

9am, Tuesday 24 March 2020

Kia ora koutou

Dear parent / caregiver

Thank you for your messages of support and keeping us informed during this rapidly changing situation.

School holidays brought forward

- School holidays will start early from 30 March to 14 April inclusive.
- Teachers will not be posting work during this time and are not expected to be available online. They will be using the holiday break to plan units of online learning for Term Two. Of course, students should continue to complete work that had already been set before the nationwide lockdown began.
- At the end of the re-scheduled school holidays, schools will be open for distance learning from Wednesday 15 April, but not physically open for staff to work at schools.
- Note that the instruction to stay home (Alert Level 4) will continue beyond the new school holiday period but schools will be technically open for distance instruction. Teachers will be working off site i.e. providing online class work.
- Today the Ministry is launching *Learning from home* and *Ki te Ao Mārama*, two new websites to support teachers, learners, parents and whānau so that learning for children and young people can continue.
- The websites include resources for parents and whānau, teachers and leaders. Resources span the learning pathway from early learning through to senior secondary, and more resources will be added as they're developed.
- The information and resources are available at <https://www.learningfromhome.govt.nz/> and <https://www.kauwhatareo.govt.nz/ki-te-ao-marama/>

Chromebooks

- Yesterday we were able to provide 100 Chromebooks to students at very short notice. We have recorded the names of all students who identified themselves as needing one for online learning.
- If your child was not at school yesterday, we are still able to provide one for them, but you must collect it from school on Tuesday or Wednesday.
- **Parents wanting to obtain a Chromebook** must collect one from the school hall between 1pm-3pm on Tuesday or Wednesday. Please email Mr O'Neill if you have any queries: jonathano@haurakiplains.school.nz

Learning at Home:

- For the remainder of this week, all teachers are putting their class work on Google Classroom and updating this daily by 9am. If students have any queries about their subject learning they should email their class teacher in the first instance. All teacher email addresses can be accessed on the school app (details below if you have not yet downloaded the app).
- Google Classroom and email will be the primary modes of communication between teachers and students.
- It is important to keep students in routines, i.e. to follow a timetable of learning. Students should be working on each subject for around 30 minutes a day for juniors and more for seniors.
- Teachers will be available during normal class times this week to support your child's learning through Google Classroom, Gmail and Google Docs. Some may set a time for using Google Meet, a video conferencing app that all students have free access to as part of our Google Apps setup.
- Teachers will be provided with the names of students who do not have internet access, or have limited internet access, and will plan accordingly.
- **For all e-Learning related queries please contact Mr O'Neill: jonathano@haurakiplains.school.nz**

Information Channels

- Four channels will be used to push out Covid-19 information as it comes to hand: email, the school website homepage, the HPC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/www.haurakiplains.school.nz>) and the school app.

- The school app is the most effective way of getting information to our school community the fastest. If you have not yet installed the app on your phone then please follow these instructions:
 1. On your phone or tablet, open the Play Store app if you are using an Android phone (e.g. Samsung, Huawei, Oppo, Nokia etc.) or the App Store if you have an Apple phone or iPad.
 2. Search for 'school apps nz' and download the SchoolAppsNZ app.
 3. Open the SchoolAppsNZ app on your device and search for 'Hauraki Plains College' to connect to our school.
- When we push out a message via the app, all users will instantly receive a pop-up 'push notification' on their device alerting them to the message.

Student Wellbeing

- Whaea Michelle and Whaea Angela (School Counsellors) are still available to support students, their whānau and staff during this time. They will be available for support via email and phone.
- If you are struggling with anxiety or the effects of isolation, please feel free to make contact
 - Michelle Jones Email michellej@haurakiplains.school.nz
 - Angela Reynolds Email angelar@haurakiplains.school.nz. If you are struggling with anxiety or the effects of isolation please access us for support.
- Our school counsellors are also available to continue working with our students who have existing mental health and school related issues in general.
- If you are facing a mental health related crisis please phone the crisis team on 0800 50 50 50.

For up to date information on COVID-19, refer to the official COVID-19 website <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

Kind regards and all the best as we go through difficult times.

Ngairé Harris
PRINCIPAL