



**School Newsletter Week 4**  
**Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> 2020**

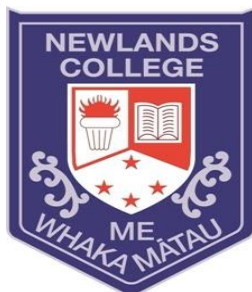
It is with some relief that we have returned to school and had a very settled few days. Nearly all our students bounded into school with enthusiasm on Monday morning. Teachers tell me the classrooms are full of talk and laughter.

Thank you parents and caregivers for working with us to prepare your children for a return to school. We have focused on health, wellbeing and thankfulness for a few days and students are now ready and keen to take on more structured learning.

During the lockdown Tony Birch started working with us as our Learning Support Coordinator. Tony will be working closely with Rhiannon Cameron, students, whanau, and other Learning Support Coordinators in our area.

**The buses** have not been full and this has certainly helped at the end and beginning of each day. A move to level 1 soon will be most welcome as I am aware that many parents will be unable to drop off and collect their children indefinitely. Be assured personnel from both schools are monitoring the situation every day.

**Newlands College** has decided not to visit our year 8 students this year for an information session. The Open Evening has also been cancelled for this year as this was due to happen in the next few weeks. The enrolment process for the college is well underway and I encourage parents of our year 8 students planning to attend Newlands College, to follow the link below and enroll now.



***Newlands College - Enrolments for 2021***

- *For planning purposes we request applications from the parents of students who live in our home zone, for entry into Year 9 in 2021, to be submitted by Monday 22 June 2020.*
- *For students that live out of zone, applications are required to be received by 27 July 2020.*
- *All enrolments are to be completed on-line via our website - **Enrolments***
- *Please do not hesitate to contact the College for any further information - 4734136 X 701 or email [newcol@newlands.school.nz](mailto:newcol@newlands.school.nz)*

I am sure it will come as a relief to many that our **2020 Teacher Only Days** have been cancelled for this year. The teachers may take a professional learning day together during the next holidays.

**Reports** on learning goals will be sent out at the end of this term via Seesaw. We are working on the content and layout now. It was very encouraging to see how many families engaged with Seesaw over the past 8 weeks.

We have decided to postpone our **learning conferences** until term 3. These will be more successful when everyone feels comfortable being together, we have been able to work with our students to prepare for this meeting and the report itself can be discussed.

If the issue of **device access** was of concern to you and your family during the lockdown you might be interested in looking at the deals offered by DatatekPacific, an Auckland based company we have used for a couple of years. Many of the devices they offer are ex-lease from the business sector and in very good condition. <https://www.datatekpacific.co.nz/>

Cyclone Computers in Johnsonville Road can offer a purchasing plan for families from the college and intermediate too. <https://www.cyclone.co.nz/>

Before the lockdown becomes a distant memory, possibly not for some time I fear, we would like to know **your experiences of home learning**. We are asking our staff and our students for some feedback this week too. Our intention is to make sure we “hold onto the gold” from the experience.

I must acknowledge the hard work and commitment to our students shown by all our staff during the lockdown period. I know they enjoyed checking in with their students and seeing their smiling faces on the screen a few times a week. Many had to manage their own work around children in the house, partners working from home and caring for other family members. I am very proud of what they achieved.

Please feel free to take part in this survey – click here - <https://bit.ly/Whanau2020>

Inter-intermediate **sport** is currently on hold until our communities have returned to a sense of normality. Individual schools are responsible for organising the Inter-intermediate sports competitions and with 8 weeks out, the planning has been delayed. Details like using bus transport and playing in groups of more than 10 need to be resolved. We hope the netball season can start in term 3. There will be new protocols to follow in this code also. These will be shared as soon as they are confirmed by the association. Basketball too is waiting for an announcement of the start date for the local competition. The requirements around use of council facilities are yet to be confirmed. In the meantime, all our students are active each day, although formal sports training is yet to start. Our sports monitors from each class have been doing a great job cleaning the sports equipment after use each day.

On a personal note my husband and I are expecting our first grandchild in a couple of weeks – a French grandchild, as our youngest daughter lives in France. Our best laid plans to be there have of course, gone. As soon as we are able, we will travel to France to celebrate our new mokopuna. I am not feeling optimistic right now that this will be anytime soon. On the topic of babies, we wish Anna Boyack the very best as she leaves us over the next few days to go on maternity leave. It’s certainly good to have something to celebrate.

## Calendar for term 2

Vision testing	Monday June 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Immunisation for year 8s	Monday June 29 <sup>th</sup>

As you can see most of the extra-curricular events have been put on hold or cancelled. I am sure the calendar will fill up again as we move to level 1. Let's hope that is not too far away.

Thank you again for all your support and goodwill during these challenging times.

Angela Lowe  
Principal

### **Community Notices**

Samuel Marsden Collegiate School Key Dates

Sunshine Drama

Spotlight Performing Arts