

Kia ora koutou

Dear parent / caregiver

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. Please be reassured that our school staff and Board of Trustees will continue to be available to support your child's learning and wellbeing for as long as we need to.

- **Routines** are important. Routines are reassuring, and promote health and physical wellbeing. Even over the term break, some kind of routine for the household involving doing jobs, finishing off assignments and tasks and getting some physical exercise is vital.
- It is important that students are doing the work that teachers are putting on google classroom. **Junior Certificate, Junior Diploma and NCEA** will all continue albeit in a different form and students will get a Not Achieved if work is not submitted, unless students have a lack of Internet access preventing them from completing assigned work. After phoning many parents on Wednesday afternoon, we now have a much clearer picture of which students have Internet access issues.
- From Monday 30 March to 14 April is a school term break; students should use this time to complete all assessments. An **assessment schedule** is being posted online within the next couple of days so you can see what assessments are due for your child and when. We will have more information before mid April how NCEA assessments will be handled.
- Most of the major telcos have now **removed data caps** and the possibility of any extra charges based on usage, so this should help students access learning materials e.g. SPARK, VODAFONE, SLINGSHOT, 2DEGREES and TRUSTPOWER.
- If there are any issues with **e-learning or chromebooks** please contact Jonathan O'Neill ([jonathano@haurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:jonathano@haurakiplains.school.nz))
- Our two counsellors are available to support the **wellbeing** of students, families and whānau at this time:
  - Angela Reynolds [angelar@haurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:angelar@haurakiplains.school.nz)
  - Michelle Jones [michellej@haurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:michellej@haurakiplains.school.nz)
- **Notification of COVID-19:** The Ministry has asked that we let them know of any students, staff or parents / whānau within our school community who fall ill with COVID-19. Can you please contact me asap ([principal@haurakiplains.school.nz](mailto:principal@haurakiplains.school.nz)).
- For **Pacific families**, if you are not aware the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' has been working to ensure useful information is available to Pacific peoples. A one-hour special will be aired on Tagata Pasifika's segment on Saturday at 9am; and on Sunday at 7.35am.
- **Communication over the term break:** We will be using our website to post important notifications. Please check this regularly.
- Finally, 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

Take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Ngaire Harris  
PRINCIPAL