



Rangitikei College

20 Bredins Line, Marton 4710, NZ

Towards Higher Things

**Unite
against
COVID-19**

PRINCIPAL'S SCHOOL LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTER

Number Five; 1 May 2020

Kia ora parents/caregivers and whānau,

I hope the first week of Alert Level 3 has gone well for you. Just a quick update from me this week as there is little new to report.

Keeping students learning

By far the majority of students have connected with their teachers and are participating well with their learning. Many teachers have remarked to me about the superb progress being made by some young people.

On the other hand, some students are not participating or connecting with their teachers as they need to be. Teachers have tried to reach out to these students, but are not receiving anything back.

We have now gone well beyond this distance learning being a temporary fix or band-aid solution to short-term challenges we are facing. Students who do not participate now will find themselves falling well behind their classmates when they return, and this will have significant implications for them when they do get back to school.

As I have said before, I do not expect parents and caregivers to become 'home-school teachers' during this period. That would be quite unfair. However, I think it is important to let you know that some are now risking their progress for the rest of this year.

If your child is finding the work too difficult to understand, do ask them to make contact with their teacher. Teachers are now fully back at work – they are just based at home for the time being. So they are expecting this communication.

So if your child is one of those who is not participating in classwork, please encourage them if you can. Something, even something little, is better than nothing.

If they are having computer issues, remind them that Mrs Surville (rsurville@rangitikeicollege.school.nz) is available and willing to help resolve these problems.

And I would also refer you again to the Ministry of Education's website for distance learning (<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/>) for further ideas and guidance.

But do not take it upon yourself if this does not appear to be working. Learning from home is still a new experience for many families and whānau. Despite the above, I do think the most important thing, as we remain in our bubbles, is to keep relationships positive and strong. Thank you for what you are doing, and can do.

Finally

I have just learned that I need to undertake scheduled surgery this Monday, and will be on medical leave for four to six weeks beyond that. During this time, Mrs Michelle Cameron will be Acting Principal, and Ms Sheree Osgood Acting Deputy. I look forward to coming back to a school-ful of students!

Noho ora mai; stay well.

Tony Booker
PRINCIPAL