



Principal's Update 21 October 2021

Kia Ora all

The Minister of Education at the 1.00pm press conference on Wednesday 20 October, announced that all Y11-13 students will return to face-to-face schooling on Tuesday 26 October, the day after Labour Day. This will be schooling as per a new timetable but without any assemblies or similar gatherings.

Masks are to be worn by both students and staff, and by students when on public transport and school bus.

All staff on site will have proof of a negative COVID test.

Kiwi coaches will run a modified service for year 11-13 students commencing Tuesday 26 October. Parents who require this service are encouraged to call Kiwi coaches directly 09 636 5232 for route information. Kiwi coaches will also send out a message to their regular passengers.

The Minister also announced that NCEA and Scholarship exams will continue for all students across the country which includes Auckland even if still at Level 3.

Our Y11-13 staffing team have an ongoing plan to do the best they can for student achievement. What a great team they are and please pray for and with them as they welcome our students back.

Based on our focused programmed onsite from next Tuesday, all students will be strongly encouraged to attend the coming externals. They will receive the higher of the Unexpected Event Grade and what they actually achieve on the day by physically attending.

Strict health and safety protocols will be in place for all students when on site for tuition and/or sitting an exam.

Campus Leads at Botany and Mt Albert will already have or will soon send home a detailed outline to parents of Y11-13 students concerning what school will look like from Tuesday and how it will run.

As a school we deeply understand the enormity of what all families are facing and what we as a country and we as Aucklanders must navigate. If your child cannot return to school at this point, we understand. Once staff know the position of all their students, we will do our best to provide for students wherever they find themselves at this time.

We are aspirational and would love to see every student maximise this time to do the best they possibly can. NZQA and the MOE have made strategic adjustments for the NCEA programme.

I do look forward to face to face albeit (through a mask) schooling. Humans are made for fellowship and interaction. I'm absolutely convinced these weeks on site for Y11-13 will be so good.

According to the Prime Minister's announcement today, it looks like it will be quite some time before Y1-10 will come on our sites face to face. Therefore, as a school community we have a huge challenge to continue and thrive in the on-line learning space.

Please contact us as and when you need help, guidance, a listening ear and so on. We have a great counselling team and all staff who empathetically can help.

"For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity. He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to him."

(Proverbs 2:6-8, NLT)

Nga mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Burton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Murray Burton MNZM
PRINCIPAL