

Kia ora koutou,

As you will recall from our recent newsletter Minister Hipkins has confirmed that all our students in Years 9 & 10 are able to return onsite from Wednesday 17 November.

We also indicated we would send out an email with some last-minute reminders. These details can be found below:

- Students in years 9&10 can return to learning at school from **Wednesday 17 November**.
- We will have our usual late start on Wednesday and students should arrive by **9:40 am**. They will be welcomed at the Nicholson gate entrance by the school's senior leadership and if you have any questions for us, we will be there to answer them then. Carlie Street and Tui Road gate will be closed to allow us to monitor students as they arrive daily.
- At this stage, we anticipate operating our normal timetable up to lunch time. Students will be released to go home at **1.30pm** each day from **17-19 November (Wednesday- Friday)** to ease the students back into school routines. For any students who would like to stay longer, school library will be open to them until **4:30 pm on Wednesday 17 November and Thursday 18 November and 3:15 pm on Friday 19 November**.
- At this stage we plan to be back to a full day of learning from **Monday 22 November**. For the remainder of term 4 we have encouraged our teachers to plan lessons which will re-engage the students to learning in a fun and interactive way.

To support the return of our junior students, the additional measures that have been agreed by Cabinet to apply at Alert Level 3 step 2, based on public health advice are:

- face coverings are to be worn while indoors at all times
- face coverings will be required on school transport for people aged 12 and over
- time outdoors for students and staff will be maximised, including breaks, lunchtime, before and after school (unless the weather does not allow), and rooms will be aired during breaks
- exercising and singing will take place outdoors
- good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette will be supported by the use of hand sanitiser
- classrooms will be ventilated
- groups meeting indoors, including assemblies will be avoided
- high touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected each day
- only essential visitors will be permitted onsite – visitors are asked to wear a face covering when onsite
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You can be confident that this approach is designed to keep your children, our teachers, and our community as safe as possible and that we will be following **all** the public health measures that are required so that we can keep everyone onsite (and their whānau) as safe as possible.

The response we had from our seniors returning to school on 26 October has been fantastic with a healthy percentage of students returning to complete their work. I am pleased to be able to say that our students conducted themselves exactly as expected. We are looking forward to welcoming an equally high number of junior students returning from tomorrow.

Thank you if you have already completed the 'Return to School' survey. Early responses indicate 70% of our junior students intend to return to school tomorrow. If you have not yet completed the survey please click [here](#) to indicate if your son/daughter will be returning to school from tomorrow.

As for the School Lunches Program, Pita Pit will continue to serve lunches for students who attend and these will be served as usual during the morning form time period.

For students who do not return to school online learning will continue where the subject teacher has capacity to do so.

As always, we are here to answer any questions that you may have, and you are welcome to contact any one of the team. Click [here](#) to be redirected to our contact's page.

Ngā mihi,

The team at Papatoetoe High School