



Fairfield College

23 April 2020

Kia ora e te whaanau

The main focus of this communication is to discuss the ways in which Fairfield College is endeavoring to meet the learning and wellbeing needs of our year 11, 12, and 13 students. The government has confirmed that under alert 3 our year 11, 12 and 13 students will continue to work from home under the distance learning model that the school is continuously developing. I use the words continuously developing because we as teachers are undergoing a great deal of learning ourselves. We are determined to implement best evidence practices for distance learning and most importantly to be responsive to the student and whaanau feedback that we receive about the distance learning model and practices that we are putting in place.

Some students may be anxious and troubled about the distance learning situation that they are in. I want to emphasise that their wellbeing is out top priority. Learning is important, but at times like this, it is a distant second to student emotional and mental wellbeing.

If you require student wellbeing support please do not hesitate to contact the Deans/Pastoral care team: <https://www.faircol.school.nz/staf>

Yesterday I received valuable student feedback that has enabled us to review our distance learning practices in the following ways:

- *Can we post our work for the week on the first day of the school week rather than set it daily or during the week. Can we all do this from next week (Tuesday April 28 because the public holiday for ANZAC day is on Monday). This student wants to plan for the week inclusive of google meets and it would be great if our planning approach was responsive to this feedback. We could respond to students individually if more work is required but please remember that the student does have four other subjects.*
- *Please reflect on the amount of work that we are requesting from students. The student's comment about education perfect is revealing and it can apply to any new learning that we are requesting that a student undertakes. Please be precise in the work that we are requesting. This student no doubt is very conscientious and their wellbeing may be suffering because they are determined to complete all of the work that we are asking of them.*
- *Google meets are a great way of staying connected to our classes but please limit these to weekly events. The student may have four other google meets and this can mount up quickly if each subject teacher has more than one google meet per week. Can subject teachers please hold google meets in their class subject times of the timetable that was distributed. If we do this we will avoid the clash that the student references in their communication.*



Be respectful
Be responsible
Be the best you can be

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To enable us be even more responsive to student and whaanau feedback I respectfully request that in collaboration with your children you complete the following survey (**For year 11, 12, and 13 students only**).

[FFC Distance Learning](#)

Notwithstanding the challenges of distance learning we are determined to prepare our students to meet the assessment demands that are linked to NCEA. Fairfield College is fortunate to have experienced leaders of our curriculum. With their expertise and the support of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) I am confident that we will reshape our learning programmes and our models of assessment so that both NCEA qualification pathways and student wellbeing are highlighted.

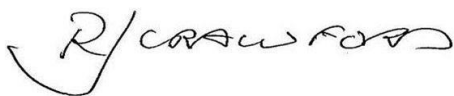
My message to our year 12 and year 13 students is for them to be the best that they can be and **not to become over anxious and stressed over NCEA assessment**. The insights of noted educational researcher, John Hattie, about the NCEA achievement levels of Christchurch students and the devastations of the 2011 earthquakes should allay both student and whaanau concerns [link](#). We are developing approaches that will enable our year 12 and year 13 students to meet NCEA or University and other tertiary or vocational entry requirements.

Fairfield College's decision in 2017 to redesign the NCEA experience for our year 11 students from 2018 onwards should remove any anxiety and stress that our year 11 students could be feeling. I encourage our year 11 students to do their best and to know that what they are learning now is enabling them to build a strong platform that should place them in a strong position to achieve both NCEA Level 1 and NCEA Level 2 in 2021 (for more information about Fairfield College's 2017 redesign of NCEA see the following link.) [FFC Redesign of NCEA](#)

We continue to work with the Ministry of Education to provide chrome books and hard copies of resources for our students. We are planning to deliver school chrome books to those students that still require them on Wednesday April 29.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kia haumaru - Be safe
Naaku noa, naa



Richard Crawford
PRINCIPAL