



Friday, 20th March 2020

What a year this week has been.

(borrowed from NZ Herald)

Kia ora tātou,

Where to begin?

First by thanking staff for their professionalism and efforts to support students and whānau, and maintain student learning at the same time. The school is receiving multiple announcements from the Government, as well as other agencies (e.g. sports bodies) and processing these calmly and promptly.

I also greatly appreciate the support and patience from you, our community. This is a health crisis on a scale that I've never experienced.

Thirdly, I acknowledge the work of authorities such as the Auckland Regional Public Health Service who are doing excellent work to guide us through this crisis.

It's serious, and we're all in this together.

My first priority is to best protect the health and safety of students and staff. That underpins many of the decisions that we're having to make.

My second priority is to keep people informed – colleagues, staff, whānau and students. I believe clear and accurate information is an important way to promote calm. Note ... I've already corrected one mistake (*the coronavirus is not a new form of influenza as I stated in the student resource*). Back to year 11 science for me! The good news is that the Government's information is getting clearer by the day (e.g. www.covid19.govt.nz).

My third priority is to continue with as much normality as possible. We want learning and other school activities to continue as much, and for as long as possible.

Unfortunately, the first priority means that it is not possible to continue some school activities. We are working through each activity (e.g. trips, sports) on a case-by-case basis. I have provided more information below about the latest postponements and cancellations.

As stated on my previous communication, if your child shows signs of illness such as coughs and colds, please keep them at home. Colds and flus are common in schools and by staying away, seeking medical attention and practicing good hygiene, we can all keep any spread of illness to a minimum.

That said, if your child is not displaying symptoms they should be at school. Please contact your child's Dean or Assistant Dean if you have any questions or concerns.

If you have any specific concerns about COVID-19, contact your GP or Healthline. Contact details are:

- Healthline 0800 358 5453
- Government website www.covid19.govt.nz
- ARPHS website www.arphs.health.nz



Upcoming Events:

March

27-5Apr Maadi Cup Rowing Regatta
(Cancelled)

30-3Apr Summer Tournament Week
(Cancelled)

April

2 Parents' Association Meeting
(7pm-9pm, Staffroom)

9 End of Term 1

11-12 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze
Practice Tramp

20-21 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze
Practice Tramp

28 Start of Term 2

(For a full list of upcoming events,
please refer to the calendar on the
college website.)



I had intended to say a few words about my departure to Nelson, but at this moment our focus needs to be on student and staff wellbeing.

Thanks again for your patience and support. This is going to be a long ride.

ngā mihi nui, noho ora mai ... warm greetings and stay well.

Richard Dykes
Principal

COVID-19 Update

I have made the following decisions based on guidance from the Government, Ministry of Education, and other groups such as national sports bodies.

- **School Ball** **This is postponed.** Next term, when we have a better idea of timeframes, we will review this decision and consider options for running a ball or similar event later in the year.
- **School Production** **Hairspray is postponed until next year.** This means that rehearsals are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

We don't consider it appropriate to run the show next term, and realistically there is no window later this year to run it without interfering with other events (e.g. KBB Festival ... if this goes ahead).
- **Sports** Due to directives from national sports bodies and decreasing venue availability, **all sports competitions run by College Sports have been put on hold.** College Sport will review this decision at the start of term 2.

Connected with this, most national sports bodies have asked schools to also stop all sports trials and practices. I have instructed our sports staff to do so, as of yesterday.

However, I'm mindful that we also want to keep our students active over winter. I will review the training decision over the next few days. I have asked our sports staff to consider how we can best keep our students active, and safe, through winter.
- **School Trips** **We continue to run some trips and not others.** We are considering each trip on a case by case basis.
- **Arts, Service & Leadership Groups** **All other groups continue as per normal.** I am meeting with staff daily to discuss whether other groups, e.g. concert band, will carry on. At this stage, no decision has been made, and. Students should assume they're on and bring their gear to school. I will update you and students should this change.



Stopping Rumours

We have asked parents to keep their child(ren) at home if they are ill, or display any symptoms of COVID-19. This has the potential to create false rumours about students or staff being away because they have COVID-19.

If the school has a case or suspected case of COVID-19, I will inform you. Until then, please help us to stop inaccurate speculation by students, especially online.

School Closure?

The Prime Minister has made it clear that there is no immediate need to close schools. So, Glendowie College is open for business. Clearly without all activities and events taking place.

