



Fairfield College

26 March 2020

Kia ora e te whaanau

We woke up this morning to start day one of our twenty eight day lock down period and I wish you well as we start this journey. Fairfield College like all other schools in New Zealand is now closed to all people which includes myself. Learning and teaching however has not stopped and I hope that your children are engaging in the platforms of learning that we have put in place.

Data Caps have been lifted

Yesterday I received information from the Ministry of Education that most telco providers have now removed data caps and the possibility of any extra charges based on usage. I have included the following links to some of the major providers so that you are able to access them if you have any queries

SPARK - <https://www.spark.co.nz/help/covid-19/>
"Removing overage charges for customers who are on data-capped broadband plans, so they won't have to worry about paying extra to stay connected. This applies to both small and medium business and consumer customers;"

VODAFONE - <https://news.vodafone.co.nz/covid-19-care>
"The removal of data caps from data-capped Broadband plans for consumers and small to medium sized businesses until at least the end of June 2020"

VOCUS/SLINGSHOT - https://help.slingshot.co.nz/hc/en-us/articles/900000386943-Our-action-against-COVID-19?_ga=2.224375707.1878754814.1585097493-87562686.1585097493
"We removed all the data caps from our plans to better enable you to work from home during this time of social distancing and self-isolation."

2DEGREES - <https://www.2degreesmobile.co.nz/help-and-support/mobile/your-account/covid-19/>
"Any customer who was on a limited data plan on or before Friday, March 20 will now receive unlimited data through until June 2020."

Distance Learning and school attendance

Since Tuesday March 24 we have been directed by the Ministry of Education to code student attendance as attending an offsite course / class (the student is not in class but is on a legitimate off-site school-based course). This will be recorded centrally by the school and you do not need to concern yourselves about recording attendance.



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

Ideas for whaanau to support distance learning

Although you do not need to concern yourself with recording school attendance I encourage you to become actively involved in the learning process by working with your children in the following ways:

1. If possible – define a space for student to work in.
2. Check student access to google classrooms and start and end each day with the questions that are referenced in the next part of this communication
3. Check student communications with teachers and consider making teacher contact yourself (A reminder that school holidays commence on March 30 and conclude April 14).
4. Check in regularly with student to ensure that they are managing the physical isolation of distance learning and the stresses that may eventuate from this. It is important that students have the opportunity to stay digitally connected with their school friends.
5. Be deliberate in planning for physical exercise of some type.
6. Set rules around social media interactions and check the amount of time student is on line

Communicating

Communicating with your child

We encourage you to start and finish each day with a simple check-in. These check-ins need to be a regular part of each day and start straight away. Not all students thrive in a remote learning environment; some struggle with too much independence or lack of structure and the check-ins help keep them on track.

In the morning, ask:

- what are you learning today?
- what are your learning targets or goals?
- how will you be spending your time?
- what resources do you require?
- what support do you need?

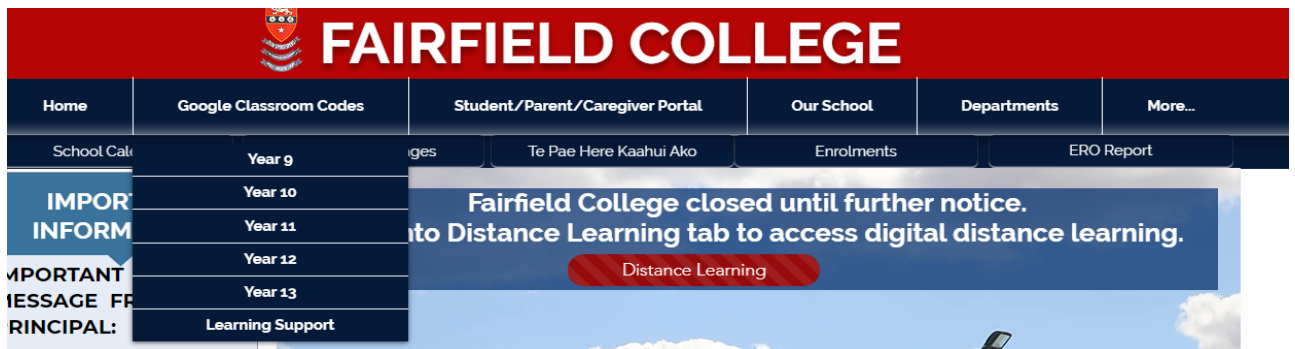
In the afternoon, ask:

- what did you learn today?
- acknowledge one thing that was difficult. Either let it go or come up with a strategy to deal with the same problem if it comes up again
- consider three things that went well today. Why were they good?
- are you ok? Do you need to ask your teacher for something? Do you need help with something to make tomorrow more successful?

These specific questions matter because they allow your child to process the instructions they have received from their teachers and help them organise themselves and set priorities. Older students may not want to have these check-ins with parents (this is normal!), but they should anyway.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/advice-to-parents-and-carer>

If you have any queries about subject matter I encourage you to email the teacher of the subject. Their addresses can be accessed at the google classroom codes tab on the school website: www.faircol.school.nz. If you click on the relevant year level you can access a table that will enable you to directly contact the teacher.



The screenshot shows the Fairfield College website. At the top is a red header with the school's crest and the name "FAIRFIELD COLLEGE". Below this is a dark blue navigation menu with tabs for "Home", "Google Classroom Codes", "Student/Parent/Caregiver Portal", "Our School", "Departments", and "More...". Under "Google Classroom Codes", there are links for "Year 9", "Year 10", "Year 11", "Year 12", "Year 13", and "Learning Support". A large blue banner across the middle of the page reads "Fairfield College closed until further notice. Go to Distance Learning tab to access digital distance learning." with a red button labeled "Distance Learning". On the left side, there is a vertical "IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL:" notification.

If you have any other distance learning queries please email Deputy Principal, Ms Cholewa:

cholewam@faircol.school.nz.

Kia haumaru - Be safe

Naaku noa, naa



Richard Crawford
PRINCIPAL

