



Principal's Update

Greetings to you all,

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well

On Monday the Prime Minister announced that New Zealand will move into Alert Level 2 from today Thursday 14th May. The Government will be reviewing this decision in two weeks time.

In light of this announcement, De La Salle College will be re-opening for all students from Monday 18th May and we will be making preparations for the return of students over the coming days. The key messages from the Prime Minister in relation to schools reopening at Alert Level 2 are below.

“Schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff. Additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.”

“So keeping kids at home if they're sick, and practicing good hygiene such as hand washing are so important.”

“In schools, physical distancing means children, young people and staff maintaining enough distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other.

Returning to school

I understand that the realisation that your son will be returning to school may cause some worry or uncertainty for Parents, however we have followed the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education Guidelines very carefully and also added our own strict measures to ensure that De La Salle is a safe place for your son.

The Staff are all looking forward to having face-to-face teaching with our young men next week.

We will be expecting our young men in Years 7 - 13 to return to school by 8.35am on Monday 18th May when they will firstly go to their Homeroom class. This will be an extended Homeroom opportunity for students to reconnect with their friends, but most importantly to be briefed on strict Health and Safety procedures for Level 2 and this time will allow our Staff to set up contact tracing registers for each student. After extended Homeroom time the normal College Timetable will start.

As we have been doing at Alert Level 3, we will continue to focus on:

- enabling good hygiene practices – regular washing and drying of hands and good cough and sneeze etiquette remain fundamental to preventing spread of illness such as colds, flu and COVID-19,
- ensuring people with COVID-19 symptoms stay away from school,
- maintaining physical distancing where practicable – in schools at Alert Level 2 this means young people and staff maintaining a physical distance so that they are not breathing on or touching each other,
- keeping track of people who enter our school.

Additionally, at Level 2, we will ask students to:

- Use hand sanitiser upon entering class and clean surfaces at the end of each class
- Bring a bottle from home for water, as water fountains have been disabled except filling taps,
- Not share class equipment eg books, pens, pencils, etc, at this time.

In preparation for the return to school, I have asked the College staff not to set any new work for your son on Friday. This will give students a chance to get out their uniform, gather up their stationery or catch up time on some home jobs before returning to school full-time next week. Teachers will still be available in lesson times up until Thursday. No staff will be available on Friday as they will be preparing onsite at De La Salle for the return of students on Monday.

We are sure that as a community we will all work together so that we can ensure the safety of your son as we return to school. Please do not hesitate to contact your son's Homeroom teacher or Dean if you have any concerns.

God bless

M.Hogarty
Principal


De La Salle

