

Start of the Year and Orientation Programme

Pōwhiri for students and whānau, Thursday 7 February

Assemble 8:45am on the astroturf (up the main driveway) and the carpark beside it. Please do not wait in the driveway. After the Pōwhiri, everyone will share kai in the Student Centre. Following this, students will go to the Hall to be placed into AKO classes to start the orientation programme.

On 7 and 8 February, an orientation programme will be run by AKO teachers & Year 13 Peer Support Leaders. It will involve a number of activities including learning about the school's IT system, introduction to sports, information about itinerant music lessons and the school library, as well as finding your way around the school.

Both days will finish at 3:10pm. The Canteen will be open from Thursday 7 February if you wish to purchase food. Please note that school buses will run from Thursday 7 February, as per bus information on school website.

The first full school day for the whole school is **Monday 11 February**, starting at 8:45am in the REC centre.

Year 9 Tea-Wednesday 13 February, 6pm start

This is an opportunity for your family/whānau to meet with your AKO teacher and with other families in the AKO room. Following this, a light evening meal and refreshments will be provided by the Onslow PTA in the Hall. Later in the term, parents will have the chance to meet the AKO teacher/subject teachers to ask any questions they may have. At any time during the year we welcome communication between home and school, either by phone or email.

Year 9 Camp Wednesday 20 February – Friday 22 February

Year 9 camp will take place in week 3 of Term 1. Classes will travel by bus to Brookfield Outdoor Education Camp on the Wednesday, leaving school in the morning, and will return on Friday afternoon, arriving at school after 3:30pm (parents will need to arrange to pick up students). Camp will cost \$60. If payment for camp is an issue, please have your parent/guardian contact me at katie.mcfarlane@onslow.school.nz to discuss an alternative financial arrangement. Please see the attached information about camp.

Lockers

Lockers are available on Thursday 7 February. Year 9 students have the first opportunity to claim a locker before other students. To do this you must bring your own robust padlock (not a combination padlock) on the first day so that you can claim a locker close to your AKO room. Students must register their lockers with the office on the first day of school, using the form placed inside the lockers. You cannot claim a locker without a padlock. If you do not claim a locker on the first day, please note that they are subject to availability after 7 February.

Lockers are intended for the storage of books and other classroom materials. Valuables, food and clothing should not be stored in the lockers. The use of lockers is at the student's own risk and the school takes no responsibility for the loss of items.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

It is our expectation that all students will have Windows-based laptops and bring them from 7 February 2019. The rationale for this can be found on the Onslow College website. As well as a laptop, students should bring earphones or headphones. We recommend a mouse but some students may prefer not to use one. We advise students to clearly label their laptops. We recommend **not purchasing Chrome Books** as our system does not support them at this time.

If buying a laptop would cause financial hardship for your family, please ask your parent or guardian to contact me at katie.mcfarlane@onslow.school.nz. I will pass this to the BYOD administrator and we will contact your family to discuss an alternative arrangement.

Tuesday Late Starts

Teachers take part in professional development on Tuesday mornings. To allow this to occur, classes start at 9:30am on Tuesdays in Terms 1–4. School buses still run at their normal times.

Family Contact Details

If any family address, phone or email details have changed since you enrolled, please ask your parent/caregiver to send the new details to info@onslow.school.nz

Katie McFarlane

Year 9 Dean

Katie.mcfarlane@onslow.school.nz