

Good afternoon parents / caregivers,
Teena koutou whaanau,

Firstly, and most importantly, I hope that you are doing as well as can be expected in these uncertain and challenging times. It is a difficult situation to navigate, as the presence of the Delta variant puts us in uncharted territory. We recognise that members of our CHS community all have different needs during this time. Some need ongoing support with learning, and some are finding the lockdown difficult and need a bit of TLC at home and some adults are finding it difficult to juggle all the demands. In uncertain times, research indicates the importance of a routine and structure for helping us get through.

We are mindful of this and we have worked on the following plan that reflects this situation, as we aim to provide ongoing support with moderate expectations on work:

The plan for the week

CHS will remain 'open' for Thursday with an online timetable. Students, if you need help or input from staff – this is the time to do it. Please support your child in engaging tomorrow to help us identify needs and offer assistance.

We will be closed for instruction on Friday. Staff will not be available to help with learning. A number of students will have work they can continue with independently on Friday if they choose to do so.

The rationale

Why 2 days open and then closed on Friday?

We simply do not know how long we will remain in lockdown. At the end of these 2 days we know that every teacher has seen their classes (our timetable means that not every class is seen every day). We have been able to offer support for students who have upcoming assessments, identify problems for students, such as accessing materials or devices and we have connected with students to see if they need other support.

If the lockdown is to be for longer than this week, then we will need Friday as a staff to prepare for the coming week(s). At this point we are likely to have a clearer indication of a few key things such as the length of time at Level 4 or 3 and our ability to open up the school for resource collection and loaning of devices.

If the lockdown ends and we can return to school on Monday, then a long weekend is exactly what we will all need to catch our breath and look after ourselves before returning to school.

Sports and Culture update

Nothing is running during Level 4, but we do not know how long this will last and what impact this will have yet. We will update the community as soon as we know more. If you have not heard from us then please assume that your sport or cultural group has not yet resumed.

Trades and Gateway programmes are postponed until further notice

No courses that require physical presence are running for students at CHS and this includes our Gateway and Trades programmes and other apprenticeship programmes.

We appreciate your support during this time. Previously we have been fortunate to have clear indicators from the Government about when the lockdown would occur and how long we would be at a certain level. The Government do not have the luxury of offering that this time, as the Delta variant has proven to be a much more aggressive strain. This means the situation changes more rapidly and our plans for this situation need to be frequently revisited and often amended. We appreciate your ongoing support and feedback during this time. We are proud to be a part of this community and if there is anything that we can do to help our students, you or your family, please let us know.

I read this [article](#) on Radio New Zealand this morning and encourage you to have a read. It provides a helpful perspective and great advice on how to best manage the challenges that lockdown presents for us all.

Kia ora, kia manawanui, kia haumaruru te noho.
Stay safe and look after each other out there.

Warm regards
Greg Thornton