



## 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.

We are all eagerly waiting to hear from the Government this afternoon at 4.00pm about the COVID Alert Level decision. I hope that we do move to Level 2 so that our young men and staff can get back to learning on site at our College. We are preparing the College for the student's return and we would like to see all students return.

Should we remain at Level 3 our on-line teaching and Learning programmes 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.

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 changes so that we can ensure his safety when he returns to school.

- **Transport** – Buses and trains will operate as usual students will be expected to keep safe social distancing of 1 metre. We would encourage you to drop your son at school if at all possible. Drop-offs and pick-ups should be done outside the College to avoid traffic congestion in the College Drive-way. Students must wear a face mask if using Public Transport.
- **Lunches / Food** – The tuck shop will be open. We encourage you to provide lunch, including a drink for your son from home. 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.
- **Washing hands** – Soap, hot water and paper towels are provided in all Bathrooms. As the boys enter and exit classes hand sanitizer will be provided. Surfaces will be wiped by Staff after each class.

- **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. Students will line up 1 metre apart prior to entering each classroom and they will be released at 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 tuition classes must go directly home.
- **Learning Resources** – Students will be given their own individual resources and we will encourage them not to share. Please check that your son has correct stationery for his return to school. If your family was provided with a device from the College over the Lockdown we ask that your son returns the device the day that he returns to school so that we can provide all of our students with the resources they need at school.
- **PPE** - your son is welcome to wear PPE at school, however at Alert Level 2 the Ministry of Health has said that this is not necessary. We ask that the boys do not share their PPE and that it is disposed of sensibly.
- **Health and Well-being** - At this time we ask that 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 Uniform for their son will be able to do this from the College Uniform Shop before school from 8.00am – 8.35am, at Interval from 11.40am- 11.55am.
- **Grooming** – All students returning to school and Trades Academy courses are expected to meet the College expectations for Uniform, hair and grooming as stated in the College Student Handbook.
- **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.

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 week 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*

