



Tēnā koutou kātoa,

This is my last newsletter as Principal at Glendowie College. Next week I fly to Nelson with my family to take up the role of Headmaster at Nelson College.

College Re-Start

It was great to welcome staff and students back to school this week. On the first day, we had 97% of students turn up, with lots of energy. Our focus this week is to reconnect with students, check on their wellbeing and academic progress, and return to 'normal' teaching and learning as fast as possible.

Thank you for your support over the last nine weeks. It has been an extraordinary time. Lockdown, online learning, virtual house assemblies ... and everything else that has happened in New Zealand and globally. I hope that the exceptional unity displayed by New Zealanders will continue for a long time to come as we work to meet the needs of all.

I also want to acknowledge the work of our staff. They have displayed outstanding energy and creativity to serve our students. I'm very proud of their efforts to support our students' learning and wellbeing over the last 8 weeks.

The wider life of the school, e.g. sports and arts, will gradually return at the college. For example, we hope trials and training will resume from next week on. We will provide more information to you and the students in due course.

Farewell

It has been a privilege to lead Glendowie College over the last five years. It is an amazing school in an amazing community, and it's sad to leave.

The school has achieved so much in the last few years, and is increasingly recognised on the national stage – academically and in reference to the wider life of the school. Our academic results have improved year on year. Last year over 96% of our year 12 students gained L2 NCEA and our students gained 41 NZ Scholarships. Some of the best results in New Zealand.

We have one of the highest sports participation rates in Auckland, and our students are equally involved in the arts, service and student leadership. We have nearly finished implementation of the IB MYP junior curriculum, which is driving innovation, rigour and a global perspective in the junior school.

We are well into our 'Campus Vision' development, with a new Quad, fitness centre, garages, sports facilities, science block and special needs unit. We have new dedicated full-time learning support coordinators and a full-time kaiarahi. We have developed and implemented a unique wellbeing framework, introduced year 9 camps, and new houses that reflect our heritage.

All of that has only been possible with the hard work of staff, the leadership of our Senior Leadership team, successive Boards of Trustees, and the ongoing support of you – our parents and whānau. Glendowie College enjoys a highly engaged, professional and supportive parent and whānau community.



Upcoming Events:

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

June

- 11 AKSS Ski Competition – Zone Competition
(All Day, Snow Planet)
- 17 Board of Trustees Meeting
(6pm-9pm, Boardroom)
- 18 Year 10 Subject Information /
Year 11 Programme 2021
(TBC)
- 20-21 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze
Practice Tramp *(All Day)*
- 24 Parents' Information Evening –
2021 Enrolment Process *(TBC)*
- 27-28 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze
Practice Tramp *(All Day)*
- 29-1Jul Art Exhibition *(TBC)*

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.)



Glendowie College has a clear vision and momentum. On the one hand, I would love to stay and further that vision. On the other hand, it's time to pass the torch to the next person and I do so with pride.

I wish you and your whānau the very best for the rest of the year and beyond.

Ngā mihi nui,

Richard Dykes
Principal

Information for Parents (email sent to parents on 18 May 2020)

Visitors to School

All visitors, including parents must sign in and out at reception. This includes parents coming in to pay accounts.

School Buses

Auckland Transport have advised us that they are putting on extra buses on the following routes:

- Routes 414 & 417, are getting an extra bus each in the mornings and afternoons
- Routes 418 & 419, are getting an extra bus each in the mornings

These extra buses will be in place until the on board physical distancing requirements are removed or until further notice.

School Hygiene

Our staff have worked hard to prepare the school for students' return. The most important aspect of this will be the use of hand sanitiser and hand washing. We have hand sanitiser in every room. Students are allowed, but not required to wear masks to school.

NCEA

We had been talking with NZQA and were hopeful that they would make changes to NCEA this year to address schools' significant equity and wellbeing concerns. Along with a number of other schools, we felt it was highly appropriate to lower the 'credit thresholds' for NCEA to reflect the impact of the lockdown on students' progress towards NCEA, and to do this now for people to plan for it.

Regrettably, NZQA hasn't done this and has only made minor tweaks to NCEA. They have also stated that they may make further changes to NCEA at a later date in the year.

In light of this, we are modifying our NCEA programmes now to best support them to achieve this year and to move forward next year. I have listed NZQA's national changes and our own local changes below:

NZQA National Changes:

- external NCEA and NZ Scholarship exams have been delayed. They will now start on 16th November instead of 6th November, and finish on 9th December instead of 2nd December.
- the submission dates for portfolio subjects have been changed. Individual subjects will confirm these dates and advise students in class.



