



9 September 2022

## Community Update: Term 3, Week 7

Kia ora e te whānau

### New school timetable structure for 2023

Next year Kaipara College will roll out a new timetable structure following feedback from students, staff, whānau and the wider community earlier in the year. We have taken the feedback along with the latest research into cognitive science in relation to what works best to maximise learning. Thus the changes include:

#### For junior students (Years 9 and 10)

Junior students will have shorter, more frequent core classes (2 x 45min periods and 2 x 60min periods, four days a week). This change will allow students to be taught their core subjects four days out of five, instead of two as is currently the case. The increased frequency of teaching and learning and increased time for core subjects allows for improved retention of learning by students, increased relationship building and maintaining between teachers and students, increased opportunity for retrieval practice, increased opportunities for literacy and numeracy learning and upskilling, increased opportunities for feedback, increased engagement and focus on learning from students, increased opportunity to teach positive behaviour for learning, increased focus on maximising academic success, decreased 'dead' time at the end of longer periods, and therefore improved achievement for learners.

#### For seniors students (Years 11, 12 and 13)

Seniors subject classes will have 1 x 90 minute period and 3 x 60 minute periods per week. The 90 minute period will allow for deeper learning to occur and practical subjects to have a longer period of time to complete practical work. The overall teaching and learning time is also slightly increased and the frequency of contact is also increased to four out of five days. The same rationale as per juniors above also applies to seniors regarding increased teaching and learning time and increased frequency of contact.

### Whole school changes

Routine is important in terms of encouraging positive behaviour for learning and for learning itself. Because of this we have made the decision that school will start at 8.45am everyday weekday. We will no longer have a late start for students on a Wednesday.

Whānau time is an important part of our kaupapa at Kaipara College. In whānau time we learn through the learning programme Te Puāwaitanga. (Click on this link for more details [Te Puāwaitanga o Kaipara: Vision and Rationale](#)). Whānau time will be 30 mins per day for four days a week instead of the current 45 mins a day for three days a week.

### Vaping Update

I am happy to report that our clearly outlined consequences for those students who still choose to vape and/or are in the possession of vaping equipment at school has resulted in less incidence of vaping. Our increased vigilance and zero tolerance in relation to vaping will continue.

### Practice exam week

Next week (Week 8) is practice exam week for our senior students. Senior students will have received a copy of the practice exam timetable and are only to attend school when they have an exam or a workshop. Practice exams are important in a number of ways in that they:

- Allow students to hone and practice their exam skills
- Give an indication of what students are doing well in and where there is work still to be done
- Allow for the calculation of derived grades should this be required on compassionate grounds
- Allow for specific feedback to each student

Students are preparing for these exams at school in terms of study skills and exam technique. It is also expected that senior students will be spending time at home revising and preparing for these exams. The more work students do now the less panic there will be when it comes time to sit their NCEA exams in November. Subject teachers and whānau teachers are keeping a very close eye on how students are tracking towards success in NCEA and having the necessary conversations with each student. The students themselves should therefore be very aware of where they are at and what work needs to be done to ensure their success. Please discuss this with your student and encourage them to spend the necessary time and effort at home to ensure maximum success. If you would like more information about how your student is tracking please contact their whānau teacher.

### Pathways planning and option choice selection

We will be asking students to select their options for 2023 in Week 9 of this term. Option selection starts by having the end in mind. We ask students to think about what it is they see themselves doing and being when they leave school, and work backwards from there. Option selection needs to be carefully thought through and discussed with family, whānau teacher and subject teachers before decisions are made. Students will select their options using the School Point platform, which also provides information about the courses available at each level and information about the subsequent pathways.

### NCEA (external) exams

The NCEA exams start on Monday, 7 November. Here is a link to the NCEA exam timetable [National secondary examinations timetable » NZQA](#)

### More about the New Build

The last update included information about the building of a new Innovation Centre. Here is some more information about the other aspects of the new build coming to Kaipara College.



Over the last 4-5 years the Ministry of Education has been working with Kaipara College on the development of new buildings for our school including a brand new two-storey Innovation Centre which will be home to visual arts, digital technologies, materials technology and food technology, as well as a new school Tuck Shop. The next stage will see a brand new Whare Ako built in the heart of the school on the quad, between the current Science and Art Blocks. The Faculty of Special Education will also be rebuilt.

These are long-awaited and much-needed developments which will offer state of the art facilities for our rangatahi, setting the school up for future roll growth and ensuring our students have an environment in which to thrive. The planning and preparation for the Innovation Centre is in its final stages and building is expected to begin in early 2023. The other new buildings will begin once the Innovation Centre is complete.

### **Wearing of Masks**

As mentioned in previous social media updates, we are no longer enforcing the wearing of masks at school due to the low numbers of cases in the community. However, we are supporting those students who chose to wear a mask, to do so. Masks continue to be compulsory on school buses, unless the student has an exemption notified to the school.

### **School Bus Eligibility**

A reminder to all families that students are eligible for school bus transport based on their primary residential address and are eligible for that route only. Students are not able to travel on other routes to accommodate after school jobs or activities or to visit friends' houses. Random audits will be conducted to ensure that students are only using those buses they are eligible for. Students who access routes they are not eligible for are jeopardising the Ministry of Education funding for these routes and the access of eligible students.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting us in working with your young person to be the best they can be, achieving their own academic and personal excellence. Our focus as always is to support the learning, safety and wellbeing of all our students.

Please don't hesitate to contact your student's whānau teacher, kaitiaki or me, if there is something you need assistance with.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support.

Ngā mihi



**Cindy Sullivan**  
**PRINCIPAL**