



Kerikeri High School

Kerikeri, Bay of Islands
New Zealand

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Dear Families and Whānau, Staff and Students,

Welcome to Kerikeri High School for 2022

We are so looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school and for our school to be the warm, caring, stable and predictable place in all of our lives that it is.

We are staying on top of all the communications from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and adapting to make our school safe for us all. Our whole commitment is to keep our caring and relationships based environment while staying within the Covid restrictions.

Please bear with us. If we don't have the answers we will work with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health to get them. We are your school. We are going to do the best we can for you. We will and we must work within the requirements of the Red Traffic Light setting. Please realise that we don't make the rules and we are placed in the position of looking after everyone and ensuring that our students can get to school, enjoy school and enjoy being together with us and with their friends to make the most of all that we can offer them.

First Days

We start up in year level groups so that we can ensure our students can be cared for and can be confident right from the beginning.

We aim to start about 400-600 students each day.

First Day for Year 7 and Year 13 students – Friday 4 February

Year 7 students, Families and Whānau head to school and we will be waiting outside on the footpath, along the boulevard, under the covered ways with our smiles (under the masks), our lists, the QR code and spare masks if you need them. We will make sure that you can be guided to your Form Class. Once you are with your Form Teacher at your Form Classroom we have a lovely day's programme for our students. We ask that family members do not go into the classrooms please.

Year 13 students who are Peer Support Leaders will be helping us as guides for our Year 7 students. Then they will be meeting with Associate Principal Mr Mike Clent. Their work for the rest of the morning is to get their Year 13 course of study confirmed and then they are released for the rest of the day.

First Day for Year 12 and Year 8 students – Tuesday 8 February

We will meet you outside on the footpath and be stationed through the school to look after you just like the Year 7 students. Students who are familiar with the school will be able to check the Form Class Lists and head off to their Form Classes and meet their new Form Teachers. We will look after students new to the school.

First Day for Year 9, 10 and 11 – Wednesday 9 February

We will follow the same procedure and have lots of staff to meet you on the footpath, along the boulevard, under the covered ways and we will support you to be welcomed and guided to your Form Class rooms to meet your Form Teachers.

Students familiar with the school can check their lists and head straight to meet their new Form Teacher in their Form Room.

The Buses

Our Bus Drivers will have the QR codes available or take students' names as they get on the bus. Please make sure students have their masks and are ready to wear them on the bus.

It is not easy however at the moment it is the way we can keep going and not find ourselves having to lock down again.

At the end of the day our bus students will be released from class early to learn about their bus lines and the order in which the buses leave. Our students are just wonderful in the way in which they co-operate with our staff to manage the bus lines and we can put about 900 students on 16 school buses safely and kindly in about 15 minutes.

WAKA – Keep Ourselves Safe

We will be rigorously following all of the Covid health and hygiene protocols we are so familiar with such as extra cleaning, lots of hand sanitiser and regular reminders for our students.

Our messaging about masks for our students is that at Red Traffic Light setting all students and staff are required to wear masks. It is important to wear our mask safely and correctly and remember that a mask is not a scarf or bandanna.

- Face masks should fit snugly over your nose, mouth and chin any time you are inside
- Only touch your mask by the loops
- Replace your mask as often as necessary – while we are getting used to this we will have plenty of masks available
- Please dispose of your mask safely in a rubbish bin when you are finished with it
- Be kind and ask if you do not understand instructions – we know it's difficult sometimes with a mask.

Our Essential Communication in this time of Covid

We are giving this News Letter to every family and whānau person we see on their first day.

Please make our News Letters a priority when we email them to you. They are our only way of getting our messages to all. We write our News Letters to our whole school community – Families and Whānau, Staff, Students and Board of Trustees.

The App

This is a great tool. Download it from the Playstore on Android or the App Store on Apple. Search for School Apps New Zealand and once you have downloaded it you add Kerikeri High School as your school. The front page links you directly to Daily Notices, Calendar, Term Dates and Contacts for example and pushes out Alerts to you such as our information for Families and Whānau if we have a tsunami warning.

The School Website

Have a look around it. Under “What’s Happening” you can find the Daily Notices, all past News Letters and the Board Newsletters.

Relationships

Check who your Form Teacher, your Dean and Deputy or Associate Principal is. We will always welcome a phone call and Reception as well as Te Puna Wairoa will always help you.

If you are coming into school please be ready to scan the QR code and wear your mask.

Te Puna Wairoa and our Wellbeing Centre

We have a student centre named Te Puna Wairoa for all the things our students need help with during the day.

As well we have a new Wellbeing Centre staffed by our Counsellors Mrs Kelaher and Mrs Atkinson. The students will have guided tours so they know their way around and our new Year 7 students will be escorted from class to class by their Teacher until they are confident to find their way around. Other new students will have a buddy.

For the Families and Whānau

Kerikeri High School is going from strength to strength. Despite Covid our NCEA results are great and we will report them in our next News Letter. We have had 3 strong Education Review Office Reports in a row. We have a lovely warm learning environment and we are always working to improve it. Our latest projects are an update to our auditorium, new cricket nets, solar panels that will make us self-sustaining for electricity and more heat pumps – these last two will be crucial as we ventilate our classrooms with the heat pumps as well as open the windows and doors. We also are building more toilets and upgrading more classrooms.

At Kerikeri High School we say “relationships, relationships, relationships” and we are wanting to work with you to give our young people a great education. What we want for them is security, predictability and positivity in this uncertain environment.

For our Students

You have a lot to look forward to. We will all be working together “He Waka Eke Noa”. Work hard, enjoy your learning and have fun. We will look after you.



EA Forgie (Mrs)
Principal



M Cleat (Mr)
Associate Principal