



St Patrick's College Silverstream

No 26

Tuesday 14 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

Welcome back to the start of Term 2. I hope this Newsletter finds you and your families well in these unusual times. I hope you were able to celebrate Easter and reflect on the season in God's peace.

Just a reminder that the School holidays have been shifted as per my previous Newsletters.

From tomorrow the College will begin Term 2 and continue its online learning programme. You should already have had information regards this programme.

Please be aware that the College is closed and no access is allowed to the College site. It is not possible for students to visit and pick up items that they did not take home.

Tutor teachers will be in contact with you early this week for well-being checks and to see how online learning is progressing.

Can I draw your attention to the attached information below regards the ability to use N4L software to keep your son/ward safe online. This N4L software is what the Ministry of Education provides to Schools to keep students safe while online. It is the latest up to date system that is constantly being updated. I highly recommend you follow and use this.

Many of you will have seen differing reports in the media about when and how schools will reopen once we move down from Alert Level 4. The following information is from the Ministry of Education. As we become aware of the process of coming out of Lockdown I will advise Boarding parents separately as to the process going forward.

The five main points are:

1. No decision has been made yet about when schools will reopen. This decision will be made based on data about the spread of Covid-19 and how we are going about stamping it out. It is unlikely that a decision will be made before 20 April.
2. The very earliest schools would open would be 29 April. And this would likely only be for SOME students, not all.

3. The Ministry (and us) are preparing for several possible scenarios - opening only for staff, opening for essential workers' children, opening in shifts so that children can stay 2m apart, opening for just senior students, a combination of distance and on-site learning, staggered opening, not opening for a number of weeks etc. We want to be prepared for whatever the decision is once the data becomes clear.
4. There will be ample notice before schools open. They will not be closed one day and open the next. We will be given time to ensure that the school is ready, that our planning for the term is completed and that we put in place any Health and Safety regulations.
5. The Ministry has been VERY clear that we will NOT be moving out of Alert Level 4 early.

Hon. Chris Hipkins is, this week, working on guidelines for what Alert Level 3 could look like for schools. We look forward to his guidance on this matter.

So I once again welcome you to Term 2 and pray for God's blessing as we progress our way through this crisis.

Ngā mihi

Sectare Fidem

Grahame Duffy
Rector

Tēnā koe Grahame

Helping students stay safer online from home

As you know, children's online safety is important. At school, Network for Learning (N4L) helps keep your students safe from the bad side of the internet. During lockdown, the students' place of learning shifts to their home. So N4L has worked out a way to help parents keep their children safely connected at home.

FREE N4L safety filter for all students

We've set up a safety filter that parents can set up on their child's learning devices from home. Just go to switchonsafety.co.nz to find clear instructions on how to do this.

The free N4L safety filter (by global cyber-security leader, Akamai) blocks websites containing known cyber threats like phishing scams, malicious content and viruses, while also protecting children from content deemed the worst of the web (like adult sites).

It is an extension of one of the many safety and security services we have in place at schools and is a valuable layer of protection to help keep children safe online. Please remember that technology is not a silver bullet and the filter should be used in combination with Netsafe's [online parent safety toolkit](#).

How does it work?

Once a child's device is set up, all internet search requests will go through the safety filter which checks if the website they are trying to visit is safe before allowing access. If it's a website that's known to be unsafe, then it will be blocked. The safety filter is applied to the child's device, so parents' devices are not affected.

Any questions?

We have answered key questions at switchonsafety.co.nz/faqs alternatively please send any questions to help@n4l.co.nz.

What we need from you?

Please share the [attached](#) information with your parent community, so that they understand how they can apply a safety filter to their child's device and find links to additional online safety tips from the team at Netsafe.

switchonsafety.co.nz

Ngā mihi

The Ministry of Education, N4L and Netsafe
Your Online Safety Team