

School Notice

Monday 15th November

Kia ora koutou,

Tonight's newsletter has more information for Year 9 and 10 students who may be returning to school on Wednesday, what is happening re vaccinations and school opening, and enrolments for 2022.

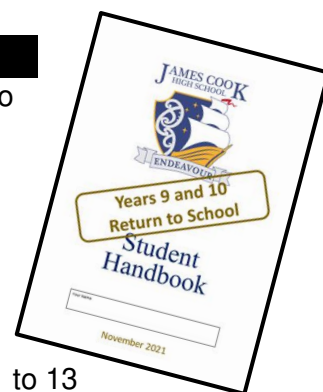
Year 9 and 10 Students Returning to School

Tomorrow evening's newsletter will have full details for the Year 9 and 10 students who want to return to schooling from Wednesday morning, 17th November.

The *Year 9 and 10 Student Handbook* is already on our website, so please read this.

But, so you can plan ahead:

- Please wear a mask to school. Fresh/new masks are available at the gate and in classes.
- Year 9 and 10 students will start on Wednesday at 8:40am (the usual period one start time). This will allow us to keep these students separate from Year 11 to 13 students in their first morning back.
- Year 9 and 10 students should enter through the gate onto the paved all-weather courts at the front of the school.
- They will be guided past several "collection tables" to either the playing fields near Puutake (fine weather) or the big gym (wet weather).
- Please be in uniform, including bringing a coat or warm outer layer, as classrooms may be cooler inside with the doors and windows being open for ventilation.
- Please bring a school bag with pens etc with you. If your child doesn't have any, they will be given some at their first class.
- Please bring all school work done during lockdown with them. Including any school workbooks, MOE hardpacks etc. This will be collected and marked. With results counting towards the Junior Diploma.



Whānau will make the decision for their own children whether you wish to have them on-site or continue working from home.

Please be mindful that the health and safety requirements at school are totally fixed and **must be followed** all of the time. If you are concerned that your child will struggle with these requirements and expectations then it may not be safe for them to be back on-site yet.

If you have any questions please contact me on email principal@jchs.school.nz or text/call 021 336 328.

Why The Differences Between Schools?

The Minister of Education and MOE have been quite clear in their decisions about when schools should be open or not, and the conditions that should apply.

However, not all schools are following this like we are. Some schools have reasons (building styles, small sites etc) that make it hard for them to re-open safely. Fortunately, we don't have any of these issues.

Our School Board charges me with ensuring that our school operates as safely and as successfully as possible – all of the time.

Knowing that if at any time I believed it was not safe to be open I would immediately advise our Board asking them to make an appropriate decision. Because it is our Board who govern our school - including opening and closing it as may be necessary.

Covid-19 is going to be with us for some time. Just like, about 100 years ago, the "Spanish Influenza" was in the community for several waves or seasons from 1918 to 1920.

Different to then, today we have the knowledge (*about viruses, ventilation, how to sneeze etc*), the tools (*masks and sanitiser*), and the technology (*vaccines and new medicines*) to stop a pandemic influenza from running rampant. We can now protect people better than we could ever do so in the past.

So, for our school, it is important that:

- We use these all of this knowledge and these tools to ensure our school is the safest place we can make it,
- Our staff and students become very good at shifting up and down the levels in the traffic light system as we need to. Because this is likely to be the future for the next year or two,
- We do not unnecessarily disrupt our student's learning and achievement, and
- We will close only if our School Board decides it is actually unsafe to be open. Or if directed by, the Minister, MOE, or Ministry of Health to close.

We also know that each whānau will decide for themselves whether or not their child will be on-site or learning from home. Having the right to do so at any time, and knowing that we will always tell our whānau the truth about what is happening and what is expected in our school.

As I see it, our school's obligation at times like this is to do as asked, and to ensure that we support both options whānau may want: Of 'learning at school' and also 'learning at home'. Not to decide for whānau.



Vaccinations

As you know, from today the only staff allowed to be on-site at all schools have had at least one vaccination. With two vaccinations required from the start of next year.

In our school virtually every staff member has received at least one vaccination.

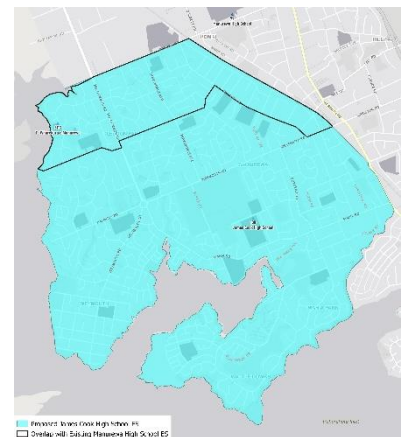
There is no requirement for students to be vaccinated. However, there is a requirement for us to know each student's vaccination status so we can maintain a vaccination register.

We know there are several reasons why whānau members and students may not be vaccinated, and that's OK. But if your child is able to be vaccinated I would encourage them to do so. This protects them and those around them. At school, out in the community, and at home – for them and those around them.

Enrolments for 2022: #1 JCHS has a New Enrolment Zone

The MOE has finished the process of putting in place a new enrolment zone for our school.

The zone covers the areas shown in this map, and includes an overlap with Manurewa High School's zone in the areas between Wordsworth Road – Swallow Drive – Russell Road – Gloucester Road north to Browns Road. Whānau in this area have the right to attend either JCHS or MHS.



**The JCHS zone takes effect at the very start of next year,
1st January 2022.**

**So, whanau/students who enrol now for next year do not have to go
into a ballot and can be accepted almost immediately.**

Enrolments received after 1 January 2022 will be under the rules for the new zone, which may include having to get through a ballot.

More information is on the MOE website at: <https://consultation.education.govt.nz/education/james-cook-high-school-enrolment-scheme/>

More information about enrolling for 2022 in tomorrow's newsletter.

Ngā mihi,

Grant
Grant McMillan,
Tumuaki • Principal