

CARMEL COLLEGE PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION



Aerial View of Carmel College beside Lake Pupuke. Rangitoto Island in the background

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PARENTS

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Carmel College Community! We hope that this will help you to prepare your daughter to come to Carmel College and answer some of your questions about the school and how it works. Please contact us if you need further information. A more detailed handbook will be given to your daughter at school when she arrives.

Our parents are valued members of our school community. With your daughters studying a long way from their families we have special responsibilities for them and we will do our best to keep you as fully informed as possible about your daughter. To do this we ask that we are always told of any change to your address, phone and fax number and email address. Emails are the quickest way of contact.

Our school reports, which are written twice a year in the second or third term and the fourth term, will be sent to you and a copy is also sent to your daughter's agent and homestay. The student is given a copy of the report by the Atawhai Group Teacher (form teacher). There will also be a brief report issued in Term 1. This will also go home with the student.

It is generally quicker for you, or your agent, to organise the student visa in your own country. Carmel College can arrange the necessary medical and travel insurance before your daughter leaves your country so they are covered over the travel period, however it is your responsibility to check the expiry date of your daughter's passport, visa and insurance.

Carmel College is responsible for all emergency procedures during school hours and all emergency procedures outside school hours while the student is in a homestay. In the event of an accident or emergency appropriate action will be taken and you will be contacted as soon as possible by the school principal, Ms Chris Allen, your student's agent, or your insurance company, on the emergency contact number you provided on your daughter's application for enrolment form.

If your daughter has an accident while you are outside of New Zealand, Carmel College or the homestay parents may need to consent to urgent medical procedures on your behalf, including blood transfusions if necessary. Please contact me if you have any queries about our emergency procedures.

If you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss about your daughter, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you have the opportunity to visit your daughter while they are enrolled at Carmel College, we would be very happy to meet with you and show you around the school.

We look forward to welcoming your daughter to Carmel College.

Carmel College Emergency Phone Number

+64 21 255 2822

ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATION

Carmel College has assessed the suitability of the Carmel College homestay or the designated caregiver's accommodation by:

- Visiting the home
- Interviewing the caregiver
- Carrying out Police vetting for all persons in the house 18 years of age and over in the Carmel homestay or if considered necessary, in the designated caregiver's home

and is satisfied that the homestay will provide safe and suitable accommodation for an international student.

Please note that your daughters who are under 18 years old are not allowed to stay with their sister or brother who is in New Zealand on Student Visas.

HOMESTAY ARRANGEMENT THROUGH CARMEL COLLEGE

The school makes all the arrangements for payments to the homestay family, and will organise for your daughter and her belongings to be transported to the homestay. We will send you a complete profile of the homestay family that your daughter will be living with while she is studying in New Zealand.

Please note that homestay fees are paid throughout the year and will stop when your daughter leaves for the Christmas holidays, but you will have to pay for storage if her belongings are left in the room.

If a student needs to move out of a Carmel College homestay all arrangements will be carried out by the Homestay Co-ordinator. The student does not give notice to the homestay parent. The Homestay Co-ordinator will contact you, the student's parents to explain the change.

If you, as the legal parents want the change yourselves, you must write to the Homestay Co-ordinator giving valid reasons for changing homestay. The Homestay Co-ordinator will give two weeks notice to the homestay from the time a decision is made or at the time the school receives a letter from you, the parent. **Please note however, that after one move, you will be charged an additional homestay placement fee.**

If you are starting at the beginning of Term 1 you will receive information about an Orientation Day to be held before school starts.

If you arrive during the year – The International Director will introduce you to the school and to living in New Zealand. Ask her, or your Atawhai Group teacher, and the other students for any information you need.

On your first day of school you should come to the main office at 8.45am. Your homestay, parent(s), or agent is welcome to come with you. You need to bring your passport so that we can take a copy of your student permit. You also need a pen, paper and some lunch or money to buy lunch.

ATAWHAI GROUP

Your Atawhai Group (or form class) is like your 'family'. This is the class that you meet every day at Atawhai Group period. Your Atawhai Group teacher makes sure that you are happy at school.

COURSES

You will be placed in your subject classes and given a timetable telling you which room to go to and who your teachers are. In New Zealand school students go to a different room for each subject. It may take 2 or 3 weeks before you and your teachers are sure you are in the right classes. You need to give yourself time to settle in. **Ask your teacher if you need help.** Your teachers will monitor your progress all the time and move you to another class if necessary.

Junior forms (Years 9 and 10) have some classes together e.g. Social Studies, Religious Studies and Physical Education. You have other subjects with other students of your year level so you will be able to meet other students of your form level, and extend your group of friends.

Senior students (Years 11-13). You will be on an individual programme based on subjects chosen from the Curriculum Booklet. When planning your courses, you need to make sure that your subjects will provide a full course in the following years and lead to the career you want.

BUDDIES

Your teachers will put you next to a student in your class who has offered to be your friend and help to look after you.

KIWI SISTER PROGRAMME

All International students are invited to join the Kiwi Sister programme. You will be given a Kiwi "sister" who may invite you to her home, have outings with you and share activities at school, and we hope this will develop into a long friendship.

WHAT'S LIFE LIKE IN NEW ZEALAND?

New Zealand is a great place to live and we are sure you will agree. New Zealanders like to call themselves Kiwi's (after the bird not the Kiwi fruit!) and they are very passionate about the outdoors and all sports, and in particular rugby. The All Blacks are a well-known icon, but New Zealand also has a vibrant cafe society and cultural activities.

