

Communication 2 - 18th August 2021

Kia ora koutou

It is really important we do everything we can to keep our community safe. Alert Level 4 means we need to stay home in our bubbles and avoid any travelling as much as possible. Supermarkets, pharmacies, and other essential services will be open – but remember to wear a face covering if you are out and about. Check in using the NZ COVID Tracer App wherever you go and please also keep a distance from people you don't know and wash your hands well and often, especially before and after using any public facilities. If symptomatic, get tested. Be kind and caring, look after one another, your whānau, your neighbours and friends.

To gain the latest information from Wairoa College please go to our website:

<https://www.wairoacollege.school.nz/> Here you will find the Teachers email list and other useful information including our latest communications to whānau.

Distance learning plan

With such short notice we weren't able to hand out devices or hard packs to students in order to support distance learning. Teachers are using time today to plan their online learning for students. Our distance learning plan will therefore not kick into action fully yet. Our Distance Learning Plan will be on our school website when it is finalised and if needed. We are very aware that many families do not have devices for students to continue their learning and therefore we are also waiting to hear from the Ministry of Education when and if we are able to get into school to distribute devices and hard packs for those that need them. We will communicate with you all details in the following days if we are proceeding. This is likely only to happen if there is an extension of lockdown.

Some students will be able to access some learning now through Microsoft Teams (office 365) or Education Perfect.

Year 7 and 8 Distance Learning Plan

Students can access the Wairoa College Year 7 and 8 website

<https://sites.google.com/wairoacollege.school.nz/year7and8department/>.

For some of the Year 7&8 classes they can access their own class websites and work within Microsoft Teams. Any issues contact your child's classroom teacher.

Year 7 & 8 students also have access to Code Avengers. Any issues with logging in please contact Mr Oosthuizen at jmo@wairoacollege.school.nz.

Some student classes and groups involved with current reading trials will be able to log on to My Lexia (Core 5 or Power Up) or Reading Plus platforms- recommended at least 4 hours per week. Teachers have issued log on details and passwords. If students have forgotten these login details they can email Mrs Broomfield djb@wairoacollege.school.nz or contact their teacher.

If students do not currently have access to a device they can read a book, bake, be physically active, make something or write a story. We do not want to make this hard so do what is possible for you and your family.

Our focus as always will be to support the learning, safety and wellbeing of our rangatahi and tamariki and we continue to be here to support you as well.

Wellbeing

At this stage Alert Level 4 lockdown is for three days. However, the length of time we are all at home isolating could change. Wellbeing is an important focus. Our counsellor –Andrew Scotson (aas@wairoacollege.school.nz), will remain available to students at this time. Please encourage your child to contact us through our school emails and we will work with them to set up the most appropriate way for us to communicate. This may be through email, messaging or phone. Parents are, of course, also encouraged to contact us in the same way. Students can also contact our school nurse Robyn who is also available to be contacted on Thursday and Friday this week. Please contact Merena Gavan Assistant Principal (mlg@wairoacollege.school.nz) for Robyns contact details. Please follow this link to some advice from the Mental Health Foundation: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/covid-19/>
Further support: 1737 - free text or call for confidential counselling If you have immediate concern for your child's safety call the Emergency Mental Health number – 0800 112 334 to talk to a mental health clinician.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's kaiako or me, if there is something you need assistance with.

Ngā mihi

Jo Vennell

principal@wairoacollege.school.nz