



Wakatipu HIGH SCHOOL Newsletter

Issue 2.4 • 8 May 2020



Principal's Message

Kia ora - welcome again to the Wakatipu High School newsletter, a completely Covid-focused piece from me today. Like many of you I am sure, at 1pm yesterday I hung on the Prime Minister's every word as she outlined what Alert Level 2 will look like for the country and education. This was followed up by the MoE's bulletin which gave schools more information and details. The short version of the government's position is that schools are a safe environment for young people and staff and they will reopen in Level 2.

Below are two fundamental areas that underpin how schools will operate in Level 2.

- Physical distancing - while students should maintain 'breathing space' and not touch each other, there is "no minimum distance requirement for schools in Alert Level 2" (and NB schools are exempt from the gathering restrictions). Adults must maintain one metre from other adults.
- Contact tracing - schools must take the roll, and sign visitors in and out as usual.

Where these two key areas have landed is quite different from what had previously been indicated, and means that we will not be doing 'hybrid models', rostering home or staggered starts.

We do realise that there will be a mix of emotions for staff, students and parents as school reopens - from those who are (very) excited to those who are concerned or anxious. For those who are concerned from a health perspective I have included below a Public Health Statement from the Director of Health, Dr Caroline McElnay for schools. Also re health, at an MoE meeting this afternoon the Regional Director of Education, Julie Anderson, noted that there have been no Covid cases in the Southern region for three weeks now.

While next week we will provide more details, including a date for reopening after Monday's announcement, a few operational matters to note now:

- Schools will reopen on a Monday, irrespective of what day the country goes to Level 2, so the earliest school will reopen will be Monday 18th. Until school does reopen, remote teaching and learning continues.
- For students who are not able to attend school after we reopen, we will support their learning in the normal way that we would if a student was away sick - rather than in the remote teaching and learning mode that we have been operating in during lockdown.

Another Covid-focused piece of work we have been doing this week is to understand how we can best support students and families now and in the future. I have attended several meetings of the local organisations that are providing community support, including QLDC, Civil Defense, Salvation Army amongst many others - and who are all doing truly fantastic work. A local education group has been formed to connect with these agencies, and we have an internal team who is working in this area also. From this, you will see below a new 'Support and Wellbeing' page we have put together with all the key places people can go for various areas of support, and we will run this page every week now. In one of the meetings I asked if there were any key messages I could give our community at this time. The two messages were: 'Support each other' - we need to look out for each other and build community resilience; and 'don't be shy in coming forward' - there is lots of support out there for those who need it.

Another fascinating week in our history comes to a close. Again, we are really pleased with how teaching and learning is going, and another reminder for students and parents to reach out if they have concerns, questions or need support. A much better weekend of weather ahead - much more autumnal than last weekend's wintery weather, hope you get to enjoy it :)

Steve Hall, Principal

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Notices

Please click [here](#) to view Wakatipu High School's Student Notice Board.

Facebook

Please see our [Facebook page](#) for all the latest updates from Wakatipu High School, and take a look at our [sports page](#) for news on football, rugby, snow sports and more.

Key Dates

Click [here](#) for upcoming key dates

NCEA Information Evening

On Wednesday evening we held a NCEA Information evening for parents, by remote. While the evening was primarily intended for parents new to NCEA, there may be some useful information for all parents who are struggling to understand NCEA. The evening was recorded and you can view the evening's presentation [here](#).

Topics covered in the presentation were:

- NCEA - The Basics
- NCEA - Qualifications
- Reporting and the Portal, including our recently published Progress and Achievement Summary (PAS) reports
- Assessment Calendars
- Assessment Policy including update on Missed Assessments
- 5 Quick tips for parents
- Q&A

Below are the links to the updated Assessment Calendars, which have been adapted slightly in light of the Coronavirus and remote teaching and learning.

