

24 March 2020

Good afternoon everyone

I hope you have had a good day, and that you are managing to prepare for the Level 4 lockdown successfully. A reminder: supermarkets will stay open! I've been a little confused by the queues outside petrol stations and the liquor store raids in the last 24 hours, so I hope you've managed to source what you need. I hope that your children are okay too, and that they are looking forward to doing a different kind of working from tomorrow.

We have been busy in school today putting everything together for tomorrow, and we're now ready to take Pinehurst School Online live. I'm calling it this because I refuse to think of the lockdown as closing the school: it's not that at all. We're just going online for a few weeks, and supporting our students in a different way.

We have uploaded three key documents to our COVID-19 page on the website. These are:

Pinehurst School Online: a guide for students and parents <https://www.pinehurst.school.nz/media/2143/pinehurst-school-online-guide-for-students-and-parents.pdf>

Pinehurst School Online – Primary! <https://www.pinehurst.school.nz/media/2144/pinehurst-school-online-primary.pdf>

Pinehurst School Online – Years 7-9! <https://www.pinehurst.school.nz/media/2145/pinehurst-school-online-years-7-9.pdf>

Pinehurst School Online – Years 10 & 11! <https://www.pinehurst.school.nz/media/2146/pinehurst-school-online-years-10-and-11.pdf>

Pinehurst School Online – Years 12 & 13! <https://www.pinehurst.school.nz/media/2147/pinehurst-school-online-years-12-and-13.pdf>

These documents do pretty much exactly what they say they do, and we think they have enough information for us to get started. The 'guide' tries to answer any questions you may have; the separate pages for different sections of the school set some shared expectations for how the online learning is going to work. Our teachers have been phenomenal in making this work so quickly, and I am incredibly grateful for all they have done to support our children and their learning.

Please note:

Pinehurst School Online is open to all students from Wednesday 25th March until Friday 3rd April, and again from Monday 20th April until the school physically reopens. This means that the School Holidays will be from Monday 6th April until Friday 17th April. This holiday is a little shorter than it was before, and teachers will be setting some voluntary project work to help out parents during that time. We will also be on holiday on Anzac Day, which this year is a public holiday on Monday 27th April. This is different to the new state school holidays that have been announced by the Ministry of Education.

We will not be running Parent Conferences this week, but our teachers are of course available if you have questions or would like information.

I will be working through the holidays, as will Jon Horne and most of our administration team. Our teachers, though, will be on holiday.

Other than that, I think all of the details you need are on the pages I've linked to in this email. Have a look, read carefully and ask any questions you need to after that. I am, as usual, available by email and on WeChat, and the whole school is still here, available and ready to support you as always, talking to each other and operating as an online version of our usual selves.. So keep talking to us and we will keep talking to you.

So expect regular communications from all of us here: I'll be back soon.

Take care of yourselves and your families.

Kind regards,

Alex.

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