Glendowie Changes:

All Levels

- all senior NCEA subjects are reducing the number of standards that they assess this year to reflect the impact of the lockdown on teaching time. Most subjects will reduce their course by 1 standard.
- subjects will identify extra standards that they can offer to individual students later in the year if required to help students achieve NCEA in 2020.
- as the majority of our students gain significantly more credits than they require to gain NCEA (e.g. on average our year 11 students gain 125 credits when they only require 80), we're confident that this won't impact on students' success in 2020.

NZ Scholarship

- NZ Scholarship remains unchanged. We are working with NZQA to identify any curriculum changes to NZ Scholarship exams as a result of the lockdown.

Level 3

- level 3 requirements remain the same.
- we surveyed all year 13 students in form class to clarify their academic goals for this year, their aspirations for 2021, and where they are currently placed towards these.
- we will follow this up and talk with all year 13 students individually to identify a plan that ensures they are best placed to meet their goals for this year and next. This will be done by Deans, Assistant Deans and careers staff over the next few weeks.

Level 2

- level 2 requirements remain the same.
- every year we track students' progress towards NCEA through the year. We will increase our tracking of year 12 students this year, especially those pursuing endorsements that they can use to apply for external scholarships in 2021.

Level 1 (Glendowie Certificate)

- all students will remain enrolled in Level 1 NCEA
- however, we're introducing a local "Glendowie Certificate" that we will focus on as a measure of student success at year 11 in 2020. To achieve this, students require the following credits:
 - *Achieved* ... 60 credits at Level 1
 - *Endorsed with Merit* ... 40 credits at merit or higher
 - *Endorsed with Excellence* ... 40 credits at excellence
- this is the same structure as Level 1 NCEA, but with reduced credit thresholds.
- our reason for doing this is to retain our focus on quality rather than quantity, and to support students' wellbeing. We don't want students stressing to get extra credits in a reduced timeframe or focusing on chasing credits at the expense of quality learning.
- we will also keep subject endorsements but lower the credit threshold to 10 credits to achieve these.



School Holidays

At this stage, all school holiday dates are unchanged. That means Term 2 will be 12 weeks long. We are in Week 7 next week. The last day of school for Term 2 is 3 July 2020 (Friday).

Board of Trustees Update

Over the past two months, the Board of Trustees has continued to govern Glendowie College, and like most people we have had to adapt to online Zoom meetings as our primary means of communication.

The Board of Trustees are hugely impressed with the efforts of our staff and students in working through an extraordinarily fluid, unknown and difficult time. It has been quite an accomplishment for staff to convert their entire way of teaching and engaging to a new and largely unknown format. There has been no 'rule book' to guide staff and credit must go to the Senior Leadership Team and faculty leaders for supporting staff through the process, and consistently so for five weeks. Our gratitude goes to all staff for their diligence and professionalism.

This week has thankfully seen students and staff return to school under alert level 2 conditions. Our priority is for senior students to resume their pursuit of success in NCEA levels 1, 2 and 3, and for the junior school to resume normal teaching and learning. Unfortunately, many experience-based opportunities have been cancelled, and there will be uncertainty in this area for some time to come.

Without doubt the Covid-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the school's finances. There has been a big drop in international student enrolments, and an uncertain future for this key source of school funding. Likewise we have seen a halt in the payment of school donations. The school relies on parent donations to pay for many of the extras that the Ministry of Education does not fund. We thank those families who have paid the donation this year and we respectfully ask parents who haven't paid to consider making the payment. We do not want to reduce what Glendowie College offers students, but without parent financial support we will have to work within our means.

Work on the new science block has resumed, and hopefully some of the time lost will be made up along the way.

The search for a new Principal has continued throughout lockdown. We received 18 applications and we have narrowed these down to a short list of four. Interviews will take place on Saturday 23 May and these will be conducted in person. Gordon Robertson will be the Acting Principal until the new Principal starts.

And finally, on May 22 we farewell our Principal for the last five years, Richard Dykes. Richard has been a very high calibre and visionary school leader who has moved Glendowie College forward in many ways. Under Richard's leadership, we have seen improved academic results in NCEA and scholarship, various capital works (quad, fitness centre, science block), a targeted junior curriculum (IB MYP), a rejuvenated and very successful new school house system, and an innovative student wellbeing framework - including the cellphone free policy. Richard's vision will serve Glendowie College for many years to come, and for this we are grateful. We sincerely thank Richard for his leadership of the college over the last five years, and wish him, Jane and their family all the very best for the future.

