

Kia ora e te whaanau,

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Thank you for all of your support and input over the term. In spite of all of the challenges it has been a very successful term, as our [final assembly](#) for the term highlights. Staff, students, and members our CHS community have been remarkable in the way they have contributed to the student learning experience at CHS and showed care and support for each other. It has been a demanding but successful term when you consider all of the challenges we have faced as a community. I hope that you can find time to relax and re-charge over the coming weeks. Perhaps you can start now with a cup of tea and the [assembly video](#). In this video we profile recent student success, significant special awards, student performances and a highlights package of the term. Enjoy.

In looking ahead to next term there are a couple of things we need to share with you.

Parent evenings. We are pleased to be able to host these evenings early next term. They were postponed from earlier in Term 1 and this has enabled us to reconsider when we put them on, and the focus of each evening. With the disruption in Term 1 we feel it is very important to provide an opportunity to meet and discuss your child's learning as soon as possible in the term. In this session we would like to meet with you and discuss learning progress including any concerns or gaps from Term 1 and the re-engagement plan for Term 2.

The new details are:

- 19th May (Juniors) and 24th May (Seniors).
- This is an important meeting for us, and we expect high attendance from parents and students.
- School will close after period 4 (at 12:30) on both days, to accommodate higher demand.
- The booking system will be shared with the community early next term.
- Please note, this will be the only parent evening for Term 2. There will be another opportunity in Term 3.

Mandate changes. As you will be fully aware, the government is using modelling and other data, such as our high vaccination rate, to start easing some of the COVID restrictions we have had in place. The Public Health advice supports this move as we adjust to living safely with COVID in our community while re-building a sense of normality in areas. At CHS we have the ability to keep in place some measures if we feel that it is important to do so to maintain the Health and Safety of our site. When we discussed this at our last BoT meeting and agreed to follow Ministry of Health guidelines with regards to removing restrictions. This advice has been useful in keeping CHS safe throughout the pandemic. We will be finalising it at our next BoT meeting (2nd May). If you have an opinion on the matter I encourage you to fill out this [form](#) in advance of that meeting to assist us with our discussion.

Winter uniform. It might not feel like it today, but winter is coming and that comes with a change in uniform. Please have a look at our [website](#) for full details. We really appreciate your support by sending your child off to school in the correct uniform. If you have difficulties in sourcing uniform items, please get in touch with your House Dean and we can either help financially, or by providing a uniform pass until the item arrives. Please note that hoodies are not a part of our winter uniform, yet every year we deal with students who try and get away with wearing them. We appreciate your help in ensuring that they have a school jacket or jersey to wear during the winter.

BoT student election results. It is great to see so much interest from our students, volunteering to contribute to the leadership of CHS. This year it was a very tightly contested election with only 8 votes separating the top three candidates. Congratulations to Luke O'Brien who will make an excellent contribution to the Board of Trustees and governance of Cambridge High School.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Bastiaan for the contribution he has made during his term. He has represented the students incredibly well and established several initiatives which will make a difference to the student experience at CHS.

The four candidates were:

Luke O'Brien

Bastiaan Banks

Wiremu Knowles

Hannah Leng

I want to finish today with an acknowledgment of my staff during this incredibly disrupted and challenging term for all of us in the community. The staff at CHS have worked very hard to keep the learning going for our students. They have repeatedly needed to deal with all the restrictions, re-plan lessons, assessments, school trips and cancel other events which are otherwise big highlights in the school calendar. They have been incredibly resilient and supportive of each other, and students, in the face of this extra workload and pressure. Many of our staff have also had the additional pressures of homelife to juggle. They have done a great job and I want to thank them publically for their hard work. If you have a particular staff member that you would like to acknowledge, please remember to use our recognition feedback option - the kapai@camhigh.school.nz email address.

Have a great break everyone, and I look forward to seeing you all again next term.
Kia pai oo koutou raa whakataa.

Greg Thornton