



# SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

25 March 2020

Tēnā kotou katoa

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

I will keep my newsletter as succinct as possible:

- School holidays now begin from **Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive**.
- At the end of the school holidays, schools will provide distance learning but are **not physically open** for staff to work at the schools.
- The instruction to stay home (Alert Level 4) will continue beyond the new school holiday period, but schools will be technically **open for distance instruction**. Teachers will be **working offsite**.
- Many Whanganui High School teachers will have already made Google Classroom connection with your children, and email connection with you and/or your children over the last couple of days. More will make these connections and maintain effective learning relationships with your children **as Term 2 begins**.
- Our focus is on providing a range of meaningful and varied learning opportunities for your children over the coming weeks – **especially during the time when the school holidays have ended**.
- **When Term 2 begins**, teachers may nominate times when they will be available online to answer emails, questions, etc – please be mindful that most full-time teachers have five or six classes and many teachers already have their own children to look after during this pandemic.
- The Ministry of Education launched two new websites yesterday – *Learning from home* and *Ki te Ao Mārama* – to support students, parents and teachers. The information and resources are available at:

<https://www.learningfromhome.govt.nz/>

<https://www.kauwhatareo.govt.nz/ki-te-ao-marama/>

- Future updates from me will be placed directly onto our Whanganui High School Website and main Facebook page rather than through our KAMAR email system.

Please take care of yourself, your family and those people closest to you. Everybody will just do the very best they can possibly do during these most unusual times.

Ngā mihi nui

*Martin McAllen*

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