

Semester 1 2020

## CONTACT DETAILS

### International Team

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### Term Dates 2020

**Term 1: 28 Jan—25 March**

**Term 2: 15 April — 3 July**

**Term 3: 20 July—25 Sept**

**Term 4: 12 Oct— 10 Dec**

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## COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATES

As we are preparing this newsletter, New Zealand is in lockdown from midnight 25<sup>th</sup> March for 4 weeks due to Covid-19 alert level 4. This has meant that schools and non essential services are closed and people are instructed to stay home. NZ borders are closed and flights restrictions are in place. Many of our International Students had returned to their home country or waiting to leave on one of the repatriation flights organized by their government. Sadly, we said goodbye to Julius from Germany, Yushin, Hinata, Mahiro, Kokone, Sanako, Iori, Keigo from Japan Tino from Finland, Franziska from Switzerland, Valeria and Gianluigi from Italy. We hope you all had enjoyed your short stay in New Zealand!

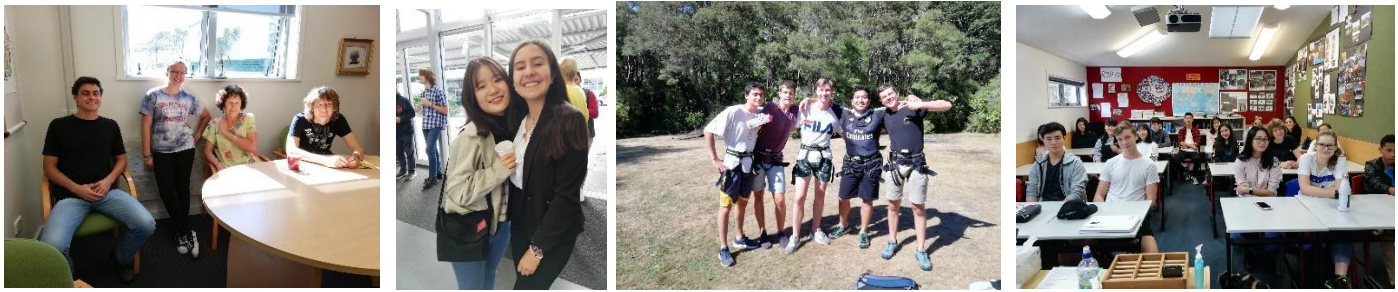
Term 1 ended earlier on the 27<sup>th</sup> March and term 2 begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. Students will be taught online for all their classes until the lockdown is lifted



## OUR NEW 2020 STUDENTS

This year we have welcomed 33 new student enrolments from a variety of countries: Germany, Switzerland, Timor Leste, Vietnam, Argentina, Chile, Austria, Finland, China, Brazil, Hong Kong, South Africa, The Philippines and Japan. We also have students from Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Palestine, Korea and Italy. Some of these students are 1 semester placements, others are also here with their parents who are on diplomatic assignments or have long term work placements. The majority of our students are either 1 year placements or long term students aiming to complete their schooling with us. We began our year with we have 51 international students in our programme.





## **NCEA (NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT): UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE RESULTS FOR OUR STUDENTS 2019**

Our international year 13 students all achieved some good results last year and gained entry to university in New Zealand or their own country. Our whole school NCEA results were above the national average. As well, our top students gained 28 Scholarships and 5 Outstanding Scholarships.

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

The students started their orientation with a day of Mathematics and English language testing as well as choosing and confirming their courses for the year. This was followed the next week by a visit into the city on the train and had a tour of Parliament ground and the oldest wooden building in the Southern Hemisphere. We spent the afternoon walking around the waterfront to Oriental Bay, had an ice cream and wandered back through the city centre to catch the train home. The next day the students took part in a Powhiri (Maori welcome) with all the new Year 9 students and a morning tea where they met their year level buddy. We introduced the new students to Onslow College, our education system, and how to enjoy living in Wellington! The following day the students spend some more time with us then met their buddies in their AKO group where they got to know the class and the teacher that they spend time with every week. They were given timetables and started their courses the day after Waitangi Day (a public holiday) The real work began!

