



Sacred Heart College to close for at least four weeks and move to online learning

Sacred Heart College, in accordance with New Zealand Government and Ministry of Education guidelines, will close from tomorrow (March 24) and move to online learning.

It comes as the Covid-19 (Corona Virus) alert level was raised to three today, with it set to be raised to level 4 - the highest level - on Wednesday. During this time, all non-essential services, including schools will be closed for four weeks and will be reviewed.

Children of essential workers, including doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and police, will be allowed to attend school tomorrow only, while parents and caregivers get organised. If you decide to come to school, please come to the front office and sign in. School will shut down completely from Wednesday.

Prior to today's announcement, preparations have been ongoing to ensure all students are able to continue their learning online. All students who do not have a device at home will have been issued a laptop from school to work on from home.

During this time, the following will occur:

- Students will be expected to be online following their normal school timetable and teachers will be available online to connect with students at the normal timetabled times during the day. Students are expected to connect through 'Microsoft Office Teams'/conferencing/chats/email. Work will be posted through teams or emailed to students.
- All students are expected to connect with their Tutor teacher at least once a week and give an account of the subjects they have engaged in, the celebrations for the week and the challenges they are facing. Tutor teacher will follow up on any students they do not hear from.

While the school is closed, the site is out of bounds to students. The purpose of the lockdown is to create social distance and it is expected that you will be home during this time.

All immediate communication about decisions will be communicated through our school App. Please ensure that you and your girls have this app and continue to check the alerts regularly. Please ensure that you are subscribing to all Sacred Heart College alerts and the correct year level. Check your setting now; click on the SHC all, Alerts, setting (wheel at top right of the screen) and select Sacred Heart College Napier and the year level you want to receive notification from.

Pope Frances has asked the Christian communities to unite in prayer. 'We want to respond to the virus pandemic with the universality of prayer, compassion and tenderness. Let us stay united. I invite all Christians to direct their voices together toward Heaven, reciting the Our Father on Wednesday, 25 March, at noon.

As a Catholic school, we ask you to join us in prayer on Wednesday. Please look after yourselves and your families at this trying time.

God Bless

Maria Neville-Foster

Principal