

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Teena koutou ki a koutou,

I hope everyone has a good book for the wet weekend ahead, or perhaps you want to read this attachment – there are a few things for us to get through for you today in preparation for next week, the first full 5-day week of the year.

- Uniform reminders
- Cell phone procedure
- COVID case protocol
- Facemasks

### **Uniform**

Last year we gathered feedback on sandals in the summer uniform and I just wanted to remind you of the new options available in the uniform for sandals. Whichever variety students choose to wear they must be worn properly. It is also important to wear covered footwear in the Science lab and Technology workshop. Please read this previous [communication](#) for further information.

### **Cell phones**

We have been signalling to students that **no cell phones during class time** starts on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February. It is really important that we remove this barrier to learning in the classroom. I have attached the flowchart, so that you can understand the steps we plan to take in addressing this with students.

This flowchart applies to phones, headphones of all varieties (including wireless options) and smart watches as all of these devices are interrupting learning at CHS.

Please note that there are currently only 7 students who have medical exemptions for using devices for a range of reasons.

### **COVID case protocol**

I have attached a summary of the latest protocol in dealing with a case in the CHS community.

As a precaution, all staff are going through how learning will continue so that students and staff know what is expected and how to gain access to the latest work. This is all stored in Teams and your son/daughter should be able to show you this at any point so you can see what is expected of them and support from home. If you have any queries about the work set in a class, please contact the teacher directly.

### **Facemasks**

When I discussed the recent case with the Ministry during the week, a key factor in minimising the quantity of close contacts was the wearing of facemasks when indoors. I know it is not always an easy thing to do. It has been hot and challenging at times, for both our staff and students, but it does lower the risk of transmission and hence reduce the number of potential close contacts. If we pick up more cases, it is the impact from self-isolation of close contacts that will be the real challenge for us as a community over the coming months. The fewer families we can have in this situation the better. I really appreciate your support with the facemask expectations in place at CHS and sending your child to school with a face mask to wear while indoors.

I want to finish today's letter by saying a big thank you to the whole CHS community. It has been a different start to the year than we had planned. Staff, students, and our families have adapted to the changes very well, provided us with useful feedback, supported the measures we have in place and been very understanding of the decisions we have needed to make around some of our events. I think we all find ourselves frustrated at times, and in a place we would rather not be, as we wrestle with the impacts from a global pandemic that started back in 2020. Looking ahead to 2022 and the challenges we are told will be coming, I am encouraged to be a part of such a supportive CHS community as we again focus on making the most of the great learning opportunities CHS provides our students.

Kind regards

Greg Thornton