

# DNI YEAR 7 ORIENTATION EVENING



16 NOVEMBER 2023

# INTRODUCTION - ORIENTATION NIGHT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS EVENING IS:

- TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO FEEL COMFORTABLE IN THE DNI ENVIRONMENT
- TO ADDRESS AS MANY UNKNOWNNS FOR STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE
- TO ANSWER AS MANY PARENT QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE
- TO INTRODUCE STUDENTS TO CHILDREN FROM OTHER CONTRIBUTING SCHOOLS

## PROGRAMME

5PM            WELCOME!

5:15PM        QUESTIONS FOLLOWED BY MIX AND MINGLE, ASK QUESTIONS, BBQ!

## Key Dates Timeline

The 2024 Term One start date is Thursday 1 February, at 8:55am.

We will begin the year with a mihi whakatau (welcome) and parents are most welcome to join us for this.

- Year 7 students (and parents) assemble on the grass beside the skate ramp. Please arrive between 8:35 and 8:45am.
- The staff and Year 8 students will begin the mihi whakatau at 8:55am, followed by refreshments. This should take about 45 - 50 minutes in total.

### December 2023

Monday 18 DNI Office open 9 - 11am, then closes for the year

Wednesday 20 Adventure Outfitters last day for 2023, closing at 4:30pm for their Christmas Break

### January 2024

Monday 8 Adventure Outfitters re-open (7:30am - 4:30pm Monday to Thursday, and 7:30am to midday on Fridays). During the month of January they will also be open on Saturday 13, 20 and 27 January, from 11am – 1pm

Mid January Class placements will be emailed out

Monday 22 Office re-opens, 9am - 3pm daily

Tuesday 30 School open for students to visit teachers 1pm - 3pm

Thursday 1 February School opens

### February 2024

Week beginning Feb 12 Class Meetings - Format and dates to be advised

### Term 1

Week beginning March 18 Outdoor Education Camps (one night sleepover) for all students

### School Day Timetable

8:25am School is open to students

8:55am School starts

10:40 - 11:00am Morning tea break

12:25 - 12:35pm Lunch eating (seated in classrooms)

12:35 - 1:25pm Lunch break (warning bell at 1.20pm)

2:55pm End of school bell

3:10pm All students to have left site

### Office Open Dates

Our school office will close on Monday 18 December at 11am and will reopen on Monday 22 January 2024, at 9am.

### School Donation / Modules Costs

The school donation for 2023 has been set by the BOT at \$80 per family (per year), this is a voluntary donation towards general school activities. The Modules cost is \$115 for the year, this is a recoverable fee which is used to purchase the products and goods required to run the six module classes. These are payable by bulk payment in February, term by term or by direct credit on a regular basis. We also have eftpos facilities in the office (not credit card). Please talk to Charlotte or Anne about the option which best suits you.

### Stationery

DNI use OfficeMax MySchool. This provider guarantees their product both in terms of quality and price. The lists will be available here [www.myschool.co.nz/Dunedinnorth](http://www.myschool.co.nz/Dunedinnorth) and on our website, **from 1 December**. You DO NOT have to use OfficeMax.

We expect that children will have their stationery by **Thursday 1 February**.

### **Buses**

DNI is well placed for bus access. The St Clair/Normanby bus, along with the Opoho/Shiel Hill bus travels through town to the Gardens regularly. Bus services also run from Pine Hill, Sawyers Bay and Waikouaiti to DNI. For the timetables please visit [ORC - Dunedin Buses](#)

### **Outdoor Education Camp**

We hold an overnight experience in Term 1 each year. In 2024 this will be a camp in March (within the week beginning March 18). The purpose of the overnight is to allow students to make friends in a non-classroom environment as well as taking part in activities. We ask for whanau to contribute to the cost if this is manageable but no one will miss out due to finance.

Additionally, there are always a number of Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) activities offered in electives (which run in Term 3 and Term 4 each year) and at least one elective involves overnight stays.

### **Music Lessons (*Term time only*)**

At DNI we offer a range of options for learning a musical instrument. Itinerant music teachers are employed to run these classes and they involve a small cost. Most lessons take place during the school day and you can sign up for music lessons on our website or [at this link](#).

