

Kia ora tatou

I hope the first day of the week has been a good one for you and for your family. The sun has been out, and I hope there's been a chance to get outside, even if it has been at the end of the school day. I'm hoping to go for a solitary walk shortly to enjoy the feel of the wind through my hair (which needs cutting, but I'll have to wait a little for that pleasure, I think...).

As you will have heard, Level 4 lockdown has been extended in Auckland until next Tuesday evening, 31st August. This was entirely expected, especially after the news that there were 35 more cases today, and I hope it hasn't come as a surprise to you. It means, of course, that our online programme will be continuing until at least next Tuesday. Beyond that, we don't really know, but we're planning to be online until at least the end of next week. So our current online structure will continue, and I'd like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment to making it work as smoothly as possible for the students.

One piece of news that many of you will have heard is that the AIMS games have now been cancelled for the second year in succession. For many of our Year 8 students, this is a double blow after the cancellation of Ski Camp. Please be assured that we are thinking of ways we can make up a little for this with additional activities and opportunities in Term 4. Mrs Lindsay, our wonderful Primary Sports Co-ordinator, has put a huge amount of work into AIMS, and I'd like to acknowledge this publicly. She's already coming up with alternative ideas, and I'm so impressed by her energy and determination to give the students chances to play sport.

I'd also like to say a few words around our planning for the Mocks. I know that there will be some anxiety amongst some of our senior students about the upcoming Mocks, and about the external exams to follow. We have done some thinking about both of these, and will write home on Wednesday with a little more detail around our contingency plans. This includes the Year 9 Mocks, and the Year 6 and Year 9 Checkpoint exams, though we are still expecting to be back at Level 2 or Level 1 by the start of the external exams at the beginning of next term (and in the holidays for one or two subjects). The key thing is that we will make sure that the students are okay, and that there are systems in place for every eventuality!

A final note from me today on pastoral care: please look after yourselves and your whanau, and please let us know if we can help in any way at all. Our online learning is up and running as planned, which gives us the chance to focus on those students who need extra support, whether this is learning support or emotional support. Our Deans, Counsellor and Learner Support team are checking in with some students, but just tell us if there's anything we need to know.

And, of course, there are still no cases connected with our school. Thank you to all those who have told me about your negative tests.

And just a reminder about keeping up with your reading. Our ebooks provider is running as usual as below:

View the primary eBook platform: <https://pinehurstpri.eplatform.co/>

View the college platform: <https://pinehurstcol.eplatform.co/>

Stay safe, enjoy the evening and see you soon!

Ngā mihi

Alex