



# FIORDLAND COLLEGE

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Dear Parent/Caregiver

The following is the message that we have been asked by the Secretary for Education, Iona Holsted, to forward to all our parents.

*We have started into a new phase of New Zealand's response to COVID-19 and it is very different than anything most of us have ever experienced. I wanted to reassure you that our school staff and Board of Trustees will continue to be available to support your child's learning and wellbeing in the next weeks.*

*You will understand the importance of routine for your family. If your routine has been shaken up, like you're now working from home, it's good to structure your time. Routines are reassuring, and promote health and physical wellbeing. Some form of routine will be important as we go through the lockdown period.*

*There are links, on the next page, to more wellbeing information to support your family during the lockdown.*

*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.*

*A big thank you to all of you for taking the lockdown so seriously. As the Prime Minister has noted staying at home will break the chain and save lives; breaking the rules could risk someone close to you and if the rules are not complied with, this could risk the lock down period being extended or could risk the virus being spread to thousands.*

Can I just say, thank you for all your encouragement, positive feedback and understanding as we work through the logistics of working from home. It is a scary time, but we will get through this by working together.

Kia kaha, kia atawhai.

Lynlee Smith  
Principal

Nigel Humphries  
Board Chair

### Information and resources to support wellbeing and support learning at home

- 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.
- I AM HOPE is the youth and community focused support group run by The Key to Life Charitable Trust, started by Mike King - <https://www.iamhope.org.nz/>
- Nathan Wallis has some helpful videos on his Facebook page for parents and whānau - <https://www.facebook.com/nathanwallisxfactorededucation/> -
- 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.](#)