



23rd April 2020

Kia ora e te whānau

Firstly, I wish to reiterate our thanks to the College community for your continued cooperation and understanding during these challenging times. The level of engagement in learning programmes continues to be high and this is a clear demonstration of the partnership in education between school and whānau. Our teachers and students, while physically distant, are working harder than ever to maintain close contact to support learning and progress. It's important to acknowledge our parents and whānau for the way you have adapted to this shift as well. Your support and engagement continue to be critical at this time. As a parent with two school-aged children, I absolutely appreciate the challenge of what is being asked of you and the difficulty of maintaining balance at this time. Thank you for everything you are doing!

As you will know, the Ministry of Education has advertised a Teacher Only Day for Tuesday 28th April. The primary purpose of this day is to allow schools to prepare for re-opening. As Aquinas College is maintaining its remote learning protocols for all students, we have decided not to engage in a Teacher Only Day at this time. Maintaining momentum with our remote learning programmes is most important at this time.

I wish to signal our intention to hold a Teacher Only Day when we move down to Alert Level 2 instead. There will be considerable planning and some operational changes required when we get there, and this day will be important for us then. Confirmation of this date will be forwarded to you as soon as we're able.

A reminder that from Wednesday, April 29th, Aquinas College will be open for certain students in Years 7-10. Children who can, should remain home and continue to learn remotely. If your child(ren) will attend school during Alert Level 3, and you haven't already done so, **I remind you to complete this [online form](#)**. This information is vital for our planning. If you intend to keep your child(ren) home, you do not need to complete the form.

Tomorrow evening, Friday 24th April, I intend to host a Facebook Live session from 7:00pm-7:20pm from the Aquinas College Facebook page. I extend an invitation to you to join us in this event. It is an opportunity for you to engage and ask any questions you may have at this time.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Matt Dalton
PRINCIPAL