



ST PETER'S COLLEGE
PALMERSTON NORTH, NEW ZEALAND

24th March 2020

COVID-19 Community Notice from the Principal

This is just a small follow up on the message that went out at the end of school after the announcement that schools would close as the government moves the alert from level 3 to 4 over the next few days. About 6pm last night I received an official information sheet from the Secretary of Education clarifying the Prime Minister's statement. I believe the information we sent to you at the end of Monday applies but there is one small change that was clarified by the Secretary for Education.

School holidays are being brought forward so that they are completed within the initial 4 week period while in Alert level 4. **Holidays will now begin from Monday 30 March to Tuesday 14 April inclusive** (a reminder that the Tuesday after Easter Monday is always a closed day for schools). I stated in yesterday afternoons communication that the holidays started on Thursday 26th March. At the end of the school holidays (Wednesday 15th April), schools will continue distance learning but the school will not be physically open for staff. Teachers will be working offsite.

Alert level 4 means all staff including myself as principal will have to work from home creating some unique difficulties in maintaining prudent administration and business systems through this lockdown – we will make changes in order to operate. Our staff will continue to answer emails but **be aware that with the holidays starting next Monday staff will be focusing on the preparation of materials rather than online teaching.** We have done a quick survey of staff and **I am confident that all departments and teaching staff have posted online or provided paper based materials for students.** With so many students missing from school yesterday some may not have received this material but despite this most subjects will have work posted online. Some subjects such as technology are very practical focused and so these students have been given unit standard booklets to work on.

If the Alert Level 4 phase goes longer than 4 weeks the teachers are prepared for a phase of posting further work to maintain this programme. The Ministry of Education is also preparing work that will support both teachers and students and I have copied an update below sent by the Secretary of Education:

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“Today we have launched Learning from home and Ki te Ao Mārama, two new websites to support teachers, learners, parents and whānau so that learning for children and young people can continue.

The websites include resources for parents and whānau, teachers and leaders. Resources span the learning pathway from early learning through to senior secondary, and more resources will be added as they’re developed.

The information and resources are available at <https://www.learningfromhome.govt.nz/> and <https://www.kauwhatareo.govt.nz/ki-te-ao-marama/>”

These websites are obviously in a development phase but I am letting you know as it may prove useful as it continues to be built and resources added.

I have also enclosed some advice for families from Chris Edwards our counsellor that you may find helpful. Once again best wishes over the coming weeks it is going to be a new experience for us all and I would make a plea that we follow the rules applied for lockdown by the government to enable our country to break the life cycle of this dreaded virus. God Bless as we send our love and prayers to you all.

Kevin Shore