



Friday, 5th June 2020

Tēnā koutou kātoa,

This is my first newsletter in my role as Acting Principal. We were able to farewell Richard Dykes in an appropriate manner despite the Level 2 restrictions. The improvements made to the physical campus, curriculum development, particularly in the junior school, and to the House and pastoral support systems have been significant in his time here. We wish Richard well in sunny Nelson.



Upcoming Events:

Please note under level 2 restrictions, these events are subject to changes.

June

- 17 Board of Trustees Meeting (6pm-9pm, Boardroom)
- 20-21 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Tramp (All Day)
- 27-28 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Tramp (All Day)
- 29-1Jul Art Exhibition (Hall)

July

- 2 Parents' Association Meeting (7pm-9pm, Staffroom)
- 3 End of Term 2

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

As restrictions ease, we look forward to being able to provide more opportunities for students to participate in the wider life of the school. It was really pleasing to see the large number of students participating in sports practices and trials over the last two weeks. With community bubbles being expanded to 100 people, it now means that inter-school winter sports competitions can take place tentatively commencing from the week starting 15 June. However, there may be some restrictions on the number of spectators.

Within the college we have fundraising initiatives beginning again with Tangaroa house (Give a Kid a Blanket) followed by Tāne Mahuta (Forest and Bird Society). Apart from the initial year level assemblies to welcome students back which could be held within social distancing restrictions we have postponed house and full school assemblies until Level 1. The prefect team are currently producing virtual assemblies to show to the students. I declined to be involved in "carpool karaoke"!

We have been impressed with the way the students have returned to school following the lockdown. Attendance rates have been higher than usual at this time of year reflecting the students' desire to return and also being in lockdown has meant that there has been less spread of cold and flu germs in the community.

Staff are keeping an eye on the wellbeing of students. There has been some concern expressed about the time lost and the potential impact on NCEA grades. NZQA have announced changes to NCEA requirements which have been outlined on the next page. Teachers will have discussed any changes that have been made to courses with the students. The Deans are looking at the results and engagement levels of their students in the reports issued last week and are prioritising those who need support or direction. In addition, the Deans and the Careers Department will be seeing all Year 13 students to discuss their career plans and educational requirements. If you do have any concerns, please contact your child's Dean or our Guidance Counsellors.

These have been challenging times and it is important that we all work together to support the academic and wellbeing needs of our students.

Ngā mihi nui,
Gordon Robertson
Acting Principal



Changes to NCEA – Announced Wednesday 3 June 2020

On Wednesday 3 June, NZQA announced changes to the NCEA requirements to take into account time lost through the lockdown associated with COVID-19. I have attached below the email which NZQA have provided for parents.

The college has already considered changes to courses as outlined in the last Principal's newsletter. The NZQA changes outlined below will help students to attain at each NCEA level and are in line with the changes we have proposed.

Tracking data we have undertaken so far reinforces that the vast bulk of our senior students are on track to attain the relevant NCEA level and the NZQA changes will be a further support. The message that we want to reinforce is that there is no need for students to stress themselves unduly. There is plenty of time, assessment opportunities and school support to enable them to gain their academic goals.

Tēnā koe,

I hope you and your whānau are well.

We know some of our students - and their whānau - are worried that they might not be able to attain NCEA or UE this year, because of the disruption caused by COVID-19.

To help address this and support students, the following changes are being made to NCEA and University Entrance (UE) requirements for this year:

- Students working towards an NCEA can gain additional credits, based on the number of credits they achieve during the 2020 school year. These additional credits will be known as Learning Recognition credits. For every 5 credits a student achieves towards their NCEA either through internal or external assessment, they are entitled to an additional 1 credit. Students at NCEA Level 1 are eligible for up to a maximum of 10 additional credits while those at Levels 2 and 3 are eligible for up to a maximum of 8 additional credits.*
- Students will be awarded a certificate endorsement if they achieve 46 credits at Merit or Excellence level, rather than the usual 50. Students achieving 12 credits at Merit or Excellence level in a course – rather than 14 – will be awarded a course endorsement.*
- Current UE requirements have been reduced from 14 to 12 credits in three UE-approved subjects. Students still need to attain NCEA Level 3 and meet literacy and numeracy requirements to be awarded University Entrance.*
- External NCEA examinations and NZ Scholarship examinations will now take place from 16 November 2020 to 6 December 2020. This will provide extra time for teaching, learning and assessment in Term 4.*
- The submission date for subjects, which require students to submit a portfolio (for example, Design and Visual Communications), has been extended to 12 November 2020, to give students more time to complete their portfolios.*

These changes have been designed to encourage students to continue working towards their NCEA and to ensure that the NCEA attained by our rangatahi this school year is just as valid as those earned in previous years.

If you have any queries about the changes, please contact your child's Dean.

Ngā mihi

Mr Gordon Robertson, Acting Principal



Vacancy – Receptionist

We are seeking an experienced receptionist to join our team in Term 3, 2020. This is a permanent, term-time role (40 weeks per year), Monday to Friday, 7:45am – 4:15pm.

If you have excellent reception skills, would enjoy being the welcoming face for our school, please email your application (cover letter and CV) to Eliza Wong, Principal's PA, won@gdc.school.nz by Monday 15 June 2020.

