



Dear Parents, Staff and Board.

I hope that you are all well and have managed some restful time over the long weekend ?

Thank you for the work you are doing at home to keep your son engaged in his learning tasks. Thank you also for the significant progress in vaccinations numbers in our student community, as we have been informed many times, vaccination is the key to keeping us all safe.

You are aware that some Senior boys will be able to return to school Wednesday Oct 27<sup>th</sup>.

As outlined in my last update, the focus of any of our students returning to on-site learning is on **preparing for and completing assessments**. We are balancing the opportunity for boys to work on assessments, with the health and safety of your families and those of the teachers. This is being done at a time when daily Covid cases are increasing, and exist throughout all the suburbs that De La Salle boys live in.

All College staff who return to school on Wednesday will be double vaccinated and have received a negative COVID test within the last 5 days.

All students wishing to return to on-site teaching and learning will be expected to complete a COVID Vaccination and COVID Test Register regardless of whether they have been vaccinated or tested recently. This will be done during the first Period of School in students Homeroom on Wednesday.

As a school and a BOT, we have a legal responsibility to maintain a safe environment at school for both students and staff. You may be aware that one single church gathering in Mangere was the cause of 386 Covid cases in the current outbreak. With this in mind, here are some clarifications.

1. The focus for returning Seniors is assessment, both internals and for NCEA for those who are doing it. Homeroom teachers and Deans have been contacting boys who have indicated that they wish to return to ensure that their focus is on assessment.
2. **We only want boys on site who need to be there for completing an assessment or finishing some preparation for an assessment.** Most of our Senior students will be able to complete their work on-line from home as they have already been doing.
3. We are aware that some boys may wish to come back for social/well-being reasons only. We do not have the resources to safely supervise, either onsite or at nearby dairies, shops and train stations, boys who are not fully engaged in learning when they come back to school. If they want to return to school to catch-up with their friends they will be asked to return home. The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health have made it very clear that the fewer students who are at school, the safer it will be for everyone.

4. **The first period on Wednesday will be a Homeroom**, during which teachers will find out from our Senior students what work it is that they needed to come in for. If a boy has no obvious need to be at school (for example he can sit an assessment online, or he has already completed his necessary assessments, or he has only come for social reasons) he will be asked to go home for his and others safety.
5. All staff will be wearing masks at all times. All boys must wear masks at school. If they don't they will be sent home.
6. Approximately 7 staff will not be able to return to school as they have childcare issues, or have immune-compromised people in their households. They will continue to provide on-line teaching for their classes from home as per usual.
7. Boys who have not received any vaccinations should think about the safety of those around them. We would strongly encourage them to stay at home and **get vaccinated** before mixing with a larger, new group of students.
8. There will be no sports activities at Break times. From previous experience we cannot guarantee boys can safely implement safety protocols during these times, so we won't be having them.
9. Teachers will provide on-line learning for all their classes they teach, so your son can remain at home and still be part of the learning programme.
10. Some major assessments, such as in English and Science, will be available online, so your son can remain at home and still participate in them. There will be a timetable sent out of which assessments these are.
11. All boys who come in should bring his own device if they have one. They may need them to have ZOOM meetings with teachers who are not on-site, or for assessment tasks. We have a limited number of devices available at school and cannot guarantee that we have a device to give each student.
12. The Tuckshop will be providing lunches for those boys who are on site, following a strict Health and Safety Plan. Students must not share any Food or Drink. Students must have their own Drink Bottle as College Water Fountains cannot be used.
13. The two school buses will be running from Wednesday so your son can catch them as usual. Boys must wear masks on the public transport.

We realise that much of our community is suffering at this time. The best we can do is to assure you that De La Salle College will be as safe an environment as we can make it.

Once again, the message is clear, only Senior students who need to come to school to complete Assessment or complete final preparation for Assessments should come to school. If this does not relate to your son, he must continue with his on-line learning programme.

God Bless  
M.Hogarty  
Principal