



### **Principal's Update Sunday 16 August 2020 at Level 3**

Kia Ora our school community

Hold onto what is constant – your faith in Christ, your family and your connection with great friends.

I wish to outline some general information regarding the next 8 days of school life under Level 3.

### **Important Big Message for tomorrow Monday 17 August**

We recognise that students and families may need to access equipment from school, and this includes library books. This may also include a school-owned digital device that you might need at home.

**To accommodate this, all our campuses will be open between 10.00am and 12noon only tomorrow.**

This is the only time the majority of students can access school facilities. Please come and get library books, exercise books, textbooks etc...

- Only students may come on site and be supervised by staff at all times. You must sign in, use sanitiser, maintain 2 metre social distancing and masks are strongly encouraged.
- Parents may not come on site and there is only one exception as below.
- If a parent has a 5-year-old they can come on site with their child, no pre-schoolers please. You will be required to sign in and also use the COVID app with QR code. Your child must be with you at all times and go directly to classroom and/or to the library. The wearing of a face mask is strongly encouraged.
- Staff will be on our campuses and it is imperative that you comply with their directives at all times.
- If you genuinely need a school-owned digital device, please email Mr Steve Woollaston- [steve.woollaston@elim.school.nz](mailto:steve.woollaston@elim.school.nz) this evening. Steve will make contact with the appropriate campus and arrange a time for you to pick the device up. The device will your responsibility and your risk to manage.

### **The Next 8 Days .... (or so??)**

1. Online school polarizes people and I absolutely understand this. You as parents and we as teachers didn't ask for this but here we are and we as staff we will once again give it our all, fully empathizing with you in your stay-at-home situation.

2. In this our second school lockdown situation we are not attempting to be all things to all people. The reflections from last time and the time of the year now means that our approach will be modified, simplified with some refocusing.
3. **Communication:** The following will not suit everyone:
  - a. There will be regular **Principal's Updates** sent via email, Seesaw, Schoology and available on our website – they will be big picture in nature and detail
  - b. **Classroom teachers** for all age groups will communicate in accordance with what their HOD or Team Leader says, and I trust they too will be short, focused, clear and not too often.
  - c. For **Y11-13** Carol Pottow will issue key messages regarding NCEA.
4. **The focus of our online delivery this time:**
  - a. Staff have been asked to prepare to fully engage with students daily from Tuesday onwards. There has already been learning happening last week and there may be tomorrow, but the morning is somewhat disrupted.
  - b. We will aim to be well-structured, well-paced and reasonable in what we deliver and ask of students.
  - c. Staff will be available, but it will be age appropriate and they have been asked to indicate the times they can be reached. Staff have been asked to post and provide work for students to do and there will be online zoom, google meet or 'teams' sessions but not too often. **We will do our best to match capacities and energy levels between home and school.** We ask families to take regular break, get some exercise, be creative, turn off all devices and be actively offline as much as you are able.
  - d. We particularly want to ensure Y7-13 engage with learning immediately and regular. We further want to drill down on Y11-13 as this is a crucial time of the year for assessments and preparation of externals. Parents, they may not want your help, but we do. Please do what you can to assist engagement.
  - e. We are especially concerned about any Y12-13 students who may already have poor attendance rates and who may be struggling to achieve their number of credits for the year at hand.
  - f. Please join with us to bring completion to all that is incomplete and on hold. Together we can do this.
5. There will be a number of trips, events, programmes that will need to be cancelled or rescheduled. Campus leadership will notify you of these. If at all possible, we will do all we can to ensure these go ahead.
6. **For students of essential workers or those who cannot provide supervision at home:**
  - a. Golflands Campus is the only campus open for such students
  - b. Both BC and MAC are closed
  - c. **School at GC will only operate Monday – Thursday and will be closed Friday.**
  - d. Parents who intend sending their child to GC this week must email, Raewyn Openshaw this evening: [raewyn.openshaw@elim.school.nz](mailto:raewyn.openshaw@elim.school.nz)
  - e. When we know how many students are coming, we can set up the learning bubbles and determine the staffing required.
  - f. School times for these students are 8.45am – 2.30pm
  - g. No parents are permitted on site

## Guidance for parents from our Counselling Team:

Put on your "Ashley Bloomfield voice" for sharing facts- calm and simple ending with a "what we CAN do is...".

People are feeling frustrated and angry and this is normal....let's be sure we don't misdirect our anger to people in our bubble or people online...finding healthy ways to work with our anger/frustration will be important. Take a walk, put an icepack on your forehead (funny enough this works), or call a friend outside your bubble.

If you are struggling with supporting your young people in whatever ways they may be struggling please feel free to have a confidential chat with one of our counselling team. Contact Yvette on [Yvette.Britten@elim.school.nz](mailto:Yvette.Britten@elim.school.nz) (8-5 weekdays).

Remember the resources available in our community, along with reaching out to family, friends and church...if you need to talk, free call or text 1737 to talk to a trained counsellor. They're available day and night.

Other places that can help you if you need someone to talk to:

[Depression helpline](#): Free call [0800 111 757](tel:0800111757) or text 8681

<https://www.leva.co.nz/our-work/catchyourself>

The following video made in Australia might be useful. Summarised it says – Adults put on your own emotional wellbeing oxygen masks. Set the emotional atmosphere- be alert but not alarmed and don't overshare financial troubles with children

Encourage your family to get up, eat, and go to bed at reasonable times- talk with them about this and how you can work together to keep routine (not control) because it helps our wellbeing. Don't sweat the small stuff, strive for calm, respectful interactions in the home, keeping routine

SchoolTV is working with more than 600 schools across Australia and New Zealand. We are a streamlined wellbeing platform for schools throughout New Zealand. Specific New Zealand content, topics and interviews will be blended with existing SchoolTV material and phased in over the coming months.

Here is the link to your special report:-

[https://schooltv.me/wellbeing\\_news/special-report-riding-corona-coaster](https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-riding-corona-coaster)



**“We are being ‘safe and sensible’. We will be calm, we won’t rush, we will operate with a deep and honouring respect and we will look after the most vulnerable.”**

Much aroha

Nga mihi nui

**Murray Burton MNZM  
PRINCIPAL**