



Principal's Update

"Stand Firm in your Faith, Be Courageous."

17th April 2020

Greetings to all members of our College Community,

I hope that you and your loved ones are all safe and well during this period of Lockdown?

I must admit that the hardest part of this has been the lack of close contact with my children and grandchildren as they live away from my wife and I.

Technology is a great tool for keeping in contact but it will never replace a warm hug with a loved one.

At the time of writing, I have received no notification of a positive Corona Virus case in our College community and I pray that this will continue.

On Wednesday morning, the full College staff met by ZOOM for Prayer, Reflection and messages for the start to Term 2.

We also had our first Virtual online College Assembly on Wednesday. This also gave our staff and young men the chance to join in Prayers and receive messages from myself and some words of inspiration from our College Prefects.

Yesterday we had the opportunity to celebrate our usual Thursday morning College Mass online.

Our College Chaplain Father Martin celebrated the Mass with the assistance of our Campus Minister Matthew Apuda. It was heartening to be able to continue to celebrate our Catholic tradition and ritual in these challenging times.

Our Assembly and Mass have been uploaded to the College website.

You may have seen the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday concerning the changes that would happen if we move to Alert Level 3.

It mentioned that school students from Years 1-10 would be allowed to return to on-site classes if their parents were required to return to their work and if there was no one in their homes who could provide appropriate supervision for them. This return date was given as an option for parents and it was stated that it would be preferable for students to remain at

home to continue with their online learning. It stated that it is not compulsory for parents to send their Year 1-10 child to school.

There is more detail required in this announcement and at De La Salle we are planning as to how we would manage this if this was to occur. The Health and Safety of our staff and young men is the most important thing that we will consider in our plans. I will keep you updated on the progress of this announcement.

Our College staff are meeting via ZOOM, the College Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Faculties and individual Faculties are all meeting to plan teaching and resources for our young men. We are confident that our staff have prepared appropriate work online for our young men during this lockdown time. Our young men have also been reminded about the importance of contacting their teachers if they require any help or need a question answered.

Reminder: All updates and communications will be sent to Families email addresses and also uploaded to our College website.

As I have mentioned in previous Updates to you, I have been working closely with the Ministry of Education over the last two weeks to identify students who do not have access to the Internet or a suitable device to assist their online learning.

I have forwarded the contact details of our students to the Ministry, who have informed me that they will begin to deliver devices to students this week and for the next two weeks. They won't be able to meet everyone's needs all at once but will continue to provide as much as they can, as it is available.

The College has received numerous requests from Parents in the last week for a Device, the delivery of devices will come directly from the Ministry of Education as we give them updated information from families in our community who need these.

The College would appreciate it if you can let us know if and when you do receive a device as the Ministry do not confirm this with us when they deliver one to your home.

During these uncertain times it is appropriate to remind our young men of the need to use safe internet behaviour and I have added some advice below for you and them.

Internet Use and Safety

We are conscious we are asking young men to engage with us on-line and this is on top of the personal time they spend in a digital environment, such as social media, You Tube and gaming.

At this time it would be a good idea to remind you of the expectations that De La Salle College has for your use of the internet.

As Catholic, Lasallian Men when on-line we do not:

- Create, save, send and/or share inappropriate content.

We suggest to our young men that they should ask themselves :

Would I be happy for my parents or my teachers to see what is on my screen?

If not, do not save, send or share it. Instead, **delete it**.

Parents as a suggestion, have your son sit at the Dinner table or somewhere else that is in full view of others in the house while he completes his work online.

- Criticise anyone else because of colour, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability or sexuality.
- Create, send and/or share any content that harms the reputation and good name of De La Salle College, your family and culture.

Free internet safety filter for parents

While children are learning from home, they are away from the online safety and security services provided by Network for Learning (N4L) at the College. So together with N4L and Netsafe, we have launched www.switchonsafety.co.nz - a free way to block the worst of the web for students and teachers.

The website above will help you set up your son's device for safer connectivity while he learns from home.

Remember, no technical solution is a silver bullet, the best way to ensure that your son uses appropriate online behaviour is to speak with him about yours and the College's expectations for safe online behaviour.

Netsafe

Netsafe provides comprehensive support and information to support everyone to stay safe as they work, learn and play online. Netsafe has new and updated resources for parents, whānau and students at <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/advice/staying-safe/>

Take good care of yourselves and your families.

Live Jesus in our Hearts

God bless
M.Hogarty
Principal