[Level 1 Assessment Calendar](#)

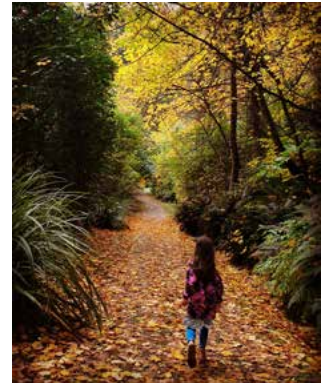
[Level 2 Assessment Calendar](#)

[Level 3 Assessment Calendar](#)

Lastly, it should be noted that the Ministry of Education has stated that they do not intend to change the requirements for NCEA for 2020, and so it is really important that students stay engaged with their learning and get the support they need from subject teachers, Kaiarahi, Deans, Guidance, Careers or SLT, as required.

Staff in Lockdown

The staff at WHS have been keeping in touch with photos from their bubbles!



Public Health Statement for the Education Sector

We have carefully looked at the evidence around COVID-19 and educational settings, and at the experience of other countries in responding to COVID-19 in these settings to inform the public health advice to the education sector in planning for a move to Level 2.

Our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 over the last four months shows that it does not infect or affect children and teens in the same way it does adults.

So children and teens have low infection rates, they don't become that unwell if they do get infected, and they don't tend to pass the virus on to adults.

Quality education is a public health intervention in itself, so I am very aware of the benefits of children and young people attending school and early learning, and the need to support children and young people to do this as quickly as we can.

The two key public health principles that support our approach at Alert Level 2 are first to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school or early learning centre is infected. Any children, young people and staff should stay at home if they are sick, or should be sent home immediately if they show any symptoms.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. In an Alert level 2 school environment, this means children, young people, and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other, coupled with good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

There are situations where physical distancing is not possible, such as some sporting activities. In these situations extra emphasis on handwashing and drying (or cleansing with hand sanitiser) before and after activities and regular cleaning of equipment is recommended.

In an early learning environment, it is not really possible to have a physical distance between children and staff. Young children require a lot of physical support and it is not possible to explain or maintain a physical distance between young children given the age of the children and set up of centres.

This means good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, regular handwashing, and drying) are even more important.

Schools and early learning services will also maintain registers so that children, young people and staff can immediately be contacted by public health services if there is a probable or confirmed case.

And it is important that parents fully support this approach by doing their bit - keeping children home if they are unwell and seeking medical advice about whether a child may need to be tested; and ensuring great hygiene practices at all times.

Dr Caroline McElnay
Director, Public Health, Ministry of Health

Covid-19 | Support and Wellbeing

We are all in this together | Help is available

As the COVID-19 outbreak unfolds, it has become clear that a number of people in our community may need some support. Whether you need help or know someone in your whānau that does, there are organisations and charities locally and nationally who can help.



LOCAL QT SUPPORT



Queenstown Lakes District Council

Assistance with day-to-day costs of living, access to essential services, and basics such as food - for more info [click here](#).

Register for help: www.qldc.govt.nz/covid-19



Happiness House:

Client Support & Advocacy | Agency referrals - Community mental health, Central Lakes Family Services, etc | Heating Costs & Firewood | Free Counselling
 T: 03 442 6531 (9.00-4.00pm)
 E: happinesshouse@xtra.co.nz
 Facebook: [HappinessHouseQueenstown](#)



Queenstown Salvation Army

Food parcels | Winter Clothing & Bedding | Financial Mentoring | Language Assistance
 P: 03 442 9661

“ Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.
 With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive. ”

YOUTH / KIDS



Wakatipu Youth Trust

Support for young people aged 10-24yrs
www.wakatipuyouthtrust.co.nz/



Wakatipu High School

Christopher Tweddell and Vicki Patton, the school Guidance Counsellors, are available by email in the first instance. They can arrange to talk to you or connect you with other resources or agencies as needed.

Students and families can also email help@wakatipu.school.nz with questions or concerns about support.

