

Kia ora Koutou
Dear Parents

Yesterday's news was not what we were hoping for in terms of relief for students on the Auckland side of the border. Unfortunately it is what it is and we will need to make the best of it. Having spoken to a number of parents over the past few days, all credit to students (and their families) who are doing their best in really difficult circumstances. Many of you are naturally missing having a teacher face to face and also being with friends; yet despite this, are managing to keep working towards their NCEA; Junior Certificate and Diploma goals.

Crossing the Border:

We have heard that it may be possible for students in a boarding situation to cross the border from Alert Level 3 to an Alert Level 2 region. Although this information applies to boarders in hostels, we have asked the Ministry of Health whether this could be also applied to students who are able to board with a private family in a Level 2 area. We are currently waiting to hear advice on this matter and will send out a further bulletin as soon as we hear.

Should Auckland schools re-open next term, but border restrictions prevent students from attending school (HPC), we are looking into the possibility of setting up a 'satellite' classroom in a hall on the Auckland side of the border.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we will continue to support Auckland based students.

Senior Practice Exams:

At this stage, we still intend to hold Practice exams during week 2 of Term 4. Should Auckland students still be in Level 3 lockdown, teachers will be able to collect evidence of student learning for external assessments in the same way they collect evidence for internal assessments. The flexibility of NCEA means teachers can gather assessment evidence from individual students at any time and in a variety of ways to meet the needs of the student's situation. When Auckland students return to school (hopefully before externals start), we can provide an opportunity for students with externals to practise in exam - like conditions if needed.

NCEA Update:

Attached is a summary of [NCEA support](#) available.

The school has already submitted an application on behalf of each student impacted by the Auckland lockdown, by the Upper Hauraki (Kaiua/Mangatangi) lockdown or through learning at home arrangements as a result of being immune compromised. Our understanding is that students will receive confirmation of NCEA credential support when students access their results in January 2022.

Other Changes:

Cabinet have announced other changes to come into effect in schools:

- From January 2022, schools will need to ensure only vaccinated staff and support personnel have contact with children and students. They need to have their first dose by 15 November.
- Schools will also need to maintain a COVID-19 vaccination register for staff and students.
- Face coverings are required to be worn by Years 9 to 13 students when on school transport at all Alert levels.

Thanks to those parents whom I have been in communication with over the past few days. Your insights as to how it is for your children has been invaluable. Please feel free to make contact with your child's Dean or myself should you have any concerns.

Refer to our website for any current news. A further bulletin will be sent out towards the end of the week as more information comes to hand.

Kind regards,

Ngairé Harris
PRINCIPAL

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Hauraki Plains College