Additional Bus Information – Student Safety from COVID-19

Please find below update from Auckland Transport (AT) on the operation of school bus services:

Unlike public spaces, school buses, like school classrooms, are controlled environments. Ministry of Health guidelines make it clear that in some environments like school classrooms it is not always practical to have physical distance restrictions in place, so observing all the necessary hygiene requirements is the key priority. Schools also know which of their students are in the classroom and travelling on school buses, so contact tracing can take place if required.

Following a consultation with the Ministry of Transport, New Zealand Transport Agency, Ministry of Education, and a review of the operation of school bus services during the first week of students returning to schools, and after consultation with Ministry of Health, AT is satisfied that by prioritising and maintaining good hygiene practices in line with Ministry of Health advice and making sure that all touch points on the bus are cleaned twice daily and buses are disinfected by additional fog sensitisation, school transport services will be managed safely.

As a result of this, the Ministry of Transport has now deemed it safe to allow standing passengers on all school buses if required.

AT will continue working with school transport operators to make sure the necessary hygiene requirements are being met and will fund additional disinfecting of buses. Just as schools are provided by the Ministry of Education with hand sanitiser for the classroom, hand sanitiser is also being made available on every bus, from the driver upon request, for students to use when getting on and off.

We understand from the Ministry of Education that schools will continue to make sure they are observing all the necessary hygiene requirements once students arrive onsite and have plenty of information for young people and parents around good health and hygiene.

Bus Capacity and Demand

From Monday 25 May 2020, all AT Metro school buses are able to operate as normal with standing student passengers permitted.

The pink max capacity due to COVID-19 stickers displayed in front and the side of buses do not apply to AT school bus trips. They are there for public bus trips for which there is no register of the passengers using them.

AT bus operators will continue to take extra measures to make bus drivers feel safe in their workplace, such as leaving seats in close proximity to the driver free and the blocked off, providing them with PPE and hand sanitiser. Although physical distancing is not practicable on school buses, it is a controlled environment where contact tracing can take place if required thanks to the efforts by all schools keeping a register of students who use school buses to get to school and increasing the number of people registering their AT HOP cards.



School Statements

School statements will be sent out on Wednesday, 10 June 2020.

Please check your SPAM folder as the statement may have dropped into spam.

If you have a CREDIT which you will see at the bottom of your statement and you wish to use it against your outstanding amount, please email me at hyd@gdc.school.nz

Ms Bernadette Hyde, Accounts Receivable Administrator

Tangaroa House Mufti Day Success



Tangaroa House ran a mufti day on Wednesday 3 June 2020 to support of the 'Give a Kid a Blanket' charity. We had an amazing response from the Glendowie College community, and are very proud to have been able to raise over \$1,500 and donate a massive pile of warm items. We were blown away by the generosity from everyone.

'Give a Kid a Blanket' is a community activated art action conceived and led by artists, Donna Turtle Sarten and Bernie Harfleet. 'Give a Kid a Blanket' collects and distributes blankets and other warm items through health and social agencies to children and their families. Last year, they distributed over 31,000 blankets, along with over 21,000 warm items. The focus of 'Give a Kid a Blanket' is kindness and making families feel valued. They are still collecting donations of new or excellent condition pre-loved blankets, sleeping bags, duvets and covers, winter bedding, pyjamas, onesies, beanies, socks, jumpers or winter coats. All used items are required to be clean and washed. Other items they are looking for include hot water bottles (new), baby clothes and baby sleeping sacks.

'Give a Kid a Blanket' runs collections from 30 May to 19 July 2020. If you would like to donate items, they can be donated and dropped off at the college reception or at Turua Gallery, 10A Turua Street, St Heliers via Melissa Wallace (phone: 0274 328 888).

When Bernie collected our donations, he took great delight in informing us that the charity has reached 10,000 followers on facebook. Please follow their page to stay updated on collections at https://www.facebook.com/Give-a-Kid-a-Blanket-1612453109010058/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

Thank you to everyone who made a donation and helped to improve the lives of so many people in our community.

Sasha Barrett-Garnier, Tangaroa House Prefect

phone: +64 9 575 9128

email: info@gdc.school.nz

website: www.gdc.school.nz



Glendowie Students in Community Art Exhibition

Glendowie College Students have their reflections on the Lockdown period included in a collaborative community art event at Kumeu Arts Centre.

The students included are from Years 9 and 11 German and Year 10 Visual Art.

The gallery welcomes visitors and engagement in this art project. For more information, or to participate in this reflection, please visit the following link www.kumeuartscentre.co.nz.

Mrs Sarrah Shapley, Faculty of Arts

Parents' Association



Are you looking for a way to give a little back? By giving just a few hours each term, you can be a PA star! It's easy – a couple of meetings each term, help out at a few events, eat cakes and chit chat with other parents, Senior Staff and Board of Trustee members about life at Glendowie College. Many hands make light work!

No applications are required, simply email: gdcparents@gmail.com to join us. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 2 July 2020, 7:00pm – 8:00pm in College Staffroom. All new members are welcome.



Entertainment Book is coming soon – Please email gdcparents@gmail.com to secure your order.

Sara Haddon, Parents' Association Chairperson

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