NATIONAL SUPPORT

Government Resource Hubs

www.covid19.govt.nz
www.qldc.govt.nz

Healthline

Free health advice and information.
 0800 358 5453

Helplines and Local Mental Health Services

Directory April 2020



MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBING



Mental Health Foundation

www.mentalhealth.org.nz/
 Youthline: 0800 376 633



Central Lakes Family Services

Family Mental Health | Wellbeing | Violence
www.clfs.co.nz | P:0508 440 255

FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING



How can you support your community?

Endorsed by Queenstown Lakes District Mayor Jim Boulton, the Wakatipu Community Foundation (WCF) has established the Greatest Needs Fund to help address gaps in central Government assistance to the most vulnerable or worst affected by Covid-19 in our community.



Donate here

www.wakatipucommunityfoundation.co.nz/

Mā tātau katoa e ārai atu te COVID-19

Unite against COVID-19

Talented Creative Crux Trio

Our three talented Technology students, Neve Short, Lily Adam and Charlotte Muir didn't win the overall Project Phoenix competition for their concept, however, as their work was so strong in the top five finalist ideas considered, they have been offered a 'Guardian' from the judging panel to help the students develop and potentially launch app.

We look forward to working and partnering with Juliet Scott, CEO of affordable housing. She has been assigned to the students as our expert panellist from the CRUX Project Phoenix team. Julie is CEO of the Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust that has pioneered the provision of affordable housing in the Queenstown Lakes district.

In their press release on Monday, Project Phoenix chair Jonathan Gurnsey had this to say about our WHS students:

"Give Time" from 3 WHS students Lily Adams, Neve Short and Charlotte Muir, supported by their Technology Teacher Rebecca Lund made a very strong showing and these young pupils from our local High School should be proud of their effort and rating well.'

The students are looking forward to collaborating with their mentors through the next stage of their concepts' development.

Head Student Address

Another week in isolation draws to a close, and things are busier than ever at WHS. As the days pass by, I've become increasingly grateful for the hectic academic schedule in Term 2 because it has been keeping quarantine boredom at bay for me. That being said, if you feel overwhelmed by your workload or have any questions, by all means, reach out to your teachers and/or fellow students. We're all in the same boat, and looking out for one another will be the key to universal prosperity during these times.

The Lead Prefects have been hard at work over the past week, with the STARs Peer Mentoring Program taking place online and yielding positive results. Meanwhile, the whanaungatanga council have been preparing to run a school-wide game of 'Guess Who,' which will begin next week.

I myself have been juggling my studies with the organisation of the Debating House Competition, which will occur on Google Meet over the next two weeks. I encourage you all to view these debates and support the speakers who will be working very hard to earn points for their respective houses.

I asked the team a few questions this week regarding their work towards this project:

Lily Adams:

Q: How has working in a physical school building with a teacher, to working remotely during lockdown changed the way you work on this project?

A: I don't think it was any more difficult because in school we were doing the app in our own time anyway and then catching up to discuss progress maybe once or twice a week. I actually think lockdown gave us more time to work on the app as school allowed us to do independent work in the afternoon which was perfect for our needs.

Charlotte Muir:

Q: What advice would you give to anyone who is offered an opportunity to work on a project that they are unsure if they will be good at?

A: There is no harm in trying. Being in a group atmosphere is always encouraging if you were to feel like you wouldn't be good at something, I found in our small group if you're unsure it's really easy to ask because everyone's been so helpful. I would say have a go, it's a great way to learn the new skills you didn't think you'd be good at.

Neve Short:

Q: What have we learnt through working to create this app?

A: We all learnt different things, but as a group, we learnt more about teamwork and how we can all work together to make something great. We learnt the importance of having to communicate and going outside of our comfort zone, doing things that challenge us. We all believe that what we have learnt from this experience will take us to new heights and new journeys. We want to take this experience that we have had to empower girls in our community and even on a larger scale, the world. This is something that all of us will never forget.

Although they didn't win first prize [this time!] I will share with you what I told this creative trio in a recent email: 'I don't care that you didn't win, I care that you get stuck in and give things a go, you are winners in my eyes ladies!'



