

## Monday 6 September 2021

Kia ora, Mālō e lelei, Parents and Caregivers

It's certainly been an interesting 10 days or so since my last email to you. Our students have continued to make the most of the learning opportunities provided by their teachers while Learning@Home. Our teachers have provided lots of different ways of learning – keeping students engaged and on track especially our seniors. Our pastoral care team of counsellors and deans have been working with Ako teachers in supporting students who have been finding this all a little challenging.

It would be fair to say though, that we are all pleased to hear that we are moving to Level 2 this week. The Prime Minister has announced that schools will have an extra day to prepare for reopening, so **Upper Hutt College will reopen for all students, on Thursday 9 September, starting with Ako time at 8.40am.** There will be NO late start on Friday 10 September.

In starting back, I know it will take a little adjustment for some to get back into the routine of going to school (even waking up before 9am will be challenging for some!). I also know that some students will feel apprehensive about coming back to school, for many different reasons.

Please be reassured that we are aware of all of this (we experienced it last year) and we have great teams of teachers and support staff to help students as they return to learning at school. Our first priority is the students and their safety and wellbeing and we are taking this into account in our planning for the rest of this week, and indeed the rest of the term.

I am waiting for further advice and information from the Ministry of Education but wanted to make sure you were at least aware of our reopening.

Thank you for all of your support and your work with our students and their teachers.

I will be back in touch soon with further information.

Ngā mihi nui

Judith Taylor  
Principal

The week has also seen some key developments:

### **Moving to Alert Level 3**

The announcement yesterday was not unexpected and we have plans in place for this change. At Alert Level 3, students should continue to learn at home, and this is not an issue when there is supervision at home or the student is over 15. However, for students in Year 9 and 10 whose parents or caregivers need to go to work and there is no supervision for them at home, then they are permitted to come to school.

Students at school will continue with their Learning@Home work and will work to that timetable, participating in subject and Ako class meets. It is NOT a normal school day and teachers present

are there in a supervising role only – there is no teaching. All health and safety requirements will be followed.

If you require your child to be at school during Alert Level 3, starting on Wednesday 1 September, please register your child by filling in this form (<https://forms.gle/5QwauRd4oQw3T4o79>) by midday on **Monday 30 August**. We need to know numbers for health and safety purposes and to ensure adequate supervision.

### **Changes in NCEA**

NCEA exams have been pushed back 2 weeks and will now start on Monday 22 November, with the last exam on Tuesday 14 December. This will have a big impact on our school calendar as we move school events around to accommodate this change - we will let you know of these changes.

One of the key changes is that the UHC Senior Practise exams will now be held during Week 10 of this term, Monday 27 September to Friday 1 October, which is the last week of Term 3. These exams are very important as they form the basis of derived grade applications should there be further disruptions and they give students valuable feedback on any gaps in their knowledge prior to the NZQA exam period.

The end result of all of these changes is that our senior students **MUST** be focussing on their learning and getting everything they have to do in lockdown done! There is very little time to make up lost ground once we return to school.

### **Resource Packs for students**

Some subject teachers will be preparing Resource packs for students to supplement and assist their Learning@Home. This will be mainly for students in the senior school. Teachers will let their classes know if there are packs available for them and students will be asked to come to school and uplift them next week.

Thank you for your work in supporting the Learning@Home process – I know it isn't always easy to get your teenagers doing their school work, but we appreciate your efforts.

Look after yourselves and be safe in your bubbles. I'll keep in touch.

Ngā mihi nui

Judith Taylor  
Principal