



**TERM 1
April 2020**

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*Taupo-nui-a-Tia College
"Gateway to Your Future"*



Kia Ora

I hope this newsletter finds you well and settled into new routines after the first week of the lockdown. While the whole experience is quite surreal, I'm sure you'll agree that we are lucky to live in this country compared to how other countries have been affected by the pandemic. I have been heartened by this community's response to the lockdown during my forays outside for exercise. The streets are full of families out exercising either on bikes or walking and everyone seems to be heeding the Prime Ministers advice of physical distancing and being "nice" to one another.

I have been in contact with several staff members and have been informed that there was a reasonable level of engagement from our students with online learning leading up to the holidays. I was pleased to hear some are keeping up with their studies throughout the holidays. There is the expectation that from Wednesday 15th April (Still in lockdown but officially the start of term) all students will begin connecting with their teachers online. The college is currently determining what support is needed for households without internet access and/or devices. For many of us online learning is a brave new world we are entering and Dr Dougal Sutherland a clinical psychologist from Victoria University has some valuable advice for parents;

"We should start by coming to terms with the fact that children are not going to be able to learn as effectively at home, as they would in the classroom, and we shouldn't expect that they are.

"We shouldn't expect that parents will become teachers and we just have to be okay with that, because this is not a usual circumstance, and we just have to be flexible about it."

Sutherland says it's important parents remain realistic about what they can do to ease the pressure off themselves and their children in this "completely unique situation".

"Don't try to be a teacher, don't suddenly try to pull out your Year 9 maths and help your kids.

"I mean, unless you are a mathematician then go for gold - but most of us aren't.

"Let schools set the work and we can, as parents, just provide sort of a broad structure in support." Sutherland says it's important to facilitate these structures as a lack of routine can cause heightened levels of anxiety for children.

Sutherland identifies these broad areas of support as;

- Providing routines for your children – make sure they are up at a reasonable hour and don't let them sloth around in their onesie or their pyjamas for the entire day.
- If possible, find a distraction free space for them to work – preferably not their bedroom
- Be aware that teenagers are social beings and they want to be with their friends and their peers. They really don't want to be stuck at home with their families and are probably more at risk of feeling lonely and isolated.

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Cornerstone Values

- **Honesty and Truthfulness**
- Kindness
- Duty
- Compassion
- Responsibility
- Consideration & Concern for Others
- Respect
- Obedience

Taupo-nui-a-Tia College

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The other point I would add to Dr Sutherland's suggestions is the need for teenagers to get outside for some form of daily exercise. Exercise can easily become a valuable part of their daily routine and have a positive impact on their wellbeing.

On the topic of Wellbeing the college has set up a site called "Wellbeing in Isolation – TNT". This site contains lots of valuable information from around the world about coping with the anxiety of lockdowns. A link will be sent directly to the students to access. I would like to acknowledge the work of Guidance Counsellor Hilary Graham and Wellbeing Coordinator Heulwen Simm for this initiative.

I vowed to get through this newsletter without using the expression "new normal" but as you can see, I have failed! At the moment we don't know what the new normal will look like at school for the rest of the year but some questions that will have to be asked are;

- How will NCEA be managed by the Ministry of Education and schools for the rest of the year?
- What, if any is the future of school sport for the remainder of 2020?
- What Alert Level will we return to after the lockdown. If it is Alert Level 3 will there be an expectation that "at risk" individuals stay at home?
- Will field trips be able to run?

I am sure there are many more issues that will arise over the next few months and we will have to adapt accordingly.

Below is some advice and instructions for the online learning starting term 2 Wednesday 15th April:

1. Put your health and your family first.
2. You are expected to login to your Google classrooms each day as per your timetable.
3. Check your college emails at least once a day and reply if necessary.
4. We will use one consistent platform (Google Classrooms) for sharing learning activities
5. We will use one consistent platform for scheduled meetings (Google Zoom see Appendix1).
6. Continue with your assessment work as much as possible. Please don't stress about NCEA - we will be responsive to your needs as a learner.
7. Remember teachers will be with their families as well so know they will respond to your emails and give feedback as soon as they can.

Specialist Subjects

- Teachers will upload tasks/lessons for the day by 9.30am. Make sure that you check the classes that you would have that day.
- Teachers will be providing good learning opportunities, engaging activities and work of value, so please try and complete all learning activities provided.
- Following the sequence of your regular timetable, subject teachers will be available for 30 minutes on Zoom for support; P1 = 10.00am, P2 = 11.00am and P3 = 12.00pm.

Whanau

- There will be a scheduled meeting twice per week via Zoom, your whanau teacher will be inviting small groups to check in at these times. Please monitor your emails and take these opportunities.
- This will occur between 1.00-2.00pm on Monday and Friday.

Contact Information

- First point of call → contact your whanau teacher via scheduled Zoom times.
- Concerned about your specialist subject → contact your subject teacher via scheduled Zoom times.
- Personal concerns about progress or achievement → contact your whanau teacher or subject teacher via email
- Concerned about your wellbeing → Contact your Dean via the College website/Contacts
- If you are already working with a guidance counsellor please continue to do so remotely via email: hilary.graham@taupocollege.ac.nz .
- Concerned about your Health contact Healthline:
 - Coronavirus related 0800 358 5453
 - General Health related 0800 611 116

Appendix1: Download [GoogleZoom](#)

I wish you the very best for the next few weeks and hope you are able to stay safe and keep well.



