



WHAT SUPPORT CAN YOU EXPECT? International Student Support

William Colenso College prides itself in the support it offers International Students who choose to continue their high school education with us. There is a dedicated team of professional people who work hard to ensure that the welfare and educational needs of our overseas visitors are met.

Principal – Mr Daniel Murfitt: Responsible for ensuring that the International Programme at William Colenso College operates in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Ministry of Education in ‘The Education (Pastoral Care for International Students) Code of Practice’.



International Director - Mr Robin Stewart: Responsible for applications and introducing new international students to William Colenso College. He will also be available to support students while they are enrolled at the school.



International Student Dean - Ms Jody Stent: Responsible for day to day administration and pastoral care of international students. Jody is also Homestay Co-ordinator – placing students in homestay situations and supporting students if there are any problems.



ESOL Teachers - Ms Louise Macfarlane and Ms Moira Terry: Two dedicated teachers who run ESOL classes for those students who need extra help with understanding the English language



International Teacher Aides – Ms Kana Koga (Japanese), Ms Zilda Greeks (Portuguese): These bi-lingual teacher aides are available to assist students in class who are having difficulty with certain subjects.





International Student Support (Cont.)

As well as the dedicated staff of the International Department, there are many other staff members willing to assist in making your time here as pleasant and meaningful as possible.

Here are just some of the ways in which International Students are supported:

- Before arrival, all queries from prospective students, parents and agents will be answered as fully and promptly as possible.
- All incoming students will be met at Napier Airport by their host family and a representative from William Colenso College.
- All students are placed in suitable, police vetted, homestay situations. Most of these are within walking distance of the school and few are more than about 15 minutes by bicycle from school.
- There will be a two or three day orientation programme organised for the February and July intake of new students. This is designed to help familiarise students with the school, the staff and school procedures.
- Assistance will be given by the International Student Dean and Year Level Deans in selecting the most appropriate course depending on what each student hopes to achieve while at William Colenso College.
- The International Student Dean will help with any immigration matters which may arise or if you need to claim on your insurance. She will also deal with any problems which may arise between you and your homestay family. She may agree to change your homestay if the matter is a serious one.
- You will also have a Form Teacher who will be happy to help with any classroom difficulties you may have.
- Our International Teacher Aides will help with in-class support as much as possible. Their support is usually reserved for students who are struggling with understanding the English content of a particular subject.
- A Doctor/Nurse and Student Counsellor are available on campus if you feel you need to consult them.
- When it is time to think about life after Colenso, the Deans and the Careers Advisor will be able to help you select and apply for a suitable tertiary institution – University, Technical Institute, etc.



University of Otago



University of Canterbury



Auckland University



Victoria University

Remember: *“The welfare and educational achievement of International Students is the prime concern of the International Department. If you have any concerns during your time at William Colenso College, please come and talk to us. It is far better to deal with problems early, while they are still small, than to let them grow to become big problems.”*

(Robin Stewart – International Director)

About Your Homestay

Outside the school, your greatest support will be from your homestay. International Student Dean will arrange a suitable homestay for you. You may be able to contact your ‘kiwi’ family before you leave home so you will be able to get to know them a little and know what to expect when you arrive in Napier. The homes and families chosen have been carefully inspected. Family members have been **Police Vetted** to ensure your comfort and safety.

Most homestays are within walking or cycling distance of the school.

Homestay accommodation is not the same as staying in an hotel. You will be welcomed and respected as a member of the family. In turn, you will be expected to show respect for other members of the family and any family rules which operate within the household. To help you settle into life in New Zealand a little easier, do try to join in with activities arranged by your homestay family.

Your homestay should provide for you a room of your own with suitable bedding, heating, lighting and study facilities, three meals a day (this may include a lunch to take to school), reasonable access to bathroom and telephone and of course, friendship and support.

SOME PROBLEM AREAS

Many things may be very strange for you at first and you will probably need some time to adjust to your new family situation. Here are a few of the things which seem to cause the most problems:

- **Meal Times:** Most families have set meal times and expect you to be home at those times. If for any reason you are going to be late for a meal you must let your homestay know.

New Zealand food may be very different to what you are used to, but please try everything. If you decide you don’t like something tell your homestay family so they can give you something different.

Please heed the advice of your homestay parents regarding social skills such as table manners which might be quite different.

- **Internet:** The use of the internet has caused many problems in the past. Your host family does not have to provide you with access to the internet. However, most families will be happy for you to use it as long as you are reasonable. You should talk to your homestay parents about this before you start using the internet.

It is not acceptable to use your homestay's internet to download movies, music, games, etc. which can be expensive and time consuming.

It is important to remember that spending many hours on the internet chatting to friends, on Facebook or playing games is also inappropriate. Such behaviour slows down your English learning and reduces your chances of making 'real' friends and adapting to your new environment.

- **Bathroom/Toilet:** If you are lucky, you might have your own bathroom, but most New Zealand homes have one bathroom which the whole family shares. Please be sensible with the time you spend there. If you make a mess, please clean up after yourself. Most homes have a limited supply of hot water so please check with your host parents regarding length of time in the shower.



- **Holiday Refunds:** If you are away from the homestay during holidays for an extended time, you may be entitled to a refund of payments from your homestay.

Term Holidays: If you are away during the term holidays the following applies: First four days – no refund

Five or more days – refund of 50% payable.

It is expected that this will be negotiated with the homestay before you go on your holiday. A little extra pocket money might be useful.

Christmas Holidays:

- If you go home for the holidays, homestay payments will be suspended for the time you are away.
- If you stay with the homestay for this time, normal payment will apply.
- If you holiday away from the homestay, Term Holiday arrangement as above will apply.