challenging and unusual times. Thank you for your understanding, your feedback, and your encouragement.

Take care
Ngā mihi nui
James