

Sunday 22 August 2021

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers

I hope you are all keeping safe and well in your bubbles, and that you've been able to get out and enjoy that beautiful sunshine this weekend.

This email update contains information on:

- Learning@Home
- 2022 Course Selections
- Other information

Learning@Home

As we continue with students away from school (Alert Level 4 and 3), we will move into a more structured format for Learning@Home, based on what we did (successfully) in 2020 for lockdown. Key components are:

- moving to a condensed timetable for the day
- formalising the contact time (Google Meets) that teachers have with their classes
- teachers sharing their plans for student learning with parents and caregivers. You will be able to see exactly what your child is doing over the week – see [Learning@Home - Learning Plans](#) on the school website (this week's Learning Plans will be available by midday tomorrow).
- having an Ako time for all Ako classes.

This structure provides:

- plenty of learning for students who simply want to get on with things, offered through a variety of methods
- structure for those who still want to work in a 'school day', but students are **not** expected to be working a full school day, every day.
- flexibility for those students who want to work at a time that suits them (this was one of the key positives that students told us about when we returned from lockdown in 2020).
- lots of time to check in and engage with class teachers, Ako teachers, and classmates, which is really important in maintaining those social connections.

In all of this, the learning for our students is still meaningful but there will be less of it. Students can take longer to do it, work at their own pace and work when it suits them – they can have some fun as well. Most importantly - they are connecting and engaging with their teachers.

Further information is available on our website – [Learning@Home – Information for Parents & Caregivers](#).

2022 Course Selections

On the day lockdown was announced, we had just started the process of giving information to students around selecting Year 10 – 13 courses for next year, important for them to make informed choices. However, with this current situation, we are pausing in that work until we find out what is happening in the next few weeks – subject selections will not be available on the portal. We will let you know how we will proceed with course selections shortly.

Other information

- We were disappointed that Tournament Week for winter sports codes throughout the country has been cancelled. We had a large number of students participating in tournaments around the country and for some, this is their second year of not attending.
- Our counselling team – Sue, Sandy, Catherine and AJ are available to support you or your students. Please contact them directly through Sue Mortimer, our Lead Counsellor, mortimers@upperhutt.school.nz

Look after yourselves and be safe in your bubbles. I'll keep in touch.

Ngā mihi nui

Judith Taylor
Principal