

Dear Parents / Caregivers,  
Kia ora Whaanau,

Quite a bit on for the end of Term 1 so I will just get straight into it. Here is the line up:

- Parent evenings
- S Block
- Summer tournament week
- Sports and Arts success
- Uniform and cell phone reminder
- How to Realise Your Potential – importance of attendance and upcoming assessments

### **Parent evenings**

We have two evenings coming up where you are invited in to discuss your child's progress. We encourage you to bring in your child to these meetings as we know the positive impact when all of us are involved in the conversation about their learning.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Junior parent evening

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Senior report evening

We close the school early (1:30pm) on these days to accommodate the popularity of the sessions. We understand the busyness of everyone's schedules and if you are not able to secure an appointment time that suits, we encourage you to email your teacher with questions.

Carparking for this event can be tricky but we have permission from the council to open up the Taylor Street accessway for **one way** access and carparking.

To use this carparking please follow the following:

- This is **one way only**. Please enter from Swayne Road (along the side of the school) and exit via Taylor Street.
- **Angle parking** only. This will enable us to get the maximum quantity of cars parked on both sides of the accessway.

Attached is an image of the area indicating the angle parking and the direction of traffic.

### **S Block**

During the parent evenings we will have our new S Block open. Why not come in a few minutes earlier than your meeting times and see the high-quality learning facilities for yourselves.

### **Summer tournament week**

The teams away for summer tournament week are competing well with reports coming back of their successes and the great way they are representing Cambridge High School and our community. Of particular note (at time of writing) are the volleyball girls who have just put in an amazing performance in the final of their division against Hutt Valley High School to win 2 sets to 1. And down in Twizel, the rowing squad have made 6 A finals (that is the top 8 boats in the country for that event) and 14 B finals. If you wish to see more go to <http://rowit.nz/mads2024/results> where you will find live updates and video streaming of the races.

### **Sports and Arts success to be celebrated at the end of term**

Last week we had our academic assembly, celebrating some outstanding academic achievements in our students and acknowledging the student leaders. In this assembly we presented the academic ties and badges to our students and taonga for our student prefects.

At the end of the term, we will acknowledge our top performing Sports and Arts students. Fingers crossed we have national titles to celebrate with the competitions in summer tournament, the National Jazz Festival and WBOP Athletics next week.

### **Uniform and cell phone reminder**

As we near the end of the term a few things are surfacing again. Firstly, our school uniform. The cooler starts brings on the same old challenges with non-uniform items such as hoodies, jackets and socks and even socks with sandals. Secondly, a reminder that phones need to be away for the whole day. We have a policy in place protecting the learning in the classroom and will extend this to support government requirements to [keep phones away for the day](#). I know this can cause some challenges in managing communication with home. However, it has been fantastic to see the change in student behaviour and the increase in social contact by not having phones out during the day.

With both of these areas we have found that a combination of confiscating the items and following that up with detentions to be very effective in changing student behaviour. However, this is an outcome that we would all rather avoid. We really appreciate you getting the message to your child at home – come to school in the correct uniform and without your phone and you are ready to make the most of attending CHS.

### **Realising your potential**

At the academic assembly I talked about Realising Your Potential (the first of our REACH values). I referenced work from Adam Grant (Professor of Management and Psychology at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania) and his recent book hidden potential. The three key things he observed when researching people who achieve their potential:

- To becoming a sponge. Be open to learning from all experiences and feedback. You may not agree with it all or enjoy the process, but you will grow through it.
- Become comfortable with discomfort. Learning is challenging and frustrating, but that is where our growth is. We need to get used to experiencing discomfort if we are to put ourselves in situations where we can make progress.
- Aim for imperfection. Perfectionism is a massive handbrake when you are learning. You need to have a mindset of imperfectionism, where you produce your best work and get ready to learn from that rather than over refine your work until it is perfect.

Using that as a segway, part of students performing at their best is attending school regularly and managing their time to provide the best chance of completing all work to a high standard.

The starting point for this is attending school regularly. The Ministry of Education defines regular attendance as 90% or higher – that is only 5 and a half days of absence in this term. It makes a significant difference in student progress when they front up to school each day, ready to learn.

With regular attendance we can teach content that builds on previous lessons, answer questions, build relationships, provide feedback and support their performance in assessment.

Time management is also vital in realising our potential, providing students with sufficient time to produce their best (although imperfect) work. We have created the assessment calendars to assist with your planning. Please note that, like in universities or work settings, assessments and deadlines can often line up at the same time. Have a look at the school website for the latest [assessment calendars](#) and make a plan to manage end of topic and ongoing assessment expectations.

If you are interested in looking into Adam Grant's work further I can recommend this [podcast interview](#) as starting point.

Have a great Easter break everyone. I think everyone around here is looking forward to the 5-day weekend as a chance to catch our breath before we finish the term off. It has been a busy and really positive start to 2024.

Kia pai oo raa whaakataa  
Enjoy your break

Greg Thornton  
Principal