



FIORDLAND COLLEGE

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Dear Parent/Caregiver

I do hope that you are well and coping with being in lockdown and enjoying your final day of school holidays. Term 2 begins for schools in Southland tomorrow, Thursday 16 April.

As you know, it is the Government's intention that on Monday 20 April, two days before the current period of Alert Level 4 is due to finish, Cabinet will make a decision on whether or not the Alert Level will change. They will use the most up to date data they have to make that decision. You will also be aware that on Thursday 16 April they will set out what Level 3 and Level 2 would look like. Minister Hipkins has spoken briefly to the change of alert levels and the implications for education providers and their communities. The Minister noted it would be wrong to assume that all schools and early learning services will reopen at Level 3. The Ministry of Education (MoE) is looking at various scenarios and they will be based on health considerations and requirements under Level 3, particularly managing physical distancing. A hybrid model of both distance learning and on-site learning is very likely at least in the early stages of Level 3. The Public Health requirements will affect each school differently. Obviously, this leaves us with a little uncertainty still at this stage. However, as soon as I know what decisions have been made for our schools I will also let you all know.

In the meantime, there are one or two things that I think are worth mentioning as we move into Term 2.

Free Internet Safety Filter for Parents

While children are learning from home, they are away from the online safety and security services provided by Network for Learning (N4L) at school. So together with N4L and Netsafe, the MoE has launched www.switchonsafety.co.nz - a free way to block the worst of the web for students and teachers.

The MoE has asked that I share this website with you so that you can follow the instructions to set up your student's device for safer connectivity while they learn from home.

For Students

Set up routines for the school days – starting Thursday 16 April. Routines help the majority of people look after their wellbeing. It will also help your family support you to continue your learning.

Seniors

Organise a way so that you know what you need to do each week for each subject. Create a tick list that you can progress through.

- Check your College email and Google Classrooms each day. If you turn off your notifications and get into the daily checking habit it will be better for your focus.
- Try to share your time across all of your subjects – teachers have been asked to set a maximum of four hours work per subject.
- Teachers will be setting work using resources that you are used to, have at home, or that can be easily accessed on the internet.
- Contact your teachers if you are struggling or have any questions – email is best, but you could also ask to video meet.
- Contact your fellow students to discuss ideas.

Juniors

Organise a way so that you know what you need to do each week for each subject. Create a tick list that you can progress through.

- Check your College email and Google Classrooms each day. If you turn off your notifications and get into the daily checking habit it will be better for your focus.
- Try to share your time across all of your subjects – teachers have been asked to set a reduced amount of work so that you can fit it around your other family commitments.
- Teachers will be setting work using resources that you are used to, have at home, or that can be easily accessed on the internet.
- Contact your teachers if you are struggling or have any questions – email is best, but you could also ask to video meet.
- Contact other students in your class to discuss ideas.

For Parents

Try your best to provide an environment where students can do school work and learn. We know that this may be difficult in the current situation, but try to negotiate routines that will help you all.

- Many students successfully worked at home during Week 9 of Term 1, keep encouraging them.
- Students will have work set via Google Classroom or by email. Get them to show you the work set so you have a good idea of what they need to achieve.
- Communication is important – if your child is struggling to maintain progress, help them communicate with other members of their class and to contact their teacher.
- Our normal support systems are still available. Email the appropriate teacher, form teacher, Dean or Guidance Counsellor directly. If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing then we can support you to help them, and there are also numerous other support groups available.

Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV and Māori Television Education Broadcasting Starts 9.00am 15 April

Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV started education broadcasting for early learners and students in Years 1–10 from 9am this morning.

Home Learning | Papa Kāinga TV is free to air, on TVNZ channel 2+1 and on TVNZ on Demand, as well as on Sky Channel 502. It will run from 9am to 3pm on schooldays with programming for children and young people, as well as for parents.

Content will be grouped for early learners and students by age range, and will include play, literacy, mathematics, science, te reo Māori, physical education and wellbeing. All of the programmes will feature highly experienced teachers and presenters, along with wellbeing and movement experts. This may be something that you also decide to link in to.

I trust this gives you a little more clarity around what should be happening for your sons/daughters over the next week. Please feel free to email teachers if you need further information. I will let you know further developments as soon as we have them.

Kia kaha, kia atawhai.



Lynlee Smith
Principal