

17 September 2021



Tēnā Koutou Katoa, Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Apologies for the lengthy communication but it details what you need to know for when we shift to Alert Level 3 when the Prime Minister informs us of such a move.

The Minister for Education has announced that the next school holiday dates will remain unchanged, starting from Saturday, 2 October.

I know this has been a difficult time for some, but we must continue to adhere to the decisions being made for the overall well-being of our school family and wider community in which we live. If you and your family have not been vaccinated yet, please make this a priority decision and approach one of the many venues closest to where you live. You can also support everyone's safety by keeping your child at home if they are feeling unwell and please do contact your GP or Healthline, to seek advice about getting tested.

### **Online Learning**

Thank you once again for all your support in the successful roll-out of our home online learning programme during this extended lockdown period.

### **Senior School 'Catch-up Wednesday'**

Currently, we are mindful of an increasing workload on our senior students (Years 11-13) as they complete internal assessments and begin to prepare for NCEA and NZ Scholarship external examinations. We recognise the very hard work they are doing and often well beyond the recommended hours of our school timetable. For this reason, we have decided to implement 'Catch-up Wednesday' to take place this **Wednesday, 22 September**. Teachers will not be conferencing with students on this day, nor will they be setting any new work. We have deliberately chosen a mid-week date as this day should be seen as a continuation of study, rather than confusing it as a day-off.

Students should use this day to:

- Catch-up and submit any outstanding work (**Give this priority**)
- Work on any internal assessments that are yet to be submitted
- Year 11 students should complete the online study skills programme (**if NOT already done**).

We hope that this will take pressure off senior students for the remainder of the time they are learning from home.

### **Under Alert Level 3**

There has been a positive response by Aucklanders to follow the rules at Alert Level 4, which has given Government confidence that we might shift to Alert Level 3. **The Alert Level change will, however, be confirmed by the Prime Minister at the usual press conference held next Monday afternoon.**

Under Alert Level 3, schools remain closed, and we ask parents to keep their children at home from school. However, there will be provision for some students in Years 7-10 (under 15 years of age) whose parents are



essential workers if no alternative care arrangements can be made. The Delta variant poses significant health risk, so we implore families to stay within your household bubble unless for essential personal movement and keeping your children home, if at all possible. We are all being reminded that at Alert Level 3 your bubble can be extended to include child-care. Our best defence against COVID-19, remains... **STAY AT HOME!**

**If you are an essential worker and would like your child to attend school between 8.30am and 3.15pm, you must enrol your child to attend by emailing Courtenay Kilpatrick, Deputy Principal Years 7-10: [c.kilpatrick@sanctamaria.school.nz](mailto:c.kilpatrick@sanctamaria.school.nz). Please include your child's full name and year level. Tell us your essential working role and the day(s) your child needs to attend. This information will help us to establish safe school bubbles to support the families of essential workers. Any new enrolments must be made by 3.00pm the day before your child attends.**

### **Guidelines for the Re-Opening of SMC Under Alert Level 3**

- If there is a parent/caregiver available to look after children at home, please keep them at home.
- Keep any sick children at home. If a child who is sick comes to school, we will send them home.
- All students will be doing online learning at school or at home. There will be no teaching, only supervision.
- There will be one adult supervisor each day.
- Students will stay in their allocated 'bubble' all day and during break times.
- 'Bubble' composition may include students from different year levels.
- Students will not be able to change their 'bubble'.
- The number of students returning will determine the number of 'bubbles' that will be onsite at school.
- If there is the need to establish multiple school bubbles, there will be no contact across 'bubbles', students will stay in the same classroom all day.
- A 'bubble' will comprise up to 10 students. Siblings will be in the same 'bubble'.
- We strongly recommend students wear a mask while indoors.
- Students must bring earphones if they have these as well as their device.
- There will be no school buses operating to minimise contact.
- The School Canteen will not be open. Students will need to come to school with food (morning tea and lunch) and their water bottle. There will be no food deliveries.
- The Guideline sets out the social distancing best practice both inside and outside the classroom, (one metre inside and two metres outside).
- There will be no sporting activities, including PE that could allow the transfer of the Delta virus.
- Each 'bubble' will be allocated an entry point to the school to minimise the number of students entering at the same point.
- Students will be following the online timetable structure that all students are following during the time of the Lockdown. This means students will do remote learning with their usual class (either from home or from school).
- There are no events or gatherings at the school for musical, performances, cultural or sporting events.

There will be regular cleaning and high-touch surfaces will be disinfected. Staff and students are encouraged to frequently wash their hands and cover their coughs and sneezes and keep physically distanced from others as much as possible.

Our contact tracing systems will be in place, which includes our attendance register and visitor register, and we will be limiting staff onsite with most of our staff working from home.



### **Uniform Pop-Up, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

At this stage, Elizabeth Michael, Uniform Stockist is planning to go ahead with the scheduled annual uniform pop-up shop in the Auditorium. We will keep you informed.

Finally, our thoughts and prayers are with those who have tested positive for COVID-19, especially those receiving care in hospital, and we give thanks to all essential workers, vaccination and testing volunteers, hospital staff and other medical practitioners and health teams for their care and compassion across the Nation at this time.

We thank you in advance for your co-operation and understanding.

With blessings

Louise Moore  
Principal

### **'Whakapiki ake/Project Lift Up' – Lifting spirits while in lockdown**

I bring to your attention news of great online events organised by the Diocesan Youth team over the next week.

#### **Saturday 18/09, 8pm**

##### **An Evening with Internationally Acclaimed Speaker and Musician, Fr Rob Galea!**

Join us for a night of formation, music and Q&A with internationally acclaimed speaker and musician, Fr. Rob Galea! Fr. Rob will be joining us on Zoom to share practical ways that we can overcome fear and pursue our God-given potential.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82124381475>

#### **Sunday 19/09, 7pm**

##### **Come Let Us Adore: Eucharistic Adoration with Bishop Michael Gielen**

In the midst of these challenging times, prayer has never been more important. Join Bishop Michael for a night of intercessory prayer for one another and our nation and we gather together around Our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/532739741158599>

#### **Tuesday 21/09, 7pm**

##### **Behind the Scenes of The Chosen: An Evening with Actor Noah James**

From the beginning of our first COVID lockdown, many people have experienced a powerful encounter with Jesus through the TV series, The Chosen. With more than 100 million views worldwide, this series has become an international phenomenon. You're invited to join us for an incredible evening with actor Noah James, who plays the apostle Andrew, as he gives us a behind-the-scenes look at The Chosen and answers YOUR questions.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/874550270119673>

#### **Saturday 25/09, 11am**

##### **BLESSED // A Women's Morning with Emily Wilson**

Young women (13-35), join in this beautiful event where we will hear from international Catholic speaker and musician Emily Wilson! Emily will be speaking about overcoming self-criticism, cultivating gratitude, and creating space to listen to the voice of God. Make sure you put this event in your calendar, invite your friends to join in sisterhood, and bring your questions for the Q&A!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/4272295096201837>