



5 May 2021

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome back to our staff and students after our April vacation.

### **Staff News**

On Monday I attended a powhiri at Melville High School, along with a number of staff and students, as Matua Heemi Walker began his role as Assistant Principal. Matua Heemi had been HOD Te Reo since 2016 at Hillcrest and lately HOF Languages. During his time at Hillcrest Matua made a huge contribution as a languages teacher, Kapa Haka tutor, and supporting our school's tikanga journey. Matua also had a significant role in maintaining our close and positive relationship with Ngati Haua. He will be missed. We wish him well in his new role at Melville High School. At the end of last term we appointed Whaea Casey Mia Hawkins to the role of HOD Te Reo. Whaea had been teaching Food Technology and Social Studies at our school, but she has a significant background in Te Reo.

At the end of last term Mr Ben Kennedy resigned as Dean of Year 10, after 8 years as a Dean. Mr Kennedy made a significant contribution as a Dean, supporting the pastoral, academic and well-being needs of our students. Mrs Amber Ganley, formerly Assistant Dean of Year 13, has been appointed as Dean of Year 10.

In other staff news, Ms Jodie Terry married Mr Ben Kennedy in the holidays. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Kennedy and Miss Samantha Oehley married Mr Dene Franklin. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Franklin. Also Mr Josh Groom became a dad. Congratulations to Sammy and Josh on the birth of their son Mason.

### **Year 10 Great Barrier Experience**

On Tuesday 4 May, twenty eight Year 10 boys departed for their 5 week Great Barrier experience. The boys will spend the next 5 weeks on Great Barrier Island, participating in a range of outdoor experiences including sea kayaking, tramping, sailing, fishing, camping, abseiling, and a variety of team building activities. They will examine environmental issues and sustainability practices as a part of the educational programme that sits alongside the activities. The boys cook their own meals, wash their clothes, and learn valuable life skills.

Mr Iain Maclaurin, has joined former Hillcrest staff member Karllie Clifton and Hillary Outdoors staff to kick start the first of our two 5 week programmes. Other Hillcrest High staff are rostered to join the course over the boys and girls programmes.

When the boys return, 31 girls travel to Great Barrier Island to undertake the programme during the last 5 weeks of Term Two. This programme has been in operation for the last 10 years and has been highly successful and well received by the students attending and their families. Applications for the 2022 course will take place in Term Three. For inquiries please contact Mr Hans Uivel, HOF Health and Physical Education.

### **Teacher Only Days**

A reminder to parents that we have two teacher only days (TODs) scheduled this term. On **Wednesday 19 May** our second Regional Teacher Only Day for implementation of the changes to NCEA (full implementation for Level 1 occurs in 2023) will be held. All Waikato Secondary Schools will be closed on this day for planning purposes. Our second TOD is planned for **Friday 18 June** (Field Days Friday). This day has been set aside for all Hillcrest Kaahui Ako (Community of Learning) schools to meet.

### **Parking outside school**

We are concerned with the actions of some of our parents and members of the community in front of the school at the end of the school day. We are seeing an increasing number of “near misses” as drivers’ park on yellow lines or make poor driving decisions when picking up their children. Please follow the road code. We do have staff and senior students on duty, but your cooperation would be most appreciated.

Also, please do not use the staff car park next to the fields to pick up your children. We have staff departing at that time of the day, and visitors to the school such as sports coaches and cleaners entering the school grounds.

### **Winter sport**

Winter sport begins shortly. Hillcrest is a supporter of “fair play”, “play hard but play fair”. Last year was tough due to COVID, hopefully this year we can get a full season completed. Thank you to the many staff, parents, students and members of the community who support our extensive sports programme. These are all volunteers, so let's support them. Thank you to our Director of Sport, Mr Ryan Overmayer and Sports Coordinator Mr Bruce Fleming for their ongoing work in managing sport in our school.

### **NCEA update**

Our seniors are well into internal assessments towards their NCEA qualification. We are keeping a watchful eye on the progress our students are making and will make contact with home if we have concerns. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher, or Dean via email if you have concerns or any issues you would like to discuss.

Ngaa mihi  
Kelvin Whiting  
Principal