



TUAKAU COLLEGE

Pai rawa atu i nga mea katoa | The very best in all things

Kia ora koutou parents, caregivers and students,

You will be aware that the Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins, has announced New Zealand will move to the 'Orange' setting in the traffic light system at 11:59pm 13th April. The decision to move to 'Orange' has been made on public health advice and reflects that we are moving past the peak of cases and our health system is able to cope. We are seeing that cases are declining due to high levels of vaccination and natural immunity after infection.

What does 'Orange' mean for our school?

Mask wearing is not compulsory BUT at 'Orange' public health advice is that masks should continue to be used and strongly encouraged when indoors. Wearing a mask is a key health measure that slows the spread of COVID-19 in indoor settings. For that reason, we want to encourage students to continue to wear a mask. We ask that visitors to the school, including parents and whānau, wear a mask whenever they are indoors on school grounds.

We also ask that your child continues to bring a mask to school every day. If you do not have a mask we can supply one. There may be times that we'll ask them to wear a mask – for example, when we are having an assembly in the hall. If there are a high number of cases at school or in the community, we may ask that masks are worn in classrooms for a time. A huge part of learning is getting all the cues from the staff when teaching. Those cues include facial expressions, etc. We have been missing this over the last term so please do not be concerned if some staff are not wearing a mask when they are teaching your child from now on.

At 'Orange,' students aged 12 and above are still required to wear a face mask on school/public transport.

Please be reminded that on Wednesdays the timetable will continue to start at 9:30am, with our staff members doing Professional Learning from 8:30am – 9:30am. Assemblies will occur in one of the periods during the week, when required.

We will continue to keep all the other health measures in place at school, that we know help slow the spread of COVID-19. These include ensuring our indoor spaces are well-ventilated, maintaining good hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette, appropriate physical distancing whenever we can and, most importantly, staying home if we are sick.

We are looking forward to a few less restrictions and returning to school life that is a bit closer to normal.

Please have a festive Easter and a relaxing break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 2, ready for more learning!

**Ngā mihi
Chris Betty
Principal**