## **INTERNATIONAL CAMP**

This year we finally had good weather for our annual overnight camp in the Wairarapa (a region about an hour's drive from Wellington City). We took 35 students with us and went on a train to Carterton in the morning. Students spent the first day rafting and abseiling at a local river. It was a sunny day and the student enjoyed fun activities on the river and managing to climb down a steep cliff! We stayed the night near Masterton at a camp where we made burgers, played a fun game and the students slept outside under the stars. On the second day we went surfing and walking at a great beach called Castlepoint. It was a great 2 days and a very quiet and tired group of students slept away the late afternoon train trip back to Wellington!



## **OUR ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DINNER**

This was held in early march this year and was a good event as usual. Many of our host families came with their children and the new students introduced themselves to everyone. We all enjoyed the amazing variety of food from many different cultures.





## LEARN TO SURF IN WELLINGTON!

We began a Learn to Surf Programme at Lyall Bay beach in Wellington for some of our students. They really enjoyed the first lesson and were able to reinforce the skills they learnt at the recent Outdoor Education Camp. Unfortunately, we were unable to finish the programme of 6 lessons due to Covid-19 lockdown.



## MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SUPPORT

This year we continue to offer extra classes for students in Year 11, 12, and 13 Mathematics and Year 11 Science. Year 11 students have up to 4 hours of extra teaching to support them in their mainstream Science and Mathematics classes. The students learn how to interpret questions and prepare assessments as well as extra subject vocabulary and academic vocabulary teaching. Our year 12 and 13 students also can have 4 hours of extra Mathematics support a week which involves increasing their mathematical and academic vocabulary, working on interpreting questions and preparing for assessments. We have noticed a significant improvement in the students' NCEA results since we introduced this programme a while ago.

## NOVEMBER 2019 WELLINGTON ACTIVITY WEEKS

We organized 2 weeks of activities for those years 11 to 13 students who were not sitting NCEA examinations in November last year. These activities began when the NCEA students went on study leave at the beginning of November. We combined with the students from Wellington High School and did a series of indoor and outdoor activities. These included the Golf Driving Range, paintballing a picnic, a Wellington quiz, circus techniques and trampolining and the Adrenalin Forest.

## NEW BUILDINGS!

Our Minister of Education visited the school in early December and announced that that school would be given \$24 million to build a new classroom block in the school. This is very exciting for the school and we are all looking forward to seeing the plans for this.

## ONLINE STUDENTS APPLICATIONS FOR ONSLOW COLLEGE!

We are finally set up to receive online applications to attend the school. Agents will receive an invitation from and the school the provider ENROLLER in the coming days. This will make it easier for everyone

## SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS LIVING IN HOMESTAYS

We have been keeping regular contact with our homestay parents and our students living with them during this challenging time and given them lots of ideas of what you can (and can't) do in a lockdown in New Zealand. The students seem to be managing very well so far but I am sure will be glad to get back to their learning in mid April and attending school again when we can.

## OUR CHINESE STUDENTS STILL IN CHINA!



Due to the New Zealand borders closing, 9 of our students from China were unable to return to Onslow College. We have been in contact with them regularly. Our teachers have been emailing them school work in Term 1. From next term they can join their NZ classmates for online lessons via video conferencing tool Microsoft Teams. As well they are now enrolled in some subjects online through Te Kura Correspondence school so that they can have some personalised learning as well using skype, video clips etc. The students have the support of a Chinese speaking teacher from Te Kura, Mrs Song, who help them to liaise with their subjects teachers. Mrs Song will also be checking that the students are on track with their learning schedule.



## TERM 2 BEGINS ONLINE FOR EVERYONE!

Term 2 will begin on 15 April and teachers will provide online lessons and be in touch via the video conferencing platform Teams until the lockdown ends. We hope you appreciate that this is a very challenging time for all teaching staff and students and thank you for your understanding. We wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone especially our host parents who are busy keeping our International Students safe and getting them to the airport during lockdown.



*We will get through this Covid-19 pandemic so please stay safe and keep well!*

Unite  
against  
COVID-19