

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWS



Term 2, 2020

### DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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Dear families

It is hard to believe we are half way through 2020 already, and what a year it has been. The word unprecedented has been used such a lot lately but it really is the best word to describe these times.

It has been a long term, 12 weeks in total, and all of our students now deserve some down time and an opportunity to relax a little in the upcoming holidays. Normally, we have students returning to their home countries in the term break however due to our borders being closed, all will remain here in NZ. Some students will be missing home, and their families, and I am just so proud of their resilience throughout this.

We don't know what our borders will look like in the next 6 months and it may be that they are not fully open at the end of the year – it is very hard to predict. With this in mind, it may be worth considering your plans over the Christmas period and the option of students remaining in NZ. I realise this is a very difficult notion and a decision that won't need to be made just yet, but perhaps something to ponder and consider as closed borders will mean no opportunity to return to NZ for school, if students do choose to go home.

We have lots of exciting activities planned for next term and we hope all students will be able to join us for these. We have an international student dinner at a Teppan Yaki restaurant booked, a trip to Rotorua organised, lunchtime sports as well as some activities planned by our international lead students. The more we put into things the more we get out of them and this is very true for international student. Trying new activities allows for opportunities where friendships can be made and new skills learned.

I wish all of our international students a wonderful term holiday and we look forward to seeing them all ready for another term of learning in term 3.

**Andrea Donovan**

Director of International Students



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWS

### International Prefects

Oscar was surprised to be selected for this prefect role feeling grateful that the school gave him the opportunity to give back to the community.

Throughout Oscar's time at the college, he has involved himself in various sports like badminton and basketball. He has had his fair share of commitment in these sports where he has assisted with the badminton trials and will hopefully represent the school as a dedicated player in the U19 Basketball team this year.

Jolin was joyful when she heard she was chosen for a prefect position because she wishes to make this a fruitful year, and a great year for all the international students.

This year, she is determined to maintain and improve her academic learning, where she has taken Physics, Chemistry, English, Digital Technologies and Accounting. To Jolin, academics is an important aspect of her schooling experience as she believes that the responsibility in obtaining her qualifications makes her a better person.

Aside from academics, Jolin enjoys listening to music as she finds comfort in exploring the diverse music genres allowing her to express different emotions.

Some goals that Oscar has this year is to make the international students feel comfortable at school, listen and attend to their concerns and show a bit of creativity in trying to include them in various activities at school. He is looking forward to helping the current and future international students so that they have fewer challenges with fitting in.

As a leader, Jolin desires to unite the international students and help them to interact with the local students at the college: "I want to make them feel comfortable in the school environment and community so that they become more expressive amongst others."

Oscar and Jolin share the same goals in trying to make the international students feel happy and united with the other students at Sancta Maria College. Oscar gave advice for those aspiring to become prefects in the future. "To be a prefect, you need to have leadership skills and be a good person as you are representing the school, the students and the prefect team."

Jolin advises people wanting to apply for prefect roles to be organised and to engage with people around the school. Urging specifically the international students, Jolin adds, "Try to build connections with people who are not international students, because I want to see in the future, that the group is taking a step forward into being more involved around the school."

Oscar and Jolin are sure to develop a bond between international students and local students. With their responsibilities and goals, we wish them all the best in carrying out their leadership roles as Sancta Maria College's International Prefects.



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWS

### Lockdown 2020

Our students showed resilience in March and April 2020 during the New Zealand Government lockdown period. New Zealand as a country spent several weeks in home isolation to stop the spread of the Coronavirus and for international students especially this was a time of concern as they were away from their home countries and families. Students were contacted individually by members of the international department and group conferencing took place where students had the opportunity to ask questions, interact with other students, talk about their learning and enjoy competitions like creating a 'lockdown video' and Kahootz Quiz Games.

Once back at school the International Department presented each student with a goody bag containing chocolates, a pen, hand sanitizer and tissues in appreciation of their resilience during this time. There was a prize for the best video which was awarded to Rosie Phung. Nate Yiu, Victor Triamchanchoochai, Martin Cheung and Aurn Satjawongvanich received prizes in the Kahootz competition.



