



Rangiora High School



Whakautea
RESPECT



Tohaina
CONTRIBUTE



Wawatahia
ASPIRE

Tangata ako ana i te whare, te turanga ki te marae, tau ana
A person who is taught at home, will stand collected on the marae

A child who learns values at home and is cherished within their family, will not only behave well amongst the family but also within society and throughout their life.

Newsletter to parents/caregivers/whānau

1 September 2021

Kia ora koutou,

Alert Level 3

- Today the first day of Alert Level 3 school has re-opened for Year 9 and 10 students whose parents are required to work. My thanks go to the staff who have helped set up these bubbles and to our relievers and kaiāwhina supporting our young people.
- If your circumstances change and you are required to go back to work, please let us know that your Year 9 or Year 10 child will need to attend school by filling in [the form found here](#). Please allow 24 hours' notice before your child returns to school. We will contact you with information beforehand.

Working together while learning from home

- On page 2 is a useful graphic outlining ways we can work together while learning from home

Staying Connected

- Please do encourage your students to join their House instagram accounts, read their emails and join their online classes. Being actively involved in their online classes is not only critical to support your child's learning but also provides an opportunity for your child to connect with their peers.
- Our Year 13 Student Leaders have over the last week developed a series of online activities. A Talent Competition is underway - due to popular demand the deadline to enter has been extended to Sunday 5 September. The online show will be posted next week. A new lockdown video will be emailed out to the student body each day. An online Sports competition coming soon.

Broadband

- Spark announced it will be waiving data overage charges for all customers who are on data-capped fixed and wireless broadband plans and are at risk of not being able to stay connected if they can't afford to go over their existing data limits or are not currently able to upgrade to uncapped in their area. This will continue until we move out of Alert Level 4.
- Spark will also increase the daily data allowance for its customers on Skinny Jump.
- To read the full article: [CLICK HERE](#)



Ways we can work together while learning from home

Students



- plan your work - have a schedule
- aim to complete 2-3 hours a day (seniors) or 1-2 (juniors)
- attend any Google Meets that your teacher has scheduled
- if you are stuck, ask your teacher - email, message, Meet
- if you are worried, stressed or concerned - let your Wānanga kaiako know or contact Guidance



Wānanga Kaiako

- check in with your students at least once a week via a Meet
- update whanau regularly
- keep track of student engagement
- let your Dean or Head of House know if you have concerns

Teachers



- work collaboratively with your teams - AKO and Curriculum
- schedule one live Meet a week with each class
- set work regularly for each class
- keep track of student engagement with the work
- notify the Pastoral team if you have concerns that a student is not engaging with the work - record this on Kamar
- attend Learning Area meetings that your Leader of Learning sets



Whānau

- check emails and notices from the school and your child's teachers
- check in with your child as to how much work they have to do each week
- get in touch with your child's Wānanga kaiako if you have any concerns about your child's learning



Cybersecurity and content filtering for students learning from home

- For personal devices, we encourage all parents/whānau to take advantage of Network 4 Learning's free simple but effective content filtering service [Switch on Safety](#) for students learning from home.
- It's important to note however that content filters are not a complete protection from online harm and should be used in conjunction with other cyber security precautions (for example, anti-virus software) and appropriate supervision.
 - [Netsafe](#) has a range of resources, quality advice and support for digital safety and security.
 - [Cert NZ](#) also provides advice on cybersecurity and any student experiencing incidents can report them directly.
 - Another great resource is the [Department of Internal Affairs' Keep it real online campaign](#).

Public health advice - a statement from the Ministry of Health (31 August 2021):

- We continue to look at the evolving evidence around the transmission of COVID-19 in different settings, including educational settings, particularly in light of the new variants to inform the public health advice about face coverings (including masks) for children and young people at school and early learning services.
- The two key public health principles that support Alert Level 3 are first to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to limit the number of possible contacts people have if they do get infected to make it easier to rapidly stop further spread.
- When reviewing the evidence for children and young people, we have considered the potential benefits of the role face coverings play in reducing the spread of the virus and any potential harms or risks.
- The Alert Level 3 approach in a school environment is designed to limit the number of people that children have contact with based on these principles. Taking into account the other mitigating measures in schools, it is possible to lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission in these settings. Because it is possible to ensure that children are within the same group each day with no mixing between groups, it is acceptable from a public health perspective to have a group of children learning together. Our advice is to limit this to 10 children in each group.
- Schools reinforcing good hygiene practices are undertaking regular cleaning and having staff, children and young people are staying away if they are sick. At Alert Level 3, where practicable, physical distancing is in place, particularly between adults.
- Overall, we think it is important not to interfere with learning as much as possible, so it's about balancing up the benefits against the potential harms.
- Compared to other places, schools and early learning services are not environments where we have seen significant spread of COVID-19. Household members and work colleagues who are in close contact with people with COVID-19 are the most common sources of transmission.
- Based on what we know about face coverings and transmission in children, we are taking this balanced approach at this time. If new evidence emerges, this guidance will be revised.
- It is also important that parents fully support this approach by doing their bit – keeping children home if they are unwell and seeking medical advice about whether a child may need to be tested, strictly maintaining their family 'bubble' outside the school environment and ensuring great hygiene practices at all times.

Ministry of Health - Vaccine consents

- Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect each of us and our whānau. The more of us who are vaccinated in our community, the greater our immunity.
- The Government approved a vaccine to immunise and protect 12 to 15-year-olds. The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine has been approved by our Medsafe experts. This vaccine is also used for 12 to 15-year-olds in other countries such as Canada, USA, Europe and Japan.
- Here is a [video you can watch](#) to explain how the vaccine works.
- Many parents and whānau would like to provide informed consent on behalf of their young person. The easiest way to do this is for a parent or caregiver to be present during vaccination and provide verbal consent. You can book your young person in for vaccination at the same time as your vaccination or accompany them to their appointment.
- You can book through your GP or through vaccination centres:

- Book online through [Book My Vaccine](#)
- For a **group booking**, call the COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 (8am–8pm, seven days a week).

PTA Quiz Night

- Regretfully, the PTA Quiz Night planned for Thursday 9 September has been postponed.
- We will advise of a new date in due course.

Ngā mihi,

Karen Stewart

Principal / Tumuaki