



WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Te Kura Tuarua o Taraika ki Pukeahu

PRINCIPAL: Dominic Killalea BA Dip Ed

December 2023

Kia ora whānau and caregivers,

Nau mai, haere mai, a warm welcome to you and thank you for entrusting your tamariki to our care for the next five years. We are confident that your child will thrive during their time at Wellington High School. This letter contains information regarding the start of the 2024 school year.

Here is an overview of your student's first week at Wellington High School:

Tuesday 30 January – Pōwhiri for Year 9 students and their whānau followed by Year 9 orientation

Wednesday 31 January – Year 9 orientation

Thursday 1 February – Year 9 full timetable.

Friday 2 February – Full timetable for all years.

Here are some further details:

Day 1: Tuesday 30 January – Pōwhiri for Year 9 students and their whānau followed by Year 9 Orientation.

Due to the increased number of Year 9 students enrolling we will be having two pōwhiri. This means that there will be two different start times for our Year 9 students. You will receive an email closer to the date indicating which group your student will join providing further information about the pōwhiri.

One group of students will start at 8.45am in the Riley Centre, our school hall. The second group of students will start at 9.40am in the Riley Centre.

At the end of the pōwhiri, whānau are welcome to head over to the staffroom for some light refreshments and to meet some of our staff members. Students will remain at our school marae where they will be sorted into classes. They will then go with their rōpū teacher for the rest of the day to begin their orientation programme.

The school day will finish for all students at 3.20pm

What to bring:

- Students should bring a pen, an exercise book, their BYOD/computer
- The cafeteria will be open from 29 January if students prefer not to bring their own lunch.
- Students will participate in an outdoor activity in the afternoon so should bring along sneakers, comfortable clothing, a hat and a drink bottle.

Day 2: Wednesday 31 January – Year 9 Orientation. Start 8.45am finishes 3.20pm

Our Year 9 orientation programme is designed to give our students the opportunity to create new connections with peers and to get to know our kura. Students will get a copy of their personalised timetable, will be introduced to Yr13 peer support leaders and will learn about key places and processes at WHS.

What to bring:

- Students should bring a pen, an exercise book, their BYOD/computer .

- Students will participate in an outdoor activity in the afternoon so should bring along sneakers, comfortable clothing, a hat and a drink bottle.

Day 3: Thursday 1 February -Year 9 full timetable. Start 8.45am, finish 3.20pm.

- Students should bring a pen, an exercise book, their BYOD/computer.

Day 4: Friday 2 February - Full timetable for all years. Start 8.45am, finish 3.20pm.

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

Other Important Dates in Term 1

Tuesday 6 February - Waitangi Day Holiday (school closed)

Thursday 15 and Friday 16 February - school photos

Rā whakawhanaungatanga: In week 4 - 6 of Term 1, each Year 9 class will spend two days outside the classroom participating in activities together. This is an opportunity to build new connections with peers and teachers. There is no overnight component to this event. More information will follow early in Term 1. Please note that it is expected that all Year 9 students will participate. We aim to make this experience accessible for all students/whānau and payment options/financial assistance is available if required.

Term Dates & calendar:

Full term dates for 2024 can be found on our website: <https://www.whs.school.nz/term-dates/>

For information about <https://www.whs.school.nz/whs-calendar/events> view the full calendar at:

<https://www.whs.school.nz/whs-calendar/>

School Bus information: There are some school buses to Wellington High School, but we recommend that you look at the 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 recommend a Chromebook for use in Year 9 and Year 10. More information can also be found on our school website at: <https://www.whs.school.nz/byod-recommendations/>.

Whānau who have indicated that they may require a loan device from the school for their student should contact us. Email year9deans-2024@whs.school.nz

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.

Communication: A lot of our communication is by email. Please let us know if your email address changes. For full information on the ways we communicate with home, see this link on the school website See <https://www.whs.school.nz/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, 2024.

Music lessons: You can sign your student up for instrumental lessons at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/tpKLxtZXbVzrZ9qKA>

Sports registration: For 2024 our Sports registration will be online. Details will be emailed to families late January/early February when registrations open.

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 \$24 for the year for Stile (Science) and \$25 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: You will be able to make payments online for your student from 23 January 2024.

There are a number of ways in which you can pay. 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. Phone and in person payments at Student Services will be possible from 30 January 2024.

Absences:

Daily absences- reporting through the app, by email (absences@whs.school.nz) or by phoning the absences line 043858911 ext 873.

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 Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd 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 photocopiers.

Student Services: Located in Main Block Level 5, Student Services take care of much of the administration of the school. Student Services will be open for parents and caregivers from 9.30-2.30pm on 30 January. Further details of term-time opening hours can be found on the school's website.

Cafeteria: The cafeteria will be open from Tuesday 30 January

We look forward to working with you and your student, and to seeing you at the pōwhiri on Tuesday 30 January. In the new year we will be available to answer any queries you may have from Tuesday 23 January 2024 via email or telephone.

Ngā mihi nui
Daniel Spence & Kelly Jean-Louis
Year 9 Deans
Email: Year9deans-2024@whs.school.nz

Attached to this letter:
- Junior Whānau Guide 2024