

Kia ora,

Welcome to our new parents and whānau for 2022, as well as those with students who are returning to Mount Aspiring College Te Kura o Tititea. While we are starting the year differently to how I had intended, at the red level of the COVID protection framework, the good news is that we are open for face to face learning.

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to celebrate our excellent 2021 NCEA results. Our students have, despite the challenges of last year, achieved outstanding NCEA results. At NCEA level one our pass rate is 88%, NCEA level 2 91%, and NCEA level 3, 89%. I am really proud of these results and would like to thank parents, whānau, teachers and the students themselves for their perseverance and determination to do well. Another cause for celebration is the number of past and current students representing New Zealand at the Winter Olympics this year. I would like to congratulate Gustav Legnavsky on being selected for the team, and it will be exciting to watch him compete at the games. And, all the very best to Zoi Sadowski-Synnott (left 2018), Finn Bilous (left 2017), Campbell Wright (left 2020) and Ben Harrington (left 2019) for their Winter Olympic events.

At the red level of the COVID protection framework the following are expected of us from the Ministry of Education:

- That we are open for onsite learning for all students;
- Basic hygiene measures are in place - hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and meeting spaces;
- Contact tracing - ensuring that our school roll and attendance is accurate; - Only fully vaccinated staff and support people have contact with students; - Indoor spaces will be well-ventilated;
- Face coverings are required for all students from years 4 and up when indoors or in close contact with others; and for students aged 12 and up on school transport (buses). When students are outside (for break times and subjects which are outdoors) face coverings are not required. Face coverings need to be worn as students move around the school from one classroom to another, students will be in close contact with each other at these change-of-class times.
- Face coverings are required for staff;
- Some local trips, which are essential for the curriculum, are able to go ahead; - Assemblies and any events are not encouraged, however we are able to meet with groups of less than 100 people.

For parents coming onsite to collect their child, please wear a face covering, sign in and SCAN the QR code. Essential meetings with parents and whānau will be able to take place. However, we will not be able to have parents at the first meeting with the year 7 students as we are only able to have 100 people gather at one time. We will video this for parents and whānau to be able to watch.

Some of our students will have a mask exemption, or due to a learning need, not be able to consistently wear a mask. Please contact your child's Dean to let them know if this is the case so that we can let classroom teachers know.

Start dates for students: please note that there are a number of changes in order for us to be able to work within the Red level of the COVID protection framework:

Date	Who/What	Where
27/01/2022	Course confirmation for Years 11-13 students who need to change their option subjects from 9am - 12pm.	ECR
31/01/2021	<p>Year 7 students 8:40am - 3:15pm Introduction to MAC day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Haka Powhiri ● Get to know your Whānau teacher ● Get to know your class teacher ● Get to know where your classes are, your timetable and some senior students. <p>Years 8-12 students who are new to the College in 2022 - 8:40am.</p> <p>Year 13 students 9:30am - 10:45am</p> <p><i>Year 12 and 13 students involved in leadership will be at school from 11am - 3:15pm for leadership training.</i></p>	<p>Meeting venues to be advised. A further email will be sent to the parents of year 7 students.</p> <p>Meet on the hard court area in front of the gym.</p> <p>Junior Deans will meet with new years 8 - 10 students after the Haka Powhiri, and Mr Crosbie and Mr Sheppard with years 11 and 12 students.</p> <p>Year 13 Barker Students: ECR Year 13 Iron Student: Room 39 Year 13 Pisa Students: Performance Room Year 13 Roy Students: Te Atea</p> <p>House Meeting for year 7, new 8-12 and year 13 students: 10:15am Barker - Gym Iron - Quad Pisa - Tennis Court Roy - top rugby field</p> <p>Whānau: 10:30am</p>

Normal timetable will start from Tuesday 1st February. Please check the portal for your timetable and note that the day starts with period one.

Communication

If you have a question of concern, there are lots of people to contact who will be able to help.

The **Whānau Teacher** is an important person and someone who your child will connect with most days.

For our year 7 - 8 students the **Integrated Studies Teacher** is the person who you will connect with in terms of academic progress, questions, help with events and camps, and the like.

The **House Dean** (junior or senior) is a great person to connect with if your child has achieved something great that needs to be celebrated and recognised at school, and is also someone who can help if you have questions about engagement, attendance and well being.

The **Head of Learning Area** or **Curriculum Leader** (for Years 7-9) can help with questions about courses, teaching and learning programmes and assessments.

The **SENCO** (Dawn Bosley) looks after students who have learning needs and special assessment conditions. If you have questions about in-class support, how to apply for special assessment conditions, please contact her at bosleyd@mtaspiring.school.nz.

The **Senior Leadership Team** are happy to help address any queries or concerns you may have about learning, things happening at school etc.

To find staff contact details: <http://mountaspiringcollege.nz/mac-staff.html>

Buses

Bus passes will be given to students who are eligible for school transport early in 2022. More information about bus routes is available by contacting the school office.

Queries

If you have any queries about the start of the year, please contact the office on 03 443 0499, or email office@mtaspiring.school.nz.

Finally, thank you for your support. While Omicron is not yet in our community, we all know people in New Zealand and overseas who have been impacted. I know that as a community we will all do the best that we can for our young people to ensure that they have a great start to the year.

Ngā mihi nui,

Nicola Jacobsen
Principal