

15 April 2020

Kia ora koutou

I hope you are safe and secure in your bubbles.

Today we open the school up in a very different way. Term 2 in 2020 will be a watershed moment for education and we are all privileged to be part of it. We have spent our time in lockdown with many negative messages. We believe that now is the time to be positive and work as a true whanau to move forward. In order to collectively save lives, we have had to feel a little uncomfortable and with this, we have built resilience.

While we may want to start off with a hiss and a roar we will not be able to sustain it. We need to take the view that this is a marathon. Today students will start their curriculum learning but be aware of all the new learning that has happened for them and indeed all of us over the past few weeks. Our students now have to be confident, connected and actively involved lifelong learners.

By today your child's kaiarahi should have made individual contact with all of you. This will have been an opportunity for you to ask questions about what the next few weeks will look like and what the collective expectations are for your child and their learning. When in school students have the opportunity to connect with their friends during class so there is no reason to expect them not to do this during distance learning. They can collaborate with each other and we encourage this to support their learning and their well being.

For those of you that indicated you needed a device for your child, we have sent all this information through to the Ministry and they are prioritising who will receive these in the first rollout. We are able to still order these through the Ministry so please email info@heretaunga.school.nz and we can make this happen.

The Ministry has set up a new website to support distance learning called Learning from Home We would advise you to have a look at this. There is updated information on TV schedules, Distance Learning and Well Being.

All students have been emailed the following advice which is useful for all of us

Just a few tips related to learning@home:

- make sure you set an alarm to wake up a little earlier so that you are fresh and ready to start your learning day
- make sure that you put together a learning timetable for the day - this does not have to replicate a full school day of learning - but do make sure that you have planned times for working through the expectations in each of your subjects (see the attachment for a general idea)
- make sure that you build into your day lots of breaks where you can take care of your eating, your physical activity and your general wellbeing - this is vital to making your learning successful
- make sure that you are connecting to your Kaiarahi and your subject teachers - ask questions when you are unsure of your learning tasks and assessments
- make sure that you put any formal assessments into your online calendar and set alerts to ensure that you meet deadlines (especially years 11 - 13)
- check your emails and make sure that you join online class meetings when you are required to. Your teachers will create these meetings at the normal time you would be scheduled to be in their class on your normal timetable

For those of you who have any questions, your first point should be your child's kaiarahi. Make contact with them and they should be able to help you.

Any other questions that are not about your child's learning should be sent to info@heretaunga.school.nz From here they will be sent to the appropriate person.

Please remember the school site is closed and that any communication must be done through an online medium.

Take care in your bubbles and use the sunshine as much as you can!

Kia kaha

Fiona Craven
Principal
Heretaunga College