

23 April 2020

Good afternoon everyone

I hope the online programmes are continuing to go well as we settle into Term 2. I've had some really positive feedback from parents this week, and some great stories about students and teachers coping with the occasional inevitable connection issue. Resilience in action!

We made some decisions today about the details of how Level 3 will work at Pinehurst. As you are aware, we made detailed plans in response to the Government's announcements last week, and we have spent the last week implementing most of the key decisions we've made. At school, for example, we're in the middle of making the changes to the site that are required in Level 3 to ensure that we operate as a safe environment for students and staff. Tomorrow and Tuesday, we will be completing these arrangements, and we will be completely ready for students on Wednesday.

We are, though, changing some of our plans. A huge thank you to all those parents who have let me know that they will be sending their children to school next week: we've now got a good idea of which children to expect, and so have finalised what we're going to do. There will be, we think, between 50 and 60 students in school next week, and there will be fewer than 10 in each year group. This enables us to do the following:

Students at Home

- For students at home (about 90% of students in Years 1-10, and 100% of students in Years 11-13), the online programme will continue uninterrupted at Level 3, just as it is at Level 4.
- Students at home in College will not notice any difference, except that some teachers may be streaming their lessons from school.
- Some students at home in Primary may, though, have a different teacher. This is because we are also teaching students in school.

Students at School

Primary students at school will be taught in "Year Group Bubbles". They will stay in these groups throughout the day, including at intervals and lunchtimes. They will have one main teacher, as well as one or two specialists. They will be taught as a normal class, and will not be doing much of their learning online. They will be learning at the same pace as the students at home - please do not worry about your child having to catch up - but will be learning more in our usual classroom way, with as many as possible of the activities that we would normally run. They may have a different teacher during Alert Level 3, of course, but the teacher in each bubble will be one of the teachers in that year group, so I am sure they will have a great time.

College students at school will also be in "Year Group Bubbles", and will stay in these groups throughout the day. They will be supervised and supported by at least one teacher (who will generally not be a subject specialist, but we will do our best here) in each lesson. They will follow their online programme (so please ask the students to bring headphones!) for most

of the day, but our teachers on site will support their work, offering help and explanations where they can. At other times during the day, though, we will try to offer practical activities and get the students up and about doing things, all within their bubbles. This might include PE or robotics, but that will depend on how we can arrange our staff.

We have amended our full “Alert Level 3 at Pinehurst” document on our website. Please click [here](#) to read the full details. This also has details about buses (yes, these will run, will be disinfected and will have physical distancing applied), uniform and food in it.

So why have we done it this way?

We are proud of the work we have done to offer an outstanding online service to our students. We know that we are still learning how to do this, and making mistakes along the way. But we’re adapting, developing and completely committed to being there, present and active for all of our kids. We want to sustain this, and keep developing our strategies within our structured programme. Our online programme, then, remains our main form of education for 90%+ of our students.

At the same time, we are committed to the students who need to be with us in school. I’m aware that other schools have simply said that students in school will be working online, and that there won’t be additional teaching for them. Well, I can’t bear the idea that we would have children in school, most of whom are children of parents who are helping look after the rest of us or getting the country moving again, without teaching them at least part of the time. We’re teachers! So our Primary students in school will have a full classroom experience, and our College students in school will have some teaching, some support and some active work with staff too. It’s the least we can do.

This, we think, is the best way of balancing the needs of the majority of students who are at home, with the needs of the small number at school.

As usual, please ask me any questions that you may have. Please read the full details on the website too. And let’s all look forward to what we hope will be a move to Level 2 in a few weeks time. I can’t wait to see all of our children back in school.

We won’t be sending home a newsletter tomorrow - we will be sending a double issue home next Friday instead. So it’s school tomorrow, then Monday is Anzac Day, and Tuesday is a teacher-only day. Lessons will be back online and at school on Wednesday.

Kia kaha

Alex

Alex Reed

*Executive Principal
Pinehurst School*

Phone: **+64 (0)9 414 0960 EXT 603**

Mobile: **+64 (0)21 194 8584**

Email: **Alex.Reed@pinehurst.school.nz**