The general thinking appears to be that we want to keep schools open for as long as possible, if not avoid closing them entirely. This is to minimise the social disruption that would come with closing schools (e.g. parents having to be home with young children) and to protect students' learning and qualifications.

I'm sure the Prime Minister's decision will be reviewed if New Zealand shifts from overseas transmission to community transmission. But we're not there yet.

While I hope we won't close, I have asked staff to start thinking about how we would continue to support students' learning if the Government does decide to close schools. For example, I have asked teachers to ensure that all subjects have a Google Class set up. While we have time, we will continue to work on this.

For now, our focus is on maintaining learning in our classrooms.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It is caused by a type of coronavirus. They are called coronaviruses because of the shape they have when looked at through a microscope.

Like the 'flu', it can be spread from person to person. When a person who has COVID-19 coughs, sneezes, or talks, they may spread droplets containing the virus a short distance, which quickly settle on surrounding surfaces.

You may get infected by the virus if you touch those surfaces or objects and then touch your mouth, nose or eyes.

That's why it is really important to practice good hygiene, regularly wash thoroughly and dry your hands, and use good cough etiquette.

The symptoms are:

- A cough
- A high temperature (at least 38 degrees)
- Shortness of breath.

These symptoms do not necessarily mean you have COVID-19. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as a cold or flu.

source - NZ Ministry of Health



Board of Trustees Update

A month can be a long time in schools. Our environment has changed dramatically from the last time the Board met in February.

Firstly, our Principal, Mr Dykes announced his resignation to take up the role of Headmaster at Nelson College on Queen's Birthday next term. We congratulate Mr Dykes on this appointment. He has led an incredible amount of positive change in his five years as Principal, and our school is now extremely successful on many fronts ... and is poised to improve even further. This is in no small part due to his vision and leadership of the school.

This means that we are now looking for a new Principal. The Board has appointed Edsol to manage this process on the school's behalf. An advertisement is now in the Education Gazette. All things going well, we hope to appoint the new principal mid-Term 2, and have her or him start in Term 2 or 3.

Of course, the school is grappling with the COVID-19 coronavirus along with the rest of New Zealand. The impact on our school is immense. Mr Dykes ran the Board through the impact so far, what the school is doing to maximise student and staff wellbeing, and to maintain students' learning. We appreciate the work of the staff with our rangatahi.

The Board approved the proposed 5YA (10YPP) plan, presented by Mr Dykes. This is our 5-year plan for major capital property expenditure at the college. Once it is also approved by the Ministry, the plan will see a significant amount of overdue maintenance occur at the school, along with the building of a new integrated student wellness centre. We are excited by this vision, and look forward to implementing it. In the meantime, the new Science Block is making excellent progress.

Mr Garry Ivill, Board Chair

Principal Appointment Update

Following the announcement of Richard Dykes' appointment to Nelson College next term, the Board has begun the process of appointing a new principal.

We believe the school is running exceptionally well, with an excellent senior leadership team, and is well placed to maintain the school's momentum and direction through this process in the short and long-term.

The Board has engaged Edsol NZ Ltd to manage the appointment process. An advertisement is going into the Education Gazette today to kickstart this process.

Our vision is to be one of the top schools in New Zealand. We have a growing roll, new building projects happening now and in the pipeline, and a highly supportive and engaged community. We are a school that is highly academic, highly caring and highly innovative.

The Board is happy with the current direction and momentum of the college. We are looking for someone to continue our current initiatives (e.g. buildings, MYP, wellbeing framework, Level 1 NCEA), while also working with the Board to evolve our long-term strategic direction.

The Board is confident that we will get a wide range of high quality applicants. We are working towards making an appointment mid-Term 2, with the successful candidate starting in Term 2 or 3.

Mr Dykes has informed the Board that he will finish at Queen's Birthday, i.e. on Friday 29 May 2020. As it has done in the past, the Board will arrange for an Acting Principal as needed.

We will continue to keep you informed.

Mr Garry Ivill, Board Chair



Removing Cash Fares on Buses and at Service Centres (from 30 March 2020)

From Monday 23 March 2020, Auckland Transport will be suspending cash fares on all buses.

They are doing this to minimise physical contact between customers, Auckland Transport staff and people who work on buses during Covid-19.

Customers will be expected to pay their fare using AT HOP cards only. This will eliminate cash handling on buses and at depots to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus through touching money and interacting with customers. Their priority is to protect our customers and staff to ensure they can continue to deliver public transport.

