



St. Peter's Catholic School

Cambridge

7 April 2020

LETTER TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Dear All,

It's been a difficult time for all of us and the world seems to have shifted so dramatically. We hope you have been able to find some moments of calm to keep you going.

We fully understand the potentially dire social consequences at play and empathise with those already directly affected. We want to take this opportunity to communicate to you the steps we are taking as the BOT to help our students, staff and key stakeholders.

Please feel free to contact us directly at any time. We want to be ready as soon as the lock-down lifts.

The BOT's role has not changed and the Principal is still responsible for operational matters. The only thing that has changed is that the Secretary for Education now has temporary emergency powers including the power to;

- direct a school to open or close, or vary their hours
- direct how they operate, and how they are controlled or managed
- direct education providers to provide education in specified ways, such as through distance or online learning

This is being done to ensure a unified and coordinated educational response to the COVID-19 outbreak and to enable the Government and the Ministry to act quickly in the best interests of educators, parents and whānau when required.

These powers will only be used when absolutely necessary in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The BOT has continued to work from isolation and we are working alongside the Principal providing governance and strategic leadership while the Principal continues to manage the school's operational and teaching activities. We held an on-line meeting on Tuesday 31st March, and will continue with our scheduled meetings using that format for the foreseeable future.





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As you are all no doubt aware the Outdoor Turf has been a major goal for the school for a number of years. We are finally in the position to 'push-go' on this exciting project and were hoping to break ground in the Easter Holidays but, with the COVID 19 lockdown, we will have to wait and see what eventuates. We appreciate that there may be concerns about what effect COVID 19 will have on individuals in the school community. However the BOT feel it is projects like this that can help stimulate the local economy and give a sense of purpose to everyone involved with the school. With that in mind, the BOT has decided to continue with the project.

Tackling the Future Together

I guess none of us really know what the future may look like, but from chaos comes the opportunity for innovation. The School is fully committed to following the government-imposed restrictions and we are willing to go beyond what we need to do for the benefit of our students, staff and key stakeholders. We are well positioned to withstand this unprecedented event, and nimble enough to adapt to any changing needs of our school community. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jason Lowe
BOT Chairperson
E: J.Lowe@stpeterscatholic.school.nz
T: 027 281 4329

