



TE AROHA COLLEGE

A purpose joyful; A courage blameless

Start of Term 2

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Mr Jager
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YEAR 9 DEAN
Mr Aislabie
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Miss Park
Arawa, Miss Maber
Tainui, Mr Robinson
Tokomaru, Mr Ashford-Beck

YEAR 10 DEAN
Mr Masters/Mr Rowe
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Mr Pipe
Arawa, Mr Leary
Tainui, Mrs Spindler
Tokomaru, Mrs Lemon

YEAR 11 DEAN
Mr Aitken
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Mr Stringer
Arawa, Miss Baylis
Tainui, Ms Scott
Tokomaru, Ms Hagan

YEAR 12 DEAN
Ms Gemmell
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Mr Kurian
Arawa, Mr Rekatsinas
Tainui, Ms McLaren
Tokomaru, Mr Sparks

YEAR 13 DEAN
Mrs Livingstone
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Mrs Jager
Arawa, Ms Osborne
Tainui, Mr Darby
Tokomaru, Mrs Oliver



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau,

We trust that you have all had a happy and safe Easter. This message is to keep our school community up to date with the most recent developments and to outline our expectations for students over the next 2 weeks and possibly longer. Please remember that Term 2 home learning begins for students this **Wednesday 15 April**.

The teaching staff are having an online meeting at 9.30am Wednesday 15th of April. There will be initial contact on Google Classroom to say hello to their students. Please ask your students to say hello back to them. This is very important to keep us all in contact.

Alert Levels

It is the Government's intention that on the 20th of April, two days before the current period of Alert Level 4 is due to finish, Cabinet will make a decision on whether or not the Alert Level will change. They will use the most up to date data they have to make that decision. Level 4 has come with some heavy restrictions and next week, the Government will give some guidance on what life at Level 3 may look like.

As you may be aware, the Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins has outlined what the change of Alert Level implications will be for schools and their communities. The Minister noted it would be wrong to assume that all schools and early learning services will reopen at Level 3.

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HE WAKA EKE NOA HE TU MANAWANUI KI TE KEI O TE WAKA



The Ministry of Education is supporting Te Aroha College to work through various scenarios which will be based on health considerations and requirements under Level 3, particularly managing physical distancing. A **hybrid model** of both distance learning and on-site learning is very likely at least in the early stages of Level 3. The Public Health requirements will affect each school differently; however, we are planning for a number of different scenarios including:

- Possible school reopening for students of essential workers only
- Possible split days of home-learning and at-school learning depending on year level
- Possible split timetable, with different start/end and break times for juniors and seniors
- A continuation of practices from Alert Level 2, including the suspension of assemblies and additional cleaning practices across the school

If the Alert Level does [change](#), we anticipate **Wednesday 29 April** would be our first day with some of our students able to attend in person.

We want to reassure you that following any announcement, we will let parents and caregivers know as soon as possible what the implications are for students at Te Aroha College.

Distribution of Devices

As you are aware, we have already distributed 280 devices to families before the Alert Level 4 lock down as part of our ongoing Chromebook scheme. This week we are working with the Ministry of Education to provide learning materials to those who missed out on this opportunity, or do not have access to the internet at home.

Please be patient while we work through this process. Not all students will be able to be provided with resources straight away, but we will do our very best.



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Term 2 Update

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General Expectations

Put your health and your family first and continue to follow all government advice in order to stay safe.

As a start point all teachers will work to check in with all students on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th April. We are planning to use our school timetable to provide a guide to contact. However, this will have to be flexible. Students should check their school_email account and Google Classrooms at least once a day and respond to any messages from teachers. Staying in regular touch with their classes is important.

Form teachers will be checking in with students twice a week through classroom and email and parents/whanau once a week through a phone call/text. One question they will be asking you is if you are an essential worker and if your student needs to come to school while you are at work.

Remember teachers are also busy with their families, so please understand that they will respond to emails and messages and give feedback on work when they can. Don't be worried if you don't get an immediate reply.

