



25 August 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

No doubt many in our community listened to the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday that we are to remain at Alert Level 2 until at least September 6. While there will be some disappointment that the Alert Level was not lowered, I think it important for us to also reflect on the positive aspect that there was no need for it to be raised.

Yesterday the Alert level 2 criteria were amended and from Monday, August 31 facemasks will be mandatory on public transport. This means that young men who catch city buses to school or who use the Feilding bus service will be required to wear a facemask. Advice on how to make a facemask and how to wear one properly can be found here (ctrl + click or copy and paste into your web browser): <https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/protect-yourself-and-others/wear-a-face-covering/> Please note that school bus services are not considered public transport. Therefore, mask wearing is not mandatory. However, should young men wish to wear facemasks on school bus services they are welcome to do so. Likewise, the wearing of facemasks at school is not mandatory, but young men and staff who wish to wear one are welcome to do so.

At Alert Level 2 restrictions on gatherings still apply. Therefore, we ask that there are no spectators at sporting and cultural activities while we remain at Alert Level 2. We understand that there have been different messages from some organisations and sporting bodies and that the vast majority of parents and other whānau would like to be able to support their sons from the sidelines. However, the practicalities of trying to ensure the Alert Level 2 restrictions are adhered to across the significant number of sporting teams and cultural groups we have playing and performing on a weekly basis means that we do need to take this approach. I ask for your understanding and support with this.

Can I please take this opportunity to again draw the attention of senior students to the upcoming school examinations, Friday, September 11 – Friday, September 18. While the school examinations are always an important part of young men's preparation for the external NCEA examinations, the real possibility of a resurgence of COVID-19 disrupting these examinations and the derived grade process being enacted, means that they take on even more significance this year. It is important that young men begin their revision as soon as possible, if they have not already.

Can I please also draw your attention to Friday, September 4, which is our scheduled mid-term break. School will be closed on this day. Our planning for the year was pre-COVID-19 and this annual mid-term break usually coincides with winter tournament week and usually takes place after winter sport has concluded. However, the changes to season dates mean that winter sport will still be taking place and it is important that young men do meet their sporting commitments.

Thank you again for your continuing support as we work through the challenges that 2020 continues to present.

Yours faithfully,

D M Bovey
RECTOR

