



19 March 2020

COVID-19 Update

Kia ora,

Thank you for your continued support of the school and our students during this extraordinary time as we all come to terms of the implications of COVID-19. This newsletter will hopefully give you the most up to date information about the actions we are taking as a school to ensure the health and wellbeing of our staff, students and wider school community.

Rebecca Scott, Regional Sports Director at Taranaki Secondary School Sports Association announced on Tuesday afternoon that all TSSSA events are suspended until the end of Term 1, 2020. This follows the New Zealand Government announcement this week banning large gatherings and events and is consistent with the announcement made by School Sport NZ to suspend the National School Sport Calendar until 6th April. Individual sports associations are also postponing their competitions until May.

The following events involving Opunake High School students have been cancelled or postponed until the end of the term, when they will be reviewed and the situation assessed.

- All education outside the classroom trips
 - Relay for Life
 - 13REC Cycle Tour
 - Bring an Artist to School Day
 - Outdoor Snapshot Tramp
 - Prefect Leadership Trip
 - 12REC Overnight Tramp
 - First Aid Course
- All sporting codes – this includes practices and games
- All TSSSA events
- All Cultural activities this includes practices and performances
- Academy Day 27th March. This will change from its current format – information will follow.

The Ministry of Education has given us the following guidelines:

There's a simple rule here – if students are unwell (whether or not their illness relates to COVID-19) they should stay at home. Students who are not unwell should continue to attend school. In the meantime, unless students are unwell themselves, then parents should keep sending students to school as these environments continue to be safe and the best place for them to continue their learning. Schools will continue to be provided with the latest information and guidance from the Ministries of Education and Health, so that Principals and Boards can, make well-informed decisions based on their particular circumstances.

You may have heard in the media in the last couple of days that the ministry is working closely with schools to determine the capability of each community to switch learning from face to face to digital platforms. We are planning for this and will be testing our system, so please contact the school if you do not have an internet connection at home.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ngā mihi

Peter O'Leary
Principal