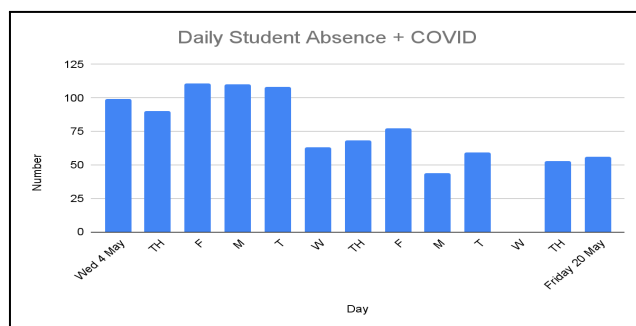


Kia ora koutou e te whānau

In Week 1 of this term we farewelled our school secretary Megan Christensen after 18 years of dedicated mahi for our school. When Megan first arrived she carried out all the functions of the office for students, staff and parents. The roll of our school has now almost doubled and we have 3 in our office team. Megan was appreciated for her efficiency, initiative and commitment to our kura. We wish her all the best for her new position at Otago University in Dunedin.

We welcome a new team into the administration area of our school. Claire Scott has taken up the accounts position and Loren Crook starts this coming week in the student and office administration position. Rebecca Anderson has been appointed as the Principal's PA. There are a number of other staffing changes. Tony Streeter returns this week from medical leave and Karen Inglis will transition into the Director of Learning Support role after she returns from medical leave in 2 weeks' time. Janice Scott will leave the Learning Support position and continue to work in a Teacher Assistant role. We are very grateful to Karen and Janice for covering Tony's leave this year. We also welcome Sebastian Grewe who has taken over from Danny Winstanley to teach a number of Year 7 science and PE classes.

Ngā mihi and thank you again to our parents for the support during the first 3 weeks of this term with rostering home. We now have no current staff cases or household contacts and less than 20 cases or contacts for students. It would appear that the current wave has passed and we look forward to greater consistency and continuity with our learning programmes.



We held our first whole school assembly of the year in Week 2 in our Auditorium with doors open and face masks on offer to all students. There is a strong sense of community created when meeting together. Congratulations to our Prefects for organising a well structured and respectful occasion. They are leading their KICK campaign promoting Kindness, Inclusion, Care and our Kawa and will be sharing a video with Whānau classes this week. Prefects were a great help coordinating the

full school photo for Pink Shirt Day on Friday as part of KICK, with students in mufti pink and donating towards the Mental Health Foundation.

Tai Tupou from the I AM HOPE tour spoke openly and sensitively to our Year 9 and 10 students last week about mental wellbeing, friendships, supporting one another and gratitude. Tai made a powerful connection with our students and they listened intently to his kōrero. One of his statements was 'secrets keep you sick'. It is important to open up to your friends or others you trust and allow them to help and support you. A message for teachers and parents was 'The way we speak to our rangatahi (children) becomes their inner voice'. We are investigating bringing Tai back for an evening session with our parent community.



Senior academic conferencing is set for Tuesday afternoon 24 May. Whānau teachers will be meeting with parents and students from 2.00pm with school finishing at the end of period 4 (1.30pm) for all students. We are trialing this approach to encourage our students to take genuine

ownership of their learning and to strengthen the connection between Whānau Teachers and families. There are subject teacher interviews planned for Term 3.

Ngā manaaki, take care

Mason Stretch
Tumuaki - Principal