

9 April 2020

Kia ora e te whānau,

You have been on my mind these past two weeks and I hope this email finds you, and those you love, well and happy in your bubble. I would like to express my very best wishes to you over the Easter weekend.

As we anticipate the (remote) start of Term 2 on 15 April, I want to be really clear that this will not be business as usual for teaching and learning. Yes, we will be learning remotely from home, but I am also aware that there are many challenges ahead, both for families and for teachers. Our situations are each different and we will be learning and adapting as a community as we go. Our teachers are very aware that this is a time for all of us to support the young people we are honoured to teach and that their wellbeing is the most important thing. We will be flexible in the timing of assessments and due dates to adjust to individual circumstances. Please know that your voices are important and we value contact and collaboration with you as to how to best meet the needs of your child(ren).

The Ministry has been working with schools to get devices to students and to open up broadband plans for households. We thank them for this. However, they are taking a measured approach, and it is unlikely that every student's remote learning needs will be met by the start of the term. Encourage patience and creativity. Maybe your student could write their essay by hand, take a photo and email it in!

Below is what your child will receive from their teachers to support their remote learning:

- They will receive an **email to their student account** for each of their classes by **9:00AM 15 April** (and Monday mornings thereafter) to tell them the learning plan for the week and how to access the materials. They must access their email through Outlook (not gmail). The link is on the College website. If you are having trouble with this, phone the school, as phones will be monitored during regular school hours.
- Each class will have a limited amount of **Direct Contact** (to enable students to maintain relationships, communicate directly with teachers, and receive feedback). This will occur each week for about **30 minutes** per class. This contact will be at some point during regularly timetabled classes.
- Each class will also have approximately 3 hours/week of **Indirect Contact**. This time will be used by the student for the completion of independent work, worksheets, assignments or assessments.

In the event that your child requires additional support, or an email from the teacher is not received, please contact the teacher directly (if possible). Your next port of call is their year-level Achievement Dean. Please remember that our teachers also have lives and families they are juggling. There is no expectation that they will be available to your child outside of normal school hours.

As you will be aware, we are scheduled to re-open for face-to-face instruction on 28 April. However, it is important that we recognise that this plan may change as circumstances change. The Ministry has been very clear that there are no promises. So, until we meet again, be well, stay strong. Mahi tahi kia kaha.

Nga mihi nui,

Amy Hacker  
Principal/Tumuaki