Advice for students learning at home

Work will be set for each timetabled subject. Teachers will provide learning materials and set tasks on a regular basis. This might happen on a day-by-day basis, or less frequently as blocks of work – your teachers will guide you.

You are likely to have around 2-3 hours of work to do per subject per week.

How you organise your time to complete school work is up to you but we recommend that you:

- Establish a daily routine, with blocks of time set aside for school work and plenty of breaks too.
- Check your emails and google classrooms at least once a day
- Use a to-do list or planner to help keep track of tasks – it's hard to stay organised, so use tools to help.
- Keep in touch with your teachers – let them know when you have completed tasks, or if you need help.
- Keep up with your NCEA assessments where possible.



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If you are having technical difficulties with your school device please email adaroux@tacol.nz

Contacting Teachers

- Some teachers will try to provide at least one face-to-face discussion opportunity per week for each class through google or zoom
- Students should also be exercising and reading regularly. Assisting around the house is a great way to get some physical exercise!
- If teachers get sick, they may need to pause the remote learning for a time.

If you would like to contact your student's teachers the school email address format is firstnameinitiallastname@tacol.nz (for example Samantha Mortimer is smortimer@tacol.nz) and you have been linked to all your students google classrooms.

NCEA

Thanks to its flexibility, NCEA allows us to maintain credible assessment outcomes by changing the ways we gather and record evidence, and to manage any disruptions to teaching and assessment of standards.

If disruptions continue for senior classes for an extended period we do have some options, such as:

- Reviewing our programmes
- Selecting suitable standards for remote assessment
- Templates to integrate evidence gathering with teaching and learning
- Resources for conducting remote assessment
- Remote assessment of performance-based subjects
- Managing internal assessment for students absent from school due to COVID-19

NZQA may also look at altering the qualification framework temporarily and we may have to adjust pre-requisites into 2021 courses.



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The experience from the Christchurch earthquakes was that even though some schools were closed for over six weeks, the impact on NCEA was minimal. Our students are resilient and very capable of managing a supported learning programme.

If you wish to discuss any individual concerns about NCEA please contact Rachel Scott, Principal's Nominee for NZQA, rscott@tacol.nz

International Students

We would like to thank our amazing International team and wonderful host families for supporting our overseas students during this difficult time. With the support of various embassies we have been able to repatriate a large number of students back to their homes across the world.

Keep us informed!

If you or your class are doing any interesting learning or connecting in inventive ways whilst on lockdown we would love to share it with our school community. Please contact Danielle Gemmell dgemmell@tacol.nz

Website

Please refer to our school website (<https://tearoha.school.nz/>), facebook and School App (To download App: <https://tearohacollege.apps.school.nz/install/>) for updated information. The following sites are also useful: The Ministry of Education has launched two websites in response to the sudden requirement for schools and parents to provide distance learning: Learning from Home and Ki te Ao Mārama (in Māori or English).



These websites include resources for teachers, leaders, parents, and whānau. Resources span the learning pathway from early learning through to senior secondary, and more resources will be added as they are developed.

Other resources that might be useful:

- ETV provides a huge range of recorded TV programmes and live internet TV from across the world. Have a look - some people think the selection is better than Netflix!
- Study IT – NCEA help from real students and teachers in Maths, English, and Science.
- BBC Bitesize – Revision site aimed at students with the KS3 section being suitable for Juniors and the GCSE section for Seniors / NCEA.
- BBC Teach – Great collection of short videos (usually from BBC TV shows), to support a huge range of subject areas and learning levels.
- Alison – Huge number of online courses in a wide range of subjects: IT, Health, Languages, Humanities, Business, Maths, etc.
- **Khan Academy** – Masses of great lessons in many subject areas, most supported by short, explanatory videos with tasks and activities to reinforce learning.

Please look after yourselves and we will be in touch again soon with more information as it comes to hand.

Te Aroha College