The arts community within WHS has been hard at work over the quarantine period, with students writing and recording fantastic original music that will appear on a compilation album, entitled Bandemic, sometime over the next few weeks. I've had the privilege of organising this alongside our wonderful Head Girl, Greta Balfour, and I am thrilled to say that it has gone swimmingly; great music awaits, so be sure to keep a lookout for the album's release.

I'd like to end this address in a positive light, so I believe that now is a good time to look back on the great achievements we've made throughout this lockdown. This week, we had two consecutive days with ZERO cases in the whole country—this is a huge milestone for us. That being said, our journey is far from finished, and we must keep pushing on to further achieve our goal of elimination.

I believe that our school's value of resilience has been greatly demonstrated over this online learning period, whether that be through initiatives such as Bandemic, or the WHS Student Leaders

Instagram Page, which has been devoted to looking after student's wellbeing. The work that many of us have carried out is a testament to the notion that limitations spawn creativity; I find that this quote on the matter from the legendary musician Brian Eno is something we could all bear in mind.

"Regard your limitations as secret strengths. Or as constraints that you can make use of."

That's enough from me.
Take care, be safe, and be well.

Ryan Connaghan,
Arts and Cultural Lead Prefect

Sports News, Results and Information

Results

Wakatipu Rowing Club Awards

Earlier this week the WRC announced their annual awards on their facebook page. WHS would like to congratulate all of the award winners for the 2019/20 season. You can click [here](#) for more details.

WHS would also like to thank coach Matt Allen for his contribution and the outstanding role he has played with the club and enabling the success of the senior boys crew in particular.

Novice of the Year
Olivia Key

Most Improved Rower
Jakob Downing

Crew of the Year
The Girls U15 Octuple:

Gigi Thomson, Olivia Key, Zara Mackley, Phoebe Cavanagh, Holly Rogers, Neve Bates, Mia Burgess, Ellie Shuttleworth and Emily Howick.

Coaches Choice "Performance of the Year"
Loic Billoud and Charlie Campbell in the Boys U18 2x final at the South Island Secondary School Champs.

Rower of the Year
Loic Billoud



Follow Us on Facebook

The WHS Sports Facebook page is the best place to stay up to date with the latest news and results of our students.

School Key Dates

11 May WHS Board of Trustees Meeting - 5:30pm via Zoom
Please contact Karla at kdawson@wakatipu.school.nz if you would like to attend.

Information

Online Fitness Sessions

It has been great to see a large number of students accessing and participating in the live online fitness sessions being run for the WHS sports teams while training is unable to take place. These will continue until at least Friday 15th May.

Please see the weekly schedule of sessions below:

Monday	12:45pm	F45 (cardio)
Tuesday	12:45pm	HIIT (high intensity interval training) with Matua Brad
Wednesday	12:45pm	F45 (resistance)
Friday	12:45pm	F45 (cardio)

Sport NZ Sector Update - What does Sport Look Like at Level 2?

The guidelines for sport, physical activity and active recreation were released by Sport NZ early on Thursday afternoon and the details in the document below were very pleasing to read and better than we initially hoped for. I am pleased to say that all sport, contact and non-contact, will be able to resume under alert level 2, including competition.

There are of course strict requirements that we must adhere to around hygiene, contact tracing and gathering restrictions, which we are currently establishing processes around for our sports, teams, athletes and supporters to adhere to.

This is welcome news and more will begin to be communicated by national and regional sporting organisations following the government's announcement on Monday 11th May. For a detailed overview please [click here](#).

Arts Department

Arts in Lockdown!

The Arts department has put together a Site for people to access which has links to resources for "Creativity", "Skills" and "Inspiration". A great place to go if you are needing some Arts time.

To access the site click [here](#).

