



# Cambridge High School

Kia ora e te whaanau o te kura tuarua o Te Oko Horoi,  
Dear parents / caregivers of Cambridge High School,

I am proud to launch the new [CHS uniform](#) to our community today. The changes are based on feedback from students and the community, and it was clear; the uniform was no longer fit for purpose and needed a significant overhaul. That feedback opened the door for us to re-design the whole look and feel of our uniform. The end result tells the stories of our school, making sure that the uniform represents us and is something the students can wear with pride. We have used the imagery that captures our House stories, and the imagery referencing learning that is used around CHS. This work was first completed with the sports and arts uniforms and launched in time for the winter season (see our [earlier communication](#) on the launch and significance of the imagery). I think it is a fantastic range that is both functional and appealing, improving the uniform while telling our story.

This new uniform design started late in 2023 with feedback to the Board from the student representative about problems with our current uniform. The Board agreed that it needed review and took the decision to update the uniform. They then consulted widely with students and parents at the time to gather more information and the following key areas that needed addressing:

- Expensive items. For example, the kilts made the female expense noticeably higher than males.
- Quality concerns. Items such as the jackets needed upgrading as they are not warm or waterproof.
- Lack of comfort. The cut of many of the items were not comfortable and there was no movement in the fabric.
- Presentation. Two obvious examples were the polo shirts and white tops with either the colour fatiguing quickly or being too transparent.
- Design. The range had been tweaked over years and now needed a re-design to modernise the look.
- Simplify the range. Make it easier to understand and clearer about what is, and what is not, included in the CHS uniform.

## Overview

The uniform is now simply split into a 'junior' uniform (Years 9 to 11) with navy shirts and a 'senior' uniform with light blue shirts for students in Years 12 and 13. The shirt fabric has a stretch component to improve comfort and moveability and with changes to the colour to move away from the white and get a more consistent navy across the range. The trim at the bottom of the sleeves, the collar and even the buttons are ways that we bring in the belonging and connection to CHS.

The lower half of the uniform is consistent throughout the years, with style changes to fit with feedback. The shorts are slightly longer, the trousers have a more tailored look, and the skirts are now an A line style, providing an improved fit for our students. All lower half items have a tone-on-tone crest for subtle look although still definitely a CHS uniform item. We have also introduced new items with a tupene and a new jersey and jacket. The jacket is fleece lined and waterproof making it ideal for our winter, while the jersey is more comfortable and brings together the navy and light blue of the junior and senior uniform, visually tying together the year levels. The blazer is not for purchase, it is an item which we gift to our



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student executive, in recognition of their role and positive contribution these leaders make to the life of Cambridge High School.

## **What this means for uniform purchasing**

The challenge with making any changes in the uniform is to get the timing right for the changeover, balancing current stock levels with the phasing in of items at certain year levels. We are also very aware of the economic situation and the challenges some families may have in getting into the new uniform. Although we considered a delay in launching the uniform, we also recognise that there is never going to be an ideal time, and this uniform is too good to keep under wraps any longer. Instead, we have negotiated with SAS to provide some very supportive options for the families in our community who are financially unable to purchase new items. Further details about this will be shared with you during Term 4. We want to assure you that we have maintained a focus on affordability throughout this journey and have secured the best price possible for these items.

This means the new uniform items will now be compulsory for Years 9, 12 and 13 in 2026. Years 10 and 11 may also choose to purchase the new items. In 2027 it will be compulsory for all items to be from the new uniform range.

If you have any questions, or feedback, please visit the uniform section on the [school website](#) where we have a contact form and an FAQ section.

Kind regards  
Ngaa mihi nui

Greg Thornton

Principal  
Cambridge High School