



Expectations for Starting Up Online Learning

23-03-2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We just wanted to communicate to you all regarding expectations for online learning, both from our perspective and managing your expectations too.

We are sure you are all more than aware that our current situation has come swiftly and unexpectedly and because of this we have had to move quickly to get to where we are now. Over the last two weeks we have done some work to prepare staff for the eventuality of delivering learning online but staff have also been continuing to design and deliver learning programmes as they normally do.

Our message here is that it is going to take some time to design and deliver learning online. This is a space where we will improve over the course of the coming week. As late as yesterday afternoon staff were still preparing for a normal week of school. This is what you can expect today and over the next few days:

- A limited range of learning activities and resources will be designed and put into module and course Schoology groups.
- Staff will initiate messages to module and course groups either via schoology or email. We encourage students this week to log in to the module or course group on schoology at the usual time they would have that module or course. **If learning or resources are not up yet then please do not message the teachers, this will only prevent them from preparing the learning. Patience over the next few days is helpful.**
- Students are not expected to be engaged for the normal 90 minute learning block. We advise families to work with a routine that works best for you.

Helpful Routines

- Students logging in regularly during the day to check their email and Schoology courses (especially at the usual time of their course or module)
- If they are confused or want some support;
 - Ask an adult or sibling for some support
 - Message a friend or classmate through Schoology or other platforms
 - List a question in discussion forums within Schoology
- Debrief with students about what they have been learning. This is a powerful way to reinforce new learning and a great way to check in with what has been achieved.
- If the online learning is causing undue stress in your house or you have other important stuff happening then move the learning down the priority list! Don't give up on it though, learning is important!

This is an unprecedented situation for us all. Rest assured we are doing the very best we can. This shift to a fully online platform is significant for many of our staff and students so your positive support is critical for us to really make this approach to learning effective.

From our perspective we have been overwhelmed with the positive support after our decision yesterday to start rostering home. We got a strong sense from those who contacted us that you understand the challenges of our current situation and that we are acting in the best interests of our students and community. Let's keep working together on this!

Kind Regards,
Fraser Hill and Natasha Hemara
Principals @ Rototuna High Schools