



# St Patrick's College Silverstream

No 25

Thursday 9 April 2020

## Vision Statement

*St Patrick's College, Silverstream is a boys' school of excellence, founded on Catholic and Marist values and traditions where students develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values which enable them to become compassionate, just and successful citizens. Our students are challenged and motivated to achieve personal excellence in an innovative learning environment enhanced by tradition, superb facilities, quality teaching and a supportive College community*



Tēnā koutou katoa, Greetings everyone

I hope this newsletter finds yourself and your families safe and well. I also hope you have been able to enjoy some downtime.

The second term officially begins on Wednesday 15 April. The Government is still working to a timeframe of a four week lockdown so this means we will begin the term operating with distance learning.

Following in this newsletter Jane Hambidge, Deputy Rector Teaching and Learning, will be dealing with distance learning instructions for son(s)/ward regarding distance learning and the interaction requirements between class teachers and students. Please read this carefully.

This morning the Senior Leadership Team met by Zoom video conferencing. We put in place a system whereby your tutor teacher will be in contact with your son so we can check on their welfare.

I will contact you again by Newsletter next week when hopefully we will have a better idea of when we can return to the College and begin to move forward.

Reminder Term Two begins Wednesday 15 April.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe Holy and Happy Easter.

Please see below Easter message from Cardinal John:

*9 April 2020 - Issue No. 218*

*Kia tau te rangimarie ki a koutou*

*Last Easter my two sisters and my brothers-in-law came to stay with me for Easter. It was the first time for just over 40 years that we had been together for Easter.*

*A couple of days ago we said to each other "who would ever have thought that Easter one year later would be this different?"*

*Our circumstances, because of COVID-19, are very different this year. However, the mysteries we participate in are the same. Jesus still shows us the way to the Father, and we prayerfully follow him this week through his Passion amid the Coronavirus challenges.*

*Jesus' way to the Father was a way of humility and obedience to God: "If it is possible, let this cup pass me by.*

*Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it." (Matthew 26:39)*

*In the events of this week we will see that the way of Jesus is the way of the Servant, of self-giving and sharing. He gives himself in foot-washing service, in the gift of his Body and Blood, on the cross of suffering. How do we "copy his example?" (John 13:15)*

*We learn on Good Friday that the way of Jesus is the way of silence. He stands before the High Priest in silence, confident that he has done no wrong and that he is "the Beloved Son of God" (Luke 9:35). This silence will tell us too that we are the beloved daughters and sons of God.*

*The Easter Vigil will be totally different. God will renew his promise to us, the promise that though Baptism we are his people and he is our God, that in Jesus he comes to us so that "We might have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).*

*In the Easter silence of this Lockdown we will discover new life. As Thomas Merton once wrote "Every rising morning is a promise of Christ's glorious rising". God's promise will be kept.*

*I hope that despite the uncertainties we face that this Easter will be a prayerful time for all. Pray for one another as we follow Jesus, as we follow his way of humiliation, service, suffering, abandonment, dying and rising.*

*This could well be our most prayerful Easter.*

*With love and blessings*

*Naku noa*

*Cardinal John*

Sectare Fidem

Grahame Duffy

Rector

## ■ DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME

Dear Parents/Caregivers

As you are aware, online Learning will resume for your son on **Wednesday 15 April**. We hope all the boys are looking forward to getting back into their work and study. Starting on an Alpha Week.

### Key Principles of our Distance Learning Programme

The Well-being of our school community at this time is of our highest priority. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you be worried about anything over this time.

Each day we will ask our students to log in to their Tutor group Google classroom and complete a form with the following questions - *How am I feeling? Who do I need to check in with today? What is my plan for the day?* The tutor teacher will monitor this during the teaching day and get back to your son to address any questions raised.

Our teachers will be online during the course of the school day during their timetabled classes between 8.30am - 3.00pm. This includes Tutor Times.

Please be patient if they don't get back to you straight away as they are working with up to 25 students at a time whilst managing their own whanau and their needs. We aim to get a response to any questions within 24 hours.

The main platforms our staff will be using are Google Classroom and Gmail for sharing learning activities and Google Meet for video conferencing. Your teachers have let the students know which platforms they will be using to teach your student online.

Teachers are upskilling themselves on recording their online teaching when they are in a Google Hangout or Zoom meeting with their class. This means students can watch it later if they cannot get online for their scheduled class time.

We encourage you to contact your son's subject teacher via email with any concerns you have that are subject related or their Tutor Teacher for any general concerns.

We are continuing to work with NZQA in the area of how we take NCEA assessments online over the next few weeks. Your son's subject teacher will update him on the procedures for online assessment as more information comes to hand. Please remind your son not to worry about internal assessment at the moment as, where possible, our teachers have rearranged their teaching to focus on the teaching of externally assessed standards.

