



ONSLOW COLLEGE

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Dear student

PREPARING TO COME TO NEW ZEALAND:

We are looking forward to meeting you this month. We hope that your time with us is successful, educational and enjoyable. It is both exciting and challenging to come to live in a new culture. Here are some reminders and information for you to make your first few weeks go well.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

Please remember to bring the following:

- **A Dictionary** (electronic and paper copy). You are not allowed to use an electronic dictionary during examination.
- A graphic calculator. You will need this for your Mathematics class.
- Your own laptop or ipad.
- A Book or ebook: It is good to be able to read in your own language at times
- Passport and Visa: Make sure that your passport is valid for the whole time that you are here.
- Suitable Clothing: Wellington has a temperate climate. This means that the weather can have temperatures between 28 C in summer and 5 C in winter. In summer the average temperature is around 20 C. In winter it is around 10C. You need to bring light wool jerseys, jeans, trousers, a warm wind proof jacket and a raincoat. You will also need a hat and scarf occasionally. It can be cold in July and August.
- Other clothing that you may like to bring are: swimwear (you may need this for Physical Education class or Outdoor Education class), sunglasses, sunscreen, shorts, skirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts and walking shoes. Also, you may need some formal clothes for dances and balls.
- Insurance Policy: Please bring a copy of your insurance policy if you are arranging your own
- Money: It is advisable to bring a small amount of cash so that you can have some money until we arrange your bank account for you. Your parents may want to organize a debit or credit card for you to use while you are in NZ. You will need around \$80 a week for pocket money.
- Mobile Phone: You may bring your own phone or buy one in NZ. You will need to buy a NZ sim card.
- Be careful about bringing food from your own country: New Zealand has very strict rules about bringing in any food especially meat products or fresh plants product. You **MUST** declare any food products to the Customs on arrival.

YOUR ARRIVAL IN WELLINGTON:

When you arrive in Wellington you will be met by someone from your host family or Andrea Reiser, our Homestay Manager. He/she will be holding up a sign with your name on it. If you cannot find them, go down the stairs and collect your baggage. They may have had a problem and be a little late. Make sure you have an emergency phone number to ring. **Our emergency number is 021 989 398. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE THE AIRPORT.**

YOUR HOST FAMILY:

When you arrive at your new home, your host family will make you welcome and help you to feel at home. They will show you your room and explain how their family lives. You will always have your own room. Your room will have a bed, a desk, a desk light, a wardrobe, some drawers for your clothes and a heater. You will probably share a bathroom with some other members of your family.

We work hard to place our students with families that they will be happy in. It is important that you tell your family what you need and are honest with them.

YOUR FIRST WEEK AT ONSLOW:

ENGLISH ASSESSMENT AND SUBJECT SELECTION DAY

Your host family will bring you to school. Your enrolment form will have been sent to your host family's address. Please ask them to help you to fill in the form. You must bring the enrolment form and please **DO NOT FORGET TO BRING YOUR PASSPORT WITH YOU.**

You will have an English Language Assessment* and complete a Mathematics Test. This helps us to put you in the right classes for your level. Then you will choose the subjects that you wish to study. **N.B. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW WHICH SUBJECTS YOU MUST STUDY IF YOU ARE RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY.** After that, you will be able to leave school early and go home.

*If your tests show that you need some English language support, the English Language Department will provide specialised English Language lessons as part of your course.

ORIENTATION DAY

You will the day with the international programme staff learning about school and living in New Zealand. We will talk to you about *Culture Shock* and introduce you to your buddy and other international students. You will be shown around the school meet other senior staff members at Onslow College.

A copy of the Orientation Programme will be sent to your Agent and your host family before your arrival. You can also download it from our school website www.onslow.school.nz/international

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

You will be given your timetable with the subjects you will be studying. Please note that sometimes, it is not possible to give all students their first choice but we will try hard! If you find that you are not enjoying a subject you can change it after a week and before the end of your third week.

YOUR FIRST WEEK IN NEW ZEALAND:

During this time your host family will show you around Wellington and help you with the transport to school. Most students either walk to school or catch a bus or train.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW:

Smoking in New Zealand: Smoking is not allowed anywhere at school, buildings or work places. Most families do not allow smoking inside their homes. The smoking age in NZ is 18 years and over. You need to show I.D to buy a packet of cigarettes.

Driving in New Zealand: Onslow College do not allow international students to drive a car or own a car if you are under the age of 19. However you can sit the Learners tests and take driving lessons from professional driving instructors. You must inform Director of International Students if you are doing this.

Internet and Telephone Use: The school and all of our host families have internet/wifi for students' laptop and phone. **DOWNLOADING is illegal in New Zealand and may affect your host family's contract with their internet provider.** There are computers available at school for you to use as well. **Internet and mobile phone charges are quite high in New Zealand compared to many other countries.**

Travelling around New Zealand: It is recommended that you explore our country. We have lots of information to help you with this. There are lots of tours that you can join which travel around New Zealand. Onslow College only allows students to travel on organized tours. Independent tours are not allowed.

Safe travelling! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email us.

We look forward to meeting you.

Regards

Kerry Finnigan
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Andrea Reiser
Homestay Manager
Andrea.Reiser@onslow.school.nz

May Wong
Office Manager
May.wong@onslow.school.nz

IMPORTANT

Keep this paper with your passport

If you are lost, or miss your connecting flight, or can't find your host family call our emergency number:

From outside New Zealand

006421989398

From inside New Zealand

021989398

If you need help at the airport, hand this paper to airport staff and ask them to make the call for you.

Do not leave the airport