

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers,

It's great to come to the end of our first full week of remote learning, and I'm sure many families (staff included) will be glad of less screen time this weekend. Hopefully you'll manage to get out for some exercise together with your whānau.

I'm impressed by the ways our students find to encourage others and connect socially. I've enjoyed hearing about some of the creative and fun ways our students and teachers have been staying connected and engaged this week. Particularly, Cantare Choir getting dressed up for a Zoom Quiz Night on the day they should have been travelling to Christchurch for The Big Sing, which was one of the favourites for me. What a great way to join together and counter-act some of the disappointment I know they would have been feeling.

I know our Prefects have some plans underway for next week.

NCEA Exams

We received notification from the Ministry of Education 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.

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.

Part-time jobs

On another note, I know some of our students have part-time jobs in supermarkets, and I have been asked to remind everyone that it is illegal for anyone aged under 16 to work during school hours under Section 54 of the Education and Training Act 2020. School work and wellbeing should take priority over part-time employment where possible.

Finally, please remember to touch base with your daughter's teachers, deans or our counsellors if you have any concerns at all about her learning or wellbeing during lockdown.

I will be in touch again next week, and hope you have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards

Jane Stanley
Principal