Where this has not been possible, for example in Carpentry, Art and Design, DVC (and other portfolio based subjects) our teachers will manage the unique nature of this portfolio work.

### Instructions for parents

It is important that we keep life as simple as possible for our staff and students and we make the following suggestions to you to ensure that online learning is positive and achievable for all:

- 1. Assist your son to develop a schedule for each day.** This should follow your son's normal teaching timetable. Please include **Tutor Time at the start of the day from 8.30am to 8.40am** as this is a valuable way for your son to connect with his tutor group and deal with any pastoral concerns they may have.

2. **Remind your son that they must check their school email at the start of the day when they check in with their tutor teacher** - they will have updates from teachers, in the form of emails, Google Classroom and other platform notifications. We'll also tell you which staff are sick, so you won't be able to contact them. It is a good idea for them to email their teacher at the end of the day with any subject related questions.
3. **Encourage your son to look at his timetable the night before** - Ensure he gets up and gets dressed he does not have to be in uniform. Please encourage him to put on a top though! During normal lessons teachers will be available to support your son with his work. Take regular breaks, drink water and eat good food.
4. **Set up a work space** - Find a space at home that you can set up as a good work environment for your son. Make sure that it is comfortable, well lit and ventilated and somewhere you can work without distractions.
5. **Have some fun** - Make sure they have some variety in their day. Make space for exercise, creativity and device-free time! There are loads of workouts, mindfulness and yoga to do on line from your lounge
6. **Find a support person** - many of us need someone to hold us accountable and help us to stay on track. This could be a friend or adult. It is important to set up good work habits and set your son up for managing screen time.
7. **Friend Time** - think about a way your son and his friends can catch up at interval and lunch time online. Encourage them to try an online video call with your morning tea.

## Instructions for Students

### General Expectations

1. Put your health and your family first.
2. You are expected to login to your google classrooms each day as per your timetable.
3. Check your emails at least once a day and reply if necessary.
4. We will use one consistent platform (Google Classrooms) for sharing learning activities
5. If you have a question about your learning, post it on Google Classroom and if your teacher cannot answer it, hopefully one of your classmates can
6. We will use one consistent platform for meet ups (Google Meet).
7. Continue with your assessment work as much as possible. Please don't stress about NCEA - we will be responsive to your needs as a learner.
8. Remember teachers will be with their families as well so know they will respond to your emails and give feedback as they can.

### What do I do if I don't have the internet at home?

Upper Hutt Libraries is teaming up with Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa to offer *Skinny Jump*.

*Skinny Jump* (previously *Spark Jump*) is designed for households who don't have a broadband connection. Participants receive a free Wi-Fi modem and 30 GB of data for \$5 on the prepaid service with no fixed contract.

For full information go to: [upperhuttcity.com/News/Skinny-Jump-now-available-through-Upper-Hutt-Libraries](http://upperhuttcity.com/News/Skinny-Jump-now-available-through-Upper-Hutt-Libraries)

Earlier this week I notified the Ministry of Education of all our students who do not have their own personal device at home. We have been advised that we are amongst the first rollouts of students who will receive a device and modem delivered to their home. Please keep a lookout for this and contact me if you have any issues.

### Reports and Parent Teacher Conferences

The upcoming parent teacher conferences scheduled for 30 April will now no longer take place. However, reports on your son's progress to date in his subjects will be uploaded to the portal in the usual way and available for you to view by the end of the day on **Friday 1 May**.

We have been trialling a new format for our Senior Reports which we hope will provide you with more detailed feedback about your son's progress.

You will also notice that the Year 9 subject reports have been "solidified" to reflect our Language of Learning at Silverstream. We welcome any feedback you may have on any aspect of our reporting process. Due to our current circumstances, some subjects in Years 9 and 10 may not be able to provide a grade for assessments on the report. This is due to the fact that there has been no opportunity for assessment.

### Contact Information

- First point of call about anything to do with school and/or organisation of learning → contact your son's tutor teacher via email.
- If you or your son are concerned about a specialist subject → contact the subject teacher via email
- Concerned about an aspect of your son or your family's well-being → Contact Mrs Hambidge at [hambidgej@stream.school.nz](mailto:hambidgej@stream.school.nz)
- If you are already working with Mr Charles, College Counsellor, please continue to do so remotely via email at [charlesg@stream.school.nz](mailto:charlesg@stream.school.nz)

Concerned about your Health contact Healthline:

- Coronavirus related 0800 358 5453
- General Health related 0800 611 116
- <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-questions-and-answers>
- <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/looking-after-your-mental-health-while-self-isolating/?fbclid=IwAR053kIWYB0afMd3WAVNJ-GJs4nSc1igwszZP58fJSzxlAT3anAMkQ6G>

Jane Hambidge  
Deputy Rector Teaching and Learning