

Kia ora to the Whangaparaoa College Community

Given the Prime Minister's announcement that Auckland will be remaining at Covid Alert Level 3, I wanted to get in touch and reassure you with details of how we will proceed. The first priority for all of us is to look after the wellbeing of ourselves and members of our household. I am very aware that a number of individuals and whanau in our school community are facing huge challenges. If this is you or someone in your 'bubble', please seek support – it's OK to be a bit wobbly; these are weird and uncertain times.

Our plan is to connect with our learners, see how they are getting on; and get Year 7-10 learners engaging with some thinking and '@home learning'. With our Yr 11-13 learners we will again connect and 'check in', then get them engaging with their NCEA material – and assessments where possible. Teachers will have details early in the new week.

Our timetable during this lockdown will be the same as in the previous lockdown:

10.45 Check in with Kaiarahi

11.00 Period 1

11.30 Period 2

12 noon Period 3

12.30 Break

1.00 Period 4

1.30 Period 5

During these times, please ensure your children connect with the teacher they would have during that period on that day or engage with work that has been set by that teacher. Expect some work to be done – but don't expect too much. Experts tell us that doing a little and feeling good about it, is better than attempting too much and everything 'going to custard'.

Teachers will normally be available between about 9am and 3.30pm to engage with classes as per their timetable (at the above times). Teachers will not be available 24/7 – and will not generally be responding to emails, etc outside of these times. I want our teachers to have time to prepare, link with their colleagues; and of course, keep well and look after their own 'bubble' responsibilities.

During Level 3 we will continue to be able to supervise the children of essential workers as we have over the last three days. Our Learner Support department will be in contact with parents of learners who would usually receive assistance from teacher aides.

NCEA and assessments: We are aware that some senior learners are concerned about assessment and gaining the appropriate credits/qualifications for their planned pathway. There have been adjustments this year, we will keep a close eye on further developments and keep everyone posted.

Our website (click the very first link on the Home Page, "School Now Closed: Whangaparaoa College updates to Covid-19") has information about the services available by our Guidance Counsellors for any learner who feels they need some support at this time.

FAQ's:

>> Our son/daughter has something at school that they need so they can carry on with their work. Can we collect it?

At the moment the school is closed. However, there will be an opportunity on Monday 17 August as per the following instructions.

If Year 11-13 learners need resources so they can continue with their learning, please let your subject teacher know before 12 noon on Sunday 16 August to ensure that the resource is ready for you to pick up on Monday.

If any learner needs to collect or borrow a device, again, let the appropriate teacher know as above. Then, on Monday 17 August, learners can visit the Library to pick up resources at the following times. Please enter via Antarctica (2nd floor entrance)

9.30am - Learners with surnames starting with A-F

10.00am - Learners with surnames starting G-M

10.30am - Learners with surnames starting N-S

11.00am - Learners with surnames starting T-Z

Please do not go anywhere else in the school.

>> What's happening with such things as sport, the show, the school Ball?

All sport is 'on hold' – we will let you know more as soon as we hear from the various sporting agencies. We have 'pushed pause' on "Clue", our 2020 School Production, and so we'll need to wait and see 'who dunnit'. The Ball is scheduled to take place in six weeks – we are hopeful this can continue and have not made a decision yet. With all these types of activities and events we will keep you up-to-date.

>> What about subject choices for next year?

Sometime in the next week or so we will open the online 'portal' so learners can indicate their 2021 subject choices. Details later.

>> What if your child doesn't have a working device for 'online learning'?

There may be a loan one available. Please email Penny Till pennyti@wgpcollege.school.nz

>> Will buses be operating for children of essential workers?

No, we heard from Auckland Transport today that buses will not be operating during Covid Level 3.

I plan to have a **FaceBook live session at 6pm next Tuesday 18 August**, to pass on any further updates, answer questions, etc

These are changing and challenging times. I'm confident our community can be calm, kind and supportive; and get through this together.

Take care

Ka kite ano

James