

St Dominic's Catholic College

Founded by the Dominican Sisters

Principal: Anna Swann

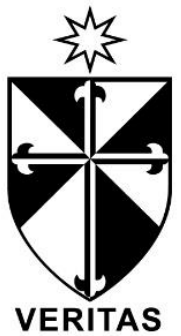
T (+64 9) 839 0380

F (+64 9) 839 0390

E office@stdoms.ac.nz

29 Rathgar Rd, Henderson, Auckland 0610

PO Box 21-123, Henderson, Auckland 0650



St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui 01/05/2022



Kia ora whānau,

I hope that the school holiday break has been kind to you and you are enjoying the mild weather we have been gifted over the past two weeks. We look forward to having everyone back onsite on Monday, and remain hopeful for a smooth and uninterrupted term ahead.

Feast of St Catherine of Siena, 29th April



Born in Siena, Italy in 1347, into a very large family, Catherine learned to share what she had with others. Living the Dominican motto of 'Veritas-Truth', Catherine was fearless in speaking out about the problems of the times. She defended the Church, the women of that age who were treated so badly, prisoners and the poor and sick.

Only two women have been called "Doctors of the Church". Catherine of Siena is one of them because of the great wisdom of her writings. Catherine died in Rome in 1380.

St Catherine's, fondly known as 'St Cath's' is one of our four College Saints and those students and staff in this house proudly wear the colour red at house sports days and other school competitions.

NCEA Information Evening Tuesday 3rd May

This Tuesday 3rd May at 7pm, is our NCEA information evening in the College gym. This is an opportunity to hear how NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3 work, and what you can do to support your daughter with her learning. There will also be information on University entry requirements for New Zealand. The easiest parking is in the back entrance carpark on Pinedale Place.

Academic Coaching Day Thursday 5th May

All teachers are involved in Academic Coaching on Thursday this week, meeting with students, parents and caregivers to set goals for the year. Students are only required to come to school for their coaching appointments on this day. No classes will be running. There will be supervision available onsite for students under the age of 14 whose parents need to go to work. Please contact Ms Heffernan if your daughter requires supervision on this day associateprincipal@stdoms.ac.nz

All students, parents and caregivers are asked to wear masks to appointments please.

COVID - Health and Safety Term 2

The guidelines and restrictions from the Ministry of Education still **strongly** encourage facemasks be worn indoors. Mask wearing has proven one of the best defences we have in protecting others and ourselves from contracting COVID, especially those most vulnerable in our community.

The current situation is as follows:

- While Auckland was recently experiencing a decline in cases of Omicron, there is now a steady increase in cases with many predicting we will experience a second surge.
- I continue to receive regular communication of positive cases from within our community.
- We are approaching the winter flu season and understand that because of reduced immunity to the flu, we should expect a surge in flu cases.
- We have students and staff who are immuno-compromised who we wish to protect as much as we can so that they can feel safe at school.
- There is an increasing level of concern raised about the impact of 'long Covid', especially on children.

Due to the continued reporting of case numbers in our community, and the ease of transmission of the latest variant, I am asking that **all students continue to wear facemasks in classroom settings wherever possible**.

Current exceptions to mask wearing indoors will be at such times as:

- For assessments and rehearsals for those subjects/activities requiring the use of facial expression (i.e. Dance, Drama and Music as well as for speech delivery)
- For sports trainings and physical activities
- Teaching staff may remove their masks for more effective teaching practice, and will ensure they remain at a good distance from students when they do so.
- Mask breaks for all students during classroom lesson times are still encouraged.
- At the discretion of the Principal in line with Health and Safety procedures

We will review all health and safety protocols regularly, as more information comes through from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. Any changes or developments to our plan will be communicated with our community as soon as we are able.

Thank you for your ongoing support in prioritising the health, safety and wellbeing of all in our community, as we work together to navigate the coming weeks ahead.

The following links may be helpful:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/traffic-lights/covid-19-protection-framework/>

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/covid-19-150-experts-back-masks-in-classrooms-this-winter/BCNENALHQY7PRCXFNR3DEJYSHA/>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

It is important that students do not attend school if they are unwell in any way. If any student presents as unwell, parents/caregivers will be contacted to collect them immediately from the front office.

