

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Teena koutou ki a koutou,

With the increase in the number of positive COVID cases in our community the absence of our staff and students has also increased due to the disease or the demands associated with isolation. Apart from this absence, student attendance rates at school remain normal. This, combined with a reduced pool of relief teachers is making the school difficult to staff and we need to take steps to reduce the size of the school.

We have discussed several options for us to best do this and have decided to roster home the senior students, in rotation, starting with Year 13s on Friday 4th March.

The full rotation for next week will look like this:

Day	Year level home
Friday 4 th March	13
Monday 7 th March	12
Tuesday 8 th March	11
Wednesday 9 th March	13
Thursday 10 th March	12
Friday 11 th March	11

We will also post this on the school Facebook pages regularly as a reminder for families.

What is expected during this time?

Students are rostered home to continue with work that has been set for them in class. There will be no online lessons as I need staff to be able to assist with the safe running of CHS.

Students can continue with all other activities during this time such as practices or trips.

Why these year levels?

We assessed each year level's ability to continue to work independently on work set earlier that week by staff. We will meet with all Year 11 students before they are rostered home to discuss the year, NCEA and how this impact will be manageable to help them with their concerns.

We are aware of the pressure that needing to supervise juniors learning at home can create for families and chose not to roster them home. We still plan to do roster them home if the impact from COVID cases increases further.

How long will this approach last for?

All information we have is that the biggest impact will occur during March, after which the case numbers and pressure will reduce. We will keep a constant eye on the situation and provide you with advance warning over any changes. The key factor for influencing this next decision will be the safety and wellbeing of our staff and students, especially the quantity of staff available for duty and covering lessons.

When case numbers decrease for a period of time, we will revert back to normal operations.

If case numbers continue to increase, and we need to take further steps we will either roster home multiple year levels at a time or run online learning for all students, as we have done successfully in the past. The action will depend on the size of impact we are experiencing.

Kia atawhai, kia tautoko, kia kaha.

Kind regards

Greg Thornton