



COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

Wednesday, March 25



Dear Parents/Guardians,

With the school closed for all pupils and staff from this evening and the nation moving into Alert Level 4 this will likely be our last email communication with you until the end of the upcoming school holidays. A reminder that the holidays have been brought forward and the first day of term two will officially be Wednesday, April 15. Term two will begin with 'remote' teaching and learning and we will communicate the relevant details closer to the time.

The situation for all us is unprecedented and there are many questions that parents and young men will have that we simply do not have answers for at this time. Senior students will be anxious about the impact of the school closure on assessment programmes and the possible consequences this may have for NCEA qualifications. As a school we will work to minimise such disadvantages. Students across New Zealand, and indeed in so many places around the world, are in a similar situation and qualification authorities in all affected countries are working on contingency plans. The best advice we can offer to our young men is to take up the learning opportunities that are available from the beginning of next term and do your best with the work that is provided. Young men can entirely control the effort that they put into these tasks; they have no control over the length of time that the lockdown is in place and schools are closed.

It is essential that all of us are looking after both our physical and mental health and wellbeing. Regular exercise is one way we can help to look after ourselves. Over the coming weeks our Director of Sport, Mr. Finch, will be providing fitness challenges that can be completed individually (@PNBHS Fitness Challenges on Instagram). We encourage all young men and their whanau to take this up in the interests of both their physical and mental health. If some exercises are too challenging for some whanau, substitute them for something that is manageable - the key message is keep moving every day and even under the conditions of Alert Level 4 individual physical exercise outside is still allowed. Please remember that PHYSICAL DISTANCING MUST BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.

Given the uncertainty of the length of time of the lockdown, the implications of this for schools reopening and consequently many of the events and other programmes that we offer for our young men, we have suspended work on our events calendar for term two. We had previously publicised the scheduled dates for Parent-Teacher Interviews. Please note that these have now been postponed and will be rescheduled at an appropriate time and the details communicated with you next term.

The coming weeks will be challenging for all of us. While our primary concern is for our young men, we realise that their health and wellbeing is very closely linked to that of the whanau joining them in their 'isolation bubble'. While we need to be physically distancing ourselves from others, we need to ensure that we are also working to strengthen our social connections. Please do all that you can to look after your health and wellbeing.

Yours faithfully,

D M Bovey
RECTOR



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