

Kia ora tatou, good morning everyone

Student Update – Wednesday 25 August

Firstly, I hope you are all well in your bubbles and getting used to being in Level 4 lockdown. I know it would have been a huge surprise to you, as it was to your teachers, to suddenly not be at school last week and it's probably taken a few days to get used to a different routine! I'm sending you this email to give you some information about lockdown, school and other stuff!

Learning@Home

For most of you, the organisation of Learning@Home programme will be familiar – it's based on what we did last year and has been tweaked a little from the feedback that we got from students. It's the shortened timetable with Google Meets with your subject and Ako teachers and it works off Google Classroom. Yes, it does start at 9am (but that's only once a week) but it also finishes early, and there's a lunchbreak too. For those new to the school this year, it's simple enough to understand and to work with.

Turning Up!

One of the key aspects of this programme are the Google Meets – with your subject and Ako teachers. It's important for your teachers to connect with you and to check that firstly, you're OK. The next thing your subject teachers will be doing is checking on how you're going with your learning. It's important that you get to these meets – and that you turn the camera on! Your teachers do want to see you to say hello!

Organising yourself

Your teachers may have given you a timetable to help organise the week and note down when you have meets. If they haven't, I've put a template in below – just cut and paste it into a google doc. I know that Mrs Hall's classes have got a fancy way of doing this too! I've asked your teachers NOT to give you too much work – give you less to do and more time to do it so you can get it done. I don't want you to spend all of your day on schoolwork, because it's also important that you take some time to look after yourself (more on that later).

Option choices for 2022

Information has gone out to parents and caregivers on selecting your subjects for 2022 and your teachers will have started to talk about this (another reason to be in the Google Meets!). All course information booklets are located on the school website under the curriculum tab - either under Junior Curriculum Years 9-10 or Senior Course Selection Handbook. Choices are made using the Kamar portal, by Friday 13 September. If you're unsure what to do, talk to your subject teacher, Ako teacher or Dean.

For senior students

1. For many of you, the timing of this lockdown has been terrible – the Senior Ball is postponed, the sports finals were postponed and Winter Tournament has been cancelled. We will hopefully be able to give you news of a new date for the Ball.
2. But, another impact of this lockdown is that we have moved the Senior Practise Exams to Week 9 of this term, starting **Monday 20 September**. These exams are very important as they form the basis of derived grade applications should we go into further lockdown periods and they give you valuable feedback on any gaps in your knowledge prior to the NZQA exam period in November. What that means is, if there are any problems with exams at the end of the year and NZQA need evidence of your learning in any Achievement Standards affected, they will use these practise exam results. That's why they are not mock exams – they are real and important.
3. The timing of this lockdown, the uncertainty of when we return to school, the upcoming practise exams all mean that you **MUST** get yourself on track with Learning@Home because there is very little time for you to make up what you don't do now! Talk with your teacher if you need help!

Looking after yourself

I understand that being in lockdown, staying at home, and not seeing your friends is different and not something you may be enjoying. If things are not feeling good for you, please contact your Ako teacher, your Dean or one of our guidance team – or even email them to just say hi:

Sue Mortimer – mortimers@upperhutt.school.nz

Sandy Tustin – tustins@upperhutt.school.nz

Catherine Harrington – harringtonh@upperhutt.school.nz

AJ Picard – picarda@upperhutt.school.nz

The Mental Health Foundation of NZ has a range of online tools to help everyone with their wellbeing, especially during challenging times like this. You might like to check out part of the site that has online tools and apps – [here](#).

Finally ...

We don't know when we'll return to school – we just have to wait for further announcements from the Prime Minister. But whatever happens, we will have a plan for it, whether we continue in Level 4, or move down to Level 3. So, don't worry about that – we've got it all sorted and ready to go.

The most important thing you can do is to FIRSTLY – make sure YOU are ok. Give yourself time in the day for yourself (but don't overdo the social media). Get good sleep. Look after others in your bubble. Get outside and get some fresh air and sunshine. And... get onto some schoolwork – putting that time aside each day will make you feel on top of things!

Well done to everyone for what they are doing with your Learning@Home. It's great to see your efforts, (especially in the Foods area, love the safety video and food pics!) and to get positive feedback from your teachers. Keep up the good work! We've done this before, we can do it again!

Take care of yourselves, I'll be in touch again soon.

Ngā mihi nui

Judith Taylor
Principal

STUDENT TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Ako time 9.00 - 9.30am	Year 12/13	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	
Period 1 9.30 - 10.15am					
Period 2 10.30 - 11.15am					
Period 3 11.30 - 12.15pm					
Lunch					
Period 4 1.00 - 1.45pm					
Period 5 1.45 - 2.30pm					