



Cambridge High School Uniform Redesign

Background & Purpose

The redesign of the Cambridge High School uniform began in late 2023, following feedback from our student representative to the Board. It was clear that the existing uniform was no longer fit for purpose — concerns ranged from cost and comfort to quality and presentation. The Board initiated a full review, consulting widely with students, parents, and staff to ensure the new uniform would meet the needs of our community while reflecting the identity of our school.

Key Issues Identified

- Cost Inequity: Items like kilts created a noticeable cost imbalance between male and female students.
- Quality Concerns: Jackets lacked warmth and waterproofing, and other items wore out quickly.
- Comfort & Fit: Cuts were restrictive and unsuitable styling, and the fabrics lacked flexibility.
- Presentation: Polo shirts and white tops faded or became transparent too easily.
- Design Cohesion: Years of tweaks had left the uniform inconsistent and outdated.
- Clarity: The range was confusing, with unclear guidelines on what constituted the official uniform.

New Uniform Overview

- Junior Uniform (Years 9–11): Navy shirts with stretch fabric for comfort and movement.
- Senior Uniform (Years 12–13): Light blue shirts, visually distinguishing senior students.
- Lower Half (All Years): Improved shorts, trousers, and A-line skirts with tone-on-tone CHS crests.
- Outerwear:
 - New Jacket: Fleece-lined and waterproof for winter.
 - New Jersey: Comfortable and visually ties junior and senior colours together.
 - Blazer: Reserved for student executive members as a symbol of leadership and contribution.

Design Features & Symbolism

- House Mascots: Embedded into the fabric, connecting students to their house stories.
- Symbols of Learning:
 - Koru: Growth and new beginnings.
 - Quill: From the school crest, representing learning.
- School Imagery:
 - Poutama Pattern: Symbolising the pursuit of knowledge, featured in S Block and reception.
 - Ngaa kete tuku iho: Referencing the puuraakau of Taane and the baskets of knowledge.



Cambridge High School

Vision & Impact

This uniform is designed to unify our students across sports, arts, and academic life. It fosters a sense of belonging and pride, while being practical, inclusive, and reflective of our values. It's a modern uniform that tells our story — one that students can wear with confidence, knowing they are part of something bigger.