



6 November 2023

Kia ora koutou

Over the last few weeks we have celebrated many student successes at our Awards and Prizegiving afternoons and evenings. Our Year 11 to Year 13 students began their NCEA External Examinations today and we wish our students all the very best for their examinations – a copy of the [2023 Examination Timetable](#) has been placed onto our main school Facebook page today for your information.

Change in Form Time

From Monday, 13 November, Form Time will now begin after Period One classes have finished, i.e. Period One will begin each school day at 8.50 am; then Form Time; then Period Two, and so on for the rest of the normal school day. My reasons for this change centre on the lateness or even non-attendance of some students to Form Time when it was timetabled before Period One classes.

For nearly two years, I have had a policy in place that mobile phones and AirPods (or similar) are not allowed to be used during subject class time. This same policy will now also apply to all Form Time classes from 13 November onwards. It is important that all students are able to listen to the Daily Notices being read out by their Form Teacher and that they have the opportunity to interact positively with other students and their Form Teacher during Form Time.

The Record 2023 – School Yearbook

On the last day of school for our Year 13 student leavers we gave every Year 13 student a copy of our wonderful 2023 Yearbook; On the last day of timetabled classes for our Year 12 students we carried out the same process because some of our Year 12 students go directly into employment or tertiary study. Our Yearbook is now available for individual purchase at just \$15 a copy by all other students, parents, family members. It is a fantastic and vibrant 206 page summary of our school year. Please call into the Finance Office in our Main Reception area to purchase a copy.

Uniform

A reminder that all students need to be in their correct uniform at all times. Confiscated non-uniform items are collected from the Deans' House at the end of the school day on Friday afternoons only and then left at home.

At the same time, we always lend or provide uniform items to students who require uniform items. To help us maintain appropriate numbers of uniform items, we always appreciate and greatly welcome donations of correct uniform items that are no longer required by school leavers – please make contact with our Deans' House Support Worker Pru McDonald (mcdonald.p@whs.ac.nz) if you are able to donate uniform items to help out other students and families in need.

Uniform Review Update

As outlined in my email to you on 31 August, we are carrying out a full school uniform review this year. We received responses from 133 students via our Student Council; 63 responses from parents; and 29 responses from staff members. Nearly all responses have been thoughtful and wide-varying.

To date, we have had six Uniform Committee Meetings of our eight-person student and staff Uniform Review Team.

We will have the Uniform Review completed before the end of this school year. As I mentioned in my email on 31 August, we are very aware of the financial pressures many of our families are living through and there is no intention at all to increase costs. Any changes will be based upon straight forward changes.

Strategic Goals

As part of our consultation feedback on our school's strategic goals, I warmly welcome any thoughts or feedback by return email on how we could strengthen our school's current three strategic goals:

1. Developing our understanding of mātauranga Māori using kawa and tikanga in our teaching and learning.
2. To prepare our school community effectively for the NCEA change programme and to ensure the development of future pathways for all students.
3. To promote and respond actively to student and staff hauora and well-being.

Ngā mihi nui

Martin McAllen
PRINCIPAL