New Zealand has a temperate climate, stunning scenery and friendly locals. It is a rich multicultural society and this is reflected in the variety of ethnic foods available in restaurants and cafes. Although there are just over 4 million people living in New Zealand, there is something for everyone here, peaceful countryside, buzzing cities and plenty of fun and adventures.

Auckland City

Although Wellington is the capital of New Zealand, Auckland is the largest city. It is a vibrant city with many activities available. There are islands in the Hauraki gulf to explore, and plenty of parks and beaches for walking and swimming.

The North Shore

Carmel College is located in Auckland's North Shore – just 15 minutes from the Auckland City centre. The school is situated on the banks of Lake Pupuke. Carmel College is within easy walking distance to the Milford Shopping Centre, Milford Beach, and is on a good transport route. There are several shopping malls located on the North Shore.

TRANSPORT IN AUCKLAND

Many of the students at Carmel College take the bus to school or walk. Remember that in New Zealand, cars drive on the left-hand side of the road, so you must be very careful when crossing roads. Make sure you look right, then left, then right again before you cross. If you are taking the bus to school, your host family will show you where to catch the bus. We suggest that you purchase an **AT HOP CARD** which will give student discount on public buses.

RECOMMENDED CLOTHING

We suggest that you bring the following items to cover the various seasons: swimwear, sunhat, sunglasses, shorts, skirts, t-shirts, raincoat, warm waterproof jacket, sweatshirt/jumper, jeans, long sleeve shirts, scarf, hat and gloves, adaptor/transformers. You will need good walking shoes as well as sandals.

You should also remember your camera, toiletries, any medication, and photographs.

WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand's warmest months are December, January and February, while the coldest are in June, July and August, however winters tend to be short and generally fairly mild.

In summer, the average maximum temperature ranges between 20-28°C and in winter between 10-15°C. However, the weather in New Zealand can change unexpectedly, so be prepared for sudden changes in weather and temperature.

BANKING

Banks are open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Automated Teller Machines (ATM) are widely available at banks, along main shopping streets and in malls. International credit cards and ATM cards will work as long as they have a four-digit PIN encoded. Check with your bank before leaving home.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity is supplied throughout New Zealand at 230/240 volts, 50 hertz. You will probably need an adapter/converter unless the item has a multi-voltage option. Please note that power outlets only accept angled two or three pin Type I plugs (as also used in Australia) depending on whether an earth connection is fitted. Please discuss this with your homestay.

SHOPPING HOURS

Most shops and businesses are open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, as a minimum. Many stores also open Saturdays and Sundays.

KIWI CULTURE

- Although this is not a rule, many New Zealanders prefer to walk on the left-hand side of the pavement to avoid collisions with other pedestrians.
- New Zealanders find spitting and littering offensive. Some New Zealanders can get upset if they see people behave in these ways.
- New Zealanders are very passionate about the outdoors. Much of their entertainment is done outdoors. New Zealanders also love sport. Popular sports include rugby, cricket and netball.
- When shopping, going to the post office or visiting any other place where others are doing similar things to you, a queuing (or lining up) system is used. This means that whoever comes first will be served first ("First come, first served"). It is considered bad manners to go ahead of someone else, who was already there when you arrived.
- New Zealand has no snakes or dangerous wild animals so it is very safe.
- New Zealand cities and towns have excellent water supplies and in all cases tap water is fresh and safe to drink.

NEW ZEALAND SLANG

The following is a list of some New Zealand slang expressions and their meanings.

Awesome	Fine, excellent
Bach	A holiday home
Barbie	Barbecue (also written as BBQ) – food cooked outside over a charcoal or gas fire
Bright as a button	Looking fresh, alert
Bright spark	Intelligent
Bring a plate	Everyone brings food to share. Don't bring an empty plate
Bush	New Zealand's native forest
Cheers	Thanks
Cool	Good, acceptable
Drive round the bend	Annoy someone so much they lose their temper
Gumboots	Waterproof rubber boots
Heart of gold	Describing a person who is very kind
Jandals	Rubber sandals or thongs
Jersey	Sweater or warm top
Kiwi	New Zealand native bird and symbol of New Zealand. Also, a general term for a New Zealander
Lolly	The usual word for sweets or candy
No worries	No problem, it's alright
On a high	A good feeling that can come from success
Once in a blue moon	Very rarely, seldom, almost never
Paddock	A field. Also a sports pitch
Pop on over/pop in	Come and visit me at my house
She'll be right	Everything is going to be OK
Swot	Study hard, especially before an exam
Ta	Thanks
Togs	Swim suit/bathing costume
Under the weather	Feeling unwell or tired
Uni	University
Varsity	University
Veggies	Vegetables

PASTORAL SUPPORT CONTACTS

Director of International Students	Mrs Shelley Roschmann sroschmann@carmel.school.nz Mobile: +64 21 255 2822 Carmel College Phone: +64 9 486 1132 Extension: 709
Homestay Co-ordinator	Mrs Angela Stevens anstevens@carmel.school.nz Mobile: +64 21 760 507 Carmel College Phone: +64 9 486 1132 Extension: 715
Guidance Counsellor	Mrs Shannon Mawdsley smawdsley@carmel.school.nz
Career Advisor	Mrs Lois Bruce lbruce@carmel.school.nz
Year Level Deans	Mrs Lois Bruce Year 13 lbruce@carmel.school.nz Mrs Linda Singleton Year 12 lsingleton@carmel.school.nz Mrs Gillian Maxwell Year 11 gmaxwell@carmel.school.nz Mrs Annaliese Seedall Year 10 aseedall@carmel.school.nz Ms Chantal Henden Year 9 chenden@carmel.school.nz