Music Groups and Events

Key dates

June 12/13	Rockquest Heats
June 20	Rockquest final
July 2	Play it Strange songwriting (Lion Foundation)
TBC	Big Break
TBC	Musical

Careers and Opportunities

Queenstown Resort College - Invite

Queenstown Resort College invites you to a Zoom meeting on Monday 11 May at 01:30pm.

Register in advance for this meeting:
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqcu6srDsqE93dLK3ByEufvPFx3zneasYt](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJwqcu6srDsqE93dLK3ByEufvPFx3zneasYt)

Annaliese From Queenstown Resort College has created a 30 minute interactive Zoom session for interested senior students or members of the Wakatipu High School community. The session will address:

- Covid-19 in relation to the tourism industry
- Who we are at QRC
- Careers
- Course content
- Halls of residence
- Pathways to further study and Experience QRC
- A 'Q&A' session.

Wakatipu High School
FOUNDATION

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The WHS Foundation funds a range of initiatives within Wakatipu High School, including supporting students who are struggling financially to encouraging high academic achievement and making many important extra-curricular activities possible.

In 2020, we're helping WHS deliver the best all round education to the students of WHS by funding:



Find out how you can support the students in your school community by visiting www.wakatipuhfoundation.co.nz

Wakatipu High School
FOUNDATION

JOIN OUR BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

It is only because of the generous contributions from businesses like yours that we are able to deliver the best all round education, fund a variety of educational, co and extra curricular activities as well as the much needed Awahi Fund providing support to families in hardship.

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Craigs Investment Partners
Crowne Howarth
Deloitte Queenstown

Flame Bar & Grill
Goldfields Jewellers
Highlands Game Over
Kinloch Lodge
KJet
Lakes Weekly Bulletin
Lane Neave
McCulloch & Partners
Mitre 10 Mega

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DEVOS

DANCE EVOLUTION STUDIOS

Dance Evolution Studios bring dance classes for your child direct to your bubble.

Online DEVOS is a solution to keep dance fit and continue excellent dance tuition until such time as Queenstown and Damaru dance studios get back up and running.

Our classes use the online platform Zoom. They have been planned for dance tuition in a small physical space and with internal assessments so students have goals and will continue to progress and improve.

DEVOS is offering Fusion classes in Hip Hop, Jazz, Ballet and Contemporary Dance. Fees - \$40 for the remainder of Term 2. Don't miss out!

For further information please contact Anna Stuart - anna@devos.co.nz / 021 860 060

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VIP guest here for another year Page 4

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Queenstowners in the bubble Page 12 & 13

Rays of hope

30 far, Queenstown, so good. The last month hasn't been easy, for anyone. But, for the 11th consecutive day, there were no new Covid-19 cases in the Southern Districts. [Click here to read!](#)

The Mountain Scene is back! CLICK HERE TO READ!

It might be hard to get in longer, why not why, he

Sheet 56

Closing the loop

\$8 million extension to Queenstown Trail could start this summer

Exclusive
GUY WILLIAMS

WORK on major extensions to the Queenstown Trail connecting Arthur Pass, Teahoe Beach and Araratonea could begin this summer.

After two years of work talking to landowners and lining up funding, the Queenstown Trails Trust has applied for resource consent for the new cycling and walking trail.

If successful, it'll add another 20-kilometre stretch to the 130km-plus trail network in the Wakarusa.

Trail boss Mark Williams says the \$8 million project will provide much-needed economic stimulus to the sector, and is calling on locals to back the proposal when it's considered at this winter.

He says the Covid-19 lockdown has given many locals a renewed appreciation for the trails, while others have discovered them for the first time.

Some of the trail users recruited over the past few weeks have been up 700 per cent on normal, which is "incredible" given only locals are riding them.

"The trails are being so enjoyed on a local level for helping a lot of people get through the crisis, not by getting out the door and being able to relax."

"They are a big part of what people choose to do in Queenstown."

He expects a commissioner hearing to be held by spring, and is aiming to have the trails consented and a contractor ready to start construction by next summer.

COYNE/STAFF

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