

7 September 2021

Tēnā koutou katoa

I hope this letter finds you and your whānau are safe and well.

At 11.59pm tonight Wellington will move into Alert Level 2. School will resume on Thursday 9 September. This letter will outline a number of factors as we prepare to re-open the school. General information on Alert Level 2 can be found [here](https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/alert-level-2/).
<https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/alert-level-2/>

ONLINE LEARNING AT HOME

Online learning will continue tomorrow with tutor time scheduled for 12.15pm.

LATE START

The return to school this Thursday will begin at **9.10am**. Please note the change in time. Students who attend St Catherine's will begin classes there on Friday.

FACE MASKS

While face masks are not mandatory in school it is strongly recommended that your son wear one. I would encourage whānau to ensure that your son has one with him even if he does not wear it. When it is worn he must also wear it correctly. Staff will remind students to wear it properly if it is not worn the correct way. This is for his wellbeing and the wellbeing of those he interacts with.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

We will take precautions and have available in all classrooms hand sanitisers and cleaning products to wipe down hard surfaces available in every classroom. All desks will be separated in all classrooms for physical distancing. Due to the nature of the Art and Technology classrooms this may not be practical. Social distancing will be in place for students when lining up outside the tuckshop to buy food.

Please remind your son that he needs to be respectful and considerate of all staff, his peers and himself. It is important that he keeps his social distance from others. The intention is to keep everyone safe so that we can all learn and interact with positive enthusiasm in familiar surroundings. We recommend your son bring a small hand sanitiser to have on him. He should also bring a water bottle.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE ETIQUETTE

We ask all students to continue to practice good hygiene in the form of: washing and drying hands with soap regularly; coughing or sneezing into their elbow; and more importantly, if your son is sick or feeling unwell please keep him at home.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

We have support available if your son is feeling anxious in returning to school. Please inform your son's tutor teacher if this is the case. We want to reassure your son is in a safe space and that it is absolutely ok if he is feeling this way. We will provide support through either his tutor teacher; or he can see our Guidance Counsellor Chris Fouhy; our College Priest Fr. Pat Brophy or HoD of Learning Support, Michelle Duffy.

COURSE SELECTION

All students will be able to select their options for 2022 from Thursday 9 September. This can be done via the parent portal. Your son will receive instructions on how to do this at tutor time on Thursday. Please sit down with your son and discuss his option selection with him.

On the school website www.stpats.school.nz under the curriculum tab you will find the Senior Course Option booklet and a Year 10 Option Booklet. The 2022 versions will be on the website by Thursday.

If your son has any queries about a course, they should talk to their tutor teacher or the Head of Department or Teacher in Charge of the course being offered.

The last day for subjects to be selected will be Monday 20 September. After this date each student will meet with either their Tutor Teacher, House Leader, or a member of the senior leadership team to discuss the options they have selected. Any changes required will be made at this time.

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM METLINK

School buses will be back in operation from tomorrow Wednesday 8 September. This will include the timetable changes outlined below.

One important detail for you and your school community to note is that tomorrow Wednesday 8 September school services will not be able to be tracked on the Metlink Website or RTI system. This is due to the fact that it takes a day or two for the new timetable data to be uploaded to all of our systems. We will do our best to ensure that schools are communicated with if any issues arise.

More detailed general Metlink school bus information will follow once we have confirmation of any requirements from the Ministry of Health, for example regarding any physical distancing or the use of face coverings.

Apologies for the short notice here. We are moving as quickly as possible to ensure our services are running as smoothly as possible based on yesterday's Alert Level 2 announcement.

Metlink have advised some changes to our Railway Station services. The changes are:

- **Route 751** Wellington Station - St Patrick's College/Rongotai College is going to be operated by one double decker bus, rather than two single deckers. This bus will leave the usual stop outside the Old Government Buildings at 8.19am, arriving at St Patrick's College at 8.37am.
- **Route 753** St Patrick's College - Wellington Station will be run by two double deckers instead of three single deckers. These will leave St Patrick's College at 3.25pm and 3.26pm.
- **Route 782** Wellington Station - Roseneath - Hataitai - Kilbirnie/Eastern Suburbs Schools will be replaced in both the morning and afternoon with an extension to public Route 14 to and from Kilbirnie Schools.

SPORT AT ALERT LEVEL 2

College Sport Wellington is giving every indication that semi-finals and finals across rugby, football and basketball will start to be played on the weekend of September 17-18.

With that in mind, teams can resume training from Thursday of this week.

If you haven't already, please book training times through our Director of Sport Jonathan Millmow (jonathan.millmow@stpats.school.nz).

The College has put the following protocols/restrictions in place for sport at Alert Level 2 at St Pat's:

- (1) Players and coaches to scan in before training or playing in the gym or on the turf.
- (2) Team managers send lists of all those present at training and games to Mr Millmow.
- (3) No spectators at training or games (this will be enforced by College staff). Please respect this policy endorsed by College Sport Wellington
- (4) No student pick-ups on the College grounds.

The normal requirements around hand sanitising, cleaning of equipment, distancing and staying away when you are feeling unwell or sick remain in place for sports training and games.

DEVICES

Students who received a Chromebook or laptop from the school please return this to the main office on Thursday. Please return it in the box that it arrived in.

Thank you for keeping the faith and doing the MAHI. We all look forward to returning to school to re-connect, re-engage with face to face learning in class and more importantly, to gather together as a community. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Sectare Fidem

Mike Savali

TUMUAKI | RECTOR