School Accounts

The latest batch of school statements was sent on 18 March 2020, please check your 'Junk'/'Spam' mailbox if you have not received it.

School donations paid before 31 March 2020 will be discounted by \$20 for one student and \$30 for more than one student.

You may check your account balance on the Portal [here](#).

Please contact me on hyd@gdc.school.nz or in person at the Accounts Office from 10am to 4pm if you have any queries.

Mrs Bernadette Hyde, Accounts Receivable

Kura Pō Māori - Māori Night Classes for Adults

This year Glendowie College will be running Te Reo Māori Classes for Beginners and these will be specifically targeted at those who have zero to basic knowledge. The aim is to participate in the Crown's Language Strategy Plan of having one million speakers of Te Reo Māori by 2040.

What will this look like for us? We will view your life through a Māori lens by learning how to greet others, introduce yourself and use basic kōrero/conversation in Te Reo Māori. In addition, you will learn karakia/prayers, waiata/songs, and some tikanga/customs along the way. Our classes will run every Tuesday for each term.



- Start from:** 25 February 2020 (Tuesday)
- Meet and greet, and go over the programme etc
- Where:** Glendowie College
- Meet up in the staff room first
- Time:** 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- Cost:** \$20 (To cover photocopying costs)
- Need to Bring:** Exercise Book and Device
- For taking notes and completing tasks

If you would like to learn Te Reo Māori, but you are scared or don't know how to take the leap, Nau Mai Haere Mai (welcome!), this class is for you. If you wish to know more, need some encouragement to join, or are keen to participate, please email me on che@gdc.school.nz

Ngā manaakitanga (with kindness), Melisa Chase, Kaiako Reo Māori ki Glendowie (Glendowie Māori Teacher)



Parents in Sports

We aim to facilitate a number of sporting opportunities for our Glendowie College students, if you are able to help in any way, we would love to hear from you!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10IsT5LkY3GHZy2EfyhB_zgpXEUrflbxXFy0fmleupOk/edit

Mrs Lydia Brown, Director of Sports

GDC Sports – New Social Media Contact 2020

Please remember to follow us and share our new sports pages:

- Instagram Page gdcSPORT
- Facebook Glendowie College Sport

Our New Table Tennis App is also available, download 'Seekapong' today from either the following:

- Apple (iOS) store: <https://apps.apple.com/nz/app/seekapong/id1462275055>
- Android (Google Play) store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.attacustomer&hl=en>

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Glendowie College Library has a fantastic ebook and audiobook collection. It is easy to access via the [library website](#) or directly via the [wheelers eBook platform](#). Most students at school have been set up to use this service. If students forget their password, please ask them to see Ms Gayton in the library, or email her at gyn@gdc.school.nz.

Parents are more than welcome to use this collection too. If you are interested in joining, please email Ms Gayton and she will help with the set up. The ePlatform by Wheelers app is available from all app stores and is easy to download and use. The great advantage of this app is that once the book is downloaded, internet connectivity is not required to read the book. Alternatively, students can also read via the website on their school allowed devices.

With the two-week closure of Auckland Libraries from the end of today, parents are welcome to borrow from the school library collection. Simply search our [website](#), find a book that takes your fancy, and email Ms Gayton, Library Manager at gyn@gdc.school.nz with the book title and the name of your child at school, and Ms Gayton will have the book ready for your child to collect for you.

Ms Jody Gayton, Library Manager



Summerfest 2020



In Week 6, the Arts Faculty enjoyed hosting the annual celebration of the arts: Summerfest 2020.

The week kicked off with a 'Theatresports' demonstration and music performances by popular vocal duo Bella Bavin and Lauren Blakey. Tuesday to Thursday saw students and staff enjoying the house photo-booth events, performances by the 'Concert Band', 'Rock Band', and 'Vibrance'; rock painting and banana drawing activities. We finished the week with a performance from the 'String Orchestra' and a promotion performance of 'Hairspray 2020'.



Classroom A9 was a week-long hive of noise, excitement and activity as large groups of students contributed to the 2020 house tile mosaics. Preparation on these mosaics continue and we look forward to their reveal and future display on the exterior of the Art Block. Students who would like to contribute to these tile mosaics (and earn more house points!), please see Ms Whittaker.

Many thanks to both the Arts staff and the Arts Prefects for their organisation, time and energy.

