



12 August 2020

Kia Ora everyone

As we have now moved into Alert Level 3 I wish to thank the school community for your unwavering support and cooperation in keeping your children home. Each campus was very busy this morning facilitating students onsite to collect items or materials to assist in their online learning.

It is our intention to manage this turn of events in a safe, sensible way, displaying an honouring respect for each other and looking after the most vulnerable.

A decision has been made that both Mt Albert Campus and Botany Campus will remain closed during the current Alert Level 3, which is currently in place until Friday midnight. No students or staff will be able to access either of these campuses during this time.

The children or essential workers may attend school if there is no alternative supervision for them at home. All these students will however, be required to come to our Golflands Campus. Strict Alert Level 3 conditions are in place at that campus, along with alternative drop off and pick up times.

In order for the school to safely manage the children of essential workers at GC, we must be informed prior to them attending. If your children must attend over the next two days please email: [Raewyn.Openshaw@elim.school.nz](mailto:Raewyn.Openshaw@elim.school.nz) – we will then make contact with you.

It is important for all families to know that whilst we are well equipped for online learning, a strong message has been sent by me to staff that we may take the next few days at a slower pace to enable students, parents and staff to readjust to life under a rapidly announced increased Alert level.

None of the school activities in place this week will happen, along with any activities planned for next week, which require practices this week or on site face to face preparation. We will actively seek to reschedule as many of these events as possible, once the Prime Minister clarifies whether the Alert Level will change next week.

#### **Message from our Well-being Team**

Today many feelings will be being felt, many thoughts will be whirring as we adjust, respond and react. As our sense of predictability and control seems to have shifted gear literally overnight, we face the key challenge right now which is "sitting with uncertainty" and sitting with our young people as they wrestle with disappointment and uncertainty once again. While we wait for government briefings to bring us more certainty, more control, can I encourage us as a community to hold fast to the stable and steady parts of our lives. Highlight and emphasise those things - connection with friends and family, love and care within our homes, the never changing love of God who holds us through this. Encourage any connection building whether that is formal like connecting with teachers online, or informal, within your bubble at dinner or for a "walk and talk" or with friends online.

Senior students who have any concerns about assessments or the coming exams are ***invited and encouraged*** to connect with subject teachers, tutor teachers, and their Whanau Leaders. ***Sooner is better and no question is too small.***

Your children may be expressing worries about tasks that had to be left midway, unfinished, incomplete. Please reassure them- ***learning is a journey not a destination*** and though we may be facing a bit of a detour or roadblock, that is okay. This image may help...the teachers are here to work with the students to take any "bits and pieces" of learning and tasks and create a beautiful mosaic of learning. Please reassure them that their teachers will communicate any adjustments in expectations - **we are all in this together.**

The counselling team is available for staff, students and parents [from 9:00am -5:00pm](#) weekdays. Please refer via the following link <https://goo.gl/forms/jVToOZYSJoyio8nR2> or contact Yvette directly via email [yvette.britten@elim.school.nz](mailto:yvette.britten@elim.school.nz). If we are still away from school next week, the counsellors will also run wellbeing support group zoom sessions for different age groups which will be open to all interested students. Details for those will be shared on Schoology.

**Stay Safe, Stay Connected, Kia Kaha**

God bless you all

Nga Mihi Nui

Much Aroha

Murray Burton MNZM  
PRINCIPAL

*Nga mihi  
Regards*

*Murray*

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