



Cambridge High School

Kia ora e te whaanau o te kura tuarua o Te Oko Horoi,
Dear parents / caregivers of Cambridge High School,

We finished the year yesterday with a wonderful Junior Prizegiving. We were treated to high quality musical performances by our students and had a great turnout from the community to celebrate the success of students in years 9 and 10.

I want to take this opportunity to wrap up the year with an acknowledgment of the contribution of the whole Cambridge community in providing opportunities for our students. Firstly, thank you the CHS staff for the care and dedication that goes into the student experience throughout the year, including the grounds and maintenance crew, the admin team and teachers. Thank you for the many and varied ways you have contributed to a very successful year at CHS as we experienced improved academic results, increased participation in Sports and Arts and inspiring levels of national and international success. In teaching, the emphasis of the national change in education is in the junior school and we have done a lot of work to re-imagine the junior learning experience. Thank you to our teaching staff for in making sure that the changes are accommodated within well-designed learning that is focused on a continual improvement of outcomes for students. We have seen evidence of this in several areas with increased academic success in our senior school and a significant number of students making more than one year's progress en route to achieving their Literacy and Numeracy qualifications. For instance, 30% of students who passed Numeracy in Year 10 this year did so by making greater than one year's progress in their learning during years 9 and 10. Thank you also to the many staff and community volunteers who make this a rich learning environment full of opportunities for our students. Through sports team managing coaching, dance, drama, music and more, we provide an incredible extra-curricular programme to sit alongside the high-quality academic experience. It takes a team of people to make this happen and I really appreciate the extra support of our volunteers in providing these opportunities for our students.

There are a few things to update you on today, as the year draws to a close:

- M-Block property update
- Uniform update
- Start of Year details for 2026

Property Update

We have received final confirmation of the start dates and timelines for the repair of M- block, This important work starts shortly and is due for completion by the start of Term 3 in 2026. This will involve the decant of 12 classrooms to be absorbed across the campus. Although we can accommodate all students and lessons, it is a very tightly timetabled allocation of rooms during the year. In recognition of this the Board and SLT felt that it was important to improve the layout of the building and increase classrooms now, while the repair work was being completed. This will do a lot to future proof the building and improve its functionality.



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Uniform update

I sent out an update recently on the new uniform, but I wanted to follow that up with a couple of key messages.

- The bulk delivery of items will happen on the 15th January, meaning at this point you can purchase items directly from the Uniform Shoppe.
- If you wish to pre-order items, you can go to the Uniform Shoppe on the Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th December from 12:00pm to 5:30pm.
- Visit the uniform page on the website for our FAQs page. As a reminder, the following is a summary of the changes:
2026 - Years 9, 12 and 13
2027 - Years 9, 10, 12 and 13 (Year 11 will be optional)
2028 - Full school in new uniform
- Please remember that we have financial assistance available for getting into the new items. Please contact us via the [website](#).

Start of Year details for 2026

Looking ahead to 2026 we wanted to let you know of our school hours and a few key dates:

- The school office will re-open at 9am on the 27th of January. If you need assistance prior to this time, please contact us via the school website or email the staff member directly. We appreciate your understanding during the summer as staff are on leave and the response time will vary.
- Student timetables will be available online from 15th of January. If students need to make changes to their courses they must come to school on the 28th of January when the Deans and Heads of Faculty will be available to assist.
- The [Orientation booklet](#) is a fantastic resource if you need a refresher on how things work at CHS.
- The website is the best place to visit for the detailed Start of Year plan and the latest information.

However, there is a summer holiday to be had before we get started again. I hope that you can find time to unwind and enjoy some time out with family and friends. Thank you once again for the many ways you have supported CHS and our students over the year.

Merry Christmas and have a great break,
Meri Kirihimete me kia pai oo raa whakataa,

Greg Thornton

Principal
Cambridge High School