2020 Rock Painting Winners:

Senior: Piper Finn (13KAU)

Junior: Amelia De Jong (9SLD)

Highly Commended Staff: Mr Eley, Ms Harding, Mr Thompson, Mr Wallace

2020 House Participation Points - Tile Mosaics:

Tāne Mahuta: 121

Rūaumoko: 107

Tāwhirimātea: 93

Tangaroa: 69

Please note that further house points will be issued following the completion of the mosaics.

Ms Clare Jennings, Arts Faculty Leader

GDC Rowing



Over the three days of the 'North Islands Secondary School Rowing Championships', the squad competed in 40 hotly contested heats.

With 1854 competitors at the regatta and a very high standard of racing, competition was fierce and progression from heats into finals was extremely tough with crews often needing to come within the top 2 to make it through to the next round.

Some very close racing in the heats and semi-finals saw us through to 26 finals including six A finals, fifteen B finals and six C finals. Unfortunately, our crews in the A finals were not able to gain a medal, but reaching an A final in such a competitive competition is a significant achievement. In the B

Finals, Glendowie College finished with three first placings, three second placings and three third placings. Overall, it was a very successful weekend.

Sadly, the 2020 Maadi Cup has been suspended because of Covid-19. It is a shame for our rowers who have been training for months to qualify for this national secondary schools rowing regatta which is the climax of a long season. Unfortunately, there was no other option for Rowing NZ.

The college would like to thank all those involved in the rowing season, in particular the coaches, managers and parent volunteers. A special thank you to our GDC rowers who have represented the college well on and off the water.

Mr David James, Director of Rowing



Junior Social Evening

The year 9 and 10 social evening with the theme '70s' was held on Tuesday 10 March 2020. It was a very successful night and an awesome opportunity for the two year groups to get together and socialise outside the school environment. A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the night run smoothly. We look forward to more events in the future! Here is a link to the photos taken on the night, have a look and you may spot some familiar faces! <https://photos.app.goo.gl/7tzwkqwpYEm1vFEM9>

Chiara Thorburn (13COO)





Year 9 Camp

On Monday of Week 5, Year 9 students, prefects, peer supporters, and teachers from Rūaumoko headed down to Tui Ridge Park, Rotorua for their 3-day camp. We were entertained with a range of activities including giant swing, air rifles, archery, abseiling, high ropes, flying fox, and a confidence course and group challenges. Lily Smith (9NFS) said “the giant swing was terrifying but awesome!”

The benefits of the camp were clearly seen in the smiles on everyone's face. Students gained confidence and bonded with everyone, not only their year 9 peers. Lahar Serai (9SOH) said “the best part about camp was getting to know everyone including the prefects”. Laya Dickson (NFS) said “it was about making new friends and just forming so many memories that will make you laugh when you think about them.” Maddie Thompson (Prefect, 13KAU) said “the best part was seeing the students step out of their comfort zones and make close friendships over the three days”.

The whole experience ran so smoothly. Thanks to the teachers for their patience and superb organization, and to all the staff and year 13 students who assisted in some way. Special thanks to Mr Keshav, Ms Harduar and Mr Thompson who made the camp possible! Shout out to Ms Gray, Dr Nafissi, Mr So, Mr Adams, Mr Barton and Ms Tomlinson for their support at the camp. The camp wouldn't have been the success it was without everyone's contribution, and the effort and time invested in the Rūaumoko family made it all worthwhile.

Rūaumoko House Prefects





Year 12 Science Rocky Shore Field Trip


Year 12 Science students had their Rocky Shore field trip to Kohimarama on Wednesday 18 March 2020 as part of the data collection requirement for a L2 Biology investigation internal.

The rocky shore, with the million-dollar backdrop, was both interesting and rewarding for the students, with data gathered on the many species there.



Ms Julie Barrack, Science Faculty



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Parents' Association

Fun Walk / Run (Sunday, 22 March 2020) – Postponed until September (New date TBC)

Huge thanks to those parents who signed up to bake, marshal or help on the day, and to our many sponsors who provided items for our raffles. We will be in contact with you again prior to our new date in September.



Next Meeting:

2 April 2020 (Thursday)

7:00pm – 8:00pm

Staffroom (behind the Admin. block)

All welcome!

Upcoming Events & Tickers

Parents' Association Meeting	Thursday, 2 April 2020	7:00pm – 8:00pm (Staffroom)
Parent/Student/Teacher Conferencing – Teacher Dinner	Tuesday, 2 June 2020	

Sara Haddon, Parents' Association Chairperson

<https://www.facebook.com/GlendowieCollegeParentsAssociation/> or Gdcparents@gmail.com