



27 March 2020

Dear Parents

I sincerely hope all is going well in your household and that you have been able to establish some routines that allow work, school and family life to function as well as it possibly can under such different circumstances. I have been watching with interest what has been happening with the Distance Learning programmes that have been put in place in each Syndicate since they started on Wednesday morning. Starting each day with the Chapel Chat is fantastic – great messages and challenges for us all to accept. Feedback from staff, parents and boys has been positive, particularly after technical, speed and navigation issues were sorted. Staff have sent me some amazing photographs of boys in their learning spaces undertaking daily tasks. These updates make my day as schooling is a different place when you don't have a physical space to meet and communicate.

I am delighted to hear boys have been making calls to Grandparents or special friends during this nationwide lockdown. I hope they will continue to make daily contact as the longer we are housebound in our own bubbles the greater the need for outside contact.

Please appreciate that we are providing a Distance Learning programme designed to support you at home by occupying your son as well as to continue his learning. If, for any reason, your son is unable to complete the tasks that is absolutely fine as we understand that there are a myriad of things going on that you have to manage. All that is needed is a quick email to his teacher thus reducing any further pressure coming from the school.

Some thoughts in preparation for the weekend and next week

1. Keep the weekend free from school – spend time with family, play games, watch TV, read for enjoyment, get outside and enjoy the fresh air, undertake physical activity and enjoy each other's company.
2. **For the Boys:** Once the School week begins on Monday
 - a. Understand that the school week structure allows your parents to continue to do the tasks that they are required to do from home.
 - b. Work around your tasks so that it fits in with family life
 - c. Balance is essential – Screen time, physical activity, food and water, service in the home, rest and relaxation
 - d. Monitor your time on set tasks as staff are endeavouring to set daily subject work that should be completed in less than 45 minutes.
 - e. Be productive and focused.
3. If your son is not feeling well and therefore can't work on tasks, please let his teacher know as you would on a normal school day. This will allow staff to check in to ensure all is well and perhaps provide any additional support needed.
4. The key to the success of a Distance Learning programme is to ensure communication occurs between home and school, as often as needed, to ensure tasks can be completed or support can be provided.

COLLEGE

For Boys and Girls in Years 7-13
130 Pakuranga Road, Pakuranga 2010
PO Box 51060, Pakuranga, Auckland 2140
Phone +64 9 577 0749 Fax +64 9 577 0700

BOYS' SCHOOL

For Boys in Years 1-8
82 Shore Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28790, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 7682 Fax +64 9 520 7688

GIRLS' SCHOOL

For Girls in Years 1-8
514 Remuera Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28399, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 1400 Fax +64 9 524 7657

PRESCHOOL

For Boys and Girls aged 3 and 4
514 Remuera Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28399, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 8814 Fax +64 9 524 7657

Principal's Challenges – Mission Possible should you decide to accept!

1. **Compulsory:** Continue to make regular contact with Grandparents and Special friends during this time.
2. **Optional but could be great fun: Years 5 – 8 Special Challenge:** Confidence/Challenge Course on Roselle Lawn. Put your thinking caps on and design a confidence/challenge course that can be placed on Roselle Lawn to be used by Years 5 – 8 students during PE and in their own time.

Points:

1. The space allocated for this design is along the brow of the slope on Roselle Lawn, heading down the hill to the neighbouring houses and then toward the boundary fence that heads to the water and then back up the fence line to the brow of the hill
2. Questions
 - a. What equipment/obstacles will you want?
 - b. How will you ensure various challenges and skills are utilised?
 - i. Balance, upper body strength, agility, speed, spatial distancing
 - c. How can you create a challenge-type race?
3. Presentation
 - a. This could be an individual submission or team of no more than 3 collaborative project.
 - b. Design your course
 - i. Model
 - ii. Using different computer apps
 - iii. Photographs of equipment you would incorporate and why
 - iv. Must meet H&S requirements
 - c. Submitted to Mr Cassie by the start of Term 2
 - d. Finalists will have to present their plans and design brief to Mr Cassie and a group of experts
 - i. You will have the use of a computer and screen to support your brief
 - e. Winning design(s) could have all or some of their ideas incorporated into the design.
3. **Optional but could be great fun - Years 1 – 4:** Photographic Competition – send me a photograph, suitably captioned, of something you are doing at home as part of your learning or undertaking service.

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Clearing the Yard



- Recording History:** The thing we are part of, it's living history. Our children are all part of this, and it will be talked about for generations to come. Schools are closed; sports are cancelled; people are quarantined.... on a GLOBAL level. The best thing your children could do is keep a journal over the next 5+ weeks. Handwritten, typed, in photographs or drawings.... record events, day to day activities, fears and feelings. Let them make a video if that's the media they prefer. As parents let them interview you, be a part of it. When it's all over save it/ store in a safe place for them. They will share this with their children and grandchildren. Help them create a tangible, primary source of their own history (source – Overseas Principal)

I thank you most sincerely for your continued support and for the way your sons have embraced the Distance Learning provided by staff. I am also very grateful for the level of care and professionalism shown by my staff during these times.

Kind regards

Peter A Cassie
PRINCIPAL

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