

Week 9 Newsletter September 24, 2021

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I hope you are well and still finding new ways to cope with various restrictions that Lockdown demands.

I know learning from home presents many challenges for students, families, and teachers. Some students need support and I encourage them to contact their Tutor Teacher, Subject teacher, Whānau team lead teacher or the counselling staff. Again, I want to acknowledge the way our students and teachers have risen to the challenge of this lockdown. Even though we cannot expect learning achievement to progress as well as it would be on campus – we still expect great commitment to learning. Collectively we have all done a job we should be very pleased with. The teaching staff and I are so impressed with the **wero** and challenges the students have taken up. Today at our online assembly we again enjoyed seeing the range of skills our students are working at. From reading mileage, baking, digital drawing, gymnastics and video editing, our students are continually showing efforts large and small to embrace learning in new ways.

I want to say a special thank you to parents who have made great adjustments at home to facilitate the “learning space” . For some it is on the dining room table, for others it is a desk or covered ironing board in the bedroom or like me a wooden stand to rest my laptop on. Thank you to those of you who also join our online assemblies and to those who continue to encourage their children to pray and pray regularly. Students praying for each other online is a joy to experience and a delight in our community. This particular distinctiveness of our school is one of our spiritual treasures- praying in Jesus name.

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School Holidays

The last date of term is Friday 1st October. This means that Friday online assembly is compulsory. No excuses. Please ensure your child is up and ready for assembly. Online schooling finishes at 1pm.

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Subject and option selections

Students in **Year 10** had an online subject and option session this week in preparation for next year. It was wonderful to see so many of our Year 10 students and their families attend this session. If your child was unable to attend, I encourage them to view the following recording from earlier in the year:

<https://www.elim.school.nz/curriculum/senior-years-11-13/>

If you would like further information about option choices, please email Emma Bergh emma.bergh@elim.school.nz.

Year 9 subject option selection for 2022 will be available mid-term 4.

These selections are all due by the end of week 9 term 4. Students will receive notification about this on their updates page in Schoology early next term. Please ensure you ask your child about this.

Year 8 and Year 7 option rotations

We have made the decision to **delay the roll-over of Y7-8 Option Subjects by one week**. These usually start anew every term, but due to the extended lockdown we will now have Week 1 in term 4 in our current option subjects in order to tie up any loose ends. The next subject roll-over for Y7-8 will start in Week 2 of Term 4 - please see the table below for your child's next option class.

	YEAR 7			YEAR 8	
	Current Option	Next Option		Current Option	Next Option
Daniel	Digital Tech	Technology	Daniel	Art	Drama
	Art	Drama/Dance		Digital Tech	Technology
Ezekiel	Technology	Food Tech	Ezekiel	Drama	Māori
	Drama/Dance	Māori		Technology	Food Tech
Jeremiah	Food Tech	Music	Jeremiah	Māori	Hard Materials
	Māori	Hard Materials		Food Tech	Music
Joshua	Music	Digital Tech	Joshua	Hard Materials	Art
	Hard Materials	Art		Music	Digital Tech

ICAS Examinations

We have to hold these exams when restriction levels allow us. We have provisionally scheduled the ICAS exams for dates in term 4. We are awaiting final confirmation from Kip McGraph. The dates will be published in the MYs newsletter and on the parents' page on

Schoology. Please contact Mr Loubser if you need any further information
andre.loubser@elim.school.nz

Year 9 camp

I am delighted to inform you of our much anticipated Year 9 camp. This essential special character Year 9 activity has been a highlight of our school over the years. Although this is an optional activity, I strongly encourage and expect all Year 9 students at our Golflands Campus to attend this event. Information will be sent out regarding camp in the coming days.

michael.mckenzie@elim.school.nz

Access to your child's Gradebook in Schoology.

If you are not yet signed into Schoology for access to your child's grades please let your child's tutor teacher or andre.loubser@elim.school.nz or myself mandy.heim@elim.school.nz know.

The Online Gradebook allows teachers to share grades, missed deadlines, incomplete notifications and **curriculum level achievement** with you as work is marked. Small tasks or **formative grades** and larger more comprehensive assignments and assessments or **summative grades** are all important for effective learning at Middle Years. This system allows you to see your child's work and progress as it happens.

This means that we do not issue paper reports. We no longer need to share mid- year and end of year reports because you have the information available at all times. In **December** your child's gradebook can be **downloaded as a complete record of learning**. **Comments in the gradebook** show attitudes to learning and relationships as well as the next step in the learning journey.

If you have a question please email me or your child's subject teacher who will respond within 2-3 school days.

Elim Whānau my prayer and word of encouragement is for a bold confidence in Christ for every student and family at Elim Christian College. That your faith in Jesus Christ will grow bold. Faith dispels fear, faith draws us in obedience to pursue and delight in the word of God, faith helps healing when our bodies are bruised, and our souls are weary. Faith gives us the ability to soar on wings like eagles.

I wish you all the best for the last week of online learning. I pray for a steady drop in case numbers and a swift return to lower Alert Levels so that we can once again enjoy learning and many of the planned activities at our wonderful Golflands Campus.

Ngā Mihi Nui,

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui.
Mandy Heim, Middle Years Lead