



Dargaville High School

Plunket Street, DARGAVILLE 0310
Phone: (09) 439 7229 | Fax: (09) 439 7563

email: office@darghigh.school.nz | web: www.dargavillehighschool.co.nz

8 September 2021

Tēnā tātou katoa

I would like to start by thanking our staff, students and whanau for their work over the time that Dargaville High School has been operating at Alert Level 4 and Alert Level 3. We are looking forward to students returning to school on Thursday 9 September. Staff are looking forward to welcoming students back and supporting them with the transition back into school and into learning.

Extensive wastewater testing and the numbers of people getting tested across the country have given the Government confidence that it is safe to allow a shift down to Alert Level 2 across most of New Zealand.

At Alert Level 2 there is low risk of community transmission. However, there are still a number of public health requirements we all need to follow. Please do continue to monitor your health and do not send your children to school if they are not well (and please seek advice about getting a COVID test).

For us, all the required safety precautions for Alert Level 2 will be in place which include following all the recommendations from the public health experts. This means we will regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, encourage everyone to frequently wash their hands and cough and sneeze into their elbow.

While physical distancing is not a requirement in schools, we will be doing our best to keep students from congregating in very large numbers, and keeping spaces well-ventilated.

Face masks are not compulsory for students but we strongly urge that students come with a face mask, preferably a cloth mask, with a filter. The decision to wear a face covering is up to you and your whanau; whatever your decision it will be respected.

As a team, our staff have been working hard to prepare the school for moving to Alert Level 2. This has included ongoing cleaning and a key part of the organisation has been the preparation of a Covid-19 Safety Plan for Alert Level 2. This plan will be uploaded onto our website for parents to access.

Information for Thursday 9 September:

Thursday morning will start with an extended form class, for twenty minutes. During this time, the focus will be on reconnecting with students as well as to explain the safety protocols and processes that will apply to students. This will include information about hygiene and contact tracing for students.

Building Academy students are to report directly to the building academy.

After form time, our usual Thursday timetable will resume. Please ensure that students have their books for their classes on Thursday as well as other stationery needed (such as pens). Teachers will not be able to share any pens.

Under Alert Level Two, the School Lunch Programme will be operating. We have arranged for the lunches to be distributed from different spaces around the school, to assist with distancing. As a result of this, lunches will initially be wraps and sandwiches. Students can bring snacks to supplement this.

Food cannot be shared by students and students will also need to have their own drink bottles.

Lunch Distribution Locations:

Lunches will be available at the first break as normal. There will be different distribution points for different year level and other groups. The distribution points are:

- Year 9 Library. Students will file through the main door and out the fire exit.
- Year 10 Hall. Students enter through the main door and will exit through the rear side door.
- Year 11 Hall. Students enter through the Drama / Music foyer and exit through the front side door.
- Year 12 A5
- Year 13 The Student Hub
- Tutamoe and those who require special diets report to the Student Hub.

Staff will be on hand to ensure students don't congregate and they keep appropriate physical distancing.

Other Important Information:

- Wellbeing will continue to be an important part of our planning. Wendy Laird (our School Counsellor) will be available to meet with students about any concerns they may have. She is also available for parents for the same reason. Her cell phone number is 02102720981. She can also be contacted through the school office.
- Please discuss with your child(ren) expectations around physical distancing. We are using the phrase of being at arm's distance.
- If you do need to contact the school, we would appreciate you contacting the school by e-mail or phone in the first instance. As the school is part of one bubble, we need to record and collect contact tracing information for anyone entering the school site.
- To maintain our school bubble, and ensure accurate contact tracing information, no students are able to leave the school grounds during the day. While under Level 2 regulations, this includes Year 13 students, who will not be able to sign out for lunch or for study period. As part of this, all students are to be in all classes that they are timetabled for.
- Health and Safety is a key component of our Safety Plan, which all students have a responsibility to assist with. Arrangements will be made to send home any students clearly flouting these expectations.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in these matters and we are looking forward to learning resuming at school.

Ngā mihi



Mike Houghton
Principal