

St Bernard's College: Update for Parents and Caregivers

COVID Alert Level 4

Kia ora koutou,

As you will be aware, the current COVID Alert Level 4 has been extended until midnight on Friday 27 August.

This means our on-line learning programme will continue. Please do your best to encourage your sons to engage with their learning. We have been meeting each morning with the teaching staff who are organising regular **Google Meets** with their senior classes in their normal timetabled periods and are setting work in **Google Classroom** for juniors. By Friday of this week, school will have been closed for 10 days in the middle of Term 3, so it is really important students keep up with their learning by connecting via **Google Meet** and **Google Classroom** and doing their best to get their work done. Teachers are always available to answer questions via **Google Classroom**. All internal assessments have been put on hold at this stage. Year 12 and 13's in particular, need to be engaging every weekday so they keep up with their work.

A reminder that the College remains closed to staff, students and our families. We have been able to organise and deliver (under COVID Level 4 rules) 46 laptops to students who told us they did not have a device, and today we are delivering Art and Graphics packs to senior students who need them to continue with their course work.

Parents will now be aware that all sports tournaments both national and regional planned for "Tournament Week" which was to be next week have been cancelled. The AIMS games planned for the following week has also been cancelled. There will again be no College sport in the Wellington region this coming weekend 28th and 29th of August. Many of your sons will be really upset at these cancellations and I want to acknowledge that: we are all disappointed. Mr Cavill our Director of Sport, coaches, managers and many others had put hours of work into planning and preparing for these events so this is hugely disappointing but we can all understand why the cancellations have had to be made.

We are also starting to plan for the possibility that we may go to Lockdown Level 3 next week. If the rules for Level Three remained the same as they did last year we would then open the College for the sons of "essential workers" in Years 7-10 whose families needed them to be looked after during the school day. At this stage we would like you to think about whether or not you would take up this opportunity if it is offered. We will communicate further about this later in the week.

There is a lot we can all do to protect our whānau and community from COVID-19 including:

- Everyone must continue to stay home in their bubble
- Do not mix with other household bubbles – if they have COVID-19, it can easily spread to your household, and every other household they and you are connecting with
- As new cases are identified, [new locations of interest are added to the Ministry of Health website](#) – please keep checking this. You can search by your location and they are sorted by date, so you only need to check the locations which have been added when you last checked
- Wash your hands regularly, especially when you have been out in public

- Stay home if you are feeling unwell and seek advice about whether you need to get a test
- Wear a face covering when out and about, and you MUST wear a face covering in any businesses or services which are open at Alert Level 4 (unless you have specifically been exempted from doing so, which includes anyone aged under 12)
- Keep a two-metre distance from people outside your household bubble
- Check in using the [NZ COVID Tracer App](#) wherever you go or keep a manual record (a reminder the App only stores information on your own phone – no one else will know who it is that checked in, or when)

We can also make sure we are passing on good information. There is a very helpful article by [Dr Siouxsie Wiles and Toby Morris in The Spinoff](#) regarding misinformation and disinformation.

Our focus continues to be on supporting 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 sons Tutor Teacher, Dean or one of our senior staff if there is something we can offer assistance with. Our Daily Notices are available on our website every day for further information.

In times of difficulty our Faith becomes even more important. Remember to pray; to ask for God's guidance; to be thankful, to try to humbly serve those around us and to find joy in the simple things of life.

Kia kaha!



Neal Swindells
Acting Principal
24th August 2021