



# CARMEL COLLEGE

## PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION



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



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Carmel College Community! We are sure your daughter will enjoy her time both at school and in Auckland. We hope that the following information will help you to prepare your daughter for her arrival in Auckland and answer some of your questions about our school and life in New Zealand. A more detailed handbook will be given to your daughter 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.

We will send three reports throughout the course of the year, outlining your daughter's academic progress throughout the year. . The reports are available on the Parent Portal on our website. Instructions will be emailed to you on how to access this information.

Carmel College is responsible for all emergency procedures during school hours and 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. We would encourage you to take the opportunity to visit your daughter while they are enrolled at Carmel College, and 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.*

## ACCOMMODATION

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Students at Carmel College may live with their parents, a Designated Caregiver or in a Carmel College homestay.

If your daughter is living with a Designated Caregiver or with one of our homestay families, we will assess 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



to ensure that we are 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. Agents may not act as a designated caregiver for your daughter while she is studying at Carmel College.

## HOMESTAY ARRANGEMENT THROUGH CARMEL COLLEGE

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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.

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 a room holding fee to keep her belongings at the accommodation and to guarantee her place at that particular homestay the following year.

If a student needs to move out of a homestay all arrangements will be carried out by the Student Services Manager and she will contact you to explain the change.

If you, as the legal parents want the change yourselves, you must write to the Student Services Manager giving **valid** reasons for changing homestay. The Student Services Manager will give two weeks notice to the homestay from the time a decision is made to move.



have items that you have not declared.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please be aware that there are very strict regulations with what you can bring into the country. These are the prohibited items, so please don't bring these with you:

- any fruit or vegetables (dried or fresh)
- honey
- eggs
- dairy products
- seeds
- fish or meat (dried or fresh)



Please see this video link and select your language, to understand what you must declare – this is available in several languages:

<https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/travel-and-recreation/arriving-in-new-zealand/items-to-declare/resources/#pawder>

If you need to change money to cover you for the first few days while in New Zealand, it would be a good idea to do this at the airport, as you may not have time in the first few days to visit your bank, around \$150-200 will be enough. Please do not bring large amounts of cash into the country.

## **UNIFORM**

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School uniforms can be purchased from NZ Uniforms at Unit F, 19 Orbit Drive, Albany.

Please allow approximately \$500.00 to cover the cost of a new uniform, this can be brought when you arrive with the help from your host family or on-line before you arrive.

If you prefer to buy on-line before your arrival please ask for this to be delivered to your homestay or c/o Carmel College International Department.

The website is: [www.nzuniforms.com](http://www.nzuniforms.com)

You will need plain BLACK, LEATHER, LACE-UP shoes – this is a sample of what they can look like. Please do not have any other colours on your shoe.

These can be bought in New Zealand but if you already have these in your home country, we would suggest you bring them here.



## STATIONERY

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You will be provided with textbooks and written workbooks, but there are some stationery items that will need to be purchased. You will receive a list of these when you start school. However, if you have the following items, it is recommended that you bring these with you as it can be expensive to purchase in New Zealand.

- a 512mb USB memory stick
- Casio Graphics Calculator - FX9750GII (not required for Year 9)
- Laptop or tablet – please see the following link for device specifications:



[http://carmel.school.nz/images/stories/enrolment/BYODDevicespecifications\\_5.pdf](http://carmel.school.nz/images/stories/enrolment/BYODDevicespecifications_5.pdf)

## YEAR 12 CAMP

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For those students in Year 12, a camp is held in March. Most of the items required for the tramp will be provided by the school. However, students will require good walking shoes if they want to do the Tongariro Crossing, and it may be advisable to bring these from home.

## ORIENTATION

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If you are starting at the beginning of Term 1, we will have a week to go over the things you need to know about school.

This will include your timetable, testing, homestay information, getting to know your Atawhai class.

If you arrive during the year there will be a shorter orientation programme on your first day.

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 CLASS

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Your Atawhai Class (or form class) is like your 'family'. This is the class that you meet every day at Atawhai Class period, and your Atawhai Class will remain the same throughout your time at Carmel College.



Your Atawhai Class will be connected to one of our six houses:

Alexandra, Cecilia Maher, Justine, Kelly, Mcauley and Pompallier;

## COURSES

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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 7 & 8) will have most classes together.

(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 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.

## WHAT'S LIFE LIKE IN NEW ZEALAND?

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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.

There are just over 4.5 million people living in New Zealand, and there is something for everyone here: peaceful countryside, buzzing cities and plenty of fun and adventures.

## AUCKLAND

## CITY



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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.

Carmel College is located in Auckland's North Shore – just 15 minutes from the Auckland City centre.

