



8 June 2021

Dear parents and caregivers

Congratulations to Mr Williams - Headmaster of Napier Boys' High School

Deputy Principal, Mr Jarred Williams has been appointed to the position of Headmaster of Napier Boys' High School. Mr Williams has been Deputy Principal of Hillcrest High School for the last three years. During this time Mr Williams has become fully immersed in our school and community. He is passionate about teaching and learning and providing opportunities for all our students to succeed. Mr Williams will be a huge loss to our school, but this presents a great opportunity for him to lead a large successful boys school. He begins his role at the start of Term 3. We will shortly begin advertising for Mr Williams' replacement.

Providing leadership opportunities for staff to grow and develop as teachers and leaders is an important role of school leaders. Prior to Mr Williams joining our staff, the then Deputy Principal, Mr Ronan Bass was appointed as Principal of Ellesmere College in Canterbury. Recently Mr Craig Taylor (HOF Science) was appointed Deputy Principal of Matamata College, Ms Celeste Warner (Dean) to Assistant Principal of Waitaki Girls' High School and Mr Heemi Walker (HOD Te Reo and HOF Languages) to Assistant Principal at Melville High School. This speaks very highly of our school. It is also pleasing to see that we are getting really good quality staff to replace those who leave.

Staffing update

Since the beginning of Term 2 we have welcomed the following staff to our school.

- Mr Jason Maclean - English teacher, covering two maternity leave positions
- Ms Dalene Potgieter - Hospitality and Food and Nutrition teacher, replacing Mrs Josee Vergoz
- Mr Jordan Baker - English teacher, replacing Mrs Marama Salsano
- Ms Jenny McGuire - Social Studies teacher replacing Mrs Nicola Gammon who is on maternity leave
- Ms Mirta Salina - Spanish teacher beginning 14th June, replacing Ms Allyn Danzeisen
- Mrs Raima Turner-Abrahams - Hospitality and Food and Technology teacher, replacing Mrs Caseymia Hawkins who has been appointed to the position of HOD Te Reo, replacing Mr Heemi Walker, who is now Assistant Principal at Melville High School.
- Mr Kylem O'Donnell - Learning Assistant in Learning Support
- Ms Marie Brown - Learning Assistant in PAC and ILC
- Mrs Jo Ferguson - School nurse, beginning 5th July, replacing Mrs Alison Hills.

Existing staff with new responsibilities

- Mr Ben Smith - Assistant Dean of Year 10 replacing Ms Kashka Tunstall on maternity leave
- Ms Lisa Campbell - Assistant HOF Social Sciences, replacing Mrs Nicola Gammon on maternity leave
- Mr Ben Kennedy - Within School CoL position with a focus on Junior Achievement
- Ms Rachel Kuysten - Within School CoL position with a focus on Diversity

50 Year Reunion, Easter 2022

Hillcrest High is celebrating its 50th Jubilee in April 2022. The Reunion Committee has been hard at work organising events to make it an enjoyable occasion for everyone with plenty of opportunity to catch up and network with old friends and teachers. There will be social events, the chance to tour around the school, a sports day, a cultural concert, and a family event for the kids.

The website for the jubilee has been launched and tickets will be on sale shortly. On the website you can find out what events will be happening at the jubilee. A history of the school is also in the works and will be able to be purchased alongside your tickets to your chosen events. The website will also serve as the hub for the Alumni and Community Society.

For more information, you can visit the jubilee website <https://www.hillcresthigh50.com/> or contact them at contact@hillcresthigh50.com

New Hillcrest High School Website

We are currently working on developing a new website for the school. This will be completed by the end of the term and therefore accessible in advance of our **Open Day on Wednesday 4th August**. We are employing professional photographers to take images, including video and drone footage of the school. We are hoping (weather dependent) that this will begin on Thursday. I sent a letter to parents last week explaining that if you have concerns about your child appearing on any of the images (which may appear on the website or for other promotional material such as the prospectus) then please email the school at office@hillcrest-high.school.nz.

Teacher only day - Friday 18 June

Just a reminder that school will be closed for the day on Friday 18 June when all the schools in the Hillcrest Kaahui Ako (Community of Learning) are meeting together. The schools participating (and therefore closed for the day) are: Hillcrest High School, Berkley Normal Middle School, Tamahere, Silverdale, Matangi, Hillcrest, Newstead and Tauwhare. The focus of the day will be on making connections with our local community and in particular Ngaati Haua - history, tikanga and cultural connections.

Expectations and Standards

Thank you for supporting our expectations and standards concerning uniform and appearance. All classrooms have posters about cell phone use and appearance standards. A reminder that students should be wearing the correct uniform to and from school. With winter, there is a temptation for students to wear thermals and sports hoodies. Thermals should not be visible and sports hoodies are not part of the uniform. We are, however, investigating other options with NZ Uniforms, our uniform supplier. If your child is out of uniform for a short period of time, then please provide them with a note asking for their Dean or a member of the Senior Leadership Team to issue them a uniform pass. We are still able to support those families with financial difficulties with uniforms, through NZ Uniforms. Please see the year level Dean if that is the case.

Vaping

We have seen, like most schools in the country, an increase in the number of students who vape. This has also been reported in the media. Interestingly, over the years, schools have seen a significant reduction in the number of young people smoking. But we are seeing an upsurge in vaping. When caught, vaping students are dealt with through our discipline system, including contacting parents and caregivers.

Ngaa mihi
Kelvin Whiting
Principal

