17 April 2020

Kia ora e te whanau

Welcome back to Term 2!

It certainly hasn’t been the conventional start we are used to! My sincere thanks to everyone in our community who has embraced distance learning and set things in motion at home to make sure we are doing the best we possibly can in these unique and extraordinary circumstances. That gratitude goes out to our students, parents, and of course teachers.

We are all learning as we go and as time progresses we will reflect, review, and refine our teaching programmes and continue to do our utmost in delivering meaningful courses for our students. In the short term it is important you let the college know if you are having difficulties. We have been working with the Ministry of Education and have set in motion the ordering of more computers to distribute to students who are in still in need of one. At this stage we don’t know what the timeframe will be for their delivery. As soon as I receive information regarding this I will pass it on.

If a student has a concern over the content of their course ie. some of it may be too difficult, or they are struggling to access resources, it is important they communicate with their teachers. We don’t want to create heightened anxiety because students are finding their lessons too tough. Any attempt at online tasks is better than none at all. At this stage engagement in lessons is more important than passing or failing.

The Prime Minister announced this week what a Level 3 Covid-19 response will look like if Cabinet decides to implement it on Monday 20 April 2020. For schools this means the “voluntary” return of Year 7 to 10 students. As a college we need to start preparing for this. We are not equipped to provide effective social distancing if all students in Year 7-10 return at once. Our advice is if your child is equipped to learn from home then keep them at home. At this stage all Year 11-13 students have no choice but to remain at home. I will provide more information around our transition to Level 3 once the government make the call.

I reiterate my thanks for everyone’s understanding and cooperation. Let’s support each other and keep working together over the coming weeks.

Nga mihi and stay safe

**Dave Hunter**

PRINCIPAL