



Cambridge High School

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

We have been putting a lot of work into our curriculum here at CHS. By now you will all be aware of the quantity of change that has occurred in the past few years. With so much re-working of national expectations, we need to make sure our delivery of the curriculum also remains relevant and meaningful for the Cambridge community. Our work has focused on the centrally important aspects of the design of the curriculum (both the content and the effective teaching of the content) and our reporting on student learning.

Today, I would like to focus on the reporting on the learning component of our work. We believe that our students' learning journey while at CHS is crucial and that they need to graduate well-equipped to continue learning after leaving Cambridge High School, adapting to their future challenges and opportunities. Through internal review we realised that much of our emphasis in reporting has been on levels of achievement (NCEA grades or similar) and we need to increase the sense of growth and the learning journey for our students. We also recognise the need for feedback to be timely and for us to build a greater inclusion of the family in the student's progress. As a result, we have begun a journey of adjusting the nature of our reporting and the language we use.

Progress reports

The first change has been replacing the Navigator reports with Progress reports. These reports have been designed to build an understanding of who the student is as a learner. We have connected them with the REACH values of the school as this provides a great holistic view of each learner. I encourage you to read this report to understand how your child presents as a learner in each class and how this is preparing them for ongoing growth and success. The Progress reports are particularly useful as a conversation starter in our upcoming parent evenings.

Parent evenings

The parent evenings have been adjusted this year to align closely with key dates in our calendar. The start of the second semester for Year 9 (as a chance to meet new option teachers), the release of the Progress and full reports (end of Term 2) and the launch of the subject choices (Week 2, Term 3) for Year 10 – 12 students. There will also have been sufficient time since the first report evening for your child to have made some adjustments and for you to discuss this progress. We like to see all parents and students at these evenings and want to extend a special invite to any of you with a light blue square indicating that concerns exist. It would be great to meet and for us to share more detail around these concerns. Full details about the evenings will be shared with you shortly, including booking details and a reminder that these evenings are no longer a senior and junior split, but evenings where all teachers are available to meet with you.



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Live reporting

While I have your attention on reports and communication with home, I want to draw attention to live reporting in the senior year levels. A few years ago, we changed our reporting in the senior year levels to provide more timely feedback on assessment, rather than waiting until a later date when the information was less relevant. We now push out a grade and comments as soon as the work has been moderated and this is referred to as live reporting. The intention here is to bring you into the conversation early enough to celebrate success when it is fresh or make amendments for future improvements ahead of assessment deadlines.

Timetable process

Finally, I wanted to provide you with an overview of how this connects with our timetable selections process. For those of you that are unaware, we build our timetable around students' choices. This is a more laborious way of creating a timetable, but it does have the advantage of responding to the needs and interests of a cohort. Once the student course selection is received, we then set the number of subjects being offered and work through the subsequent HR impacts and any subject clashes that have occurred as a result of a selection of classes that have not been possible. This means that your **initial course selection** is very important. Please discuss it at home, talk with your teachers and Dean and use the parent interviews to explore your study pathways before making a selection. We will open the portal for these selections to get made in Week 2, Term 3. Although it may seem early to many of you, this is the latest date we can receive course selections and still meet HR deadlines and have a timetable finalised for 2026.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and engage with our reporting. I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming parent evenings.

Ngaa mihi nui,
Greg Thornton
Principal
Cambridge High School