



TE AROHA COLLEGE

A purpose joyful; A courage blameless

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PRINCIPAL
Mrs Gorrie

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Mr Jager
Mr Aitken
Ms Scott

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Mr Hartsenburg

YEAR 9 DEAN

Ms Gemmell

FORM TEACHERS

Aotea, Mrs Jager
Arawa, Mr Raubenheimer
Tainui, Ms McLaren
Tokomaru, Mr Main

YEAR 10 DEAN

Mr McArdle

FORM TEACHERS

Aotea, Mr Rowe
Arawa, Mrs Oliver
Tainui, Mr Darby
Tokomaru, Mr Daroux

YEAR 11 DEAN

Mr Aislabie

FORM TEACHERS

Aotea, Miss Park
Arawa, Miss Maber
Tainui, Mrs Spindler
Tokomaru, Mr Ashford-Beck

YEAR 12 DEAN

Mr Masters

FORM TEACHERS

Aotea, Mr Pipe
Arawa, Miss Halford
Tainui, Mr Kunnil
Tokomaru, Mr Masters

YEAR 13 DEAN

Mr Aitken

FORM TEACHERS

Aotea, Mr Stringer
Arawa, Ms Baylis
Tainui, Ms Scott
Tokomaru, Ms Hagan



Sunday 13th of February 2022

Dear Parents, Whanau and Students

As you will all be aware the numbers of people testing positive for Covid 19 nationally are now increasing as predicted. Although this is not yet affecting us directly in Te Aroha we want to assure our school community that we are well prepared to manage if either our staff or students test positive or are close contacts of a positive case. Please be reminded as a school we are directed by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education response requirements and must comply with their instructions.

Te Aroha College Safety Plan in Place

Our school team has worked hard in the past few weeks to build a detailed Safety Plan that has students able to work at College for as long as possible and if and when required online from home using our Google Classroom digital learning platform.

We intend to work on site at College as long as it is practicable to ensure we can provide the best conditions for students' learning. If Covid 19 numbers rise for staff or students in our area we have set up a staged Safety Plan to cope with predicted absences. This includes initially combining classes, moving to rostering year levels home and finally moving fully to our online learning platform where students will learn from home. We will keep everyone well informed if and when we need to make these changes to students' learning. If students are required to self isolate, all their work will be provided through google classroom to ensure they can remain in contact with their teachers and keep learning at home.

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

Student Preparation

To be prepared in the coming weeks all students should:

- Have a digital device that is charged and ready to go every day with access to home internet.
- Have accepted all google classroom invitations so they can access online learning and have a clear understanding of each class requirement.
- Have a clear work plan for all their classes, know when any assessment work is due and make the most of every lesson. This is especially important for our NCEA students at years 11, 12 and 13.

(Alex Daroux, Head of IT is available for support and questions - adaroux@tacol.nz)

Get Vaccinated

Our best defense against Covid19 is to continue to recommend that everyone gets vaccinated and follow good hygiene procedures while at College. This includes wearing a mask inside, regularly washing and sanitizing your hands, staying home and getting tested if you have cold or flu-like symptoms.

Keep Te Aroha College informed of close contacts or positive Covid 19 cases

If any of our students are listed as close contacts or test positive for Covid please ensure they stay at home and self isolate. Let the College know immediately by either phoning, texting or emailing the office: Mrs Rebecca Johnson rjohnson@tacol.nz ph 0272592126; or the Safety Officer Mrs Sarah Verran-Tye sverran-tye@tacol.nz ph 02102706543.

This will support us to activate our College Covid 19 Safety Plan as required by the Ministry of Education. The College will work to advise any other school-based close contacts and request that they isolate until the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education give us the all clear for individual students or class groups to be able to return.

College 'Close Contact' or 'positive Covid test' Process

1. *Parents/ Staff to inform College of 'Close Contact' or 'positive Covid test' result.*
2. *School Staff will be informed if a case or close contact notification is received by the School Covid Response team.*
3. *The confirmed case and their household should already be self-isolating.*
4. *As a precaution, those who have been in the same classroom/bubble/room as the confirmed case for the previous 48 hours may be asked to stay away, until public health advice has been received.*
5. *There is no testing requirement at this time for those individuals unless they are feeling unwell and are advised by Healthline or their GP to get tested.*
6. *Those affected and the school will be provided with specific guidance based on the public health risk assessment as soon as possible; which is likely to require any close contacts to self-isolate and get tested.*
7. *The school will undertake a thorough clean prior to the other students and staff return on-site.*
8. *Students/Staff will return to site when cleared or if the number of positive cases are large the school will shift to its online learning platform following our Covid 19 Safety Plan.*

Emergency Contact and Address information

We do need to be able to contact parents urgently if their student becomes a 'close contact' or is symptomatic. Students will be sent to the Careers Room where parents or emergency contacts will be expected to collect them if this occurs.

Last week we asked all students to check their address details and emergency contacts. We found a few gaps in our data so our administration team and Deans will be working this week to ensure everyone has emergency contacts listed and we have your correct address and details on file. **Please remember if you change any contact information, phone numbers, email or physical address to let the office know.** rjohnson@tacol.nz

Mask Exemptions and Onsite Safety Measures

Deputy Principal Rachel Scott is managing all our support systems for students and families requiring mask exemptions. Please contact her via email if you have any questions or are requesting exemption support. rscott@tacol.nz

We appreciate that these are challenging times for everyone and some students and families may feel very anxious. Our student support team is available to help including Year Level Deans, our Guidance Counsellor, Joseph Hartzenburg jhartzenburg@tacol.nz and our School Nurse Catherine Semmens csemmens@tacol.nz.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact the team at Te Aroha College via Rebecca Johson at the office. We are happy to discuss how we can support you and your whānau to ensure they can keep up with their learning.

Heather Gorrie
Principal
Te Aroha College