



# COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

## Friday, April 10



Dear Parents/Guardians and Young Men,

While there have no doubt been many challenges for all in our community during this period of enforced isolation, I hope that the opportunity to spend an extended period of time with your whanau has also provided a range of positive experiences.

A reminder that term two officially begins on Wednesday, April 15. The current Level 4 response to COVID-19 means that schools are closed and all school staff are prohibited from being on school grounds. Consequently, the new term will begin with remote teaching and learning. This mode of instruction will remain in place until Level 4 restrictions are lifted and we are advised that we can again use our school facilities.

This is a new and challenging situation for all of us. Below are some of the expectations and criteria for online teaching and learning. We are very aware that there is considerable variation in the current situation for young men, families and our staff – restrictions on internet access, several people having to share one device, young children at home who need looking after, some parents being essential workers (some of whom will be shift workers), the anxiety associated with coronavirus and the lockdown, the pressure of living in a confined space with a small group of people for an extended period of time, additional financial pressure as more and more people become unemployed – on top of usual family life. We have asked our teachers to be mindful of the wide range of different circumstances in providing work for young men.

For young men: Studying on your own at home can feel much harder than going into school and having your teacher and classmates around to help. The guide at the link below suggests strategies that might help you to concentrate and get your work done on time: <https://theeducationhub.org.nz/top-tips-for-studying-independently/> Students will need to regularly check their school email accounts (access from the front page of Stratus <https://stratus.pnbhs.school.nz/>, click on the Outlook icon on the right hand side of the page) and Microsoft Teams (access from the front page of Stratus <https://stratus.pnbhs.school.nz/>, click on the Microsoft Teams icon on the right hand side of the page). A collation of articles to support young men to 'troubleshoot' any issues and access online learning tasks is also available on Stratus <https://stratus.pnbhs.school.nz/course/view.php?id=392>

In particular please be aware of the following:

- Online teaching will not attempt to replicate classroom routines or 'normal' teaching practices. Teachers will generally provide the equivalent of one or two tasks per scheduled class 'period' and young men will be required to use their initiative and make a genuine effort to complete them.
- Teachers will endeavour to be active online and available to students as frequently as possible between 9.00am and 3.00pm during the school week. Depending upon their home circumstances, some teacher's online availability will be very limited.



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- Feedback on tasks will be provided where possible but it is not realistic for teachers to provide daily feedback to the 100 or more students in their classes.
- Teachers have been asked to provide suggested timeframes for the learning tasks they provide to help young men organise themselves.
- Students are reminded that their communication with each other and with teachers in online forums needs to be appropriate. Any inappropriate communication will be followed up in line with the Harmful Digital Communications Act and PNBHS School Rules and associated procedures.

Thank you to our senior students who have worked over the last few days to get the Peer Tutoring programme organised. Tutors are available to provide assistance across a wide range of curriculum areas. Students should complete the form at the following link to register for peer tutoring (ctrl + click or copy and paste into your web browser): <https://forms.gle/dgYSFHYKmwX8HfSJ6>

Our Guidance Counsellors, Mr. Steve Dawson ([dawsons@pnbhs.school.nz](mailto:dawsons@pnbhs.school.nz)) and Mr. Brett Greer ([greerb@pnbhs.school.nz](mailto:greerb@pnbhs.school.nz)) will continue to be available to support our young men. Students or parents can email them in the first instance, and they will work to decide the appropriate course of action from there. Careers advice and support is also available. Please email any questions to Mr. Adams ([careers@pnbhs.school.nz](mailto:careers@pnbhs.school.nz)) or Mr. Barwick ([barwickd@pnbhs.school.nz](mailto:barwickd@pnbhs.school.nz)).

Parents will play an important role in supporting their son's learning over the coming weeks. Below are some suggestions:

- Help your son establish a regular schedule – working from 9.00am – 3.00pm is unrealistic, but, for example, alternating 30 minutes of schoolwork with 30 minutes of break time, is more manageable.
- Encourage your son to make a genuine effort with the work that is set. Frequently we see young men who simply give up when they are confronted by something challenging. If your son is stuck and is unable to get an immediate response from his teacher he will be able to use his initiative to see if he can find help, for example by contacting one of his friends, registering for peer tutoring, or looking for an online explanation e.g. a YouTube tutorial or a revision site such as Khan Academy, Learn Coach or Study It.
- Continue to emphasise the importance of regular physical activity and maintaining social contact (within the isolation guidelines and while maintaining appropriate physical distancing).

Please find attached to this email some further suggestions for academic work and assistance for your son. We will continue to post additional information on our social media sites, Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PalmyBoys/>) and Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/palmy\\_boys/](https://www.instagram.com/palmy_boys/)).

Thank you again for your support of your son and the school during these challenging times.

Yours faithfully,

D M Bovey  
RECTOR



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