### International Assembly and Pizza Lunch

On Friday 26 June the International Department hosted an International Student Assembly and Pizza lunch. This was an opportunity for international students to socialise together and enjoy lunch as a group. It was also a time to talk to students about the upcoming social events the department has planned for Term 3.



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWS

### Message for our host families and caregivers

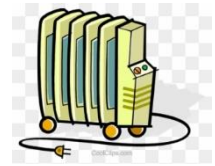
This has been a challenging first half of the year and I know many of our students would have usually looked forward to returning home to their families for this holiday. However, as they are remaining here as a result of the boarder closures and staying with you, we appreciate the extra effort you are making to ensure they enjoy this break.

Some families have advised us of exciting trips they are including their student on during the holiday. We love that you are showing them this generosity – just please ensure you’ve sent us details of any trips out of Auckland and where you’ll be staying. It is vitally important that we know the whereabouts of your student at all times. We would of course hope that it is not necessary, but in the instance of a national emergency, we always need to be aware of an International Student’s location so we can advise their family.



The past few weeks have certainly seen us experiencing the cooler winter temperatures and some much needed rain. Some of our students may not have experienced this cold or wet weather in their own country before – please ensure they have heating available in their rooms and the summer weight bedding has been changed out for warmer winter bedding.

Some students will be familiar with automated central heating in their home – so may need your advice around closing windows and drawing curtains/drapes at the end of the day. Layering up and wearing warmer clothes will also be something you may need to advise them. Auckland is a city of “many seasons in one day” and the wet weather can catch them off guard.



If your student does not have appropriate footwear or a raincoat to keep them dry during this season – please ensure you’ve made time to take them shopping for anything additional they may require. The school uniform shop also sells jackets and scarves. The shop will open after the holidays – please check the hours on the website and show your student. They can purchase a raincoat from any store – it does not need to be a regulation or uniform raincoat.

Next term...

It is preferable if it is pouring with rain that your student is dropped off or collected to and from school. Showing this small gesture of kindness is something that goes a long way with your student. They often report back to us at school and to their agents about the small things that we often take for granted but clearly make a big difference for them.

If I haven’t already seen you to complete a Homestay review then I will plan an appointment to see you at your home in the new term. As always, know that you can contact me if there is something you would like to discuss or call the emergency phone during the holiday if you require urgent assistance.

I hope that you, your International Student and your family all have a great break from the school routine and you all stay warm and in good health as we look forward to a busy second half of the year.

**Kendall Watson-Peach**  
**Homestay Co-ordinator**  
**Mobile: 021 246 6634**  
**Emergency Mobile: 021 478530**

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWS

### Upcoming Events

The first of these events will be an international student dinner out at Daikoko Restaurant in Botany where we will take part in traditional Tippan Yaki dining. The department will pay for the students to dine and it will be an opportunity to socialise outside of school. The date set for the dinner is Thursday 30 July and the senior students have the opportunity to go to the movies after dinner if they wish. **Students need to register their interest by Monday 27 July.**



Ms Donovan also spoke to the students about the upcoming three day trip to Rotorua. Each year the international department plans a special trip to part of New Zealand where students can learn about the New Zealand culture and spend some time together. This year the trip will include a trip to the Hobbiton Movie Set, Te Puia Geothermal Reserve, a Gondola ride up Mt Ngongotaha, a visit to the Rotorua Heritage Farm, a traditional Maori hangi and concert and a trip to Waitomo Glowworm Caves.



**Students were asked to register their interest in the trip by Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and to ask their parents to complete the permission slip sent to them on Friday 26 June.**

This will be an amazing opportunity to see part of New Zealand and experience the culture.

Students were also advised of the lunchtime table tennis and badminton that takes place every Monday for international students. This is set up by the international prefect, Oscar Ng and is a great time for international students to meet during lunchtime and have some fun.

### Lunchtime Table Tennis & Badminton



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