



Fairfield College

6 April 2020

Kia ora e te whaanau

I hope that you and your whaanau are coping well with the isolation that we are required to go through in the lockdown situation. We are now in our second week of living in our whaanau bubbles and we are hopeful that this is contributing to the flattening of the COVID-19 curve that needs to take place if the lockdown is to be lifted in sixteen days. In listening to our Prime-Minister this morning there seems to be positive signs that this flattening is beginning to take place so I encourage us all to hang in there and stay living in our own bubbles.

Today is the start of the second week of school holidays and all teachers will continue to work from home to support distance learning for our students from Wednesday April 15. It is my hope that our students will be eager to engage in distance learning once school holidays come to an end.

In my last correspondence (March 27) I informed you that I was awaiting details from the government about how they were planning to provide chrome books for those students whose distance learning experience was being compromised by not having access to a suitable digital device (this could include having to share with siblings). This information arrived from the Ministry of Education Data team on Friday April 3. They requested that I provide them with the following information:

The information we need

To save you time, we pre-populated the form with information we already hold about your students. Please:

- *check student year levels and physical lockdown addresses are correct*
- *tick whether the student needs a device (only for those without devices) or hard copy learning pack (English or Māori medium)*

We were able to carry out a survey with students about their capacity to engage in digital distance learning several days before the lockdown took place but there were a number of students that for various reasons we were unable to include in this survey. Over the weekend we were successful in contacting the whaanau of the majority of these students which enabled me to submit the requested information to the Ministry of Education.

In regards to students receiving a chrome book the Ministry of Education has made the following points:

Providing devices/hard-copy learning materials is a big job being delivered at pace, and there are immediate stock and delivery constraints. We will need to prioritise and reach



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Be responsible
Be the best you can be

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students in tranches over time – with an initial focus on senior secondary school working towards NCEA and who are disadvantaged, for example because they need additional support or their families can't afford to buy equipment. We won't be able to meet everyone's needs all at once but we will continue to provide as much as we can, as it is available.

As a school we have submitted the requested information promptly so it is my hope that the Ministry of Education will be in a position to respond to the needs that we have identified. We requested that chrome books be provided for students that had internet capability but did not have an appropriate digital device to work on (please note this is over and above the eighteen chrome books that the school was able to provide for students before the lockdown came into effect). We also requested that hard copies of work be provided for students that did not have internet capability in their homes. It is my understanding that the Ministry of Education are developing a system to enable both of these requirements to be met.

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

Student and whaanau wellbeing

We acknowledge that anxiety and stress as a result of the challenges that we are experiencing may be impacting on student readiness to engage in the learning packages that have been provided. Wellbeing for both students and whaanau is critical and the Ministry of Education has provided the following information to support a child's learning at home for parents, caregivers and whaanau.

<http://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>

Kia haumarū - Be safe

Naaku noa, naa



Richard Crawford
PRINCIPAL