



PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Nga Mihi Mahana Kia Koutou

Warm greetings to you all.



Tom Vanderlaan
Principal

Covid 19 Alert Level 2 at Waiuku College

To Our School Community

As a school, as a community and as a country we have all just been through a very extraordinary experience. We have achieved something amazing nationally, by all working together so well at a common cause. Our challenge as a school is to put the same amazing effort and commitment to success, into the effective learning and achievement of all our students. I am sure we will be just as successful.

Parents

Thank you to all our parents and caregivers for keeping our students home during Level 3 and for the support you have given our teachers and students with the challenges of distance learning. We were very fortunate as a school with our established BYOD programme and advanced IT systems and support. This enabled us to confidently and efficiently move to distance learning during Lockdown. The experience and success of distance learning will be variable amongst our students. As a school we will make no judgements, but instead be ready to support moving all students forward when they are back in our classrooms.

Staff

My thanks as well to our teachers, teacher aides and our support staff who have all worked together so well to support our students and whānau.

Students

Well done to our students! It has not been an easy time and for some of you it has been challenging and stressful. Others of you have enjoyed the new challenges and opportunities that distance learning has offered and I believe as a school that we need to hear your stories and look at what we can learn and change from this experience.

Student Illness

If students are unwell they **must** stay at home. Symptoms to monitor for are any respiratory symptoms such as a cold, a head cold, blocked ears, cough, sneezing, chills and a fever. Anyone with those symptoms should stay home and contact Healthline for advice, which may include getting tested for COVID-19 as a precaution.

If students become unwell at school, they will be withdrawn from class and isolated. Parents will be contacted to pick them up and take them home. Students must remain at home until they are fully recovered. The same caution will apply to staff and visitors.

Friday May 15th

Staff will be back in school on Friday to prepare for the reopening of the school on Monday. This means that they will not be available to provide on-line support to students for distance learning on this day.

Senior NCEA

Senior students may be anxious about getting behind in their learning and about delays in completing assessments. We acknowledge this and are committed to supporting you with these challenges. We still have a lot of the year left to go and many opportunities to help you achieve your goals.

NZQA Changes – just announced

1. External NCEA exams are delayed. **Start date will be 16 November, end date 9 December.**
2. Exam timetable has been updated on the NZQA website.
3. Level 1 and 2 Art portfolios will have a new completion date. The art department will advise.
4. Other subjects requiring portfolio submission, such as DVC have their submission date moved to November, departments will advise particulars.

A number of other potential actions are still in discussion including University Entrance.

DATES TO REMEMBER

RETURN TO SCHOOL TERM 2

Monday 18th May

Queen's Birthday

Monday 1st June

Please note that the newsletter is emailed to parents\caregivers, so please ensure we have your correct email address.

The newsletter is also available on our website.

**PRIDE
RESPECT
SAFETY**

Alert Level 2 Attendance

We are pleased to be open again for all students on Monday May 18th from 8.40am. Ministry of Education advice is that it is safe for all students and staff to attend.

Safety Measures

Requirements for safe practices at school have been set out in a Level 2 Covid 19 Safety Plan developed by the College Health & Safety Committee in accordance with information provided by the Ministry of Education. Staff and students will be taken through these requirements which will apply until we move to Level 1.

Posters and digital messaging will remind students of the-requirements

They will include:

Hand sanitizer must be used by students and staff at the start and end of all lessons (hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and shared spaces)

Staff and students must practice proper coughing and sneezing etiquette, i.e. into their elbow

Soap and water must be provided in all bathrooms with sanitizer dispensers outside

All areas of the school will be cleaned and sanitized at the end of the day

Shared school/classroom equipment must be sanitized after use

Students must not share their own resources

Physical distancing advice and guidelines in place, including posters throughout the school

Where practicable students must not sit or stand so that they are touching others or are in their 'moist breath zone', this includes during break times

Physical distancing of classroom desks where practicable

Physical distancing in seating in the school hall

Lunchbox (Canteen) line distancing procedures and use of gloves by staff

Contract tracing systems in place

Safe Behaviour

The Education Act makes provision for schools to direct parents to keep students at home if they behave in a way that impacts negatively on the Health & Safety of others. Deliberate breaches of Level 2 Safety guidelines will lead to students being sent home.

Drop Off & Pick Up Zones & Student Parking

A reminder that parents should use the roadside parking area or the zone in front of the ECE for drop off and pick up by car – and should **not** drive through the school grounds. Senior student parking will again be available across from the school.

School Buses

Waiuku school bus routes will resume business as normal on Monday. The bus company will put appropriate safety practices in place. An e-mail will be sent to all families of bus students.

School Sport

We are receiving advice on the guidelines for resuming school sports competitions. A special newsletter with further details will be coming out in the near future

Board of Trustees

The school board met by video conference recently to carry out important school reporting and make decisions on a range of matters. The School Trip planned for Italy in August was cancelled by the Board and a resolution was unanimously passed that the school pay for any shortfall in repayments after refunds were received by the travel agents. In the final accounting, this meant a school contribution of \$500 to each person involved. This is a great outcome with our students, staff and parents getting all their money back – especially seen in the context of recent report of parents in Auckland school losing thousands of dollars on cancelled trips.

IT Update

The new school rules on NO phones to be seen at school still apply. Students will need to ensure their laptops are fully charged every day and they will also need to bring their laptop chargers to school.

Headphones should be brought to school and used if requested by teachers for listening to clips on their computers.

Drink bottles

We ask that students avoid drinking from the school drinking fountains and instead bring a personal water bottle to school which can be filled if needed from the school fountains and taps.

Titiro Teitei – Aim High

Tom Vanderlaan - Principal