



27 March 2020

Dear Families and Whānau

Kia ora koutou

Novel-Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Next Phase

We are thinking of you as we are all managing the best we can in the New Zealand-wide lockdown. Today is the last day of Term 1, and before we go into the Easter break, we wanted to touch base with you. As we advised in our last newsletter, our teachers have been doing their best in the last few days to establish online connections and get work out to your teens, as we gear up for distance learning when schools open for Term 2 on the 15th of April.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
23 March Move to Level 3	24 March Essential services students only Staff prepare for distance learning	25 March Essential services students only Staff prepare for distance learning	26 March School closed Initiate distance learning, establish contact, set some work	27 March School closed Initiate distance learning, establish contact, set some work	28 March	29 March
30 March School Holidays – no distance learning	31 March School Holidays – no distance learning	1 April School Holidays – no distance learning	2 April School Holidays – no distance learning	3 April School Holidays – no distance learning	4 April	5 April
6 April School Holidays – no distance learning	7 April School Holidays – no distance learning	8 April School Holidays – no distance learning	9 April School Holidays – no distance learning	10 April School Holidays – no distance learning	11 April	12 April
13 April School Holidays – no distance learning	14 April School Holidays – No distance learning	15 April Begin term two Distance learning programme	16 April Distance learning programme	17 April Distance learning programme	18 April	19 April
20 April Distance learning programme	21 April Distance learning programme	22 April Distance learning programme	23 April Lock-down period ends or is extended	24 April Lock-down period ends or is extended	25 April	26 April

Important Announcement for Students with No Device or Internet

Before the lockdown commenced, we were able to issue more than 80 school-owned Chromebooks to families who didn't have a device in the home.

For those who may have missed this opportunity, the Ministry of Education have advised us today that they intend to ship a device to a student's lock-down address should you not have a device to support your student's learning at home. They also intend to provide support with internet connections for families who either do not have one, or do not have a connection suitable to support distance learning. If you are in this position, please fill in the form below so that we can provide this information to the Ministry of Education.

So that we can support the Ministry of Education to provide devices and connectivity, please complete the short survey at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/qrftkc>. Please complete this survey by Wednesday 1 April.

Removing Data Caps for Internet


Some good news to support you either working at home and/or studying at home - Spark, Vodafone, Vocus/Slingshot, 2Degrees and Trustpower have all advised they have removed their data caps and the possibility of any extra charges based on usage.

Learning from Home

Waimea College is well placed as a school to continue to offer distance learning opportunities to our students. This will involve a combination of online learning, working from textbooks, and practical tasks as appropriate.

Our teacher's main portal for communicating with students and delivering curriculum content will be Microsoft Office 365, specifically the **Teams** application. Other online learning platforms may also be utilised by specific subject areas. Students will be advised of these in due course, if they have not been already.

Logging on to Office 365

1. Open your web browser and enter: [office.com in the address bar](#).
2. Sign in with your **school email address and password**.
3. Look for the  icon and open the application.
4. From here you can navigate to each of your Class Teams.
5. Note that from your Office 365 home page, you can access the full Microsoft Office suite including Outlook for emails. This suite can also be downloaded to your computer if you have not done so already (look for the **Install Office** button).

Hopefully by now your teens have established an online connection with their teachers who will have provided some online distance learning tasks/activities for students

In most cases teachers will set small, familiar tasks that don't use too much data. This way of learning is comforting for students and will help them feel connected. Teachers will try to provide at least one face to face discussion opportunity per week for each class through a Team video conference.

Learning can take many forms. We are all learning about how to deal with the current situation. It will be important to look after each other during the time at home. Get regular exercise both indoors and by getting out for a walk (only with people in your household). Household chores are a great learning opportunity!

If teachers become ill, they will need to pause the remote learning for a time. They will be in contact with you if this happens. If you would like to contact one of your teen's teachers, the school email address format is [firstname.lastname@waimea.school.nz](#).

Information and Resources to Support Wellbeing and Support Learning at Home

The Ministry of Education and others have also provided some good information about supporting your Students at home:

- Two online spaces went live this week. These have been produced by the Ministry of Education with other agencies and are available online at <https://www.learningfromhome.govt.nz/> and <https://www.kauwhatareo.govt.nz/ki-te-ao-marama/> with resources for parents and whānau, teachers and leaders spanning early learning through to senior secondary.
- The Ministry of Education has developed a resource for parents, caregivers, whānau and family - <http://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>.
- The Ministry of Health's website includes [Top ways to look after your mental wellbeing](#) during the Covid-19 lockdown.
- Nathan Wallis has some helpful videos on his Facebook page for parents and whānau - <https://www.facebook.com/nathanwallisxfactoreducation/>
- Tips on looking after mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19 from the Mental Health foundation <https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/covid-19/>.
- A website by the Health Promotion Agency to help New Zealanders recognise and understand depression and anxiety - <https://depression.org.nz/covid-19/>

Although overseas-based this is a good list and highlights some things particularly important for children. Remember the rules of New Zealand's level 4 lockdown still apply - [25 Mental Health Wellness Tips during Quarantine from Eileen M Feliciano, Psy.D.](#)

Interim Reports

As there is already a huge burden on parents and staff, we have decided to delay issuing our junior interim reports until next term.

International Students

We currently have 71 international students still enrolled at Waimea College who have started isolation with host families. We are so thankful to have such wonderful host parents that are prepared to step up and support in a situation such as this. The International team will continue to work remotely through the holidays supporting these students. We advise that the Government is working to repatriate many of our German students over the next few days. We are sad to see them leave and wish them all the very best for their travel home.

Counselling

Our school Guidance Team will be in contact with a number of students as required and will be working to support them remotely; they can be contacted through their school email address firstname.lastname@waimea.school.nz. If your teen is struggling during this period, please feel free to reach out. Other options for support include What's Up 0800 942 8787 and Youth Line 0800 376 633 or txt 234.

Key Dates Reminder

26 March	Alert Level 4 commenced
28 March	School Holidays begin
10 -14 April	Easter including the Tuesday after Easter
15 April	Term 2 begins (via distance learning)
22 April	Current date for ending of lockdown period
27 April	ANZAC day observed

Communication

As we are in shut down mode and technically on holiday from next week, you will see the amount of communication from the school decline. Please keep up to date with developments across the country at <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

During the lockdown period the main school phone switchboard will be unavailable, however we will continue to monitor emails, and the [Waimea College Facebook page](#). Please email inspire@waimea.school.nz if you have a query or require further information. Due to a limitation with the school database KAMAR, we are unable to email parents remotely at this time, so access is via our [school website](#), or Facebook link, and the School App.

We will contact parents and the school community again, prior to the start of Term 2 (15 April 2020).

A big thank you to all of you for taking the lockdown seriously. We will get through this together. Be safe in the days ahead.

Warm regards,



Scott Haines
Principal

