



Fairfield College

14 April 2020

Kia ora e te whaanau

The Board of Trustees and staff of Fairfield College express our thanks and appreciation for the support that we have received as we navigate our way through the challenges of the COVID-10 lockdown and its aftermath. As a school we have been working on systems that will enable the majority of our students to access distance learning remotely.

Those students that are unable to access distance learning remotely will be able to continue their learning through accessing hard copies of resources. As discussed in previous communications the distribution of learning devices and hard copies of learning resources is being managed by the Ministry of Education. I am unable at this time to provide dates for the delivery of these resources but I will distribute this as soon as this becomes available.

The offering of remote distance learning is a new experience for most teachers and it will also be a new experience for most students. It will be a period of learning for all involved and we ask for your patience and support as we work in this new learning and teaching landscape.

Students who are based in the Learning Support Centre should continue with their own learning programmes. Mrs Hickton will be available via school email and will be contacting whaanau on a weekly basis.

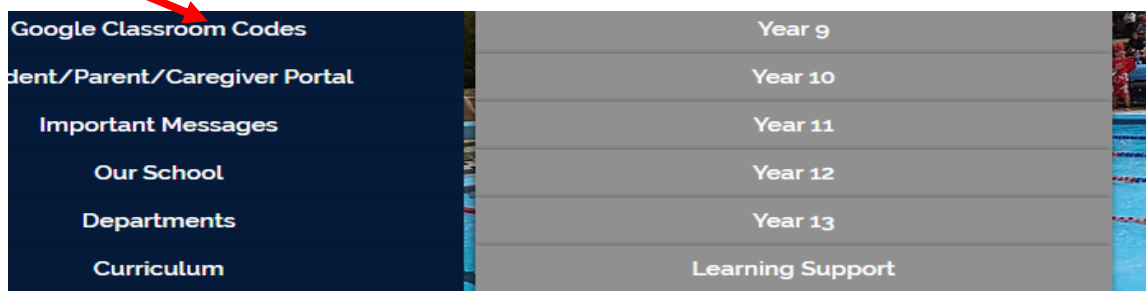
Before the lockdown was implemented we were able to post important information about distance learning on the school website:

www.faircol.school.nz



Please push the distance learning tab to access information about the school's distance learning approach.

You will also need to access the google classroom codes that are also listed on the school website.



Be respectful
Be responsible
Be the best you can be

PO Box 12-228
Hamilton 3248
New Zealand
Phone: +64 7 853 5660 Fax: +64 7 853 5679
Email: adminfc@faircol.school.nz

Fairfield College will be following mainly an asynchronous online teaching model where teachers post teaching materials online, and students work through them in their own time, communicating with each other and their teachers via google classrooms, or by email. This approach allows students to work at their own pace and at times of the day which are convenient for them. There may still be deadlines for work to be submitted for feedback, and there may be a recommended schedule for students to follow so that they have some idea of what they should be doing and when.

We encourage students to create a routine as they would normally have on a school day, a schedule that has regular breaks and study time in manageable chunks. We have provided a timetable for students and whaanau who prefer the structure of a set timetable approach. This can be viewed on the final page of this communication. We are not prescribing this approach to all students but will leave this to the agency of the student and their whaanau.

We will be offering a blended approach which will include both asynchronous and synchronous online teaching. The synchronous teaching (teachers leading discussions on line in real time) will mainly be in the form of weekly meetings that teachers will endeavour to organise with most of their classes.

As we approach distance learning in term two it is important that we establish the following guidelines for digital distance learning. Term 2 commences Wednesday April 15.

