



International  
Student  
Pre-departure  
Information  
2017

## **Before you leave home, you may like to know what to bring with you and what to expect**

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city with a population of around 1.5 million people. It is surrounded by sea and many extinct volcanoes. As a result of its beautiful harbour, it is known as "The City of Sails" and the "Big, Little City".

Auckland is a multicultural city with museums, markets, festivals, theatres etc as well as a huge variety of cafés, restaurants and shops. Some of New Zealand's best educational institutions are located in Auckland.

Alfriston College is situated in Manurewa, a suburb of Manukau City, just a 30 minute drive from the Auckland CBD. Home to 165 ethnicities, Manukau is colourful, vibrant and proud, reflecting the diversity of its communities.

The College opened in 2004. The learning environment and curriculum have been designed to cater for 21<sup>st</sup> century learners with up to date computer notebooks for all our 1500 students to use.

### **What to pack:**

- Passport and current visa to study in NZ
- Travel/medical insurance policy
- Return airline ticket
- Prescription for any medications necessary
- Laptop
- Proof of purchase/receipts for any electronics eg mobile phone, laptop
- Adapter plug for electrical goods
- Personal items and clothes. Make sure you have black shoes for school and sports shoes.
- Spending money

### **Arrival in NZ:**

- Make sure you let us know your flight and arrival details. We need these so that we can meet you at the airport.
- Pack your own bags. **DO NOT** carry anything for another person.
- When you arrive at Auckland airport you should have completed a Passenger Arrival Card (these are usually given out on the plane). You must declare all food even if it is packaged. You are not allowed to bring fresh food into NZ. **You may be charged a fine if you do. Fines start from \$200NZ!**
- You should not carry a large amount of cash.
- You will go through Passport Control, Baggage Claim and Customs.
- After this you will see one of our staff, or your homestay family, waiting for you with a sign with your name on it.
- You will then be taken to your new home.
- If you get lost, or cannot see your name on a sign, ring the International Student Leader, Jody Lawrence on 021 825 112. **DO NOT LEAVE THE AIRPORT – we will always find you.**
- If you do have spending money with you – it is easy to change money at the airport. \$200-\$300NZ is plenty to see you through the first few days.

### **What to expect at school:**

- Please arrive in NZ at least a couple of days before school starts. This will help you recover from jetlag and get ready for school.
- We run an orientation for all new students, to introduce you to our school.
- We will also introduce you to your “buddy” – another student who will show you around in your first few days.
- You will be expected to wear a school uniform. You will need to buy this before you start school. This has not been invoiced – you will need to pay for it when you arrive. Allow \$400NZD. You need a pair of black shoes.
- Your English level will be assessed so that we know which class is best for you.
- If you are taking Outdoor Education you will need a very good raincoat and boots or shoes suitable for tramping. Check with us which adventures are on offer, while you are here, before you buy equipment.
- You will choose your subjects and be given a timetable. There are 3 classes a day - one hour and forty minutes for each subject.
- School begins at 9.30am and finishes at 3.30pm each day.
- Your homestay family will provide you with lunch, or you can buy it from our school shop.
- If you are late, you must sign in at student reception. If you are absent for any reason, your homestay must notify the school by phone.
- If you are sick during the school day, you should see the school nurse.
- There is a huge range of sports and cultural activities offered at school. We recommend you join a club or a team - it is the best way to get to know other students.
- Your homestay family in NZ and your family at home will be given a login to our Parent Portal on our website so they can keep up to date with your progress.

### **Your homestay family:**

- Your family has been specially chosen for you. They will act in place of your parents while you are in NZ.
- All families have different habits and customs. It is important to find out what your new family expects of you. You will be given a booklet called Homestay Information and Guidance for International Students. You should read and discuss this booklet with your family. It includes a list of useful questions you might ask, such as what to call them, when to have a shower and what happens with your washing.
- You will have your own room and usually share a bathroom.
- Your home stay family will feed you seven days per week (three meals per day). In New Zealand we tend to eat sandwiches for lunch, not a cooked meal. Food in New Zealand may be different to what you are used to.
- You should ask them about use of the computer/internet.
- You will need to get a NZ SIM card for your phone and will need to open a NZ bank account. An EFTPOS or debit card is convenient and safe. Your homestay family or our International Student Leader can help you with these.
- Your family will show you how to get to school. You are not allowed to own nor drive a car while you are an international student at Alfriston College.
- It is not unusual for families to be divorced or separated. Most parents work (mother and father).
- If you are unhappy with your homestay family please talk to us about it.
- Our International Student Leader can be contacted in an emergency 021 825 112 if necessary.

### Some general information about the Manurewa / Manukau local area:

- We are approximately a 30 minute drive from Auckland CBD and 25 minutes from Auckland Airport.
- It is a quiet family area with large parks, sporting facilities and beaches close by. There are good bus and train services to Manukau City centre and the Auckland City CBD. You can use your student ID to get reduced bus and train fares.
- People of many different nationalities live in this area.
- The local libraries are excellent.
- Bruce Pulman Park with sports grounds and gymnasium is a 5 minute drive from school. Two indoor swimming pools are less than a 10 minute drive away.
- Manurewa has a small shopping centre close to school. There are lots of ethnic eateries there. Manukau Shopping Mall, with its movie theatres is a 10 minute drive.
- Weather is moderate with few extremes of hot and cold, but it can be very changeable. In summer it can get to 27C (December - March) and in winter (July – August) it can be quite wet with temperatures around 12C. Some people find our houses cold in winter, so bring warm clothes.
- Our nearest beaches are only a short drive away – you will have a choice of calm water in the harbours or wild, west coast surf!

### General:

- In NZ It is illegal to smoke or buy cigarettes under the age of 18 years. You cannot smoke in any enclosed public place.
- In NZ it is illegal to drink alcohol under 18 years.
- In NZ we drive on the left hand side of the road – be very careful when crossing the road. **LOOK BOTH WAYS!**
- You may not drive a car while studying at Alfriston College.
- In NZ the emergency telephone number for ambulance, police or fire is 111.
- If you need to see a doctor, you must pay. You can claim the cost back on your insurance.
- You are able to work part-time (10 hours per week during term time, 20 hours per week in the holidays). This must be approved by the Department of Immigration, Alfriston College and your parents.  
<http://www.dol.govt.nz/immigration/knowledgebase/item/1036>. We do not recommend work for students who are here short-term.

If you have any questions, we are here to help you. We want to keep you safe and for you to get maximum benefit from your time with us.

Study hard, make friends and take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school and community.