



May 15, 2020 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Open for Business!



Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

The excitement is building ahead of MAGS re-opening for all staff and students on Monday, May 18.

We welcomed all staff back into school today as they prepared for moving onto full timetable from next week. The work of our non-teaching staff over the lockdown period has ensured the school site is in great shape for our return.

Understandably, there may be some apprehension for students as they return to the school environment. Indeed, they have shared some of their concerns with us through the feedback that has been part of the online learning environment.

While it may take some courage to once again pull on the MAGS uniform and walk through our school gates, please be assured that MAGS and *all* schools are safe for *all* students and staff. The best national and international medical advice is backing our return and this will be further supported as we follow all recommended hygiene practices across the school site.

Furthermore, we are encouraging a 'future-focussed' restart to the year. As students look back over the past seven and a half weeks, many may be wishing they had achieved more with their school work and other personal goals.

From Monday we are determined to leave behind the 'would haves' and 'could haves' from the lockdown period and focus firmly on what lies ahead. There is much to learn and experience in the remainder of 2020 – and plenty of time to achieve this!

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the Calendar



Monday, May 18

School reopens

Monday, June 1

Queen's Birthday Holiday

Thursday, July 2

Last day of classes for Term 2



Sport

We are encouraging all students to be positive and join us in 'looking forward' to what the rest of the year holds. And I'm very much looking forward to our students once again breathing life into MAGS on Monday morning.

See you soon!

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster



Winter Sport registrations

Click [here](#)

Student and Teacher focus next week

Learning next week will have a key focus on consolidating or revising the work issued under lockdown.

Students who may be concerned that they have fallen behind, or are worried about their grades, will have this time to hear from their teachers about any adjustments to topics and assessment.

Our teachers have been reviewing and planning possible changes to learning that may benefit our senior students across the remainder of the year.

Additional Supports:

- The New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) has announced clear dates that will delay the start of the NCEA exams and as a school we want to work with our senior students to ensure they can confidently sit these assessments.
- Many co-curricular sports and arts events (tournaments and competitions) have been cancelled and this time will now be taken back for quality uninterrupted class time.
- Students will be released later this year for NCEA study leave in part due to the delayed NCEA exam start dates and for the opportunity for targeted teaching and revision.



The School's Senior Leadership teams says, "We are confident that our young people and their teachers, who have each shown great resilience while in lockdown, will get back up to

speed over the remainder of this term, Term 3 and Term 4.
"We have the will and we have the time. "

Per Augusta Ad Augusta

You can read the letter that went out to our community about how school will operate during Alert Level 2 [here](#)

Last Virtual Assembly before reopening



Today's Virtual Assembly featured some beautiful singing from Tuiaki 'Otula, Tali Afele, Ezra Purcell and Jedi George-Koteka (pictured above).

Headmaster Patrick Drumm and Associate Principal Jo Williams spoke about a return to school on Monday, emphasising the need to get back into school routines while maintaining good hygiene habits and respecting personal space.

You can see the Virtual Assembly video [here](#)

Today also saw the first full staff briefing (pictured below) in almost two months as the school readies for reopening on Monday.



Arts Challenge open to all students

The MAGS Art Department is running a platform open to all MAGS students to express their feelings and ideas through the medium of either visual art, music, dance, drama, poetry or film-making.

You can watch the video about the challenge [here](#)



Director Arts Co-Curricular Jacqui Cesan said, "It is at times like these, during huge disruption, when people turn to the Arts to express their feelings and ideas and we want you to share your creativity with us.

"The first theme is 'Colour' – pick the colour that best describes your lockdown experience and base your song, dance, poem, film, painting or composition on this.

"For musicians and dancers – you can use 'appropriate and relevant' music from others for your submission."

Winners will be announced for each year level, and Junior School students can earn Form Class points for entry and success.

All submissions must be between 30s and 1m30s. There is a link [here](#) to register submissions or you can use the one on Google Classroom form pages. Save your entry to your drive and share with msykes@mags.school.nz

Entries close Sunday, May 24.

Resumption of Sport



All sports team trials and trainings return at school next week.

Please watch the Daily Notices for information about trials and training times.

At this stage, pre-season games against other schools are set to start at the beginning of June with the start of the 1st XV Rugby season scheduled for June 27 and junior rugby grades from July 4.

We expect all other seasons to follow similarly.

Physio clinic open again

The Mount Albert Grammar School physio clinic – 09Physiotherapy – will be re-opening at Level 2 on Monday, May 18.

Their top priority is the health and safety of their staff and clients during this time, so there will be rules and procedures in place. During COVID-19 Level 2 there will be:

- Appropriate physical distancing
- Contact tracing systems in place
- Health and safety requirements, including the use of PPE and infection control measures
- Contactless booking
- Spraying of surfaces and beds with disinfectant after each treatment
- No linen or pillows
- Emphasis on clients sanitising on entry and exit

To book a contactless appointment, students and staff will need to enter the clinic if there is no one else booking inside and stand two metres back from the reception desk to organise a suitable time.

You can also book via email at 09_Physiotherapy@outlook.com

School shoes for Term 2

The School appreciates that the short period of time between the move to Alert Level 2 and the re-commencement of school may pose issues for some with regards to uniform items. In particular, access to and availability of winter shoes may be a challenge as retail stores re-open and gear up to meet demand.

Please note that MAGS students are permitted to wear sandals year-round if they so choose, and many do.

For other uniform items, the Lions' Den uniform shop is open Monday to Saturday next week. For opening hours, click [here](#)

More historical photos on website



Throughout the year, more historical images will be added to the website [here](#). This is an ongoing collection of images sourced and annotated by our archivist Brian Murphy.

The colourful image above is from Mufti Day in 2007.

Sign up to the Centenary database



As we get closer to our Centenary in 2022, we warmly invite all Albertians to sign up to the database [here](#) to keep up to date with information, communications and events leading up to the Centenary celebration.

Please encourage your friends and peers who were with you at MAGS to attend with you, and to also register at the link.

Sports update

Medals at North Island rowing



While Maadi Cup was cancelled due to COVID-19, the rowers were fortunate to participate in North Island Secondary Schools before the lockdown. In a competition that attracted 1854 athletes from 99 clubs, MAGS made 10 A Finals, 6 B Finals, and 1 C Final. Two A Finals were converted to Silver medals, in the Girls U15 Coxed Four and the Boys U16 Coxed Four. Also notable, was that MAGS made the A Final of every age group Eight.



Trials and registrations



With trials back on, the Sports Department is asking students to register for sports in Term 2. Trials and registrations are posted on the website [here](#) and will also appear in the Daily Notices, accessed via the website or the MAGS App.

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