



TE AWAMUTU COLLEGE

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Tony Membery
Principal

Dear PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS and STUDENTS of TE AWAMUTU COLLEGE

Day 12 of COVID-19 Alert Level 4 Lockdown and the second week of vastly different holidays for students and staff of NZ schools.

Our media reports are full of words such as: “unprecedented”, “unique”, “extraordinary” and “uncertain”, describing the situation we are currently in and facing.

There is no doubt that these are historic and testing times on a number of fronts: physical and mental well-being; financial implications for individual households, communities, regions, New Zealand and the world; effects on our health, welfare and education systems...

But we have also read and heard about people who have lived and survived through: Spanish flu pandemic 1918-20; the Great Depression 1929-33; World War Two 1939-45; polio epidemic of the 1940s; AIDS/ HIV epidemic 1980s on; 2003 SARS outbreak; measles outbreak 2019-20...

So we can draw on their experiences and lives and use words such as hope, determination, perseverance, sacrifice, compassion, kindness, creativity, resourcefulness and resilience.

In my last newsletter I advised you that school holidays are from Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive.

Teachers spent the two Alert Level 3 days (24/25 March) at school sending out an estimated 400 packages of work to Year 9 and 10 students without devices and to students whose courses best suited hard copy materials for them to use during lockdown. Teachers also set up systems for the delivery of online/ distance learning and communication to students (as possible and appropriate). I thank them for their efforts.

From Wednesday 15 April, school will be open for distance learning but not physically for any staff. (Teachers and support staff will be working from home.)

Please be aware that there will be variability in the amount of work able to be provided due to the nature of different courses; accessibility of resources etc. Encourage students to attempt work that has been or will be sent via post and/ or digitally. Students should be checking their school email accounts for communication from their teachers. Parents/ caregivers please encourage this.

When school resumes on- site, we will look at what extra opportunities may be needed to help students (especially Year 11-13) “catch up” from the weeks off-site.

I again encourage us ALL to focus on our physical and mental well-being through:

- talk and laughter
- taking time to listen to and observe nature
- walking/ cycling safely within your own neighbourhood
- listening to and playing music
- baking/ cooking
- gardening
- drawing
- board and card games
- staying connected through SOME appropriate social media
- catching up on jobs you always wanted to do but were too busy...

Keep safe and healthy.

Kia kaha

Tony Membery
(Principal)