

Kia ora koutou

I hope the week has started well and there's been some fun in today's lessons. My Year 13 class humoured me in my lesson this morning: we were reading a Jackie Kay poem that I was especially enthusiastic about, and I was having great fun, so I'm going to assume that they were too! How could they not?

You will all be aware, I'm sure, that the Prime Minister has just confirmed that we will be in a Level 4 lockdown in Auckland until the evening of Tuesday 14th September. This obviously isn't a surprise, but it will have been a bit deflating to hear, I know. We're all hoping that today's figures are a sign that we've reached the peak of the outbreak, but we know there is some way to go.

So just to confirm: the school will continue to offer its online programme for the next two weeks. In College, this will continue as it has done since the start of the lockdown; in Primary, it will continue as it has, but with some different activities 2 or 3 times a week.

There is one main bit of news associated with this announcement:

As September 14th is in Week 8, this means that we will now not be running a formal 'Mocks' week for Years 11 to 13. Similarly, we will not be running Year 9 Checkpoint Mocks. We expected this, so are in the process of planning contingencies.

For the Year 9s, this is likely to involve practising at home and receiving feedback on work completed at home.

For Years 11 to 13, it will be a more formalised process, and we will write with more details of this in the next few days. It's connected to gathering evidence in the unlikely circumstance that we will not be able to run external examinations next term. There is, then, some careful planning for us to do. Please bear with us, and please reassure your children that there's no need to worry, and that we - and Cambridge - have well-established plans for all possibilities.

I think that's a good theme for today, actually. This is an extremely unusual time for us, and some of our young people are understandably anxious and needing reassurance from the significant adults in their lives. For a young person, these last 20 months or so can loom larger in their lives than they do for those of us who have been around rather longer (a lot longer in my case!). I hope that, when we all look back on this year and last, we can remember our collective strength and resilience, and we can also recall moments of joy and togetherness. I see our job, as adults who are caring for our children, to offer them the reassurance that this will not be forever, and that, put simply, they are going to be okay. And they will.

Enjoy your evenings, cuddle up and watch the rain lash against the windows, and let me know if you have any questions at all.

Kia kaha

Alex Reed
Executive Principal