



Kerikeri High School

Kerikeri, Bay of Islands
New Zealand

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Dear Students, Parents, Whānau, Families and Staff

This is our last newsletter for 2021. It has been a challenging and at times difficult year, but as a school we have come through it in great shape. We have appreciated the support of our wider school community as we have navigated our way through, and we thank you all for the encouragement and care that has been shown.

Our students have coped and made the most of the opportunities that we could still provide, adapt or replace for them and our staff have been wonderful; steady, caring and committed to ensuring their students do as well as possible.

There have had many fine moments in 2021 to enjoy and celebrate. We have focused on what we have been able to do throughout the year rather than what was lost. There have been some exceptional achievements and a lot of effort and determination has gone into a range of well-deserved personal success. There is a lot to be proud of.

While we are all looking forward to our summer break, we are also excited about 2022, and we are currently working hard in preparation for next year.

Junior Prizgivings and Last Days of School

Year 7 – 10 Sports and Cultural Prizes

On Friday 10 December the Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 Cultural and Sporting prizes will be presented to recipients personally in the Principal's office, beginning at 9.00am.

Year 9 and 10 Top Scholars

On Monday 13 December the awards for Top Scholar in Years 9 and 10 will be presented in the Auditorium, in the same fashion that Years 11, 12 and 13 Top Scholars, University Scholarship Winners, Proxime Accessit and Dux were awarded earlier in the term to our senior students. This will begin at 9.00am, and families and whānau of Top Scholars will be personally advised by email tomorrow (Thursday 9 December) that their student needs to be at school on Monday to receive their award. Unfortunately, due to covid, we are unable to have a wider audience join us for these awards, however we will film the event and send a personalised link to the whānau and families of the students involved.

The only students required at school on Monday 13 December will be those receiving awards for Top Scholar.

The last day for all students not involved in this Prizegiving will be Friday 10 December.

2021 School Magazine

We have exciting news. The 2021 Kerikeri High School Magazine this year is digital and available online to every Kerikeri High School student and their whānau and caregivers. It is free, and able to be accessed at anytime from anywhere. Without moving to a digital version, the impact of Covid would have meant we would not have been able to produce a school magazine this year due to deadlines being too tight.

This has also allowed us the opportunity, for the first time, to digitise the past five years of Kerikeri High School Magazines, creating an archive for everyone, students past and present, and whānau and families which can be accessed at anytime, from anywhere, for free.

All of these wonderful records of our school years are available on our School Website, and you can access them now by following this link: <http://www.kerikerihigh.ac.nz/magazine.php> and click on the 2021 School Magazine image.

New COVID-19 Protection (Traffic Light) Framework

The Ministry of Education have advised us that under the Government's new Traffic Light Framework, next year everyone will be back onsite at school for learning from the start of the school year, regardless of which Traffic Light setting we will be under. This is good news and means we can plan with certainty for 2022.

Health measures in place at school

This year and next, health, safety and wellbeing will continue to be a priority for us and the same public health measures you are very familiar with will remain in place:

- good hygiene and cleaning
- contact tracing systems in place
- vaccination requirements for workers (paid and unpaid)
- if you are sick, you must stay home and get tested
- good ventilation.

And if we are at Red at any stage next year:

- face coverings will be required at school when indoors for students and staff in Years 7 – 13
- we will ask that only essential visitors come onsite.

With all these measures in place, public health has confirmed the risk of infection remains low when at school, with households continuing to be where COVID-19 is spreading the most. As noted by Dr Caroline McElnay, Director of Public Health:

Our experience in New Zealand and overseas with COVID-19 shows that it does not affect children and teens in the same way it does adults. Children and teens don't become as unwell if they do get infected, and they don't tend to pass the virus on so much as adults when in a classroom setting.

Compared to other places, schools and early learning services are not environments where we have seen significant spread of COVID-19. Household members and work colleagues who are in close contact with people with COVID-19, are the most common sources of transmission.

However, if we do have someone confirmed with COVID-19 in our school, we have a plan in place to manage this and will contact you as soon as possible.

If you would like to learn more about the framework visit [COVID-19 Protection Framework](#).

We wish you a safe and very happy Christmas and we are really looking forward to 2022.



EA Forgie (Mrs)
Principal



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Associate Principal