Students who test positive are still required to isolate for 7 days from the date of the test or from whenever they first displayed symptoms. Household contacts must also isolate for 7 days.

We are hopeful that all students will be able to attend school each day (unless they are unwell).

Our rostering home system will only be reinstated if/when required due to staffing shortages due to infection and isolation.

UNIFORM UPDATE

Please ensure that your daughter's uniform is clearly labelled in two places. This really helps with the return of lost property.

Thank you also for ensuring that your daughter is ready regarding her uniform for the term: no nail or eyelash treatments, correct hair, jewellery and shoes. Warm undergarments as the weather cools is advised as good ventilation of classrooms is still necessary (Please see details on the college website and in last week's Panui).

We continue to appreciate your support to keep our students wearing their college uniform in the way that leads to very positive comments from the public, so that we can all be proud of our school.

NCEA Teacher Only Day Monday 16th May

Please be reminded that there is a Teacher Accord Day on Monday 16th May and students will be learning from home on this day. There will be supervision available onsite for students under the age of 14 whose parents need to go to work. Please contact Ms Heffernan if your daughter requires supervision on this day associateprincipal@stdoms.ac.nz

Netball Season 2022

The school netball season begins this week. Could all coaches and managers please check their emails for details sent out over the past two weeks.

To take the court, all players need to have returned a permission slip or parent/caregiver has emailed netball@stdoms.ac.nz confirming they have permission to play, have completed their umpires certificate (Years 8-13) have an up to date netball dress and have paid their fees or have a payment plan in place.

If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Jones netball@stdoms.ac.nz

If you, or someone you know, would like to sell your netball dress on as a second hand item (the newer style that has been in place for the past two years) please contact netball@stdoms.ac.nz

Student Health and Wellbeing Programme

With the support of Ignite Mental Performance Ltd, we will be starting a health and well-being programme at St Dominic's from the first day of Term 2.

Students can register to develop and strengthen their mental resilience and coping mechanisms, which will help to improve not only their health and well-being, but will increase their success in all areas of life.

The workshops will be games based learning with some classroom content.

To register please write your name on the list for your year level, this will be on the whiteboard in the gym foyer. Workshops will be held each lunchtime from 1.25 pm til 1.55 pm.

- **Mondays:** Years 7 & 8
- **Wednesdays:** Years 9 & 10
- **Thursdays:** Years 11 & 12
- **Fridays:** Year 13

For any queries, please contact Mrs Natalie Jones on njones@stdoms.ac.nz

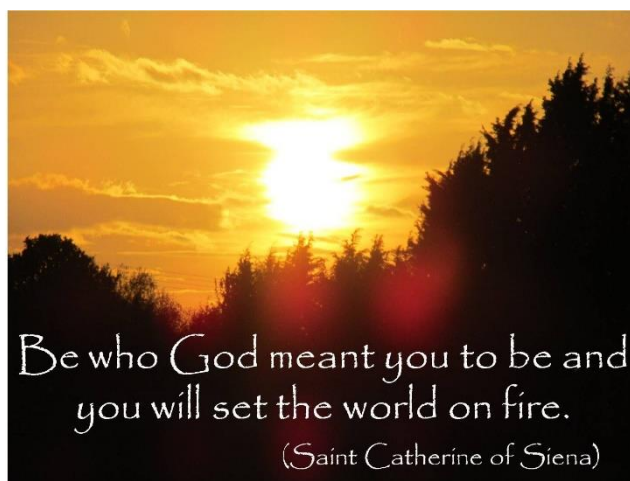
Duke of Edinburgh

A team of 22 set off to the Far North on Monday on their Duke of Edinburgh Gold/Silver tramp. They camped up for their first night at Spirits Bay. From there their hikoi took them to Pandora Bay, Taputuputu Bay and Cape Reinga. They had to carry everything in their packs including their tents, bedding, clothing and food for the week. Well done to all trampers and a huge thank you to Miss Geary for your organisation and leadership, and to our helpers Sue and Anthony, for your support!



