

Kia ora koutou e te whānau

Our staff continue to sing the praises of our students' respect and support for the health measures that are in place to protect each other and our community from Omicron. I have visited a number of classes in the past week and there is a settled hum of learning and working together. Teachers are incorporating opportunities to learn outside the classroom to enable a break from mask wearing and this is helping. Any physical activity in PE is only able to take place outside so we have been grateful for the recent fine weather. Ngā mihi nui and thank you to our students for your responsible attitude and manaaki (care and kindness).



Year 7 Day 1: Ms Cuthbert's Whānau Group, Year 7 and Year 13

We do urge students to bring spare masks as there is often breakage and the large numbers of masks being issued through the office is not sustainable. A medical grade mask or cloth mask is suitable. See other Omicron planning details at the end of this kōrero.

Our roll is at 567 with 125 new students, 100 of them in Year 7 and around 20 other students across the year levels. We are squeezed into our school and looking forward to progressing the design work for our Technology, Art and general classroom block in the first part of this year. The Board and Leadership Team have met with the Ministry of Education and the DGSE Design Team to confirm the themes for learning in our Education Brief. There will be initial design meetings with relevant staff later this term and ideally some travel to visit other schools to inform the process. The aim is to have the design work completed by the start of Term 2. The actual build is due to commence early next year.

The new Year 7 EOTC programme being developed by Katrina Pollard, our Water Sports Centre Manager, starts next week with Ms Andrews class. This is a Board sponsored pilot programme that is aimed at increasing students' sense of belonging and connection to our kura through shared experiences and learning that tie into our stories and our place here in the Cromwell Basin. There are a number of Kawa challenges and team building exercises associated with our four Houses, Pisa (Tara-puta), Nevis (Papapuni), Clutha (Mata-au) and Kawarau that will see students tubing, stand up paddle boarding, walking and biking through our area. All Year 7 classes rotate through the programme over the next 4 weeks. A 2 week programme is being developed for Year 10 in Term 4 with similar aims.



Outdoor Pursuits 2022 - Rafting Makarora

One of the major themes in our mahi this year is 'inclusion' through our work in learning and in wellbeing. Teachers have been focussed during this past week on getting to know their learners and determining how to adapt the curriculum to best meet their individual needs. We continue to embed our change to Whānau Groups.. The Whānau Teacher is the key point of contact for pastoral and learning support for your child throughout their time in our kura. We have asked Whānau Teachers to ring families of all of the students in their group and check in how the year has started, how the learning is

going and provide the opportunity to share any information that will enable your child to thrive at school this year.

Thank you to Year 13's for the leadership being shown in Whānau Groups and supporting our new Year 7 students in our first week. Not having full school assemblies has limited the opportunities for our Prefects and other senior leaders to engage with our students. Even so, our Prefect Team have been organising their portfolios and I know they are excited to work with all students this year and make this a memorable one for all the right reasons.

E noho ora mai rā, me ngā manaaki (Keep well and take care)

Mason Stretch
Principal

Planning for Omicron

I have previously shared the health measures we have in place for whānau, visitors, students and staff to reduce the spread of Omicron and the number of close contacts and cases that will be linked to our school.

One of the major challenges for us will be keeping our school staffed once there are cases or close contacts in our school. We believe that given the connected nature of our community it will be a short time before we will need to change from normal face to face schooling to some form of mixed or hybrid learning. This would involve options like merging classes, having certain year levels learning online at home while still supervising or teaching some classes. A possible scenario is Year 11-13 learning online at home for a period of time and face to face learning for Year 7-10 at school. Our goal is to remain open for all students while it is safe and feasible to do so.

This is what we are doing to prepare:

- Staff are ensuring that all classes are on Hapara (Year 7 and 8) or Google Classroom. Teachers will be testing access to materials online, email, and online meetings during the week.
- Teachers intend uploading work for the week ahead in case a student or students will need to learn from home or they themselves are unwell.
- Checking that students have access to online learning at home and have a device. There will be a Google Form going out this week to gather this information. If your child needs access to a Chromebook please contact the school office admin@cromwell.school.nz
- Further information will be sent this week on our school's approach to managing and supporting online learning at home. The following link may be useful for parents:
<https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/>

Preparing for COVID-19

You can also prepare for COVID-19, making sure you and your household have a plan and know what to do. This will mean your whānau and community can help each other if needed.

Find out more here:

- [Be prepared for COVID-19](#)
- [Download the COVID-19 Readiness Checklist \[PDF, 121 KB\]](#)
- [What to expect when self-isolating at home](#)