Please let us know if you require hardship funding to enable your child to attend music lessons. All of these classes blend with, and complement, the school music programme.

### **Summer Sports**

Engagement in sports is a great way to keep fit and learn valuable social skills. We offer a range of options and we're always keen to offer more where there is enough interest. You can sign up for summer sports on our website in the near future.

### **After School Art Classes (*Term time only*)**

Julie Butler, our Textiles' teacher, is also an artist and offers individual and small group tuition for students attending DNI. Classes will be based on fifteen students per session.

Cost per student, per session, is \$25 including materials, visiting guest artists and supervision. There is a range of interesting project ideas for students. The lessons are on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 3:15 - 5:15pm during term time. If you are interested, please contact Julie Butler on Ph: 029-200 3533, 473 0173 or [julieb@dni.school.nz](mailto:julieb@dni.school.nz) Places are strictly limited.

### **Class Placement Letter**

In mid January we will email a letter to enrolled students advising of their class teacher and inviting parents and students to call in at school to meet their teacher in the classroom environment before school starts. This will be on Tuesday January 30 and school will be open for students to visit teachers 1pm - 3pm.

### **Bring Your Own Device**

Increasingly students are using devices to complete much of their work in class. We are a Google school and use Google classroom and the range of google applications to support teaching and learning. It is not compulsory that your child has their own device, but it is really helpful. If you are considering purchasing a device we would recommend a simple chromebook would be sufficient.

### **Blanket Permission**

At the start of next year you will be asked to sign a blanket permission slip that grants us permission to take children off school grounds for learning experiences. This saves us seeking permission for each and every activity. We will however inform you of outings ahead of time and will also seek written permission for high risk activities and any event that requires an overnight stay.

## Lunch Options

We offer the following lunch options at DNI:

- Lunchonline on Wednesday (Pita Pit), Thursday (Sushi) and Fridays (Hell Pizza). Lunchonline can be ordered by parents via their website <https://www.lunchonline.co.nz/> up until 8:45am on the day of delivery. All further information can be found on their website.
- On Mondays and Tuesdays students who need to purchase lunch are expected to do so before they enter the school grounds in the morning. Once at school we do not expect students to leave again.

Lunch online ordering will be available from our first day, Thursday, 1 February.

## Uniform

The majority of our uniform is available through **Adventure Outfitters**, 455 Princes Street (Ph: 477 5304) or you may also be able to purchase second hand items on Trade Me, or via the Facebook group Dunedin School Uniform Buy/Sell/Swap. The uniform has some additional options to ensure that our uniforms are as comfortable and gender neutral as possible.

Adventure Outfitters are encouraging as many families as possible to order their uniforms prior to Christmas to ease any congestion in January.

Microfleece w DNI Logo	\$ 50.00	Black dress shorts	\$ 50.00
Polo Shirt w DNI Logo	\$ 38.00	Black dress Pants	\$ 65.00 (Terms 2 and 3 only)
Sports Top w DNI Logo	\$ 38.00	Culottes	\$ 65.00
Sports Shorts	\$ 20.00	DNI Socks	\$ 15.00
V Neck Jersey w DNI Logo	\$ 105.00		
		<b>*Kilt (NZ Uniforms)</b>	\$ 125.00
Formal School Shoes	See guide on website		

PE shoes - sports/gym shoes

**\* The Kilt is supplied through NZ Uniforms located at 342 Lower Moray Place (Ph: 929 1213).** NZ Uniforms is closed from Saturday 23 December 1pm, re-opening on Wednesday 3 January.

Adventure Outfitters will be able to advise the appropriate socks required, depending on the options chosen OR the full Uniform Policy and School Shoe guide are available on the school website [www.dni.school.nz](http://www.dni.school.nz) See Key Date Timeline above for the days and times for Adventure Outfitters.

Please also note that coloured hair (other than natural colours) is not acceptable.

## School Hours

School is open for students from 8:25am in the mornings. While there may well be staff here earlier than this we can not guarantee that your children will be supervised so we ask that you do not drop off children before 8:25am. Classrooms are not opened before 8:25am.

