

Kia ora Students,

It's great to come to the end of our first full week of remote learning, and I'm sure you will be looking forward to taking a break from your studies this weekend. Hopefully you'll manage to get out for some exercise with your family, despite the rainy forecast.

I've enjoyed hearing about some of the creative and fun ways you and your teachers have been staying connected and engaged this week. One of my favourites was Cantare Choir getting dressed up for a Zoom Quiz Night on the day they should have been travelling to Christchurch for The Big Sing. What a great way to join together and counter-act some of the disappointment I know you would have been feeling.

I'm very proud of the ways you all encourage each other and connect socially during lockdowns. I know our Enviromental, and Sports and Wellbeing Prefects (as well as others) have some plans underway for next week, which I'm looking forward to seeing.

NCEA Exams for Senior Students

You will have seen in your Google Classrooms yesterday that NCEA exams have been postponed by two weeks. They will now begin on Monday 22 November and finish on Tuesday 14 December. This will allow two more weeks of classroom/teaching time, which I know will be of benefit to you.

Due dates for portfolio submissions will also be pushed back by two weeks.

The NCEA Level 1 Mathematics Common Assessment Task (MCAT) has also been delayed for two weeks – to 28 or 30 September. At this stage, the dates for DigiCATs remain 20 Sept – 1 Oct and 18 – 27 October.

The postponement of exams will mean a later finishing date for our Senior students, and I will have more information on that nearer the time.

Our Junior students' (Year 9 and 10) end-of-year exams are not affected, and will proceed as per normal.

Board of Trustee Student Representative Elections

Thank you to the seven students who have put themselves forward for nomination. We are pausing our election process at this stage, so your videos and profiles won't be on social media next week as planned. However, we are expecting there will be an extension to the election time-frame, so we will be able to distribute voting papers to all students, and run the campaigns once we are back at school at Alert Level 2.

Part-time jobs

I know some of you have part-time jobs in supermarkets, and I have been asked to remind you that it is illegal for anyone aged under 16 to work during school hours. It's really important that you make your school work and wellbeing a priority over part-time employment during this time.

Finally, please take some time this weekend to mentally break away from school work, and do something fun. Exercise is definitely one of the best ways to feel good – so maybe try a new online work out – we published a great list in last week's school newsletter or a good walk.

I will be in touch again next week, but do remember to reach out to teachers, deans, counsellors or friends and family if you need to talk. Lockdown is hard for everyone and you will have days that you feel stronger than others. That's okay!

Kindest regards
Mrs Stanley