



COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

Monday, May 11



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The announcement today that New Zealand is to move to Alert Level 2 in 48 hours' time is certainly welcome news and reflects the success of our collective efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19. While there have been many challenges in recent times, it is pleasing to now begin to see some positive outcomes of the burdens that all of us have borne. This news means that Palmerston North Boys' High School will reopen for all students from Monday, May 18. We will provide you with additional detail in the coming days. In the meantime, please find below important information relating to the next few days:

- Online teaching will continue tomorrow and Wednesday only. From Thursday we are able to 'burst our bubbles' and we realise that for the majority of young men, and indeed the adults in our community, the opportunity to reconnect with friends and extended family members will be important for their mental health and wellbeing. Teaching staff will be taking this opportunity to plan for welcoming our young men back to school and to make necessary changes to teaching and assessment programmes.
- Understandably a return to school will create some anxiety, especially after a prolonged period of isolation and strict physical distancing. Detailed Public Health requirements for schools at Alert Level 2 have been provided and we are currently working to ensure all guidelines are met when students return. We will provide more specific information to parents and young men in the coming days.
- The Ministry of Education has stated that "The expectation is that with the exception of some students who are sick, all students will be attending at Alert Level 2." Consequently, it is our anticipation that all young men are attending unless they are unwell or have a specific medical exemption approved by a doctor or medical officer of health.
- If your son is unwell, in particular if he has a runny nose, is coughing or sneezing, please keep him at home and notify the school of his absence as per usual processes (354 5176 ext. 761). Once he is well again he will be



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www.pnbhs.school.nz

able to attend. There is no 'stand down' period. If you are concerned about your son's health please contact Healthline

- If your son has an underlying medical condition and is unable to attend school on the basis of specific medical advice from a doctor, or is required to self-isolate on the instruction of a local medical officer of health, please notify us by emailing admin@pnbhs.school.nz This information is required so that arrangements can be made for your son to continue online learning and will be treated as strictly confidential.

Alongside ensuring physical health and safety, the mental health and wellbeing of our young men, staff and wider community is foremost in our minds at this time. Our planning for the coming days will have an emphasis on transitioning young men and staff back to school appropriately, alongside making the necessary plans for their learning.

There is likely to be an increase in our communication with you over the coming days. The information we will be providing you with will be important and we encourage you to read it carefully and to keep your son informed of the detail that is shared.

It is pleasing to be able to provide our school community with such positive news after a prolonged period of challenge for us all.

Kind regards,

D M Bovey
RECTOR

