



11 September 2020
Principal's Update

Kia Ora everyone

Thank you so much to our parent community for supporting a good, measured and sensible return to school following the second lockdown. Over the past two weeks the number of absences based around the COVID matter, has decreased to the point where we expect to have 100% attendance this coming Monday except for any general illness that occurs from time to time.

We await the Prime Minister's announcement this coming week.

All areas of the school have been functioning and operating well. You will know only too well that because of COVID many of our annual activities either cannot happen or there are great attempts to reschedule these. Upper most in our minds is health & safety, student opportunity, time needed to prepare and the demands placed on staff to do things differently.

You might be the same in your work but we are finding the ongoing uncertainty of what will come next, can we do this, how many cases are there and where are they, what will it take to rearrange this and that ...very wearying and draining. Again, thank you so much everyone for who you are what you are doing for and with your children in these most unusual of times.

Message from the Student Support Team: Social Media Concern

The Student Support Team was made aware of a social media concern earlier this week. We always aim to partner with parents to provide a net of care for our students. This was not brought to our attention through students and we are not aware of students who may have seen it yet. Although we will not be addressing it directly at school, we thought it would be important to share this information with parents as a reminder for us to be encouraged to have ongoing conversations about social media and about what to do if one sees a distressing video/message (ie. talk to an adult, report it for blocking).

The concern is about a graphic video circulating on TikTok depicting a suicide. Please see further info here: [Social Media Concern](#).

We take our mandate very seriously – that of teaching the New Zealand Curriculum but with a strong and focused Christian worldview lens. All schools in this country are also encouraged to build a 'local curriculum' reflecting the increased, decreased or shaped emphasis that a school community might wish to develop.

In this regard we can assure you that we look at any material such as the recently updated MOE Relationships and Sexuality Education Guide from the biblical position of our statement of faith. Our Y7-13 health programmes are integrated with our Christian Living programmes, they are positive, well anchored to scripture and they are safe.

ERO have reviewed our programmes and recognise the importance of our special character. Every two years we consult our community regarding our health programmes.

Because we unreservedly believe every student is 'fearfully and wonderfully made' we always promote student wellbeing along with healthy and safe relationships.

Brief Notes to conclude:

- Both BC and MAC Y11-13 campuses have recently held online options evenings – thanks to the many parents who joined us on line
- Enrolment interviews for 2021 continue and we are overwhelmed with the interest
- This coming Tuesday we are holding another Open Morning at MAC
- Our online assemblies are incredible and thanks go to staff and students for this
- Other online activities such as MAC speeches have featured many parents joining in
- GC has a special Book Fair next Saturday 19th - watch out for the information on that
- BC 2021 Prefect interviews were exciting and inspiring this past week
- This coming week at MAC geography students and Y8s studying volcanoes will investigate the tomo in the front of our amazing property
- Our Proprietors shortly commence a focused special character review
- GCMY continue each week with zoom sessions for parents – well done Mrs Heim
- We have two busy weeks of school left this term including 'Mock Exams' for all Y11-13 students in Week 10

Much aroha everyone

Nga Mihi

Murray Burton
Principal