We are looking forward to a great and positive start to the term tomorrow. Enjoy a safe and lovely weekend everyone.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Anna Swann



TERM 2 WEEK 1- Week B Timetable

- **Monday 2nd May**
Term 1 starts
- **Tuesday 3rd May**
NCEA Information Evening 7pm College Gym
Senior Netball begins @Te Pai afterschool
- **Thursday 5th May**
Academic Coaching Day
- **Saturday 7th May**
Year 9&10 Netball begins @ Te Pai

TERM 2 WEEK 2- Week A Timetable

- **Wednesday 11th May**
Years 7 & 8 Netball begins @ Te Pai afterschool

St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui 06/05/2022



Kia ora whānau,

This week has been a great start to the term. Most students have returned to school this week in correct winter uniforms, are engaged in class and the buzz around the grounds has been a welcome sound. We remain optimistic about a smooth term ahead with minimal interruptions and some solid learning time.

Happy Mother's Day

This Sunday we celebrate our mothers and those motherly figures in our lives.

Mother Mary is the model for all mothers and it is so fitting that we celebrate Mother's Day in May, as May is a month dedicated to honouring Our Lady through the rosary.

However you choose to celebrate your mothers this weekend, may it be a Sunday filled with much love.



Whakatau to welcome new staff

This morning we welcomed our three new staff members to the College with a whakatau in our full school assembly. It is such a joy welcoming new staff into our College whānau,

Our three newest members bring with them diverse skills, expertise and experiences and we are very blessed to have them at St Dominic's. Mrs Barbara Stepanicic (RE) Mrs Margaret Karanga (Visual Art), Miss Rebecca Nolly (PE/Health)

Due to a change in circumstance, I am pleased to let you know that Mrs Vicki Jones will not be leaving us. We feel very pleased and blessed that Mrs Jones will remain with us, as I know you will be too. We had a lot of interest in the position from our community and I thank those who took the time to enquire about the role and sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused. Aroha mai.

NCEA Information Evening and Academic Coaching

Thank you for your presence onsite this week at one or both of these events. It has been great to be able to gather as a community again and reconnect relationships as well as building new ones. Please be reminded, if you have any questions regarding your daughter's learning, you can contact her academic coach, subject teacher or her dean via email.

COVID - Health and Safety Term 2

Thank you for your continued support of our Health and Safety plan. It has been reassuring to see all our students wearing masks when inside for classroom teaching. This added layer of safety helps to keep our staff and students safe, whilst the variants of COVID remain active in our community.

Homestay Families

As we plan for the return of international students over the coming months, we are seeking interest for Homestay Families in our community.

Requirements as a Homestay Family:

- Student's own bedroom with desk, lamp.
- Bedroom to be within the main house.
- English as a first language.
- Family values in line with the College values
- Parents who do not work outside of the home at dinnertime or overnight.
- A police check before placement.

If you have any queries or would like to apply to host a student from overseas for short stay (1 term) or longer term, please email - Mrs Gay Foley on gfoley@stdoms.ac.nz.

Football Season has begun

Our First VI football team took to the field on Wednesday afternoon in their first match against Waitakere College.

The girls played well and competed for the full 90 minutes, unfortunately to be defeated 2-1.

We look forward to watching the team go from strength to strength each week.



NCEA Teacher Only Day Monday 16th May

Please be reminded that there is a Teacher Accord Day on Monday 16th May and students will be learning from home on this day.

There will be supervision available onsite for students under the age of 14 whose parents need to go to work. Please contact Ms Heffernan if your daughter requires supervision on this day associateprincipal@stdoms.ac.nz

Gym equipment

We are in the process of updating the equipment in our school weights, fitness and wellbeing room. We have some items that are no longer of any use to us, but may be of interest to someone in our community who wishes to collect them.

We are also seeking any contacts in the gym and fitness industry you may have in finding replacement items for our *Physical Health & Wellbeing* room.



If you are interested in collecting one of the older, unused items, or have contacts who may be helpful to us, please contact

jsmith@stdoms.ac.nz or

njones@stdoms.ac.nz

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Anna Swann



TERM 2 WEEK 2- Week A Timetable

- **Wednesday 11th May**
Years 8 Netball begins @ Te Pai afterschool

TERM 2 WEEK 3- Week B Timetable

- **Monday 16th May**
NCEA Accord Day – All students learning from Home
- **Thursday 19th May**
Year 12 Retreat overnight
- **Friday 20th May**
- *Year 12 Retreat*

St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui 20/05/2022



Kia ora whānau,

Another great and productive week at school for staff and students, with a real sense of normality returning to learning and extra-curricular activities.

