



St Patrick's College Silverstream

No 19

Tuesday 17 March 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

Update on Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Information about Covid-19 is changing rapidly. The purpose of this email is to keep you updated in terms of how Covid-19 might impact on the College and your son. Firstly, a few hints and tips to support you and your son.

1. Limit your son's exposure to social media. Students often receive very mixed messages about events such as Covid-19, and they often don't have the maturity to understand the issues. Students need your guidance to minimise their fears, while being supported to make choices to keep themselves healthy and safe.
2. Hand washing is essential. Wash for at least 20 seconds in hot water with soap, and dry hands properly. Also, avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.
3. It is important to remember that we are heading into the cold and flu season. As always, if your son is feeling unwell, please keep him at home. Remind your son to cough into his elbow and throw away used tissues.

The Ministry of Education have asked us to be prepared in event of school closures. The use of online learning is an effective way for us to continue to offer learning in the event of a school closure. We are currently ensuring we have a plan in place should this occur.

This morning we had to cancel St Patrick's Day Mass as we would have had a gathering of 500 plus people in a confined space for longer than 15 minutes.

We also have adjusted Ranks in the morning so our students can maintain a safe physical distance from each other.

Full school assemblies have been cancelled until further notice but we will look at Year level assemblies that meet the safe physical distance.

As part of our well-being at Stream we often greet each other with a handshake. We have asked the boys to refrain from this. Also, at the moment the Bishops and National Liturgy Office have advised the following in relation to the celebration of Mass:

The main points are that we now ask that:

- At the Sign of Peace, people should avoid shaking hands or other contact with one another, and instead smile, nod or bow to one another.
- Holy Communion is not to be distributed from the chalice.
- Communion is only to be distributed in the hand, not on the tongue.
- Holy Water is to be removed from stoups and containers at the Church door.
- Priests should not touch children's heads when blessing them and then continue to distribute Communion.

Also summer sports week has been cancelled at National level, more information to follow;

While we have some uncertainty we will continue to keep the College fully operational within the Ministry of Education guidelines that are being updated regularly.

Please feel free to contact the College if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sectare Fidem

Grahame Duffy
Rector