

12 November 2021

Re: Return to school for Year 9 & 10 students and senior students end of year

Kia ora whānau, Talofa lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Fakalofa lahi atu, Namaste,

A big thank you for the 180 responses for the return to school. This was really helpful in our decision-making about a return to school. For those interested in the response, 68 percent of responses were positive about returning to school. While most of those returning did prefer fulltime, the Board and SLT have decided to prioritise our senior students and ensure a safe return by increasing our contact time with Year 9 & 10 students week by week. Our staff at PHS are looking forward to seeing students face-to-face.

This means that we will be allowing junior students on-site on the following days:

Friday 19 November
Monday 22 November
Tuesday 23 November
Monday 29 November
Tuesday 30 November
Wednesday 1 December
Monday 6 December
Tuesday 7 December
Wednesday 8 December
Thursday 9 December - Final day for Year 9 & 10

On the above days there will be no online google meets but work will be available for students to complete at home. On all of the other days, online learning will continue as it has for the duration of lockdown.

We will have the following health and safety measures in place:

- All students and staff must wear a face covering indoors at all times.
- All staff will have at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine, those not fully vaccinated are tested weekly.
- Classrooms will have open windows and doors to increase ventilation and classes will be held outside when practical.
- Physical distancing indoors will be kept at one metre and two metres outdoors, where possible.
- Physical activity and singing can only take place outside.

Students not adhering to the above guidelines will be asked to go home to continue their learning.

Please note that our focus at school will be on wellbeing and engagement. There will be no assessment or testing and teachers will be preparing short units of work designed to engage students and with hands-on activities. On the final two days we will run an elective programme for students to choose their preferred activities.

I understand that many people are anxious about their children returning to school and may wish to keep their children at home for the remainder of the year. If this is the case we would expect them to continue with our learning from home programme. Please contact our Attendance Officer if you wish to do this at zvn@papakurahigh.school.nz. If you need assistance with hard learning packs or chromebooks please contact Deputy Principal, Paul van Etten at vne@papakurahigh.school.nz.

When juniors are at school we will still be open for our senior students and their classes will run as normal. This year, a student will need to be signed out by their teachers and a Deputy Principal before they can be approved for study leave or holiday. They will need to have completed all of their internals or have achieved their qualification.

As I have announced earlier, we will not be holding regular prizegivings this year. We will, however, hold a Year 13 Graduation and Prizegiving at 1pm on Friday 10 December. We are exploring whether this can take place indoors or outdoors. Unfortunately, families will not be able to attend at this stage. We are hoping to have a livestream of the event available to view.

I am aware that this is a lot of information to digest but I would like to acknowledge the support of the community for our school at this time. We definitely appreciate the kind words and feedback we have received. I would encourage you, if you have any questions, please contact me at principal@papakurahigh.school.nz. I would be happy to answer your queries.

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou,



Simon Craggs
Tumuaki/Principal