



OPIHI COLLEGE

P O Box 175 Temuka 7948, New Zealand

Tuesday 21st April

To all Parents/Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

The team here at Opihi College hope that Term 2 and our distance learning programme has offered some learning for your children so far. We know there will have been any number of challenges for you to deal with but we have been getting some great feedback about the learning and contact from us that is happening and thank you for all your support.

Yesterday afternoon the Government announced that we will move into Alert Level 3 on 28 April. That means we will be open to receive students who are in Year 7 – 10 from the 29th April. Students in Years 11 – 13 will continue with remote learning. We will start to prepare our site from tomorrow.

The key message for you is that if you can, you should keep your child at home.

You should only physically send your Year 7 – 10 children to school if you need to. If your child has a health condition that means they are at a greater risk of a severe illness you must keep them at home. If your child is sick please also ensure you keep them at home. If your child is at school and becomes at all unwell, you will be contacted to collect them immediately.

If your child does attend school, they will do so to work on their online and printed work, supervised by staff members. All teaching will continue online through Google Classrooms, Zoom etc. Your child will need to bring their computerised device with them to school in order to continue this work.

In order to ensure the safety of those children and our staff who do come to school, we will be operating with strict enforcement of health and safety measures. Social distancing will be enforced at all times, inside and outside the classroom, and we ask that you ensure your child also social distances on their way to and from school.

I want to assure you that we will continue to support your child's learning at home, and this is the optimum method for the foreseeable future. We will provide material and lessons on-line, but for those who do not have access to computers/internet we will send further hardcopy work as soon as we are able.



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Our staff will contact you on Thursday 23rd April to confirm whether you can keep your child learning from home, or need your child to attend school in person. At this stage we do not know if our country buses will be running, but can advise that our Timaru bus will not run during Level 3.

The Ministry of Education has advised that they are working closely with health professionals to develop clear guidance that will support schools to safely re-open their premises to students and staff. This will help us work through the public health requirements that we all need to meet. As you will be doing, we want to be sure that what we do will keep our community as safe as possible.

For now, we will continue to support your child's learning by distance while we progress our planning for what Alert Level 3 will mean for you and for our school. We will be in touch again soon with more information.

As you have been doing, please keep connecting with your teachers and Deans with any questions you might have.

Nga mihi

Tina Johnson
Principal