Guidelines for digital distance learning

1. Maintaining connections with our students to strengthen learning relationships and promote student wellbeing is a priority. This is the most important part of our distance learning approach.
2. Our Pastoral Care Team is available during school closure. Contact details for our Guidance Counsellor and Deans are located on the following link <https://www.faircol.school.nz/staff>
3. Teachers of senior classes and junior core classes (Mathematics, English, Social Studies, Science, and Physical Education) will aim to organise a weekly google meet up with their students.
4. To support student wellbeing Pouako will endeavour to make weekly contact with students in their Waananga Akotahi roopu. Please note that Pouako will be contacting students through their school email.
5. We aim to keep our approach as simple as possible by having one consistent learning platform (Google Classrooms), and a consistent platform for meet ups (Google Meet). Where possible students are encouraged to check their Google Classrooms every school morning.
6. We will be offering a timetable approach for students and whaanau that choose to adopt this structure in their distance learning programme. This can be viewed on the final page of this communication. Please note that teachers are not required to be available on-line during their timetabled teaching times, however, they will try to be available from 2pm to 3pm to respond to student and whaanau queries.
7. Teachers will post work for the day by 9.30am and communicate the times that we will be available for student and whaanau contact. Teachers may choose to offer their work weekly rather than posting it every day.


8. Please note that for digital distance learning there are some subjects that are more difficult to provide learning resources for and therefore there will be some variability in the types of learning that will be offered. The subjects that require a great deal of technical application are examples of this.
9. Although we are offering a structured timetable approach for those students and whaanau who choose to adopt this we are not attempting to replicate the school day in terms of workload or tasks. Teachers will be aiming for clear, simple tasks with a balance of self-paced activities and conversations to help learners stay connected to them and each other. Learning activities will be simplified and focussed on what teachers consider as essential learning for that particular session.
10. The learning for the week will be no more than three hours per senior subject and no more than two hours per junior subject. The day is divided into three periods of learning which is linked to the three periods of learning that they have on a particular day.
11. To manage student stress and wellbeing at the senior level teachers will not offer any high stakes assessment (assessment activity where credits for NZQA qualifications are linked to) in our distance learning approach. This will be reviewed if the lockdown extends beyond April 29. It is a priority that we maintain a student's qualification pathway and we will work with NZQA to enable this to take place. For specific information from NZQA regarding COVID-19 and assessment see the following link <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/news/covid-19-guidance-for-school-assessment/>. For high stakes internal assessment that commenced before the lockdown it is likely that teachers will review submission dates.
12. Our main distance learning focus is to provide learning and meeting opportunities for our students with wellbeing as our main priority. Maintaining a sense of connectedness is crucial for wellbeing.

If you have any queries about this information or any requests for technical assistance or questions about learning packages please contact

summerfields@faircol.school.nz or cholewam@faircol.school.nz

Kia haumarū - Be safe

Naaku noa, naa



Richard Crawford
PRINCIPAL

School distance timetable is on the next page

FFC timetable for distance learning

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Start of the day.	It can be good to maintain a routine beginning at the same time every day. Starting the day with a good breakfast is important. To prepare students for learning it is recommended that they engage in some type of physical exercise before the start of their school day (this could be a walk around the block).				
0930 - 1030 <i>Work up to an hour</i>	Learning Activity 1 (Normal Period 1)	Learning Activity 1 (Normal Period 1)	Learning Activity 1 (Normal Period 1)	Learning Activity 1 (Normal Period 1)	Learning Activity 1 (Normal Period 1)
Break 1: 10:30 -11					
1100 - 1200 <i>Work up to an hour</i>	Learning Activity 2 (Normal Period 2)	Learning Activity 2 (Normal Period 2)	Learning Activity 2 (Normal Period 2)	Learning Activity 2 (Normal Period 2)	Learning Activity 2 (Normal Period 2)
Break 2 12:00 -12:30					
12:30 - 1:30 <i>Work up to an hour</i>	Learning Activity 3 (Normal Period 3)	Learning Activity 3 (Normal Period 3)	Learning Activity 3 (Normal Period 3)	Learning Activity 3 (Normal Period 3)	Learning Activity 3 (Normal Period 3)
Break 3 1:30 -2:00					
2:00 - 3:00 <i>Optional work</i>	Students to continue with work from previous periods and contact teachers about their progress				