

17 August 2021

Kia ora tatou

As you will just have heard, Auckland is heading into a Level 4 lockdown from midnight tonight until, probably, midnight next Tuesday night after a positive case was recorded in a man from Devonport. This is obviously upsetting for all of us, but we hope that the lockdown will be a short, effective one. As this is Level 4, we will not be able to have any students in school.

This means that the school will move immediately to full online learning. As you will remember, **this means that we will be running six lessons a day, using students' normal timetables.** Teachers will teach live lessons, although there may be time during the lessons for students to work independently, just as there is when we are physically in school.

Lessons will start from period 1 tomorrow morning.

As this a Level 4 lockdown, we are not able to allow students or parents into school to collect their books or any other equipment. There will not be anyone at all in school tomorrow, Thursday or Friday or any other day while we are at Level 4, and school will be locked throughout. We realise that this may not be ideal, but we are hopeful that the lockdown will be short and that we can all manage for a few days. If the lockdown is for a longer period of time, we hope that we will be able to arrange for the collection of resources. If this happens, we will write again later to explain how we are going to arrange this.

The Year 11 Mock examinations scheduled for this week and next week will probably be rescheduled, and we are postponing or cancelling all other events for the rest of the lockdown. We will let you know about all events when we have more information over the next few days.

Your child's teachers may well be in touch directly with them before tomorrow's lesson, but please do explain to them how this is going to work. And remember that the main way we teach is through Microsoft Teams, supported by Schoolbox in College and Seesaw in Primary. If you are new to the school: don't worry! Your teacher will be able to take you through how it works.

The summary document explaining how we organise all of our online learning is on our website and available here:

<https://www.pinehurst.school.nz/media/2384/2021-covid-19-summary-of-planning.pdf>

Please remember to ask us if you have any questions or concerns at all. We will be continuing to support students in every way we can, and we will be checking in online.

Finally: we want every student in College to be online as much as possible, attending every lesson they can. But we know that, in Primary (and occasionally in College), some students may find it hard to be online for the whole day. So we will continue to provide a full online experience, but if your Primary student needs to have time away from online learning, just let the teacher know. It's not compulsory and the most important thing is your child's wellbeing.

I'll be back in touch tomorrow, but for the moment: stay well, keep warm and let us know if there's anything we can do to support you. And please follow the Government guidance, getting tested if you have visited a place of interest or are showing any symptoms.

Ngā mihi
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