

Friday April 10

Kia ora koutou

A warm Easter greeting to you all in what is probably the most unusual Easter holiday that you have ever had. Over many years, I have often headed into the back-blocks of New Zealand for....you guessed it, isolation! The type of isolation that guarantees good hunting and fishing. This is not going to be as high on my list of things to do after this enforced lockdown period. As I write today, the state of our nation's health is looking optimistic, long may this continue.

As we enjoy Easter and look ahead to the restart of our remote teaching and learning next week, just a few points of information for you:

- Term Two (and therefore remote teaching and learning) will begin next Wednesday 15 April.
- Thank you to the parents who have already reached out to us to seek support especially for hardware and technical issues. The MOE is also currently working with schools to further support the remote teaching and learning programmes that are due to start.
- We have asked teachers to report any students who show no evidence of engagement in the remote teaching and learning programmes next week. The relevant year level dean will contact you if this is the case, to clarify why there is no evidence of engagement.
- Just to clarify, your son will not be online with his teachers every minute of the day, but there should be ongoing contact on a regular basis in line with your son's timetable of subjects.
- Please monitor and supervise your son's online activity and can you please support us by reminding your son what is appropriate behaviour and dress in this remote teaching and learning environment.
- Questions or concerns related to a specific subject should be addressed to the subject teacher in the first instance. For more broader concerns related to learning, please make contact with your son's year level dean for support. If you have any hardware or technical issues that you feel may compromise your son's learning, then please contact our Director of ICT & e-Learning, Mr Shane Mann, [sdm@rathkeale.school.nz](mailto:sdm@rathkeale.school.nz)
- We have updated our Remote Teaching and Learning letter which has more detail in regard to remote teaching and learning. Please read the letter which is attached.
- Further to our communications on school charges last week, we would like to advise and clarify:
  - o A component of the Services and Activities Donation will be credited at the conclusion of the COVID-19 lockdown
  - o Boarding fees will be credited for the period when the boarding facility has been closed
  - o Lunch charges will be credited for the period when the school site has been closed
  - o 2020 Donation letters will be sent out by mid-May consistent with past years. If we are able to circulate these earlier, we will.

At this time of Easter, I have asked our Chaplain, Reverend Ben Arcus to record an Easter message to our school community. Please view his Easter message by clicking here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MnfXhdBkyE>

Finally, our thoughts and prayers are with the caring, brave people who are working in health, emergency and essential services. We are grateful for their efforts and wish them well over the coming weeks. We hope they keep safe and protected from harm and we

thank them for being there for the rest of us. An old Irish blessing comes to mind when I think of these people in our community:

“May the kindness you spread keep returning to you”

Take care, God bless

Martin O'Grady JP  
Principal



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