

St Bernard's College: Information for Parents and Caregivers

COVID Alert Level 4

Kia ora koutou

As you know New Zealand was placed into Alert Level 4 last night which means that our onsite school is closed for the rest of this week for students and staff. This follows someone being identified with COVID-19 who has been in the Auckland and Coromandel communities while believed to be infectious.

It is really important we do everything we can to keep our community safe. Alert Level 4 means we need to stay home in our bubbles and avoid any travelling as much as possible. Supermarkets, pharmacies, foodbanks and other essential services will be open – but remember to wear a face covering if you are out and about. Check in using the NZ COVID Tracer App wherever you go and please also keep a distance from people you don't know and wash your hands well and often, especially before and after using any public facilities.

We have decided to give students and staff time today to adjust to the lock down. From Thursday 19th August online learning will be provided for all students. For Years 7-10 students, teachers have been asked to set small chunks of work in their subject and place it in **Google Classroom**. Students who have not already joined their respective **Classrooms** will be emailed by teachers directly. Some teachers may wish to meet with their whole class via **Google Meet**. For Year 11-13 students, it is important that regular learning continues. Teachers will be expecting their students to join them on **Google Meet** at their usual timetabled lesson times. Teachers will be sending out invitations to students to join in their online classroom;(only if students are not already joined.)

All students should check their school emails regularly and please remind them that they can contact their teachers via email. The remote learning link on our College website <https://www.sbc.school.nz/remote-learning/> has useful, up to date instructions for students and parents about online learning. We would also ask parents to check their emails.

Given the sudden nature of this lockdown we are unable to provide devices to students who may not have one. If your son has a question about connecting with his teacher he can send an email to byod@sbcschool.nz and we will do our best to answer as soon as possible. If your Year 11-13 son does not have a device or cannot connect to a **Google Meet** with his teacher, he should email the teacher so they understand why he has not joined the class. Teachers may then be able to provide him the schoolwork in another way.

All school activities, apart from online learning from home, that were scheduled for Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th August have been postponed.

This includes all sports and cultural events. We do not yet have information about sports events for this weekend but will let you know as soon as we can.

Our focus as always will be to support the learning, safety and wellbeing of our students and we continue to be here to support you as well. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's Tutor teacher, Dean or one of our senior staff if there is something you need assistance with. Our school Counsellor Mary-Grace Williams is also available this week via email mwilliams@sbc.school.nz

I hope and pray that these next few days go well for everyone.

Kind regards

Neal Swindells
Acting Principal
18th August 2021