Mr Garry Ivill, Board Chair



Safe Practices

All the students have been informed at a series of assemblies (social distancing enforced) and through Google Classroom of the practices required in the college to minimise any potential risk from Covid 19.

We are requiring social distancing at all times using the Ministry of Education's guidelines of "moist breath zones". Classes have been set up to maximise space between students. Between classes we have improved student flows along corridors and in stairwells with no stopping or lining up outside classrooms. In some rooms, we are using the fire exit as the entrance to reduce congestion. After the initial assemblies, no further ones are scheduled to further minimise risk.

Hand cleanliness is essential. All students must sanitise going into class and we have asked them to sanitise leaving class before interval and lunchtime. All surfaces that can potentially cause cross contamination are cleaned regularly. PE and practical subjects' equipment are also cleaned regularly.

Besides social distances and hygiene practices, the other element we are concentrating on is the effective tracking of students. Extra care is being taken at roll calls. Any group meetings must have a roll of those attending and students sign in and out of the library. The names of all students using buses have been documented. Extra buses have been put on the school bus routes.

Home study for Year 13 students has been restricted to periods 1 and 5 only. Study for periods 2 to 4 will be in the library. The reason for this is contact tracking, so that we know where all the students are during the school day. The tuck shop is open but at reduced capacity. We are asking students to provide their student ID number when ordering for contact tracing purposes.

We are confident that the procedures we have in place will minimise any risk of infection. These will be constantly reviewed, so that any potential concerns can be addressed.



Mr Gordon Robertson, Deputy Principal – Student Services



Building Update



Work for the Science block has resumed in Alert Level 2, the full steel frame is up. NZ Force workers have just finished putting up the steel framing and wood framing will be added next before the insulation work starts.

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is back open under normal operating hours.

We appreciate all student and parents adhering to the school hygiene protocols at this time, particularly:

1. One student or one family group inside the shop at a time.
2. Please maintain social distancing outside the shop while waiting.
3. Use hand sanitiser on entry.
4. Please be aware that it is taking a little longer to assist you at the moment and we appreciate your patience.

Ms Lisa Davis-Miller, Business Manager

Snowsports – Term 2

Training opportunity at Snow Planet, Albany

Dates: Tuesday 2 June – Tuesday 30 June 2020

Lesson Time: 6:30pm- 8:00pm

Option 1: GROUP LESSONS for skiers and boarders from beginner to advanced

Group Lesson Price: \$220

Option 2: RACE LESSONS for skiers (not beginners)

Race Group Lesson Price: \$300

Please contact Sarrah Shapley sha@gdc.school.nz if you would like to participate.

If you had participated in Term 1 training, please refer to the email from Brooke at Snow Planet regarding make up sessions from Term 1.

Mrs Sarrah Shapley, Snowsports Coordinator

Glendowie College Sport

Welcome back! We are now clear to start our winter sports season training, there will be a lot happening in a short period of time, so it is really important for all players to read the student notices. All practices will have procedures in place for contact tracing and hygiene. We do suggest that your child has a personal hand sanitiser for use after practice.

Mrs Lydia Brown, Director of Sports



Languages Department

During the lockdown the Languages Department ran two Education Perfect Language Wero (challenges), one for staff and one for students.

Staff Wero

A few stats:

19 of us took part

12,011 questions were answered

159 hours spent learning a language

Congratulations to the top three teachers:

1. Monique Carrigan
2. Dave Storrie
3. Tantan Xu

Student Wero

Winning Classes:

Year 9	9 German 82a
Year 10	10 Spanish
Year 11	11 German
Year 12	12 German

Top Students:

Year 9	Anja White
Year 10	Georgia Jost
Year 11	Brianna Shalfoon
Year 12	Ethan Tizzard

Congratulations and well done to those who took part. It was really great to see so many of you participating and practicing your learning from home before we went properly into online learning. The effort you put in will serve you well going forward. The winning classes will have their shared lunch when we are allowed to share food again.

Ms Anna Vincent, Faculty Leader Languages

RJ Graham Scholarship

The following students have been awarded the RJ Graham Scholarship (valued at \$500) from the Māori Education Trust. The criteria for this was for year 12/13 Māori students with academic merit, studying Te Reo Māori and either Mathematics, IT, or Science.

- Caleb Jarvis (12MKA)
- Mya Coromandel (12SIM)
- Ariana Heslop-Riddell (12IFR)
- Emily Griffith (13THO)
- Kahu Hema (13CAR)
- Ava Franklin (12SHJ), Ava was also awarded Māori Education Trust Year 12 & 13 Scholarship (valued at \$500)

Congratulations and well done!

Mrs Joanne Fraser, Acting Deputy Principal