

28 November 2021



Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Advent 28th November to 24th December

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and is a Season of Hope. In this season, we are preparing with hope for the coming of Emmanuel. It is a time of prayer for ourselves, our families, communities and our world.

Years 7 and 8 Return to School

This week, our Junior School started its alternating and on-site learning schedule. Years 9 and 10 started back the previous week and Year 7 students this past week, while Year 8s continued to learn from home. On Monday (29th November), we welcome back on-site Year 8, and Year 7 will be learning from home.

On Monday, your Year 8 child will report to their homerooms, wearing a mask and maintaining a social distancing of 1m between each other, refraining from touching other students at all times. The day will begin with a welcome back and a briefing about health and safety. Students will go on to usual regular timetable.

Years 9 and 10

We continue to have students from Years 9 and 10 on campus, attending face-to-face classes with their teachers. Work has been uploaded onto Schoology for those children unable to attend school.

Senior Exams (NCEA)

You will be aware that external examinations (NCEA and Scholarship) have started and will finish on the 14th of December. Please remind your child/children to pay attention to the exam timetables and requirements. It is pleasing to see many students attending and taking advantage to improve their overall performance in identified subjects.

The Government has a clear expectation that students should attend NCEA exams as normal. The exceptions are those students who can't attend an exam due to COVID-specific reasons:

- Student or someone within the family has Covid related symptoms
- Student has undergone a covid test and awaiting the results
- Student has a higher risk of severe illness or someone in their immediate family from Covid-19 and is not fully vaccinated
- Student is isolating following medical or public health advice
- Student or family are experiencing significant personal or family related anxiety about exposure to Covid-19
- Or a student has an illness or injury which in other situations would normally require a Derived Grade.

Students will be able to receive a grade if there is a Covid-specific reason if they cannot attend an exam. Sancta Maria College has encouraged all students to sit their exams and see this as an opportunity to perform under exam conditions. As stated by the MoE the higher of the UEG and NCEA grade will be applied in the end.



We ask that you or your child email and inform their year level dean and Mrs Heffernan as soon as possible if they cannot attend one or more of their exams.

Principals Nominee: a.heffernan@sanctamaria.school.nz

Year 11 Dean – r.camp@sanctamaria.school.nz

Year 12 Dean – a.ardern@sanctamaria.school.nz

Year 13 Dean – j.holmes@sanctamaria.school.nz

Senior Prizegiving and Recognition Awards

We have had to approach prizegiving and other recognition events differently this year due to lockdown restrictions. Our Sports Department has been able to produce a video featuring our key sports achievers of 2021. This will be posted on the website for you to view in your own time.

Senior Prizegiving

This year, we will have a joint prizegiving ceremony for Years 11 to 13. The event will be held in the **Auditorium on Monday, 6 December, at 9:15am** with top award recipients attending. Mandated health guidelines will be followed and we thank you for your support and understanding. The event will be recorded by video and the link will be sent to you once the video has been uploaded on the school website.

Thanksgiving Liturgy and Farewell to Year 13s (Wednesday, 8th December at 1.30 pm)

This year, the usual Thanksgiving Mass, will be a Thanksgiving Liturgy followed by a farewell afternoon tea for our Year 13s. Father Kevin, Chaplain, will lead us in the Liturgy, assisted by students and staff from the Special Character Team. The liturgy will take place on Wednesday, 8 December, at 1:30pm, followed by afternoon tea in the amphitheatre at approximately 2:30 pm. Event details will be sent to you closer to the date by Mrs Sullivan, Acting Senior School Leader.

Junior Recognition Ceremonies

Under strict health guidelines, it is not possible to hold our usual Junior Prizegiving events this year. Alternatively, we will hold **Recognition Ceremonies for the Junior School during the week of 6th December**. As with the Senior school, we will not be able to carry this out in the presence of parents, caregivers and whanau. We are not permitted to have any invited guests at these events as per health guidelines. We are however, looking forward to celebrating individual success in the Recognition Ceremonies.

This lockdown has taught us all that we can use other approaches to celebrate and recognise achievements and successes with flexibility and creativity. We hope that these milestones will be special for all our students.



Accord Staff Only Day

As some of you will be aware, there is a Ministry of Education mandated Staff Only Day scheduled for Term 4, 2021. This had previously been noted on our school website and calendar initially as 25th November and was later changed to 2nd December, to accommodate significant annual activities for Years 8 and 10, Outdoor Education Camps. **We have received Ministry of Education notification that this day must still go ahead but can be done on a day of our choosing.** We recognise there have been significant disruptions over the last four months, so we have decided that the least disruptive day to have the Staff Only Day will be **Friday, 10th December** as students would have been dismissed at 1:00pm. **Therefore, the last day for students for 2021 will now be Thursday 9 December with the usual 3.15pm finish time to accommodate the mandated Staff Only Day on Friday, 10 December.**

Event Summary

6 December, Monday	Senior Prizegiving – Years 11-13 (9:15 am)
	Yr 7 on-site
	Year 8 learning from home
	Years 9-10 on-site
7 December, Tuesday	Yr 7 on-site
	Year 8 learning from home
	Years 9-10 on-site
8 December, Wednesday	Years 11-13 Clearance Day (11am -1.15pm; Library)
	Year 13 Thanksgiving Liturgy (1:30pm)
	Year 13 Farewell afternoon tea (2:15pm)
	Yr 8 on-site
	Year 7 learning from home
	Years 9-10 on-site
9 December, Thursday	Yr 8 on-site
	Year 7 learning from home
	Years 9-10 on-site
	Last day of school (3:15pm Finish)
10 December, Friday	MoE Accord Staff Only

Ngā mihi nui

Louise Moore
Principal