



COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

Tuesday, March 24



Dear Parents/Guardians,

This communication is to update you with key information subsequent to our email yesterday afternoon.

- The school holidays have been brought forward and will now begin on Monday, March 30 to Tuesday, 14 April (a reminder that the Tuesday after Easter Monday is always a closed day for schools).
- At the end of the school holidays, all schools will be open for distance learning only i.e. we will not physically be open for students or staff.
- Today teaching staff have been asked to provide some work for young men to continue with through until the end of this week where possible. Please understand that in some practical based subjects such as woodwork, metalwork and electronics this may not be possible. This material will be communicated with your son through Microsoft Teams and/or email to his school email account.
- For the remainder of this week it is essential that all young men are regularly checking their school Outlook email account – go to the front page of Stratus and click on the Outlook link on the right hand side of the page (ctrl + click or copy and paste into your web browser): <https://stratus.pnbhs.school.nz/>
- A range of ICT support documents can be found on Stratus and will assist young men in 'troubleshooting' some of the issues they may encounter (ctrl + click or copy and paste into your web browser): <https://stratus.pnbhs.school.nz/course/view.php?id=392>
- Work will not be set for completion during the school holiday period. We will communicate again with you at the end of the specified school holiday period with detail of the plan for the provision of work from that point forward.
- From 3.00pm tomorrow, Wednesday, 25 March both the Finance Office and main School Office will be shut and support staff are not permitted to be on site. We will advise parents when these offices reopen, but in all likelihood that will not be until the school reopens.

This enforced period of self-isolation is unprecedented. We acknowledge that there will be many disruptions to daily life and many families will have significant financial stress placed upon them. The 'silver lining' in this will be the opportunity for social connections within whānau to be strengthened. Please do take time to consider how you can develop rituals and routines over the coming weeks that will help to support the wellbeing of all:

- Family movie nights are an opportunity to connect
- Encourage all whānau to read and share what they are enjoying in their reading or a favourite character
- Work together where possible e.g. in the garden, a DIY project
- This will be a good opportunity to develop young men's cooking skills
- Build social connections – phone grandparents and other friends and whānau regularly, send letters and cards, offer to mow lawns or do the shopping for elderly relations and neighbours



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- Learn a new skill – there are plenty of Youtube tutorials and deciding to try something new as a whānau could well be entertaining for all
- Keep active. Even under Level 4 restrictions individual exercise is permitted. Encourage everyone to get out for some exercise every day – remembering physical distancing expectations of course.

We encourage you to limit young men's screen time. While some time spent on social media, online gaming etc. is not problematic, it can quickly become all-consuming and dominate young men's lives. This is not physically or mentally healthy – as with any aspect of life it is important that balance is maintained. We do appreciate the irony in making this statement in an environment where we are going to be pushing online teaching and learning.

A successful response to the COVID-19 threat relies on all of us playing our part. Returning to 'normality' will require us all to adhere to the advice provided by the various government departments, in particular restrictions on non-essential movement outside of residential properties and maintaining appropriate physical distancing.

Thank you for your ongoing support of your son, the school and our wider community as we together work through the challenges ahead.

Yours faithfully,

D M Bovey
RECTOR



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