



## “Calm heads and warm hearts”

Greetings,

Like many of you, I watched the Prime Minister announce that the Auckland region would **remain at Level 3** and **schools will not start on Monday October 18<sup>th</sup>**.

The very strong and clear message from the Government was that students, parents and staff should use this further delay to **be Vaccinated before they return to school**.

The decision was made today by the Government that all staff in schools who have direct contact with students will need to have had their first vaccination by November 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 and to be fully vaccinated by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.

All Secondary schools will also be required to keep a COVID-19 Vaccination Register for students.

I am in discussions with the APHS to offer De La Salle College as a vaccination site and I will keep you updated on the confirmation of this proposal.

I am sure that many of you felt mixed emotions of fear, disappointment and further uncertainty with the spread of COVID-19 in our city.

This is something we were warned may happen, however the reality of this news is always a little difficult to accept.

I understand this further setback will cause concern to our Year 11, 12 and 13 student's as they head towards their end of year Exams and Assessments; we will communicate to these young men about the changes to these end of year academic exams however, we are confident that this further interruption will not disadvantage their end of year assessments and we have already begun planning for alternative ways to assess our student's work.

As a school we were coping well with the relative “normal” life in Level 3, settling down to full programmes of teaching and learning online.

A microscopic virus has again seen all our best laid plans put on hold, which forces us to reflect on the fickle nature of our normal lives and how something so small can cause so much disruption.

In the words of John Baptist De La Salle's Letter 102 which he wrote to the young men that he was training to become Brothers and teachers, **“Take care not to let yourself be discouraged by any disappointments, life is full of them.”**

This phrase is one that I often share with our young men and the important point is how we and they cope with setbacks in our lives, often referred to as **resilience** and something I believe our young men have in great supply.

As a community we have learned much from our previous experiences through Lockdown and I feel that the College is much better prepared to assist our young men in both their academic progress and their overall health and well-being. The young men of the College also learned a lot about themselves and I am confident that they will use this to make time away from school a more balanced experience for themselves and their families.

Our staff will continue communicating with their classes on Monday 18 October via the Microsoft Teams programme and our young men are encouraged to check in with their teachers.

All students are reminded to keep a healthy balance between their online activities and being great young men at home during any Lockdown period. They must put some time aside for their physical and mental health, issues which have been discussed with them at school since our experiences in the last lockdown. Most importantly I expect they would be taking a leading role at home to make the lives of their families even easier.

Our College scriptural theme for the year is very appropriate at this time for our young men, **"Though we are many, we are one." Romans 12:5**

While we have been informed that we are to **remain at Level 3**, we must prepare for the possibility this could be extended and the College will advise Staff, Students and Parents of our plans when we are informed by the Government of its decision.

As always, the health and safety of our community will be the guiding priority in our plans.

One of the College Goals this year is that the School community be connected to the College through effective communication. Since the last Lockdown our methods of communication have seen greater effectiveness through the use of the College website, College Facebook page, College App and Instagram as well as email.

All communication to our community will be published on **all of the above** platforms so our whole community is kept well informed of any developments over the next week.

Stay safe and well.

De La Salle community stay strong, we have got this.

God bless

M Hogarty  
Principal