



SAINT KENTIGERN

24 March 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Covid Update

As outlined by the Government on Wednesday there are changes to the Covid conditions, and the College continues to review our practices and procedures in light of Government advice. The Government announced the following changes to some restrictions:

- Removed the limit on outdoor gatherings.
- The number of people allowed to gather inside increases from 100 to 200 under the Red-light traffic setting.
- Masks will continue to be used, but this move means outdoor concerts, sports and other outdoor events would be able to resume under the red setting.
- The traffic light changes will come into effect from this **Friday 25 March**.
- Vaccine passes will no longer be required to be used from **Monday 4 April**.

This week's announcement will permit a greater number of guests (up to 200) at the 'Shake the Quad' event next Wednesday evening. While this is a ticketed outdoor event, the Risk Management Plan for this event has already been approved, and given that guests are seated we continue to require all attendees to wear a face mask, especially as weather conditions may require the event to move indoors. Please ensure you have your vaccine pass to present if attending.

As there is no longer a limit on outdoor gatherings, parents and guests are welcome to attend onsite after school and weekend sporting activities. However, until **Monday 4 April** you may be required to have your vaccine pass with you. Once again, we encourage social distancing, mask wearing and if you are unwell please do not attend onsite. We look forward to welcoming **spectators** back onsite to support their children and our College teams.

Without wishing to make a 'commentator's curse' statement, the impact of student and staff absences due to Covid (either as positive cases or household contacts) is continuing to decrease. You could say normal transmission is resumed. However, we are mindful of those families for whom Covid has impacted and may continue to impact in the coming months. Please do contact your child's / children's Tutor, Head of House, or any member of our Pastoral Care Team, should your child(ren) require any additional guidance and support.

Hybrid Learning

With approximately 93% of our students attending onsite learning, our focus must now be classroom Teaching and Learning. This is particularly true for our senior classes where the NCEA internal assessments are being undertaken this term.

Given the reducing numbers of positive cases and/or household contacts within our College Community our focus on Hybrid Learning is reducing. There will no longer be any expectation to stream lessons. The OLE continues to be the primary source of information and resources. Moving forward from next week (Monday 28 March), we will be reducing the level of Hybrid Learning that we have provided in recent weeks. Should circumstances change, i.e. a second wave of infections, we will adapt our programmes as necessary.

COLLEGE

For Boys and Girls in Years 7-13
130 Pakuranga Road, Pakuranga 2010
PO Box 51060, Pakuranga, Auckland 2140
Phone +64 9 577 0749 Fax +64 9 577 0700

BOYS' SCHOOL

For Boys in Years 1-8
82 Shore Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28790, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 7682 Fax +64 9 520 7688

GIRLS' SCHOOL

For Girls in Years 1-8
514 Remuera Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28399, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 1400 Fax +64 9 524 7657

PRESCHOOL

For Boys and Girls aged 3 and 4
514 Remuera Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28399, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 8814 Fax +64 9 524 7657

With this return to classroom Teaching and Learning focus, we expect all students that are not affected by either Covid (positive cases or household contacts) or those that have justified absences, (i.e. appointments, etc) to attend onsite classroom Teaching and Learning.

Should a parent advise the College of a student's nonattendance from Monday and it does not meet the justified Ministry of Education (MoE) criteria, their absence will be recorded as 'Explained but Unjustified'. The full explanation for this (based on the Education Government Attendance Codes) is: *'The explanation for the absence is accepted by the school as the reason for the absence. But the reason does not fit within the school's policy as a justifiable reason to take the student off school. (Even though the parents may consider the absence was justified and may have provided a written explanation).'*

We have been very impressed with the way in which our students, when necessary, have adapted once again to Distance Learning. It is more challenging to be in a virtual learning environment, at home on their own, when the majority of their class are onsite, in class and engaging with their peers and staff face-to-face.

Thank you for your support and understanding, and in particular I wish to acknowledge the additional work that staff have undertaken to ensure quality learning has continued both onsite and offsite. The learnings from the uniqueness of this current situation will stay with us. We hope that the past and current disruptions will not impact the educational learning and achievement of students in the longer term. My thanks also to our staff and our team of Relief Teachers who covered classes for other teachers who were away, which has enabled us to remain fully operational and onsite over recent weeks.

School life at Red

Unfortunately, there have been no indication of when we will be able to move to the Orange setting. The Covid restrictions currently do have a significant impact on the wider function of the College, both in terms of masks, vaccinations, social distancing, gathering limits, performing arts and sport.

We will warmly welcome the move to Orange when it is appropriate.

Term 1 is longer than usual (11 weeks) and given Covid it seems even longer. I believe we have ridden the wave and the shoreline is in sight. I am sure all our students and staff are looking forward to the Easter break and the holiday period.

Fides sevanda est

Yours sincerely,



Duncan McQueen
PRINCIPAL (Acting)

COLLEGE

For Boys and Girls in Years 7-13
130 Pakuranga Road, Pakuranga 2010
PO Box 51060, Pakuranga, Auckland 2140
Phone +64 9 577 0749 Fax +64 9 577 0700

BOYS' SCHOOL

For Boys in Years 1-8
82 Shore Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28790, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 7682 Fax +64 9 520 7688

GIRLS' SCHOOL

For Girls in Years 1-8
514 Remuera Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28399, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 1400 Fax +64 9 524 7657

PRESCHOOL

For Boys and Girls aged 3 and 4
514 Remuera Road, Remuera 1050
PO Box 28399, Remuera, Auckland 1541
Phone +64 9 520 8814 Fax +64 9 524 7657