

St Dominic's College Whānau Pānui February 2024



Kia ora e te whānau,

I hope you are still enjoying the summer weather and all the joys that it brings. We are mindful that the last few weeks have also brought some sadness for many, with the loss of loved ones near and far. We keep all our special people in our thoughts and our prayers, as we enter the next chapter of our own lives without their physical presence.

As we edge closer to the start of school this week, there are a few reminders and pieces of information you may find useful.

New Building – Te Whare Mātauranga

We are very excited to be entering into our much-anticipated new classroom block this year. The new 19 classroom block not only boasts a range of teaching and learning spaces but is also home to a brand new and much longed for staffroom, guidance and wellbeing centre, learning support facilities and whānau hospitality facilities. Te Whare Mātauranga (the home of wisdom/knowledge) is a striking statement piece for our college and complements our existing learning and community areas beautifully. St Dominic's has a rich history of learning and community, and the new developments reflect this.

The construction and demolition teams have been working hard to ensure it is ready to welcome our students, and the classroom spaces and workrooms are modern and beautifully designed. A crew of staff and students has been busy over the last few weeks shifting and heaving hundreds if not thousands of pieces of furniture into all the rooms, and I can honestly say – it looks stunning!

You will notice that there is still some work to be done in preparation for Stage 2 – The Arts Block. I will keep you updated as expected timeline and information comes through. The building alongside the demolition site truly reflects the growth and change happening within the College. It really is very exciting.

Uniform

Undoubtedly, you have been busy purchasing uniform items needed to start the school year. With the warm weather lingering for some time yet, please note that blazers, jumpers, cardigans, and jackets are not needed right now. Please ensure all uniform items are named.

Thank you in advance for your support of our uniform rules. We are very proud of how our students present themselves in the College and in the community. If there is any confusion regarding uniform rules and regulations, please visit the College website. You can also contact your daughter's dean should any clarification be required.

Stationery

You will have received the stationery lists in an email from me last month. Most of what is required can be purchased from providers such as The Warehouse Stationery, Whitcoulls and Paper Plus. The College office is open for purchasing of specialist textbooks, workbooks, and other items. Some second-hand uniform items are also available at the College.

St Dominic's Start and Finish Times

The St Dominic's day starts at 8.40am and finishes at 3.20pm. You may be aware that Liston College has altered their school day slightly this year. This has minimal impact on our school timetable, and we have systems in place for any impact it may have on individuals. Expectations for senior students who have classes at Liston, will be discussed with them this week.

Buses will run at the usual time and from the usual places.

Student timetable, Spider portal and whānau classes

Last week our data team updated and transferred all student data ready for the 2024 year. Students should now be able to access their timetable for term 1. Please also note that all *Form Classes*, will now be known as *Whānau Classes*. This aligns beautifully with our Special Character, as well as our Relationship Based Learning and Positive Behaviour for Learning philosophies. In instances there may be some slight alterations in regard to who your daughter's Whānau teacher will be this year. This will all be discussed with all students on their return to school this week. If you have any questions following that time, please contact your daughter's dean for more information.

Deans for 2024

Year 7 Dean - Sherry Ng Lam

snglam@stdoms.ac.nz

Year 8 Dean - Hera Jacobs

sjacobs@stdoms.ac.nz

Year 9 Dean - Vania Caldas

vcaldas@stdoms.ac.nz

Year 10 Dean - Barbara Stepanicic

bstepanicic@stdoms.ac.nz

Year 11 Dean - Kate Gatland

kgatland@stdoms.ac.nz

Year 12 Dean - Rachel Phillips

rphillips@stdoms.ac.nz

Year 13 Dean - Hayley Schischka & Greta Campbell

hschischka@stdoms.ac.nz

gcampbell@stdoms.ac.nz

Pastoral Dean - Mrs Susan Milham

smilham@stdoms.ac.nz

International Dean - Mrs Gay Foley

gfoley@stdoms.ac.nz

Government ban on student phones in schools

You may be aware of the Governments intention to ban all use of mobile phones by students in schools. We currently have our own processes and protocols in place to limit phone use during the school day. We will be reviewing our policy this term to ensure we follow all legal requirements. In the meantime, can you please ensure that you support our current system of student phone use by:

- Contacting the office if you need to unexpectedly collect your daughter during the school day.
- Refrain from calling your daughter during the school day.
- Reminding your daughter about the need to follow all current school rules on phone use at school

Your daughter will be reminded that:

- Phones are to be kept in their pocket or their bag during the school day
- Phones are only used in class when instructed by a member of staff (E.G. to take educational photos, recording etc)
- If she feels unwell she needs to go to the office where a member of staff will contact her parent/guardian if needed

Student start dates and the month ahead.

Week 2 Week B (for Timetable)

Monday 5th Feb

- All staff onsite – Teacher Only Day

Tuesday 6th Feb

- Waitangi Day – School Closed

Wednesday 7th Feb

- Year 7 students only

Thursday 8th Feb

- All Year 7 and All Year 13 students
- New Year 8 students only
- New Year 9 students only

Friday 9th Feb

- All students
- Pōwhiri for new students, staff and whānau

Week 3 Week A (for Timetable)

Monday 12th Feb

- All students at school - Normal school timetable

Wednesday 14th Feb

- Ash Wednesday

Week 4 Week B (for Timetable)

Monday 19th Feb

- Athletics' Day – details to come

Week 5 Week A (for Timetable)

Monday 26th Feb

- Board Meeting

Tuesday 27th Feb

- Western Zone Athletics

Thursday 29th Feb

- New students and Year 13 Whānau BBQ

Have a lovely start to your week and a reflective Waitangi Day on Tuesday.



*Kia hora te marino
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana
Hei huarahi mā tātou i te rangi nei
Aroha atu, aroha mai
Tātou i a tātou katoa
Hui e! Tāiki e!*

***May peace be widespread
May the sea be like greenstone
A pathway for us all this day
Let us show respect for each other
For one another
Bind us all together!***

Ngā manaakitanga,

Anna Swann