



Kia ora whanau,

It has certainly been a day of change across New Zealand. Although we have been preparing for this, it is hard to not feel confronted by the confirmation that our nation is now going at Alert Level 4 and going into isolation. It is important to reassure our students of the reasons for this, to minimise their fear and stress.

I would like to assure you all that we will continue to provide guidance throughout the coming days and weeks to ensure we are all sharing the same messages and keeping the health, safety and well-being of our community at the heart of everything.

School only open for children of *Essential Workers*

In order to support the essential workers in our communities to continue in their vital roles, teachers will be in school tomorrow and Wednesday to provide supervision and some learning. If you are employed in a role deemed essential by the government, and have not been able to organise child care for your daughter, please let me know. We will have staff on site during normal school hours for the next two days to assist in this.

Ongoing Learning

Our staff met this afternoon and will continue to do so over the next couple of days, both in school and online, to plan and provide remote learning during this period of isolation. This learning may come in different forms and types as departments set to prioritise in their curriculum areas and across year levels.

Please be mindful that although there are certain expectations from school in regards to learning, these are exceptional circumstances and we fully understand that each family household will be experiencing their own challenges at this time. No matter what year your daughter is in, please remember that learning remotely is very different to learning at school and may require more time than usual for your daughter to complete.

Routines are important

Where possible, students should keep to a learning routine throughout this time. Encouraging your daughter to get up, wash and prepare for the day will help set a good routine for the day. If possible you may wish to monitor learning time, allowing for regular breaks, fresh air and some fun activities in between.

NCEA Assessments Years 11-13

We have received communication from NZQA, the governing authority of NCEA. This communication outlines that during this time there will be flexibility and adjustments made for due dates and expectations from students. These will be made clearer to your daughter by their teachers over the next few days.

Junior Curriculum Years 7-10

Teachers will still set learning activities and tasks for all students. This may take many forms. Each teacher, department and/or Dean will communicate these with you. Please remember that Education Perfect will provide ongoing activities for Junior year levels to carry on with.

Devices

Over the past few days we have been organising for students who usually borrow devices from the college to collect these from the library for long term loaning. If your daughter requires a device to borrow, can you please make contact with Mr Jellyman on deputyprincipal@stdoms.ac.nz so that he can organise a loan chrome book for your daughter. These can be collected this Wednesday between 9-11am from the Library.

Resources

In some cases, teachers may make additional resources available for pick up from the college. The college office will be open on Wednesday morning between 9-11am if your daughter has been directed to do so. Your daughter's teacher will let her know if this is the case.

Your daughter should be checking her email every day in case there are messages and instructions from her teachers.

Care of others

It will be difficult for many of our students to completely understand the importance of isolating themselves from their friends as well as many of their family members. We have many vulnerable members in our community who need us to stay away physically so that they remain

safe and healthy. We are not asked to stop communicating with them though. In the coming days and weeks, it will be more important than ever to phone, skype and message our family members regularly, especially those on their own.

Hygiene practice is as important as ever now. Continue to encourage your daughters to wash their hands regularly with soap and water and dry them with a paper towel. This will help eliminate the spreading of COVID-19 and other viruses and bugs we may catch.

Like our Prime Minister has stated over and over again, BE KIND. Our kindness to others, and the kindness we receive in the coming days will help us through this challenging time.

Take care everyone. Look after, and look out for each other. I will be in contact again soon.

Ngā mihi nui, ngā manaakitanga,

God bless,

Anna Swann

PRINCIPAL