# Rangiora High School

PB4L Rangiora High School Te Kura Tuarua o Rangiora | Whakautea RESPECT | Tohaina CONTRIBUTE | Wawatahia ASPIRE

## He waka eke noa

*We're all in this together*

## Newsletter to parents/caregivers/whānau

17 May 2020

Kia ora koutou,

We are looking forward to welcoming all students back to school tomorrow. Alert Level 2 information is clear that it is safe to attend all forms of education and that it is important that all learners can continue their education. However, we all still need to be vigilant; ensuring that we are all doing all we can to contain COVID-19.

The Ministry of Health principles - hygiene and contact tracing - are key for how schools operate moving forward. It is important that all students follow the Ministry of Education guidelines. Regular hand hygiene and giving other people 'breathing space' and not touching each other are the key principles. Due to our ability to track contacts, educational facilities are not considered mass gatherings. There are no restrictions on the numbers of people indoors or outside at schools. Under Alert Level 2 there are no restrictions on groups of students mixing with others on-site. Staff are not restricted to one group of students and can move freely between groups of students. The exception is where people from outside the school (e.g. guest speakers, volunteers) are on-site. We have also suspended external hire of school facilities until further notice.

**Buses**

Buses will run at the usual times, but there may be some delays as rolls are completed on morning bus runs. A separate newsletter was sent to parents on Friday outlining the guidelines for how the school buses will operate.

**New School Routines**

School begins at **8.40am** on Monday 18 May with an extended form time. We know students will be excited to see each other - but ask that they follow the social guidelines and greet each other with an elbow tap, rather than hugging. As they make their way to form class they need to keep left on footpaths and in corridors to avoid congestion. At form time their teachers will take them through the guidelines for school at Alert Level 2 and spend some time reconnecting before they go off to their timetabled classes.

I have included this link to our parent newsletter from 13 May which outlined key aspects of our Alert Level 2 measures. Some reminders:

- The Canteen will be open, however we ask that all students bring their EFTPOS card if they are purchasing food, and bring their own water bottle to school.
- Each learning space will have hand sanitiser available. However, we encourage students to bring their own, if possible, as we are all aware of the shortages nationwide.
- Cleaning staff will be on site during the day to clean high-touch surfaces during the day.

**Supporting our Young People**

Thank you for your ongoing support. We acknowledge that during these last eight weeks there have been challenging times for all families/whānau. The resilience and flexibility that our community has shown has been a key factor in supporting our students. At this time it is really important that we, home and school, work together to support our young people to transition back to school. We know that some students will be feeling anxious about returning to school; if your child is worried, please ring your child's Dean or Head of House so they can support.

We understand that the progress made by students during the period of online learning has been variable. Our initial focus is to "re-start, re-connect, re-boot" - in particular in this first week giving time for staff to reconnect with their students, to re-establish teaching and learning routines and to establish what progress our learners have made.

As online learning disrupted many programmes of learning, particularly senior classes and practical subjects, the rest of the year may look different. Over the next few weeks, we will be reviewing the school calendar, learning and assessment programmes and our academic monitoring systems to make sure students can still meet their academic goals.

Home and school working together positively to support our young people is always an important part of ensuring success for young people. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Our office staff will do their best to answer any questions that you may have. Please do be aware, however, that our teaching staff may not get back to you immediately or the same day due to the demands on their time as we transition to the 'new normal'. A reminder that if you want to see one of the staff, please ring the office and make an appointment.

Now more than ever it is critical that we all model a calm, measured approach in all that we do - particularly in our interactions with others. Where young people see us, in all aspects of their lives, role-modelling being kind, considerate and polite they will follow our lead.

We look forward to welcoming all of our students back tomorrow. Finally, this link to our student newsletter from 13 May seeks to address any questions students may have about the return to school.

Ngā mihi ki a koutou,

Karen Stewart
**Principal / Tumuaki**