



St John's College

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18th August 2021

Kia ora koutou – Good health to you

We are now all in Alert Level 4 which means that our school will not be open onsite for any students. We will update you when we know when we are able to open the College.

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.

Our distance learning plan started today and will continue until we return to school. Parents and students were emailed last night about the details. Please follow the timetable that was emailed.

CULTURAL SPORT EVENTS

Because of the Lockdown our Yr 11-Year13 Parent Teacher interviews were cancelled today. The Junior Social on Friday is also cancelled. We will discuss new dates for these events when we have more information available.

All Rugby, Friday night Basketball and Football have been cancelled this weekend.

Agencies you can contact for assistance

Many families may find it tough going back into Alert Level 4. It can be challenging having children at home, being cut off from family and friends, trying to making ends meet and have high stress levels.

For people with disabilities or autism and their support people, the Explore 0800 000421 phone service available to provide advice or support. This includes advice or support around challenging behaviours. To access this service, you don't need a referral and it doesn't matter whether you're new to Explore, currently on their waitlist or you've worked with them previously. The service is available Monday to Friday 9.00am–5.00pm. When you phone the 0800 number you will be connected with an administrator who will then book you an appointment with one of the specialists.

If you or anyone you know wants some advice or support over this time here are some further options that might be useful.

Support services that remain open:

- Women's Refuge 0800REFUGE or 0800 733 843
- Shine 0508 744 633
- Alcohol and Drug Helpline 0800 787 797
- Oranga Tamariki call centre 0508FAMILY
- CADS 0800 367 222
- Narcotics Anonymous 0800 628 632
- Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 229 6757
- Lifeline 0800 543 354 or free text 4357
- Youthline 0800 376 633 or free text 234
- Samaritans 0800 726 666
- Outline (LGBT) 0800 688 5463
- Depression Helpline 0800 111 757
- Suicide Prevention Helpline 0508 828 865
- The Fono West (Social Services) 09 837 1780
- Counselling Free Call or Text 1737
- Healthline for COVID-19 health advice: 0800 358 5453

Work and Income services centres are closed. However, you can apply for assistance via MyMSD or phone the contact centre on 0800 559 009.

If you know someone who needs financial assistance, please tell him/her to call the free government helpline 0800 779 997 (8am–1am, seven days a week).

If you know someone is feeling anxious, frustrated or needs a listening ear, they can call or text 1737 to talk with a trained counsellor. It is free 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

COVID information for Pacific communities

Key information on COVID-19 is available in nine Pacific languages on the [Ministry for Pacific Peoples website](#).

Our focus as always will be to support the learning, safety and wellbeing of our rangatahi and tamariki and we continue to be here to support you as well.

Please don't hesitate to contact your son's teacher via email, if there is something you need assistance with. You can also contact the office via email: admin@stjohns.school.nz.

Rob Ferreira
Principal