



1 May 2020

Kia ora koutou,

Today marks day 12 of distance learning across New Zealand. While it's new territory for all of us I hope that the transition to distance learning for your teen has gone as smoothly as possible and that all is well with you and your bubbles. Earlier this week we transitioned to [National Alert Level 3](#).

The key principles of alert level 3 for schools are:

- **Year 11-13 students continue their distance learning programmes from home.**
- **Year 9 and 10 students, where possible, are to stay at home and continue with their distance learning.**

Onsite Student Supervision

From Wednesday 29 April, Parents and Caregivers of Year 9 and 10 students were able to send students to school for onsite supervision if alternative arrangements could not be made. To date we have welcomed 13 students back to school, with some more expected starting next week. We are currently operating three student bubbles onsite, and all of them are working well. Students are participating in their online lessons mixed with a variety of activities from the teachers.

We understand that in these uncertain times, parents work commitments and child-care arrangements are subject to change. If your circumstances have changed and you can no longer support your teen to continue their distance learning from home, please reach out to us at inspire@waimea.school.nz and a Deputy Principal will be in contact.

Strategies to make online Distance Learning Successful

Completing schoolwork from home can be a challenge, especially for secondary students with multiple subjects to juggle. Now that we are a couple of weeks into online distance learning and the newness and novelty of it is starting to wear off, some students are feeling distance-learning fatigue. I encourage you to talk openly about this with your teen and help them plan for sustainability and success. How students manage their time will vary depending on their individual needs and the needs of their families. Below are some key tips for setting up a successful distance learning strategy:

- **Establish a daily routine** - Setting up a daily timetable is essential for any student. Blocks of learning of 1.5 - 2.0 hours, with breaks in between, work well for most.
- **Use a to-do list or planner** – This will help in keeping track of assignments and due dates, which is important when putting together an effective study timetable. (Office 365 has an easy-to-use [to-do list](#) and a more comprehensive [planner app](#)).
- **Keep in touch with teachers** – Teachers want the best outcomes for their students and are there to help and motivate. It is easy to feel isolated in an online learning environment, so it is essential that students reach out for support when needed.
- **Keep in touch with friends and classmates** – Collaborative online learning can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. The Microsoft Teams application allows students to collaborate in real-time so they can share ideas and solve problems together.
- Detailed distance learning guidelines and expectations for students and caregivers can be found [here](#).

ICT Help and Tips

Navigating the online learning environment can take some time to get used to. We have set up detailed help pages on our school website to guide you through this new mode of learning. Use the 'Support' drop-down menu to find the help you need:

<https://www.waimea.school.nz/support/online-learning/>

Emerging Issue - Students Working During School Hours

Now that we are into the start of Term 2, it is very timely to acknowledge the contributions students have been making to the essential workforce during the school holidays.

With the school term underway however, students' work hours should have returned to being outside of school hours only. While we understand the challenges of operating a business during this heightened alert level, I would like to gently remind our community that employers should not be utilising students for work during school hours. Teachers have shared concern that a number of students are unable to engage with their learning programmes due to work commitments during the school day and that they risk falling behind their peers. If your teen is in this situation, you may wish to advise them and their employer that it is unlawful, as Section 30 of the Education Act does not allow this. This restriction applies to anyone who has not turned 16.

Head Student Online Assembly

The Head Students and a number of our student leaders have worked together from the safety of their bubbles to put together a short online assembly. It's a neat video that's sure to make you smile. Check it out here:

<https://youtu.be/JyB3ERmQg74>

He Waka Eke Noa – A Waka that we are all in together.

Ngā mihi nui



Scott Haines
Principal