

Good afternoon everyone,
Teena koutou,

It has been great to see all the students back at school again over the last week. When I catch up with them they are enthusiastic about being back and getting on top of their learning. They are getting great support from staff, but also found that the transition to online learning was much smoother this time around. We seem to have all learnt more about how to manage the challenges of continuing on with learning and dealing with the uncertainty that COVID restrictions throw at us.

If you will recall, we sent out an email outlining changes in the [calendar for the remainder of the year](#). This has also been updated on the school website. I wanted to highlight a few details for you all about the coming couple of months, as some of the days are an unusual but very supportive response for our staff and students.

- **Week 10, Term 3.** Spirit week is a long-standing tradition at CHS and is our last major student-led event, focusing on developing House Spirit through running **FUN**draising events, the proceeds from which are used to support our House Charities.
- **Thursday 30th September.** is a national assessment for many of our Year 11s (the Algebra Mathematics Common Assessment Task (MCAT)). We will also use this day to complete practice exams for other subjects in other year levels. Here is the [timetable](#) for the day and students will need to attend in correct school uniform for their exams.
Junior students will be at school but off timetable for this day. Our PE staff are running a day to fit in with our Spirit week. Junior students need to come in house colours and dressing up to get into the House Spirit is highly recommended.
- **Friday 1st October.** Year 9 and 10 students will remain at home on this day.
Senior students will attend to focus on completing internal assessment work. They will be directed by their teachers to attend and this will be applicable to almost all students. We are putting this day into the calendar as many of our students have not been able to make progress on their practical work during lockdown for a range of subjects and this day is intended to support them. On this day we will run this [alternative timetable](#) for students in Years 11, 12 and 13. This will enable students to get access to staff advice and school facilities for a longer period of time than a one-hour lesson will allow, providing them the opportunity to catch-up and finalise their work before the term break. Students will need to attend in correct school uniform and normal school rules will apply on this day.
- **Week 1 Term 4.** All students attend school on Monday 18th October.
Senior students will sit their school examinations from Tuesday 19th to Thursday 21st October. They will be required to attend school in their uniform for their exams, according to [this schedule](#).
Friday 22nd October is a catch-up day.
- **Week 3 and 4, Term 4.** Special prizegivings are scheduled in these weeks. We are planning for multiple possible scenarios for these events as we would not be able to run them as normal under Level 2 restrictions. We are hoping that we will have returned to Level 1 by then but will keep you updated if we do need to change our plans for these celebration events.
- **Week 5 Term 4.** This is the week before NCEA exams start and has been labelled as a catch-up or reserve week. The idea here is that staff will be available to support targeted students to complete outstanding work or get further extension support in preparing for final examinations.

I hope that the transition back into school has gone well for you and your whaanau. Just a reminder, that if you are particularly happy with the support you have received from a staff member over the past few weeks you can recognise them by sending an email to kapai@camhigh.school.nz. They will receive a certificate and be included in our recognition system at CHS.

Kind regards
Ngaa mihi

Greg Thornton