

GARIN COLLEGE

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Kia ora koutou Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

You'll be aware that all of New Zealand (with the exception of Auckland) is moving to Alert Level 2 from midnight tonight. Our thoughts and positive wishes are with everyone in Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland.

Extensive wastewater testing and the numbers of people getting tested across the country has given the Government confidence that it is safe to allow a shift down to Alert Level 2 across most of New Zealand.

Our Teachers and Staff are looking forward to welcoming all learners back onsite on Thursday morning to Whānau class at 8.40am. Tomorrow (Wednesday) we will be continuing to support the learners who have been onsite at Alert Level 3 while we prepare for re-opening to all on Thursday.

At Alert Level 2 there is low risk of community transmission and it provides us with a lot more opportunities to engage and connect with others. However, there are still a number of public health requirements we all need to follow. Please continue to monitor your health and do not send your children to school if they are not well (and please seek advice about getting a COVID test).

For us, all the required safety precautions for Alert Level 2 will be in place which include following all the recommendations from the public health experts. This means we will regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, encourage everyone to frequently wash their hands and cough and sneeze into their elbow. Hand sanitiser will be available to learners at the entrance to each classroom.

While physical distancing is not a requirement in schools, we will be doing our best to keep students from congregating in very large numbers and keeping spaces well-ventilated.

Face coverings are not required to be worn in school. The Director General of Health has recommended that children 12 years+ wear a face covering at school – just as older children are required to wear face coverings in some other places. The decision to wear a face covering is up to you and your whānau, whatever your decision it will be respected.

If you are not sure what all the rules are for alert level 2 when you are out and about, then the following information may be useful to you: [COVID-19 Alert Levels summary table](#) & [COVID-19 Alert Levels detailed table](#)

On behalf of all our teachers, I thank all our Learners, Parents, Caregivers and Whānau for your collective energy, resilience and support throughout our period of online learning during alert level 3 and 4. We were very pleased to receive your feedback via the Online Learning Survey, I have added this data to the bottom of this update as an appendix for your information. This data and other feedback we have received is helping us to further refine our approach to online learning should we be in the situation again of having to engage this again in the future

School Transport

All bus services will be operating, including the Garin Express from Thursday morning.

Face coverings **are not** required on school transport – this includes charter buses hired by the school to transport students and staff. Face coverings are recommended for children aged 12+, as they are for attending school.

Anyone who chooses to wear a face covering in any setting should be supported to do so. Face coverings are not required on school buses because schools know who is on school transport and have good systems in place to identify potential close contacts. We will maintain an up-to-date bus list for school bus services.

School Canteen

The College Canteen will resume its service on Thursday and provide food for learners at 1st and 2nd break

Derived Grade Examinations are particularly important this year.

Derived Grade Examinations for Garin College will take place on Monday 27th September to Friday 3rd October.

It is in the interests of all Garin learners to prepare well and ensure that they treat these exams as if they were the final examinations in November. There are two reasons for this:

1. If we are in lockdown at the end of the year and no secondary school learners can sit their exams, these results will be shared with NZQA and may be used as the external grade.
2. Feedback is important and this is an opportunity for Garin learners to be given valuable feedback on how to improve their performance at the end of the year.

Club Garin Colours Nominations

Nominations close on 9 September, nomination forms were emailed to you by Justine Butler. Please return these nomination forms to: justinebutler@cloud.garincollege.ac.nz

Garin College Ball

We have made the difficult decision to postpone the Garin College Ball until October 23rd. This gives us a little more time for our Alert Levels to decrease. Unfortunately, the ball cannot run at an Alert Level 2. We must ensure this decision has been made in adequate time to allow postponements of pre-ball preparations and so have decided to make this a firm decision now rather than hold off until the last minute. This gives us a better chance of the 2021 Garin College Ball being able to go ahead.

Sport and Other Events

As information comes to hand from Sport NZ and Tasman Sport, we will update you on the running of such events and activities at Alert level 2.

Please don't hesitate to contact the College office if there is something you need assistance with.

I look forward to seeing all students at 8:40am on Thursday.

Ngā manaakitanga

John Maguire
Principal

APPENDIX 1

Online Learning Survey Feedback 2021

Thank you to our Garin learners and Whānau who completed our online learning survey. We noted the improvements in the satisfaction of the online learning experience compared to 2020.

Learner Feedback 2021

159 RESPONSES

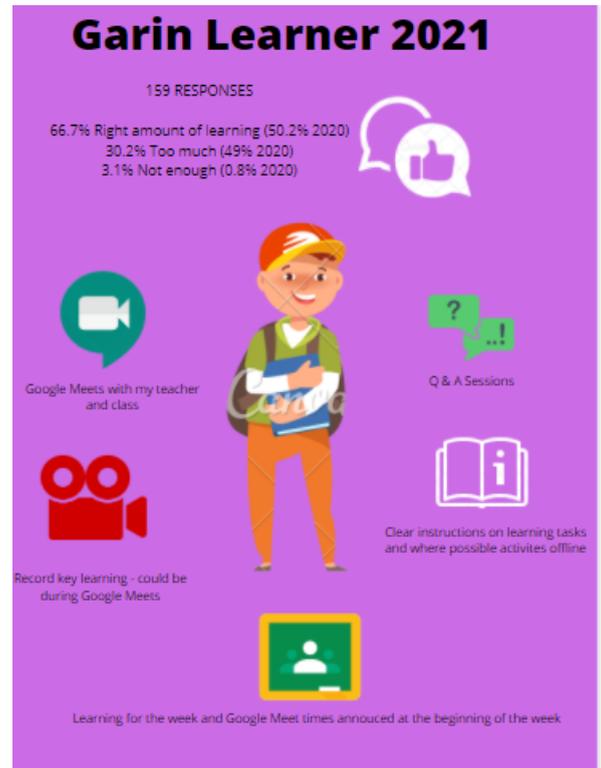
66.7% Right amount of learning (50.2% 2020)

30.2% Too much (49% 2020)

3.1% Not enough (0.8% 2020)

The key focus areas noted by learners were:

1. Google Meets with my teacher and class
2. Question and Answer Sessions with my teachers
3. Record key learning - could be during Google Meets
4. Clear instructions on learning tasks and where possible activities offline
5. Learning for the week and Google Meet times announced at the beginning of the week



Whānau Feedback 2021 76.5% Right amount of learning, 5.9% Too much, 17.6% Not enough

The key focus areas noted by Garin whānau were:

1. Providing Google Meets with their teacher
2. Adequate notice given around learning activities and Google Meets as early as possible