

## Kia ora koutou

Our love and condolences go out to all directly and indirectly affected by the tragic events of Friday 15th March. Lives have been changed forever. Our Muslim community has been rocked and their courage, resiliency and sense of hope severely tested. Those involved have witnessed the strength, expressions of grief and love of the families and friends as they have come together to support one another. Understandably, this has been an extremely stressful time, while people waited anxiously about news of loved ones from the mosques and hospital.

These events exposed Christchurch and our Hagley community to the most extreme behaviour imaginable and Hagley has been drawn into this because of its students, staff and location. The tragic shootings and lockdown put our school in a situation like no other experienced, and I would like to thank our students and staff for their exemplary calmness and maturity throughout.

A hub for the Muslim community, run by Civil Defence, has been hosted by Hagley since Friday providing all-round support for our Muslim community. This has involved providing spaces for prayer, meals for hundreds of people and mattresses. There has been a strong Police presence at school throughout, helping people feel safe.

I would like to acknowledge the many messages of support from parents and caregivers thanking Hagley for its care of their whānau on Friday. The students' performance and sensitivity to the situation made the lockdown and releasing of students run smoothly.

The following information is to assist you in your child's return to school and in managing any stress which might have arisen due to the events of Friday.

There will be a meeting on Thursday night at school for any parents who would like to connect with other members of the school community. The meeting will be facilitated by Jane Macgregor of the school based mental health team. She will be able to field any questions you might have on the wellbeing of your child. The meeting will start at 7.00pm and the venue is the school café.

If you have noticed any concerning change in behaviour from your child, and would like the school to offer assistance please email Suzanne Waters, Director of Students. Email address – [Suzanne.waters@staff.hagley.school.nz](mailto:Suzanne.waters@staff.hagley.school.nz). If you would prefer, text Suzanne on 0274492100 or phone the school to make an appointment.

Counselling services are available at school for any students who require assistance, whether related to Friday's events or otherwise.

Please be vigilant on your child's use of social media, especially if you think they may be assessing websites which promote hate.

Please ask your child to follow the appropriate signing out procedures at the school's reception if they need to leave school for any reason.

Some helpful websites that you or your child might like to visit, if you feel the need are:

[youthline.co.nz](http://youthline.co.nz)  
[sparx.org.nz](http://sparx.org.nz)  
[commonground.org.nz](http://commonground.org.nz)  
[thelowdown.co.nz](http://thelowdown.co.nz)

Aroha mai, aroha atu

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Principal

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[www.hagley.school.nz](http://www.hagley.school.nz)

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