

# Southland Girls' High School

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Kia ora Parents and Whanau

With the move back to Red Light Traffic (Covid 19 Protection Framework) for all New Zealand as of last Sunday, there have been some changes to the way we operate as a school as per the government's directives. As mask wearing is a government requirement, you will need to ensure that you provide masks for your child for school and when they are on buses.

The main changes have been as follows:

- All students from Year 4- Year 13 **must** wear a mask **in School**, and in the classroom. This rule also applies to Teachers and Support Staff.
- Similarly all students who use School or Public buses must wear masks.
- The Government is also now requiring that a face covering be an actual mask. That means no more scarves, bandannas, or t-shirts pulled up over the face, for example. This is to ensure that it is a mask designed to cover your nose and mouth properly.

It is also now recommended that masks be a medical-grade mask (for example a Type IIR/Level2 masks or above). These include the widely available 'blue' medical-grade masks that many New Zealanders are already wearing. The best masks to wear are the N95 or the KN 95 masks.

Last year we emailed you regarding the vaccination status of your child. As we said, many organisations and facilities require students to be double vaccinated to enter their sites. As well with the Omicron variant now in the community, it has become more important that we too know the status of our students should there be an outbreak.

Next week, your child's Academic Tutor / Homeroom teacher will discreetly ask your child to show their Vaccine Pass. Be assured, this information will be treated and stored confidentially.

We will also be checking contact details for all students and parents. This is to ensure that if for some reason we need to work from home, or in case of an outbreak, that we have all information we would require to continue the learning.

## **Other important points to remember:**

- Practise good hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette and avoid touching your face. We will continue to provide sanitiser at school in support of this.
- Encourage your child to sign in using our school QR code each day. This code has been placed at the entrances around the school.
- If your child has a cough, runny nose, sore throat or is generally unwell, then please keep them at home.

Other precautions the school will be taking is limiting the non-essential visitors on site and minimising other essential visitors to the school. As parents, you can come to the school, but you will need to wear a mask at all times, sign in and scan our QR code.

While this information may be worrying or unsettling, we can assure you that we will keep your child as safe as possible.

Nga Mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Browning', written over a horizontal line.

Yvonne Browning  
Principal