



Principal's Update

Greetings to you all,

I hope that you and your family are safe and well and all coping with the challenges that come from this period of Lockdown ?

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

The Government has given the Guidelines for the country moving to **Alert Level 2** and this letter is to inform you of what that will look like for us at De La Salle College when we start back with students on **Monday 18th May.**

On Monday 18th May, De La Salle College will be Open for teaching and learning on-site. Teaching staff and students will re-commence their usual Timetabled classes.

Students who are unable to attend school because they are sick or have serious pre-existing medical conditions will continue online learning programmes, all others will be expected to be back at school.

Please contact your son's Year Level Dean if there is any reason that he will not be attending school from Monday 18th May.

As a College our preparation for recommencing learning on-site will consider the health and safety of our staff and students as our first priority.

The guidelines which all Staff and students must follow will become the "new normal", and I am confident that they will carry these out, with respect and compassion for one another.

As we enter Alert Level 2 we have made changes to the way school operates to help maintain physical distancing and hygiene rules.

- We would greatly appreciate it if you can sit with your son and discuss these Key Points so that we can ensure his safety when he returns to school:

KEY POINTS

- **Washing hands** – This has been identified as being most crucial in the prevention of COVID 19 . Soap, hot water and paper towels are provided in all College Bathrooms. As the boys enter and exit classes hand sanitizer will be provided. Surfaces will be wiped by Staff after each class. Students are welcome to bring their own personal hand sanitiser
- **Social Distancing**- While in school the boys will be distanced 1 metre apart. During Morning Interval and Lunch the boys will be actively encouraged to stay 2 metres apart. At this time,

they are not allowed to play any sports that involve the use of balls and must not have any physical contact. Students will line up 1 metre apart prior to entering each classroom and they will be released at spaced 1 metre intervals at the end of each class to reduce contact with one another. We ask Parents to remind their son that he must not gather at the Rosella Rd shops before or after school, young men who are not involved in after school sports practices or College tuition classes must go directly home from school

- **Transport** – Buses and trains will operate as usual, students will be expected to keep safe social distancing of 1 metre. This must be managed by our students themselves as there will not be College Staff on any Buses or Trains to manage this. If you are dropping your son off at school, please drop him off outside the College to avoid traffic jams inside the College.
- **College Hours** - Students are not permitted to be on the College grounds before 8.00am as we cannot provide supervision for them before this time. Students must not be on the College grounds after 4.00pm unless they are involved in supervised Sports practices or Tuition classes.
- **Lunches / Food** – The Tuck shop will be Open to sell food and drinks to those students who are unable to make their own. Social Distancing will be strictly enforced in lining up. We do encourage you to provide your son with food for Morning Tea and Lunch, including a drink for your son from home and remind him that he must not share food or drink. It is important for him to stay away from local shops as we can't monitor social distancing outside the College. No student will be allowed to leave the College grounds during school times to go to any local shops.
- **Learning Resources** – Students will be given their own individual resources and there will be no need to share. Please check that your son has his own correct stationery for his return to school. If your family was provided with a Computer from the College or the Ministry of Education, your son must return the device the day that he returns to school so that we can check this off, he may be given the computer back to use.
- **PPE** – your son does not need to have any **Personal Protection Equipment**, at Alert Level 2 the Ministry of Health has said that this is not necessary. He may bring his own PPE if he feels more comfortable doing this.
- **Health and Well-being** - If your son is showing any signs of sickness, he must stay at home. The School Health Nurses will be on site to check students. The two College Guidance Counsellors will also be available to any student who wishes to see them.
- **Entering the school** - At this time we ask that if Parents need to come to the school you must enter the College Main Office and Sign In at the Main Reception. Please do not go to your son's classroom. We need to be able to contact trace anyone that enters the school site.
- **Uniform Purchases** – Parents wanting to buy Winter Uniform for their son will be able to do this from the College Uniform Shop this **Thursday 14th and Friday 15th from 9.00am – 3.00pm**. Then next week before school from 8.00am – 8.35am, at Interval from 11.40am- 11.55am. We realise that some parents have not yet been able to buy Winter Uniform items for their son and we will allow the young men to continue to wear their Summer Uniform until parents have had the chance to do this. There will only be 1 family at a time allowed into the Uniform Shop to keep this a safe space.

- **Grooming** – All students returning to school and Trades courses are expected to meet the College expectations for hair and grooming as stated in the College Student Handbook. The young men know these very well. They have several days to get themselves ready before they return to school looking their best.
- **Winter Sports** - You can play sports that involve close contact, but only if good contact registers, or contact tracing records are maintained for training and games. Make sure you know who you're training and playing with, in case someone gets sick. No one should train or play if they have symptoms of COVID-19. All of our College Sports coaches will have Team lists so that we know who has attended trainings. Trainings will have to be in groups each of which has no more than 10 players.

Many of the measures mentioned above will be easy to put into practice and monitor in the College. We are sure that our young men will have already done many of these at home over the last six weeks and will be able to carry these over into their return to the College. Personal hygiene and thorough hand washing must be every student's priority and our young men will be regularly reminded of this in and outside the classroom.

We are sure that if we work together that we can ensure the safety of your son as we return to school. Please do not hesitate to contact your son's Homeroom teacher or Dean if you have any concerns.

God bless

M.Hogarty
Principal

De La Salle



"When you've
done everything
you can do,
that's when God
will step in and
do what you
can't do."

2 CORINTHIANS 12:10