



Principal's Perspective

Kia ora,

This week has been a very welcomed return to the school setting for staff and students under the conditions of Alert Level 2. I am very grateful for everyone's support and understanding as we negotiate our way through this. Our students have been doing incredibly well, and are settling back into routines.

This week we have started each day with Form Time, which is part of our reconnecting process. It also gives the students an opportunity to update their contact tracing form. Class time has been a continuation of supporting wellbeing, assessing readiness to learn, and slowly moving back into learning programmes. Next week we will return to our 'normal' timetable, starting with Period 1 and Form Time returning to just before interval. Under the current conditions of Alert Level 2, Year 13 students will still be required to stay on site for their study periods during the school day. Year 12 and 13 students who have study first thing in the morning can arrive after that, and those who have it last in their school day can leave at that point (as per normal).

The students' morning entry to school has a natural staggering and we will continue to release Year 9 and 10 students five minutes earlier at the end of the day to spread the exiting out. Many of you will have noticed how congested Langdons and Sissons Roads are at about 2.30. The combination of the increased retail opening on Langdons Road, and more parents/caregivers doing the pick-up because of the bus limitations is adding to this. Can I please reinforce that this congestion usually lasts for about 15 minutes and we appreciate your patience and understanding. We are trying to move everyone out as quickly and safely as possible.

We have been supporting Northlands Mall in their endeavour to manage their Health and Safety requirements. I would like to commend our students for their attitude in supporting this. They have not been using the Mall as a short-cut to the buses and have generally been going into the Mall for the purpose of 'shopping'.

We have been reviewing, removing, and resetting the dates of a number of 'events' on our school calendar. This process will need to continue throughout the year as this will be influenced by the Ministry of Health's regulations associated with each Alert Level status. You can see the updated key dates for 2020 below. We will keep you informed of any changes as quickly as possible. Important examples of this include cancelling the Academic Counselling conference day, junior report evening, and our open school evening for prospective Year 9 2021 enrolments. Please note, Year 9 out of zone enrolments for 2021 close July 31.

We are looking forward to the continued relaxation of the criteria around the Alert Levels. This will enable an increase in accessibility to our range of co-curricular activities. This has been a very challenging two months, and our students can be proud of the way they have responded to this.

He waka eke noa – We are all in this together.

Jeff Smith
Principal

Staff Only Day

Kia ora,

On Friday 29 May Papanui High School will still be holding their Staff Only Day as previously publicised on our 'Dates Ahead' calendar.

I would like to share with you the rationale for this day going ahead:

By the time we get to the Staff Only Day we will have completed 7 weeks of Term 2 and will have a further 5 weeks to go, making Term 2, 12 weeks long. Following the Alert Level 4 and 3 learning from home period, staff and students have returned to school and are taking stock of where everyone is at. As you can imagine, students are at various points along the continuum. The process within this has been focussed on wellbeing, assessing readiness to learn, and then moving forward with our learning programme.

As a school we need time to evaluate the learning status of our students, re-configure the year, and adjust teaching programmes and course dates, such as when semester courses will now change over, and factor in the additional two weeks that now will be available in Term 4 for senior students. The Staff Only Day will be a constructive time to do this, with departments focussing on maintaining a balance of what needs to be taught and what needs to be assessed.

NZQA has made a number of changes in relation to NCEA with senior students in mind. Step 1 included pushing the starting date for external exams from November 6 to November 16 and finishing December 9. This means we can have senior students at school for approximately two weeks longer than we normally would in Term 4. This will create an opportunity to maximise students learning time. Other things, such as completion dates for portfolio work have also been extended. NZQA has also stated that there will be a second step of supportive changes to be announced, they anticipate this will be very soon.

Recent weeks have put us in a good position to support learning from home and we would expect our students to constructively do this on Friday May 29. Usually with a Staff Only Day we do not offer supervision at school for students, however given the current climate of COVID-19, we will offer, with limited capacity, supervision of students at school from 8.30am to 2.30pm for those families and caregivers who need to send their child to school. If you need to do this, please register with the school office (phone: 352 6119) by Wednesday 4.00pm May 27.

It is important that we constructively plan for student success. With staff having limited face-to-face contact time with their departments over the last two months we look forward to an opportunity to reset the scene, constructively review learning programmes and apply appropriate timelines and measures to support student outcomes.

I thank you for your support and understanding with this.

He waka eke noa – We are all in this together.

Jeff Smith
Principal

Papanui High School 2020 Term Dates

TERM ONE: Tuesday 28 January - Friday 27 March*

Monday 27 January	Staff only day
Tuesday 28 January	Pōwhiri for new students
	Orientation programme begins
Thursday 6 February	Waitangi day - school closed
<i>86 half days</i>	

TERM TWO: Wednesday 15 April - Friday 3 July*

Monday 27 April	ANZAC Day observed - school closed
Thursday 7 May	AC conference day
Friday 29 May	Staff only day - school closed for instruction
Monday 1 June	Queen's Birthday - school closed
<i>108 half days</i>	

TERM THREE: Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September

Thursday 6 August	PPTA Accord Day 1 - school closed for instruction
Friday 21 August	Mid-term Break - school closed
<i>Monday 31 August</i>	<i>Winter Tournament week - TBC</i>
Monday 14 September	Senior Assessment week
<i>98 half days</i>	

TERM FOUR: Monday 12 October - Thursday 10 December

Monday 26 October	Labour Day - school closed
Monday 9 November	Senior Prizegiving
Friday 13 November	Show Day - school closed
Monday 16 November	NCEA exams start (end 9 December)
Thursday 19 November	PPTA Accord Day 2 - school closed for instruction
Thursday 10 December	Junior Prizegiving
<i>84 half days</i>	

*Original Term 1 and 2 dates changed due to COVID-19 Alert Level lockdown.

Public Health Measures

Thank you for all the support you have given us this week with keeping our students and staff well. We have gone through significant amounts of hand sanitiser and the students are getting into routine of physical distancing and allowing more space around each other as they move around the school.

We have received the following from NZ Public Health and we ask that you help us keep our school illness free by following this advice.

Children and young people attending school when they are unwell;

Public health advice regarding sick children and school attendance has not changed in the COVID-19 era. Children who are unwell should not attend school and they should not return to school until they have been symptom free for at least 48 hours. This applies to infectious respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases, and vaccine preventable diseases. If their illness is not an infectious one, for example, it results from an injury or a chronic disease like diabetes, and they are well enough to attend school then they can do so.

COVID-19 like symptoms will be very common over the winter and the vast majority of children with those symptoms won't have COVID-19. So, the advice to parents whose children have symptoms of cough, fever, sore throat and/or runny nose and sneezing is for them to keep their child at home until they have been symptom free for 48 hours. If they do see a GP or call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 and they are swabbed then the child will need to be isolated at home until they have their result. They can return to school if their result is negative and they have been symptom-free for 48 hours. **In most situations, the rest of their household do not also need to self-isolate.** That means that siblings of the ill child, regardless of where they go to school, can attend school while the test result for the ill child is awaited. **The only exception is if the child being tested is a symptomatic close contact of a case. In that case, we ask that their household members do self-isolate while awaiting the test result.** This exception is unlikely to occur in a school as any child (or adult) who is identified as a close contact of a case will already be in self-quarantine.

Louisa Clissold
Deputy Principal

*My School, My Success, My Responsibility
Tōku Kura, Tōku Tiketike, Tōku Haepapa*