

Dear Parents / Caregivers,
Teena koutou,

I hope that everyone had a great Easter break and took some time to enjoy what feels like the last of the golden weather. There are a few important items to bring your attention to in the last weeks of this term or looking to the start of Term 2.

Crazy hair day – last day of term

We have a number of our community, staff and students who are being treated for cancer. This can be a challenging time for all involved and we are incredibly appreciative of the support that many organisations provide those battling cancer. We discussed this with our student leaders, and they want to find a way to help raise awareness and offer financial support to these organisations. On Friday 12th April we will run a crazy hair day. Students are encouraged to come to school with wigs, funky hair and a gold coin donation. During breaks, there will be stalls run by students offering hair colouring (temporary) and other options for a small charge so please send cash in with your child. More details will be shared next week in the notices and via social media.

School production

We are really excited to put on [For Today](#), a musical based on great kiwi music. It is a feel-good family friendly musical, set in a contemporary New Zealand high school. The show includes romance, action, drama, rugby, singing and dancing all set to a collection of classic songs by some of New Zealand's greatest singers and bands. It is sure to get you tapping your feet and possibly even singing along to some fantastic tunes from the past. Tickets will be available for purchase online and we will share further details on the school website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Cell phone update

As mentioned in my last letter home, at the start of Term 2 our cell phone policy will become schoolwide for the whole school day, as legislated by the government. We went through a thorough consultation period and responded to community feedback when we established our cell phone policy to protect the learning in the classroom several years ago. I have attached the updated procedure for managing cell phone use on site, ensuring we support the Government regulations that require schools to ensure students do not use or access a phone while they are attending school, including during lunch time and breaks. If you wish to provide feedback on this procedure, please [email here](#). This will assist us with our preparation for the start of Term 2 and meeting the government requirement that we have the phones 'away for the day'.

Uniform policy update

As part of our uniform review, we worked with the school Board to revisit our uniform policy. I have attached the new uniform policy which will apply from the start of Term 2. We have made adjustments based on feedback from the community and students. We will go through the detail of these changes with students, but for now a couple of key aspects are:

- No tattoos unless prior approval from SLT. The primary reason for this decision is based on age-appropriate nature of the decision. The Tattoo Artists Association of New Zealand (TAANZ) work to a code of ethics which means that they won't tattoo anyone under the age of 18 without the permission of a parent or guardian. We recognise that there can be significance to the decision to get a tattoo and are willing to discuss these reasons with families prior to

getting a tattoo. Any student who currently has a tattoo needs to keep this covered at all times.

- Trial of discreet nose studs. One area that has grown significantly over the past 6 months is the wearing of facial piercings, in particular nose rings. Although it is not permitted in our uniform policy, this has been very difficult for us to police as there are limited stocks of clear studs available for replacement. In response to student and parent requests we will trial discreet nose studs **only** (no rings or other facial piercings). We have concerns that students will take advantage of this trial and wear more facial piercings. If students only wear discreet nose studs, then we will discuss the subsequent amendment of the uniform policy with our school board.

This is also a good time to remind you that we move onto our winter uniform in Term 2. There is a store here in town (just opposite the library) if you need to pick up some items or try anything on. For more details see our [uniform page](#) on the website.

SchoolTV

I want to encourage you to have a look at [SchoolTV](#) over the next few weeks. It is full of excellent resources that can help with parenting and navigating some of our most challenging times raising a teenager.

We have committed to this and other offerings for our community as we can see the benefits in being informed with practical tools and research-based advice. We get feedback across the year from parents that additional resource and training opportunities would really help with the challenges of parenting. Give them a try and share any feedback with us [Amanda Kraenzlin](#).

Ka pai @ Cam High

We are very proud of our student achievements this term in their academics, arts and sporting events. I also want to thank my staff who have done so much to provide for this success. If you get a chance, I encourage you to fill out a ka pai @ Cam High [nomination](#) for our staff. A card is given to the staff member with your words of thanks, and they go into a prize draw. We really do like hearing from our community about the impact we have on our students and look forward to receiving your nominations.

Looking ahead to Term 2, life builds up a pace with assessments increasing and start-up of our winter sports and the associated frosty starts to the weekend. I hope that you find time over the next few weeks to unwind and enjoy some downtime with your child before the busyness begins again in Term 2.

Kind regards
Ngaa mihi

Greg Thornton

Principal