Peter Moyle
Principal

Cornerstone Values

Taupo-nui-a-Tia College is an accredited Cornerstone Values school and was the first secondary school in the country to gain this accreditation. There are eight Cornerstone Values in total and every term we focus on one of these values. The eight values are: Honesty and Truthfulness, Kindness, Duty, Compassion, Responsibility, Consideration and Concern for Others, Respect and Obedience.

The Cornerstone Value for Term 1 is **Honesty and Truthfulness** which is defined as:

“Willingness not to steal, cheat, lie or be unfair.”

- Honesty is the best policy.
- Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.
- If you want to be trusted, don't cover up the truth.
- If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember what you said.
- Say “No” if that's what you mean, not just “Yes” to please someone.
- Telling one lie spoils your reputation for telling the truth.
- If you add to the truth you subtract from it.
- When someone lies, someone else loses.
- The truth needs no rehearsal!



As a parent you can be proud that your child is part of a Cornerstone Values school and we appreciate the support you give from home in emphasising these values.

If you are new to the school you will notice that the college is proud of its Cornerstone Values accreditation and displays the Cornerstone Values logo prominently.

PROUDLY SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN TAUPO



Setting up the Zoom App

Create an account:

- Go to the Zoom website: <https://zoom.us/>.
- In the upper righthand corner of the webpage, click “Sign up, It’s Free.”
- Enter sign up with Google account, select your TNT account.

A confirmation email will be sent to that address with an “Activate Account” link. Follow the steps to finalize the account.

Download the app to a smartphone: -

- In the App Store (for iPhones) or Google Play Apps (for Android) search “Zoom.” The results may call it “Zoom” or “Zoom Cloud Meeting.”
- Download the app. Tap the Zoom icon on your device to launch the app.
- You will be given the option to “Sign In” or “Join a Meeting.”
- Selecting “Sign In using your TNT Google account” will allow you to host, schedule and join a meeting.

Control video and audio settings: -

- “Mute” and “Stop Video” controls are located along the bottom left of the meeting window.
- Clicking on the feature once will disable it; clicking it again will turn it back on.
- PRO TIP: If there is a lot of background noise in your environment, turning on the mute button until you want to speak can decrease distracting noises for other participants.

Chat function: -

- The “Chat” function is found on the bottom right of the meeting window.
- Clicking the Chat icon will open a side window where participants can type messages to the whole group or Teacher.

Screen share: -

The “Share screen” function is located on the bottom center of the meeting window.

- When done sharing, click the red button to “Stop sharing.”
- PRO TIP: Sharing your screen with participants is an easy way for others to watch you go through a process or view a presentation on your screen.

Ending a meeting: -

Ending a meeting for participants. - “Leave Meeting” allows other participants to stay on after you have left; “End meeting for all” does not.



Messages from the Office

SCHOOL FEES

Statements are normally emailed or posted with the newsletter, but due to the school being closed, we ask that you view your accounts via the school website. Recommended course contributions are for the take home components and requirement for the subject your child has chosen.

During the office closure, your online payments and automatic payments are still being processed, so all accounts will be current.

There may be some adjustment to field trips and sporting events that have not happened due to the COVID 19 lockdown. We have managed to credit some of the events cancelled and adjusted your accounts accordingly. Anything that has been overlooked during the lockdown period will be adjusted once we return to our offices. We welcome your calls to the office, once school returns, if you require a refund. The audit criteria for a refund, is a printed bank deposit slip, or a screen shot of your bank account number, along with your request. This information can be emailed to Debbie-lee.lidderd@taupocollege.ac.nz.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any changes in addresses, emails, caregivers and/or phone numbers please email enrolments@taupocollege.ac.nz

Thanks Taupo Businesses

A BIG THANK YOU for the generous support that the following Taupo businesses have given to our Technology Department for quite a number of years.

Without the kind help and support given to us by our local businesses we may not be able to offer the students the great opportunities that the College has to assist them in today's technological and competitive society.



Tenon Limited – Ross Johanson and Darryl Robinson
Mike Prior Saw Milling Limited – Mike Prior
Bunnings – Keith Walsh
Vistalite Taupo – Bronek Szpetnar
A & T Glass – Andrew McCullough
Roofing Industries Limited – Ivan and Caroline Cribb
Kiwi Adventure Tours – Peter Wilkinson
Hynds Pipe Systems – Darryl Watson
Contact Energy – Roseanne Jollands

Urgent Information required to enable Online Learning

Attention: Parents/Caregivers/Whanau

This information was emailed to your child today. Can you please ensure the form is completed.

We need you! After being contacted by the Ministry of Education at midday today, we have been asked to gather urgent information from our school community. The data gathered in this form will be used to provide additional support so that learning can continue at home if the need arises. We need to know ALL students' current lockdown addresses, whether they have Internet access and whether they have access to a personal learning device or require hard copy learning packs at this address. For our data to be as current—*and up to date as possible*—we really need your input as soon as possible! You can also fill out this form multiple times, so if you are aware of someone else's situation, you can fill it out on their behalf. Ideally, the Ministry would like this information by **Sunday 5th April at 3pm**.

Link to the form, click here: <https://forms.gle/d8u4TZp24xWEr9S8>

Ngā mihi

Peter Moyle
Principal