



FIORDLAND COLLEGE

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24 March 2020

Dear Parent/Caregiver

Kia ora koutou

We trust you are all coping and putting things in place to see you through the next four weeks. Obviously the situation with COVID-19 is changing rapidly. We do trust that you are all hanging in there and managing as best you can. We will continue to communicate with you over the coming days, as the situation unfolds and we learn more.

Late yesterday afternoon we received confirmation on how the next few weeks will look for education in New Zealand. First of all, the Government has changed our school holiday period. As of the end of this week we move into school holidays - the first official day of the Term 1 holidays now being Monday 30 March. Holidays go through until Tuesday 14 April, so the first official day of Term 2 is now Wednesday 15 April. At the end of the school holidays, schools will be open for distance learning, but not physically open for staff to work at the school as this is still within the 4-week Level 4 Alert period.

In other words, students do not need to be stressing about doing hours of home learning over the next four weeks. However, there is already material there that they can productively be working on.

Teachers at Fiordland College are already well-prepared. We will be sending out a Google spreadsheet to students and a note to parents in the next few days, which will indicate where students can find specific work that they can be carrying on with.

It is important that you know that we are not asking you, as parents/caregivers, to replicate school life. Staff have been asked to prepare work for around 1 – 1½ hours per subject per week. We are not expecting our students to be studying the whole time that the school is closed, but rather are offering them ways to keep learning, especially for our senior students who are clearly concerned about the implications of this on their NCEA assessments. Suffice to say, the Ministry is aware of this and will make adjustments to NCEA requirements, if that is needed further down the track.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school staff and school community. Keep yourselves safe and healthy. This is not going to be an easy time for any of us, but I am sure that we will come through it.

Kia kaha, kia atawhai.

Lynlee Smith
Principal

Nigel Humphries
Board Chair