

December 2020

Kia ora whānau and caregivers of 2021 Year 9 students

Nau mai, haere mai, a warm welcome to you and thank you for entrusting your tamariki/child to our care for the next five years. We are confident that your child's academic development and ora/wellbeing will thrive during their time at our kura. This letter contains information regarding the start of the 2021 school year.

Beginning of term arrangements:

Students will get a copy of their personalised timetable on Day 1, Monday 1 February.

Day 1 Year 9 students: Monday 1 February. Start 8.45am finishes 3.20pm

Due to the increased number of Year 9 students enrolling we will be having two start times on Day 1. One group of Year 9 students will start at 8.45am in the Riley Centre, our school assembly hall. The second group of Year 9 students will start at 9.40am in the Riley Centre. You will receive an email closer to the date indicating which group your student will join.

Shortly after arriving each group will move to our school marae, Taraika, for a pōwhiri/welcome for students and whānau/caregivers. At the end of the pōwhiri students will go with their rōpū/form teacher for the rest of the day and will begin their orientation programme. Whānau/caregivers are welcome to join the senior staff in the staffroom for morning tea. You should allow 60-90 minutes if you plan to attend the pōwhiri and morning tea.

- Students should bring pens, an exercise book and lunch.
- The canteen will not be open until Tuesday 2 February 2021. Your student will need to bring lunch on Monday 1 February.
- Students will participate in an outdoor activity in the afternoon so should wear/bring along sneakers, comfortable clothing, a hat and a drink bottle.

Day 2 Year 9 students: Tuesday 2 February. Start 8.45am finishes 3.20pm

School will begin at 8.45am and students will continue with their orientation programme.

- Students should bring their BYOD/computer, pens and an exercise book

Day 3 Year 9 students: Wednesday 3 February. Start 9.30am finishes 3.20pm

School will begin at 9.30am (the normal start time for a Wednesday), and Year 9 students will be on a modified timetable today.

- Students should bring their BYOD/computer, stationery and lunch

School Bus information: There are some school buses to Wellington High School, but we recommend that you look at Metlink website www.metlink.org.nz to find out the best route. Buses are under the jurisdiction of Metlink.

BYOD/Computers: You may have already purchased a BYOD/computer for your student. If not, there are several ways you can buy a device. We strongly recommend a Chromebook for use at Year 9 and Year 10. More information can also be found on our school website under Whānau > Bring Your Own Device. Whānau/caregivers who have indicated that they may require a loan device from the school for their student, and who I have not already contacted, should contact me. Email jackson.martin@whs.school.nz or call 04385 8911 extension 797.

Promoting WHS values of Whānau and Excellence: To promote our school values of Whānau and Excellence we want to create more time for students to build relationships with their peers/teachers and to have more focus on learning. This means, students' mobile phones and ear buds must be in the student's school bag during class time. There are noted exceptions for individual learners with assistive technology needs and some specific learning activities. Whānau are asked not to text or phone students during class time and in an emergency they should contact Student Services.

Year 9 Noho Marae and Herengatahi activities: These will be held between Week 5 to Week 7 of Term 1. More information will follow early in Term 1. Please note that it is expected that all Year 9 students will participate in this opportunity to whakawhanaungatanga/build relationships with their peers and teachers. We aim to make this experience accessible for all students/whānau and payment options are available.

Communication: A lot of our communication is by email. Please let us know if yours changes. For full information on the ways we communicate with home, see this link on the school website See www.whs.school.nz Whānau > Communications with WHS. You can get specific information about your child from the parent portal on our website. The login details for this will be sent out early in Term 1, 2021.

Sports registration: From 2021 our Sports registration will be going online. Coordinator Liam Good will be sending an email to all family and whānau in early 2021 with the details.

Science & Mathematics: Both Science and Mathematics use online platforms to support students' learning. In order to purchase a subscription to these platforms, we need to ask students for a voluntary contribution of \$18 for the year for Stile (Science) and \$20 for Education Perfect (Mathematics). See the Payments information below for details of how to pay.

Invoices: Wellington High School asks for a general donation towards the running costs of the school as well as donations to cover activities, materials and other aspects of the Year 9 programme. Invoices will be sent to you during the year. Student Services office staff are happy to discuss payment options with you. There may be other ways in which we can support you . Please discuss with either of the Deans.

Payments: Payments can be made in a number of ways. Internet banking (include the student's name and a reference e.g. 'Stile' or 'Donation' in the details) to account ASB bank 12-3141-0212924-00. You can also pay by credit card by phoning Terese on 385 8911 extension 872 between 9am-3pm. If paying in person at Student Services EFTPOS is available and cash payments (exact money preferred)are also accepted.

Miscellaneous:

Absences: Daily absences- reporting through the app, by email (absences@whs.school.nz) or by phoning the absences line

Requests for exceptional leave (planned but not medical), must be made to the Principal (admin@whs.school.nz).

Stationery: Visit the school website www.whs.school.nz to get a list of stationery requirements for year 9 students. See Whānau > Stationery list

Lockers: Lockers are not compulsory but are available for Year 9 students for \$10 for the year. Students will be assigned a locker and will be given a combination lock. Students will be given the opportunity to sign up for lockers in allocated time slots on Monday 1 February and Tuesday 2 February during timetabled classes.

ID cards: ID photos are taken during the first week of school, and a standard ID will cost \$10. A Snapper loaded ID card is \$25. Students can use their ID card with the school photocopyers.

Student Services: (Located Main Block Level 5) take care of much of the administration of the school. Student Services will be open for parents and caregivers from 9.30-3.00pm on 1st and 2nd February. Further details of term-time opening hours can be found on the school's website.

Cafeteria: The cafeteria will be open from Tuesday 2 February.

We look forward to working with you and your student, and to seeing you at our pōwhiri Monday 1 February. In the new year we will be available to answer any queries you may have from Tuesday 26 January 2021 via email or telephone.

Ngā mihi nui

Jackson Martin and Natalie Randall

Year 9 Dean

Attached to this letter: WHS Music lessons 2021 information sheet and enrolment form