

Good afternoon everyone

I hope you had a good couple of days, are well and have had a good start to the week. It's Mid-Autumn Festival this week as well, so if you've been indulging in moon cakes, or are about to: 预祝大家中秋快乐!

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister has this afternoon confirmed that Auckland will be moving to Alert Level 3 at midnight tomorrow. This means that **Pinehurst will move to Level 3 on the morning of Wednesday 22nd September**. We are obviously very pleased to be taking this step, as well as hopeful that it's the start of the move down through the levels. We will be at Level 3 for at least two weeks, and we hope that Level 2 arrives soon afterwards.

A small group of staff will be in school tomorrow (Tuesday) to prepare the school for opening, but the following arrangements apply from Wednesday morning.

What does this mean?

1. It means that the Pinehurst Online programme will continue uninterrupted until the end of this week, which is the last day of the term for our school. **All students will continue to learn online until the end of term.**
2. The School Reception will be open between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday. The Finance Office will also be open, and you will be able to order from the Uniform Shop, which will operate a 'click and collect' service, with ordered goods available for collection from Reception. **The school will be open in this way throughout the school holidays.**
3. All adults who enter the school grounds must sign in with the Covid app. Visitors are not permitted in the school grounds beyond the car park and should come directly to Reception.
4. All adults, and all children from Year 4 to Year 13, must wear a face covering. Other cleaning, personal hygiene and physical distancing rules will be followed.
5. If your child is in Years 1 to 10, and you need to go to work and you have no available options for childcare, you may send your child to school. All young people in Years 11, 12 and 13 should learn from home. **If you wish to send your child to school and you meet the criteria above, you should email me at alex.reed@pinehurst.school.nz directly before 6 pm on Tuesday 21st September. This is essential to enable us to plan for your child's safety.**
6. Children who are at school will be following the online programme as if they were at home. They will be supervised in bubbles of no more than 10 students. They should be dropped off at School Reception at 8.30 am, and picked up at 3.15 pm, also from School Reception.

The full details of Level 3 at Pinehurst are available on our website:

<https://www.pinehurst.school.nz/media/2623/september-2021-pinehurst-at-alert-level-3.pdf>

In practice, this means that we expect around 10-15 students to be with us from Wednesday to Friday. We can't, I'm afraid, 'teach' the students who come in, though, as our teachers are all engaged in their online classes. Students will instead be supervised as they work online.

What other implications are there?

- There won't be a Holiday Programme at Level 3. Youthtown will operate this for Pinehurst students only from the start of Level 2.

- Some staff will be available to talk to, and there will be someone from Finance available during opening hours as well. If you require translation services, we can also offer that, but we may need some notice in order to manage this.
- You will be able to pick up work or other equipment from school, but you will need to come to Reception first. We will then take you wherever you need to go. Please do not enter the school grounds alone.
- **We're not yet able to tell you what the implications are for either the Cambridge exams, nor the Holiday Tutorial programme. We aim to give you more information on these before the end of the week.** I know this is frustrating for all of us, but we are working alongside Cambridge to make the best decision possible, and that means making it at the right time, with as much information to hand as possible.
- Year 6 and Year 9 Checkpoint exams will now be in the second week of Term 4, **not** the first week as originally planned.

You may well have other questions for me: please feel free to ask them! I'm actually delighted that we're going to have some life back in the school and, even though we know we have a complicated path ahead, I'm feeling that we're closer to having our community back together. I've missed you all! We don't yet know when we will move to Level 2, of course. It could be before the start of next term, or it could be after the term has started. But either way, we will be ready! And we will keep you informed every step of the way.

Have a lovely evening, and hope to see you very soon,

Alex Reed
Executive Principal

Pinehurst School

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