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## PRINCIPAL'S SCHOOL LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTER

Number Three; 18 April 2020

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Kia ora parents/caregivers and whānau,

I trust this continues to find you well, as our attention is drawn to a possible move out of Alert Level 4.

I hope your daughters and sons have re-engaged with their teachers and got back into the learning groove as the new term has got underway. I have been heartened by feedback from teachers on how well most students are doing with this. And it was fun joining a Year 11 assembly on ZOOM last Wednesday – never too late to try something new!

### From Alert Level 4 to Alert Level 3

On Monday the Prime Minister will announce if we are about to move out of Alert Level 4. Regardless of that decision, **the very earliest *any* student will be able to return to school is Wednesday 29 April.**

You will probably have heard through the media something of what Alert Level 3 will look like for schools. Since Thursday's announcement, there has been further clarification of what this means, and I am sure we have not heard the end of it yet.

What you need to know so far is this. *If we move into Alert Level 3:*

- Year 9-10 students who require supervision will be permitted to attend school on site.
- Attending school on site will not be optional for other students – they *must* remain at home.
- Year 9-10 students who are required to come to school will be supervised so they can carry on with their distance learning work. They will be doing

the same work as those learning from home, and not be taught separately.

- Students being supervised at school will be required to work in bubbles of no more than 10 students. They will have to remain in the same bubble all day, including during break times.
- 'bubbles' of students will have different start and finishing times each day, and have different break times.
- Whilst at school, students and staff will have to maintain physical distancing of 2 metres whilst outside, and 1 metre inside.

These are Ministry requirements. As more information comes through, I will let you know.

### New web portal for whānau Māori

The Ministry have asked me to let you know of the following:

*Kia Manawaroa* is a new web portal for whānau Māori <http://education.govt.nz/kia-manawaroa/>.

*Kia Manawaroa* brings together information from the Ministry of Education and other education agencies, to support iwi and Māori audiences to increase their knowledge about educational choices available. This will therefore provide opportunities for whānau to be more actively involved in supporting their children's learning.

The purpose is to provide information for whānau about education, in a way that is clear, easy to understand and resonates with Māori.

“Kia manawaroa” is a common phrase in te reo Māori. It is a call to action, to remain strong in the face of adversity. It was used on the battlefield, when paddling and sailing waka, in explorations for new homes or whenua, and in settling disputes.

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is a call of encouragement, of rising to the challenge, of combining our strength to push through these dark times and emerge into the light – “Ki te Ao Mārama”.

### **Information for Pacific families and communities**

The Ministry has also provided information and advice in gagana Samoa on the following website:

<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/pacific-communities/samoa>

It is designed to help Samoan speakers as their children and young people start to re-engage with their teachers in Term 2. It is targeted at helping Samoan parents and caregivers to manage learning from home.

### **Distribution of devices**

This is proceeding rapidly, although I understand that for some this is not fast enough. But it is a major logistical exercise for the Ministry to undertake, and there are many more links in the chain than normal to make this come off.

What I do expect is that every household who requested a device will have them by the end of this coming week.

All the best for the week ahead. As the new – and most strange – term continues, I have been encouraged by the demonstration of our school values of **Respect, Endeavour, Aroha** and **Perseverance** by our students and staff. Thank you again for your support – we have a way to go yet, but we can only do this together.

Feel free to contact me on the email address below anytime.

Kia kaha



Tony Booker  
**PRINCIPAL**

[principal@rangitikeicollege.school.nz](mailto:principal@rangitikeicollege.school.nz)