

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, ata marie, good morning!

It's Week 8, Part 2! I hope everyone had a bit of a rest or at least a break yesterday. I think that our lockdown life, with its restricted routines, can become a bit more repetitive than life normally is, so, even if some parents weren't able to take a break yesterday, I do hope that students were. Even senior students! Study is most effective if we retain some freshness, and we all need a bit of variety from time to time. I also hope you managed to get a bit of sleep last night. My bedroom went all Wuthering Heights on me again last night, so I'm a bit bleary-eyed this morning. More rain today, but hopefully a sunny weekend!

So we have today and tomorrow, then the whole of next week before the holidays start. I know there are still some uncertainties about the next few weeks, but we have shown how good we can be at managing uncertainty and being ready to adapt quickly, so here's just a quick recap of where we are right now:

1. The first Term 4 New Entrant Orientation is tomorrow morning - I hope it goes well! We obviously hoped we wouldn't be online for this, and we're exiting some fun with the little ones as they become familiar with Teams before they even start school!
2. All being well, we will move to Level 3 on Wednesday next week. The last two days have been promising, so I think this is starting to look more likely than not. **The school will open to children who need to attend on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, but we will be offering an exclusively online programme still.** There will be a small staff at school, but we will be "open" and therefore able to take deliveries and receive visitors, though only in Reception. **Term ends on Friday 24th September at Pinehurst**, one week earlier than state schools.
3. At Level 3, there will be a set of very clear requirements: mask wearing, bubbles of 10 children plus staff, physical distancing, extra ventilation, additional cleaning. And the Covid-19 app will be used by every adult coming onto site without exception. I'll write home with the full details about these measures again next week.
4. In the first week of the holidays, then, we are expecting to be at Level 3, with hopefully a shift to Level 2 in either the first or the second week. If the shift happens in the holidays, the school will move to Level 2 conditions immediately, which means we will be ready for the start of term at Level 2. I'll still be working in the holidays, as will a number of staff. There will still be a number of requirements in school at Level 2 and I will write home about these when we get to that point. On this: our website has many of these details from last year. We will update them in the next couple of days, send them home and make sure you have all the information you need.
5. The decision around whether Cambridge exams will run will be made towards the end of next week, with final approval by the 27th/28th. The likelihood right now is still that exams will go ahead, but a lot depends on the patterns of the next week. Whether or not they do go ahead, though, the work senior students are doing now is directly relevant to both the exams as well as any school-based assessments we will set up next term.
6. We haven't yet made a decision about the holiday tutorial programme because of the uncertainties around levels. But if we are able to do some face to face tutorials, we will. We won't, though, run an online holiday tutorial programme.

7. There will be a Holiday Programme as usual run by Youthtown when we are at Level 2. We have required that the programme will this time be exclusively for Pinehurst students (we usually have a small handful of students from other schools present).

Finally from me: just a reminder that, if you are planning for your child to be at another school next year, we require a term's notice: this means that we need to have your notice in writing before the end of the coming school holidays. If you already know, please write to me as soon as you can. We actually have very few students planning to leave at the moment, which I'm really pleased about, but I'm sure there will be a small number of people making difficult decisions about now.

Enough from me! Time to swing into school day action. Have a great day, and see you very soon!

Ngā mihi,

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