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## Important Information -please read

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Gillian Hayward <g.hayward@gc.ac.nz>  
To: staff-all@gc.ac.nz

20 September 2021 at 19:14

FYI...



Kia ora tatou

I hope this message finds you well and life in your 'bubble' is not too challenging.

As I am sure you are aware, the Prime Minister announced today that we will going to Alert Level 3 at 11.59pm on Tuesday, 21 September until the end of Term 3.

### School at Alert Level 3

Only students of essential workers in Year 9 & 10 can attend school at this time if no other alternative care arrangements can be made and they cannot be supervised at home. These students need to be registered to attend by emailing [admin@gc.ac.nz](mailto:admin@gc.ac.nz) by 12noon tomorrow (Tuesday, 21 September). Students who attend will continue to follow the Remote Learning plan for all students. Students registered to attend school on site must attend every day. If they are sick or unable to attend for any reason please let us know by emailing [admin@gc.ac.nz](mailto:admin@gc.ac.nz). Casual attendance is not permitted - only those students who register via this email address will be able to attend on site.

Students attending at Alert Level 3:

1. Where possible students are encouraged to stay at home and continue with their Remote Learning plan in order to keep everyone safe and break the chain of infection.
2. Students may only attend if they are well. If unwell, parents will be advised to come and collect them.
3. Students who attend the school will be supervised but will be continuing with their Remote Learning plan.
4. Given the infectious nature of the Delta variant, students must wear a mask.
5. Physical distancing will be maintained along with hygiene stations and regular hand washing.
6. Students will be kept in small bubbles of up to 10 students and staff will maintain a record of contacts in each bubble.
7. Break times will be supervised and students will remain in their bubbles.
8. Students are required to bring their own food, drink and hand sanitiser.
9. Students are not to be on school grounds before 8.30am and must be collected prior to 4.00pm. School buses will not be operating.
10. Students with mobile phones are encouraged to use the Covid App on arrival. Students who do not have a phone will need to sign in manually in the classroom.
11. The school campus will be closed to all visitors during the school day.
12. All activities during the school day such as sport, practices, choir and after school care will not be operating.
13. More specific instructions such as which rooms students are to go to, will be emailed to every student and parent on the register in the link above.

Again, we strongly recommend where possible, **all students should stay at home during Alert Level 3**, and continue with their Remote Learning. As always, we will update you if any further information comes to hand.

### Remote Learning – Device Access

We believe that the majority, if not all of our students can now connect with the work online due to the roll out and delivery of

additional Ministry of Education devices. If your child does not have access to a device and we are unaware of this situation, please get in contact with the Dean.

### Key Changes to the Calendar

- Sports Prizegiving, Whanau Awards and the Arts Awards have been cancelled for 2021. If assemblies are able to go ahead, relevant awards will be made at the final full school assembly on Thursday, 11 November and the top awards in each category will be presented at Senior Academic Prizegiving.
- Details for Senior Academic Prizegiving will follow next term.
- Sadly, the School Ball for 2021 has been cancelled as this cannot go ahead until Alert Level 1. This event has been re-booked for Saturday, 19 March 2022 at the same venue. Refunds will be available, or funds can be held until next year. Please contact our Finance Office ([j.kilroy@gc.ac.nz](mailto:j.kilroy@gc.ac.nz)) if you wish to request a refund.
- The Leavers' Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, 16 November. Further details will follow.
- Last normal timetable day for Seniors is Tuesday, 16 November, however most Seniors will be expected to attend tutorials as stated below.
- Wednesday, 17 November – NCEA entry slip collection – details to follow.
- 17, 18, 19 November – **all Seniors** as required for Portfolios/Tutorials.
- 17 and 18 November – Junior End of Year Examinations
- NZQA External Examinations begin on 22 November.

### School Examinations

As we have been in lockdown for five weeks (and seven weeks by the time we get back next term), it would not be sensible to take another week out of the school year for a formal school Examination Week. It is essential that as much time as possible is spent in your classrooms completing Internals and learning and revising for your externals in Term 4.

The purpose of the school exams is to:

- a) give you practice in an examination setting;
- b) for you and your teachers to find out how much you know; and
- c) to establish a derived grade in the case of an unexpected event impacting your final external exams.

So, we have come up with a solution to allow us to achieve both of these purposes.

Your teachers are currently deciding whether you will be required to **write an exam** in your subject in Weeks 1, 2 or 3 of Term 4, or whether they will use class time to **assess smaller chunks of your externals** thereby establishing your derived grade for that subject.

Some study leave will be granted if you are writing an exam, but otherwise **you will need to be at school every day unless ill health prevents it in Term 4.**

Not all of your subjects will have a school exam during this time.

A timetable for these exams will be issued as soon as possible.

NCEA Exam entry slips will be issued on 17 November, and for the three days after this 17, 18 and 19 November there will be timetabled **portfolio or tutorial sessions** hosted by your teachers. These will be timetabled sessions which you will be expected to attend in order to finish Internals, prepare for the exams or even gain Level 1 Literacy or Numeracy credits.

Again, timetables will be issued for this programme as soon we can decide who needs to be there.

Some students will be called in during the external exam period to complete pieces of work or to do re-assessments for work where a Not Achieved was your grade earlier in the year.

Finally, It is good to remember that lockdown is tough on everyone. We all have some days that are better than others. Look after yourself and try to get some exercise each day. Be kind to yourself and others. Find something to do that you enjoy. Seek help when you need it - our support services are available to you

**Stay home, get vaccinated and save lives.**

Kind regards

Paul McKinley  
Principal

[www.gc.ac.nz](http://www.gc.ac.nz)

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