



# Principal's Update

2nd April 2020

Greetings to all members of our College Community,

I hope that your families are well and keeping safe during these uncertain times.

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

In this update I would like to share with you some contacts that you can use during the Lockdown to assist our families with Food needs, Internet connection and keeping your son's safe while they are on-line.

Our Staff are continuing to provide learning tasks on-line for our young men, this will continue during this "holiday" time as we would like to keep the momentum that has been established over the last week. In fact our young men need these learning opportunities daily as they have plenty of time on their hands.

It will be of great benefit to their academic progress if they can return to school not only up to date with their work but ahead of where they should be.

Our Parent Surveys have shown that our Parents are very appreciative of the work being set for our young men and that they are keen to encourage and monitor their son's work. This certainly reinforces our goal of working in partnership with our families for the benefit of our young men.

I encourage you to contact your son's teachers by email if you have any questions about their work, assessments or completion of set work. I also urge you to discuss with your son how he is managing his school work with his family commitments.

Below are some links to sites that I would encourage you to look at.

- **The first is a list of Support Services providing Food needs.**
  1. Auckland City Mission Foodbank - If you need a food parcel call ACM 09 303 9266 and speak to the Crisis Care team. You will then be given a time to collect from ACM distribution centre at 15 Auburn Street, off Boston road in Grafton. Everyone must take ID with them.

2. Salvation army food parcels - Contact the Mt Wellington Salvation Army Community Ministry 09 379 7615 – or their local Salvation Army Community Ministry (ring 0800 53 00 00 to find your local ministry). You will be given a time to collect your food parcel.
  3. Presbyterian Support Northern - Call 09 309 2054 to arrange a pick up at 8 Madeira Lane, Grafton. Strictly no walk-ins and collections are strictly between 11-12am Mon-Fri.
  4. St Vincent De Paul in Newton Branch – Call 09 815 6122 or email – [Auckland@stvinnies.co.nz](mailto:Auckland@stvinnies.co.nz) and they can deliver a food parcel.
  5. Nga Whare Waatea Marae - Open Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm. Head to the Marae at 31 Calthorp Close, Mangere with ID. Wait in car and staff will get to each person one at a time, asking relevant questions as needed.
  6. Papakura Marae Foodbank - Open Mon-Fri 10am-2.30pm, 09 297 2036. Please phone to request a food parcel, someone will ring you back to do a phone interview, then food will be delivered. Only deliveries to Papakura and Manurewa areas currently.
- The second piece of information comes from **Chorus the Internet provider**, I will give you more information as I receive it from the Ministry of Education.  
<https://company.chorus.co.nz/chorus-ready-support-students-households-without-broadband>
  - The third piece of information is from **Netsafe**, the organisation that provides great advice to families regarding their children's safe use of the Internet, something which is very relevant to us all in this time.

### **Increase in Child Exploitation Material and Online Child Sexual Abuse during Lockdown**

Overseas law enforcement have indicated a dramatic increase of the amount of online child exploitation and child sexual abuse during the lockdown period. Due to New Zealand being at level 4 with most Kiwis being confined to their homes everyone will have an increased online presence including children. Many Kiwis are also working from home while level 4 is in place and may not feel they have as much time as normal to monitor their children's internet use. Unfortunately, online offenders are also at home with an increased online presence.

To get ahead of the overseas trend and prevent sexual predation, sexting, cyber bullying and other types of cyber crime occurring please refer to the link and information provided by Netsafe:

<https://www.netsafe.org.nz/online-safety-for-parents/>

<https://www.netsafe.org.nz/the-best-online-safety-tips-for-lockdown/>

While the internet is a great place for learning and education and during this time a great tool for delivering distance education, there are some dangers and information that parents and caregivers should remember to be aware of to try and prevent children and young persons from becoming victims and exploited online. Discuss internet safety with children of all ages and agree with them on what they can do online including sites to visit and appropriate behaviours.

- Review and approve games and apps before they are downloaded
- Review privacy settings of sites and applications
- Check your children's profiles and what they are posting online and be aware that anything that is posted online will remain permanently on the internet
- Take the time to understand what sites they are visiting, who they are talking with and check in regularly
- Some social media sites have age restrictions to join, check these before letting your child use them or join
- Monitor your child's use of the internet and consider having them use it in an open, common area of the house, dining room table, lounge room
- Make sure your children know to report any activity they don't feel comfortable with to you straight away.

Remember if your children were going out you would go with them or depending on their age check where they are going. If your children are online you should be with them or check what sites they are visiting.

If you think your child or a child in your care is the victim of online exploitation or abuse, please do not hesitate to report it. If we all work together to make sure children are safe online, we can make the internet a great tool for people of all ages.

Apologies for the length of this update but I felt that I needed to share this important information with you.

This update and links will also be uploaded to the home page of our College website.

Parents, I ask that you insist that our young men are showing that they are Great Men of Faith, Service, Community and Excellence in their homes during this time.

This morning's reflection from our Founder John Baptist De La Salle gave me great strength,

**"Throw yourself into God's arms. He is your Father and he will carry you when the road is rough."**

**(De La Salle)**

Take good care of yourselves and your families.

God bless

M.Hogarty  
Principal