

Dear Parents / Caregivers,
Teena koutou,

This afternoon we finalised our calendar for the remainder of the year. Lockdown at this time of the year has created a very complex situation for us. We need to cater for a divergent range of student learning and assessment needs in preparing for internal and external exams, while anticipating an uncertain return to school date.

I have attached an outline of how the year will finish for us at CHS and want to highlight a few features now, and share with you the thinking that has gone into making the amendments:

- The earliest possible return to school under Level 2 conditions would be the 8th September. Although this is **not** confirmed it means that we could not hold the assessment week for seniors in the week that we had originally planned. That forced us to re-think the school calendar for the remainder of the year.
- 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.
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. 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.
- 1st October is a day focused on completing internal assessment work for senior students. 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 an alternative timetable for senior students. 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, enabling them to catch-up and finalise their work before the term break.
Year 9 and 10 students will remain at home on this day.
- Week 1 in Term 4 will include our assessment week (for students in Years 11, 12 and 13 and those sitting NCEA in Year 10). We need an assessment week for a range of reasons including exam practice, obtaining derived grades (vital in the case of an inability to sit the final exam) and student well-being and confidence. These exams are very important for our students sitting external exams and we have been able to compress the schedule to accommodate the week at the beginning of Term 4.
- We have moved our final ceremonies back one week. This means that our Senior Prizegiving is on the 9th November. Year 13 Graduation Ceremony is on the 10th November.
- We have inserted a catch-up or reserve week. This is between when the seniors leave and when NCEA exams start. It provides us with the opportunity to finalise outstanding work, support students who need final extension for their exams, or to pick up other pieces if there is further COVID disruptions.
- The rest of the calendar is very close to our normal finish for the year.

There are finer details to share with you closer to the time, but we wanted to share this overview first. We will be in touch again later in the term.

Kind regards
Greg Thornton