

22 July 2022

Welcome back to term 3 – please wear a mask!

Before we kick off term three next week, I wanted to say welcome back, and I hope that the school holiday break was rewarding for you and your whānau. At this stage, school is open for business (as usual) and all year levels will be back on campus ready for classes to start at 8:45am Monday morning. Should we need to roster any year levels home during this term, we will communicate this with you on each occasion and provide updates via our social media platforms (FaceBook, Instagram, etc).

In previous years we have found there is an increase in winter illnesses in schools at the start of Term 3 as students return after travelling and socialising during the holidays. This year cases of COVID-19 are increasing in most parts of the country, and we are also seeing high numbers of other winter illnesses.

For the start of Term 3, 2022, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health strongly recommend that all schools amend their mask policy for the first four weeks of term to require mask wearing in all indoor settings. We are following this recommendation at Papatoetoe High School.

This recommendation *does not* include any situation where mask wearing is not practicable, such as while eating and drinking, playing certain musical instruments, indoor sport, where it will have a significant impact on teaching and learning (for example, students with particular learning needs), certain activities such as singing or drama performance on stage, and PE.

[Wearing masks](#) can reduce new cases of the virus by as much as 53%. It works alongside other measures including vaccination, good ventilation, staying home when sick, and hand washing and other hygiene measures, to protect our students and staff.

We know that that some of our students are [exempt from wearing a mask](#). If they have an exemption card or a letter from their health provider, or we have agreed that mask wearing is not practicable for them, we will support them to not wear a mask.

Please make sure that students come to school ready to wear masks. Students should bring masks from home, but we will have a backup supply available, and school should you need a refreshed mask, or forget to bring one. Thank you for your support in helping to protect our school community.

Project 72 reminder

As a gentle reminder to those students who expressed interest in Project 72 options that require deposits to be paid, the deadline for your deposit to be paid is Friday 29 July (end of week 1, term 3). This will guarantee your spot.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday morning.

Ngā mihi nui

The team at Papatoetoe High School



PAPATOETOE
HIGH SCHOOL

Nicholson Avenue
Papatoetoe
Auckland
New Zealand

PO Box 23088
Hunters Corner
Manukau
2155

Ph 09 278 4086

Vaughan Couillault
Principal
MEdLM, PGDipSM,
BCom, DipTchg