Carmel is within easy walking distance to the Milford Shopping Centre, Milford Beach, and is on a good transport route.

## TRANSPORT IN AUCKLAND

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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

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We suggest that you bring the following items to cover the various seasons:

- swimwear, sunhat, sunglasses
- shorts, t-shirts, skirts
- raincoat
- warm waterproof jacket
- sweatshirt/jumper
- jeans/long pants
- long sleeve shirts
- scarf, hat and gloves.

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



## MEDICAL & TRAVEL INSURANCE

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It is a requirement of the New Zealand Government that all International students have Insurance to cover your health for the entire time you are here in New Zealand, and Carmel College can organise this for you. The New Zealand Government does not cover health care.

You will have to pay for all your medical bills while you are in New Zealand. Your Health Insurance Policy will be copied and kept on file and the Student Services Manager can assist you in making any claims.

## WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND

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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

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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. We can also help you to open up a bank account in New Zealand.

## SENDING GOODS TO NEW ZEALAND

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- Please be aware that only items for your personal use should be sent to you at your homestay of New Zealand address.
- We do not allow you to receive goods for other people or sell items that have been delivered to you while in New Zealand.
- Please visit the New Zealand Customs web page for information on customs duty and GST. [www.customs.govt.nz](http://www.customs.govt.nz).

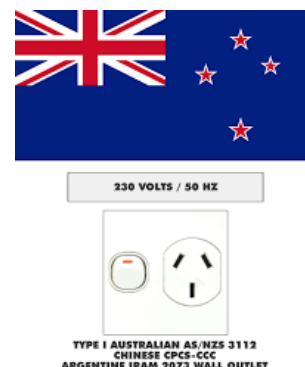
## ELECTRICITY

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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.



## KIWI CULTURE

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- 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.
- Watch what others do when you are with other, to learn what is acceptable in New Zealand customs. Burping, eating with your mouth open and slurping your food in considered rude in New Zealand.
- Please use ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ often – it is considered good manners.

## ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

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We look forward to seeing you on your first day at school. You will probably be nervous and hopefully excited about this adventure.

- Give yourself time to settle in at school and make friends.
- Your teacher will buddy you with someone from your class to help you find your way around.
- Enjoy learning a new culture and new language.
- Be proud of yourself – it is very brave to come to another country, and another home.
- Always ask questions if you don't understand. We all want to help you.
- AND SMILE- we know you will enjoy your time here.



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## NEW ZEALAND SLANG

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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 spark	Intelligent
Bring a plate	Everyone brings food to share. Don't bring an empty plate
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
Lolly	The usual word for sweets or candy
No worries	No problem, it's alright
Once in a blue moon	Very rarely, seldom, almost never
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 or Varsity	University
Veggies	Vegetables

## PASTORAL SUPPORT CONTACTS

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### CARMEL COLLEGE EMERGENCY PHONE: +64 21 255 2822

International Student Director	Mrs Shelley Roschmann <a href="mailto:international@carmel.school.nz">international@carmel.school.nz</a> Mobile:+64 21 255 2822 Phone:+64 9 486 1132 Extension: 709
International Student Services Administrator	Mrs Angela Stevens <a href="mailto:homestays@carmel.school.nz">homestays@carmel.school.nz</a> Mobile: +64 27 650 2193 Phone:+64 9 486 1132 Extension: 715
Guidance Counsellors	Mrs Carolyn Purdie <a href="mailto:cpurdie@carmel.school.nz">cpurdie@carmel.school.nz</a>  Mrs S Murray <a href="mailto:smurray@carmel.school.nz">smurray@carmel.school.nz</a>
Career Advisor	Mrs Lois Bruce <a href="mailto:lbruce@carmel.school.nz">lbruce@carmel.school.nz</a>
House Deans	Mrs Anna O'Farrell (Justine) <a href="mailto:aofarrell@carmel.school.nz">aofarrell@carmel.school.nz</a>  Mrs Linda Singleton (McCauley) <a href="mailto:lsingleton@carmel.school.nz">lsingleton@carmel.school.nz</a>  Mrs Jacinta Lamb (Pompallier) <a href="mailto:jlamb@carmel.school.nz">jlamb@carmel.school.nz</a>  Ms Kathy Giles (Alexandra) <a href="mailto:kgiles@carmel.school.nz">kgiles@carmel.school.nz</a>  Ms Sarah Menzies (Cecilia Maher) <a href="mailto:smenzies@carmel.school.nz">smenzies@carmel.school.nz</a>  Mrs Anne-Marie Davis (Kelly) <a href="mailto:adavis@carmel.school.nz">adavis@carmel.school.nz</a>