



THE LEARNING CONNEXION

School of Creativity and Art

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Campbell Barry Mayor of Lower Hutt City – Graduation Speech 2020

Kia Ora, I'm Campbell Barry Mayor of Lower Hutt, congratulations to all of you who are graduating. You can be incredibly proud of your achievements as I'm sure your friends and family are as well. Covid19 has changed what we know as normal and it's one of the reasons that I am addressing you in here in video instead of in person. While things are different please do take time to reflect on everything that you have been able to achieve at The Learning Connexion and take that time to celebrate, honour your achievements.

We know that people and families across our city and communities are doing it tough due to Covid19, we also know that arts over the past few months has played a significant role in helping us get through, we've actually seen that across the entire globe. I think it also shows the important role that the creativity space will play over the coming months. We just have to look at one of our own examples, Block Vandal, who is one of your alumni who has provided so much joy to the people who travel in and out of Wainuiomata every day. Art and creativity raises our community vibrancy and has a positive effect on mental wellbeing for our residents. If you ever need some help with future local projects, please don't hesitate to contact us at the Hutt City Council.

Thank you to all the tutors and staff involved in The Learning Connexion, your work motivating our creative thinkers and artists is so important and so is your ability to address the value of makers, creators and problem solvers in our communities. The Learning Connexion is all about facilitating the use of creativity in your life. Now that you've graduated and ready to take the next step, I'm really looking forward to seeing your work in festivals, exhibitions, galleries and art groups, I'm also looking forward to be able to see you in person.

Once again congratulations, well done on all your efforts and all the best for all your futures, Kia Ora.