

Auckland Grammar School Response to Covid-19 Lockdown - Summary

STAFF

1. Senior leaders within the School are implementing a Phone Tree system and calling teachers on their lists (approx. 13 each) every two days, to ensure they are doing well and their respective families are coping, as well as checking in on any PD needs around the creation of online lessons via GrammarNet and to resolve queries or issues, until the school goes on term break from 3 April 2020.
2. Department heads are also doing the same for support staff teams and this will continue throughout the term break, with a follow up call to heads from the SLT.
3. Teachers are continuing to be paid by the NZ government and Support staff are continuing to be paid by the Board of Trustees.
4. The International Department has implemented a group zoom call every morning (weekdays) at 10am to check workloads, ensure everyone is doing OK, and to raise any issues that have arisen and need discussion relating to particular students or other stakeholders. All staff were provided with school laptops to take home in advance of Lockdown, and have access to custom software and shared drives of information.

STUDENTS

4. 175 international students remain enrolled at Auckland Grammar School and continue to study via remote learning. Two students returned to China by 29 March 2020.
5. We have implemented and completed video and voice calls with all students (and any parents residing in Auckland) via the International Welfare staff members.
6. We have replaced the usual homestay residential visit, by adapting and using technology to complete 'home visits' to see and hear the students and host families together as a family bubble; which has proven effective in student well-being management so far.
7. We have created a list of students 'at risk' to monitor closely over the coming weeks.
8. The Dean of International is actively connecting with students at different year levels and checking their application to their subject lessons and tasks via GrammarNet. This is important for maintaining good attendance records and continuously learning during this time. Better to keep boys busy and in-check!
9. In addition, we are posting key messages and reminders on the International Department page of GrammarNet for our students, including what it means to be in 'lockdown', internet safety advice, as well as giving suggestions on term break holiday activities and competitions for them to get involved in.

1 April 2020

10. Our Headmasters International Committee student leaders have launched a virtual buddy support network via an app called Discord. We have 115 members so far. This is a student-led initiative (guided and overseen by staff) so content and interactions are at a pair-to-pair level and strictly open to Grammar boys only (on authentication of enrolment) to maintain the privacy and safety of our students. We have asked the Committee to forward any concerns about any particular student to staff to deal with, and not try to 'solve' problems, if they see issues or have a student message them for example.
11. We have asked students to think about their personal goals during the Lockdown period and to review and established them for the remainder of the year too.
12. Some students have been asked to record a VLog of their experience in Lockdown as a means of sharing with others what structures they have in place for the 4-week period to stay healthy and focussed on their goals and future achievements.
13. We have developed a draft emergency housing plan to cater for international students, in the event the situation goes from bad to worse...
14. Dealing with any issues or problems as they arise, and having direct communication with parents as matters arise regarding their son.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

15. Our communication outreach is organised into three groups in order to tailor our messages and support each accordingly: Residential Caregivers, Parents and Agents.
16. Email communications with parents are being sent from the Headmaster, and supporting communication from the International Department to parents, agents, host families.
17. We have created a Resource Hub for our Residential Caregivers with tips and advice organised into various topic headings with links to: extra study resources, exercise, projects and games etc, to assist hosts keeping the household engaged and students active over the term break.
18. We have asked our host families to send us photos of their students at play/doing things around the house, etc, so that we can share information and positive messages with the student's natural parents to keep them informed.
19. We are also undertaking virtual meetings with our agents to keep them informed about our approach at Grammar, and staying connected to support of our agents who likewise are restricted in their activities to share this unusual experience.

CONTACT

Rachel Fenton : Director of International : Auckland Grammar School

E r.fenton@ags.school.nz **P** +64 9 950 2183 **M** +64 21 771 765 **W** www.ags.school.nz