

18 March 2020

Kia ora,

### **Academic Conferencing Day (19 March) is postponed**

As you will be aware, there continues to be rapid development with regard to COVID-19. A number of sporting and cultural events, and large scale conferences and gatherings, have been postponed or cancelled in the last 24 hours.

After consideration of recent developments and much discussion and deliberation around the welfare of all members of our school community (students, parents/whānau, staff), **we have made the decision to postpone the Academic Conferencing Day scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday 19 March**. Please note this decision is a precautionary measure. We will advise you of a replacement date at the end of term, when the situation is clearer.

School and buses will operate as normal tomorrow. Our primary focus at this time is ensuring as normal a school day as possible. Form time will commence at 8.40am tomorrow.

If you have any specific questions or concerns around your child's progress to date, please email his or her teacher directly. Staff email addresses are available on the [RHS website](#). To email a staff member, please use their staff code and @rangiorahigh.school.nz

We appreciate the decision to postpone tomorrow's Academic Conferencing Day has been communicated at short notice. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

### **A Reminder - Who needs to self-isolate?**

The Government announcement at the weekend requires anyone who has arrived from overseas **after** 1.00am on Monday 16 March to self-isolate for 14 days, and to register with Healthline (0800 358 5453). The exception is people arriving from specified Pacific countries "[Category 2" countries as listed here](#), who do not need to self-isolate if they are not unwell.

People who arrived from overseas **before** 1.00am on Monday 16 March are not required to self-isolate, unless they have travelled from South Korea or Iran. Travellers from those countries need to self-isolate for 14 days from the date of their departure and register with Healthline.

People living in the same house as travellers that are required to self-isolate, need to minimise contact with them (avoiding being closer than 2 metres apart for more than 15 minutes). However, they are not required to self-isolate themselves.

### **Prevention of Spread**

Remember that personal hygiene, and reducing unnecessary physical contact (eg. hugs, handshakes, hongi) are still the most important things to do to stop the spread of any virus.

As you have been doing, please continue to focus on prevention of spread including through:

- Washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and drying thoroughly - before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet
- Covering coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or with an elbow
- Putting used tissues in the bin

## Attendance

We know that some parents have concerns about their children attending school at the moment, some of which may be due to what they are seeing in the media about other countries. There's a simple rule here - **if your child unwell (whether or not their illness relates to COVID-19) they should stay at home**. Students who are not unwell should continue to attend school. As a school we are closely monitoring the wellbeing of our students and staff and we are sending people home if they appear unwell in any way.

While we are seeing large-scale school shutdowns elsewhere in the world, in New Zealand we still have no community transmission and no confirmed cases in Canterbury.

Any decisions about school closures will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Ministry of Health. In the meantime, unless students are unwell themselves, Rangiora High School continues to be the best place for your child to continue their learning.

Regards,

Karen Stewart  
**Principal / Tumuaki**