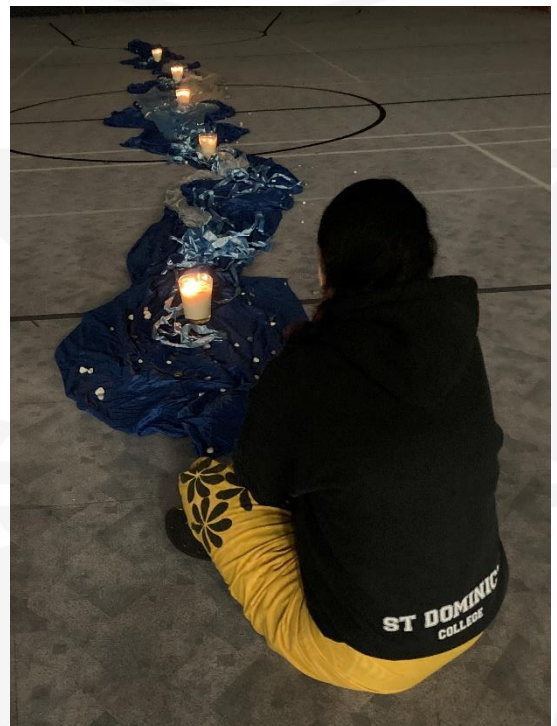
Year 12 Retreat

It was great to be able to take our Year 12 students on their retreat to Willow Park at Eastern Beach on Thursday and Friday. The theme this year was 'Encounter'.

Over two days, the girls reflected on their life journey so far, and then looked forward to the possibilities that lie ahead.

We were blessed to be joined by past students Amy Mudgway, Alofa Vaifale and Nina Vaifale, who along with the LOGOS crew lead us throughout the retreat.

Huge thanks to Ms Whitham-Blackwell for all her work preparing for retreat and to the staff who came and supported the girls.



Netball Representatives

Congratulations to the following girls who have been selected into Representative Teams this year.

Under 18's

Breeana Ah Sam

Under 16's

Mia Swann

Under 14's

Mia Namok

Chelsea Finlay

Well done girls! We are very proud of your achievements and look forward to hearing about your season.

Squash

Winter season began for our new senior Squash teams A & B - participating for the first time in a long while. From introducing the sport last term, to entering an intercollegiate competition this term, you have engaged and enjoyed the team comradery and made friends along the way. This is what participation is all about!

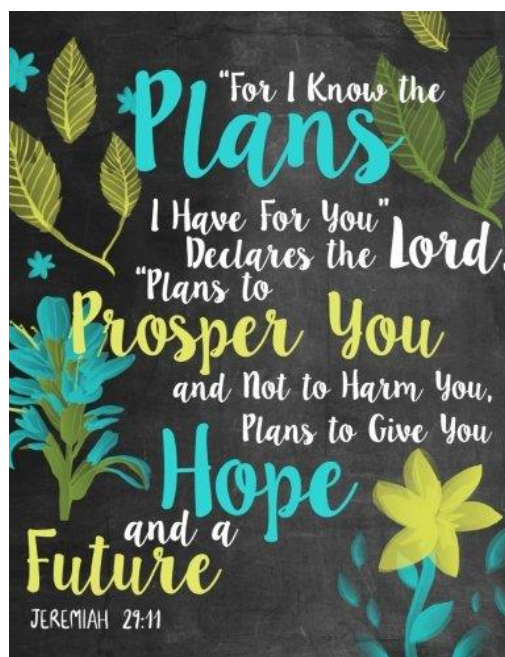


PTFA

Due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to meet last term. Our first meeting will be on Monday 23rd May at 6.15pm in the Veritas Room in the Admin building. New members are very welcome.

Enjoy the rest of your weekend everyone.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Anna Swann



TERM 2 WEEK 4 Week A Timetable

- **Monday 23rd May**
PTFA Meeting 6.15pm
- **Wednesday 25th May**
Pink Shirt Day – Anti Bullying (Postponed from Friday due to retreat)
- **Saturday 28th May**
Sacramental Mass 2pm College Chapel

TERM 2 WEEK 5 Week B Timetable

- **Thursday 2nd June**
Year 11 Retreat/Study Skills
High Achievers Tea
- **Friday 3rd June**
Year 11 Retreat/Study Skills