



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 (Year 11, 12 and 13 students)
- Your own laptop for using in class. **THIS IS COMPULSORY FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.**
- 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. Your parents may want to organize a debit or credit card for you to use while you are in NZ. You will need around \$50 a week for pocket money. It is possible to open a bank account in New Zealand so that your parents can transfer pocket money to your bank account. However there will be bank fee incurred for each international transfer.
- 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 FIRST WEEK AT ONSLOW COLLEGE:

ENGLISH ASSESSMENT AND SUBJECT SELECTION DAY

Your host family will bring you to school on your first day. **PLEASE BRING YOUR PASSPORT WITH YOU AND A COPY OF YOUR STUDENT VISA.**

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.**

*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 you 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 or vaping is not allowed anywhere at school. Most families do not allow smoking inside their homes. The smoking age in NZ is 18 years and over.

Drinking: The **age** for purchasing alcohol in New Zealand is 18. It is illegal to supply alcohol to someone under the age of 18 years unless the person supplying the alcohol is the [parent or legal guardian](#), or the person supplying alcohol has the express consent of the young person's parent or legal guardian **and** the alcohol is supplied in a responsible manner.

Driving in New Zealand: Onslow College do not allow international students to drive a car or own a car. 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 unlimited internet/wifi for students' laptop and phone.

Travelling around New Zealand: It is recommended that you explore our country. We have lots of information about organized tours.

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

We look forward to meeting you.

Regards

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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