School finishes at 2:55pm. With the exception of children that wait for the north line bus (Waitati, Warrington, Karitane, Waikouaiti), we expect that all students leave school by 3:10pm.

## **School Photos**

Kelk Photography will be here on Wednesday 7 February, for individual and class photos. Please ensure students are at school on time.

## **Mobile Phones**

As mobile phones become more accessible schools are needing to consider management of mobile phone use. At DNI we accept that many children have phones and that they are a necessary communication method for parents after and before school but we do not allow students access to their phones during the school day. Phones are to be handed to the teacher at the start of the day and issued again at the end of the day. If staff find students with their phone during the school day then it will be removed and a parent will need to collect it. We appreciate this might be inconvenient but we expect students to follow the rules. If you need to contact your child urgently outside of these times please phone the school office.

## **Internet Access and Social Media**

### **During School Hours**

Internet access is made available to students enrolled at DNI to further their education and to staff to enhance their professional activities including teaching, research, administration and management. The school's internet access policy has been drawn up to protect all parties - the students, the staff and the school. The school reserves the right to examine or delete any files that may be held on our drive or to monitor any internet sites visited. A user agreement will be issued to you at the start of the year.

Facebook (and most other social media including instagram) requires everyone to be at least **13 years old** before they can create an account. Creating an account with false information is a violation of their terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13. While we have little control over how students use technology outside of school, we wholeheartedly support this age limit as we find that many conflicts arise, or are continued via social media. Using social media sites at school are not permitted.

### **Outside of School Hours**

While devices and the internet are a well entrenched and valuable educational tool and we certainly make good use of both at DNI, we also believe that parents/caregivers should not underestimate the negative impacts of unmonitored internet access and we cannot stress strongly enough the need for you, as parents/caregivers, to have really tight boundaries on internet and phone usage outside of school. We are also experiencing many children exhibiting behaviours akin to addiction around use of screens and there is [mounting research around potential damage to young brains](#).

### **Our recommendations include:**

- No screens (phones, computers, ipads) after 7:00pm
- No screens in bedrooms (buy an alarm clock if your child needs one)
- Use Parental Control Software such as for example Net Nanny <https://www.netnanny.com/>
- Make use of internet filtering that allows you to shut down internet to particular devices at certain times
- No illegal use of social media/games (note that most social media platforms are R13 and games such as Fortnite are R12 - there is a good reason for this).
- Check out Netsafe <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/social-media-parents/>

More and more the associated effects of inappropriate internet usage (especially around social media) are spilling into school and affecting children negatively. It is time consuming and difficult to resolve internet based issues and our first question to you as parents/caregivers will be "have you addressed the recommendations listed above".

With regard to social media, it is our strong belief that it does little to enhance the lives of children and in fact often results in low self confidence and insidious bullying. We find that social media is addictive for children and they become reliant on 'likes' and online feedback to guide daily life. Like any addiction we know it is hard to quit, but we strongly suggest that if your child is already connected to these platforms, you reduce or remove access.

Regrettably we are not in a position to help resolve internet/device issues unless you have ensured that the above recommendations are in place.

### **Homework**

Homework is one of those topics that polarise people! There are always as many families requesting homework as there are vehemently opposed to it.

For this reason we are flexible with homework. We do expect children to get involved in a range of extra-school learning activities including sports, music, computing clubs etc. We also expect children to read daily.

Teachers will outline their own expectations around homework at the Class Meeting night. If these expectations do not work for your family, you are welcome to negotiate an alternative with the teacher (please make an appointment to do this).

### **Health and Participation**

It is really important that children are kept at home when they are unwell to limit the spread of illness. Equally, we expect that all students present at school are able to participate in the school programme (swimming, PE etc).

If your child is unwell, or not well enough to fully participate in the school day, then the best place for them is bed, with a hottie! We thank you for your support with this.

### **Skateboards, Scooters and Bikes**

Students are welcome to play on skateboards and scooters at break times, but not bikes. All students riding a bike or scooter to school will need a bike lock - we take no responsibility for the security of bikes and scooters.