



Tēnā koutou

Welcome to week 3 of term 1. It has been a very positive and productive start to the year with several key events helping to set a positive tone for the rest of 2025. I have been impressed with the way our students, even those new to Riccarton High School, have quickly settled into a routine.

Looking ahead, our focus for 2025 not only reflects the New Zealand Government's educational priorities but also those unique to our school. These include:

- Continuing to focus on developing literacy and numeracy skills with our learners
- Emphasising the importance of regular attendance at school in terms of student achievement - more details below
- Continuing to effectively cater for the learning needs of our very diverse range of students
- Ensuring that we regularly assess the impact that our initiatives are having on our learners

Further details regarding our strategic priorities can be found on our website or by clicking on this link:

[Riccarton High School Strategic Plans](#)

Yesterday, our first Year 10 class for 2025 headed off to camp at Orohaki. As a school we are very lucky to have our own facility in North Canterbury with a varied and engaging 3 day/2-night programme run by experienced adult instructors. A reminder that it is an expectation that both Year 9 and Year 10 students attend this camp. Year 9 students are scheduled to go to Orohaki in term 2.

ATTENDANCE:

Throughout 2024 we brought to your attention the New Zealand Government's target of having 80% of students attending school regularly (at least 90% of the time) by 2030. Last year Riccarton High School's average over the 4 terms was 64%. In 2025 our target is to have 70% attending regularly.

As we start the new school year there are two key messages to share around attendance:

1. It is important for parents/whānau to report absences. All you need to know about reporting absences can be found here: <https://www.riccarton.school.nz/attendance-student-services/>
2. It is very important that your child attends regularly and on time so that they have the best chance of experiencing educational success. The statistics below clearly show that even being absent 1 day a fortnight can have a significant effect on the loss of learning time:

If your child misses	that equals...	which is...
1 day a fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year

It is important that our school-whānau partnership continues to focus on maximising the amount of time that students are at school. If you have concerns, please contact your child's Whānau Teacher in the first instance.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

We are proud of our uniform and wearing it correctly with pride demonstrates respect for our Riccarton Way. All students must wear full and correct uniform at school, to and from school and when representing the school.

We are noticing a number of students attending school wearing incorrect footwear. While we appreciate that parents and caregivers may have just purchased footwear for their child, going forward, when it comes time to replace your child's shoes, we would like to ensure there is no ambiguity surrounding the guidelines for the correct school footwear.

School shoes are to be plain, black leather. Sports shoes are only to be worn during physical education and sports activities. Examples of the correct footwear options are displayed below.



Example of correct footwear



Example of correct footwear



Example of incorrect footwear



Example of incorrect footwear

If a student temporarily cannot meet the uniform requirements, they must report to Student Services before school and will be required to bring a signed note from their parent/caregiver. This note must be given to our staff in the Student Services office before school begins. We will endeavour to provide the item however, if we cannot, a uniform pass will be issued. When a student does not have a signed note, Student Services will telephone parents/caregivers.

If a student is seen wearing a non-uniform item without a pass, it will be confiscated, and the student will be able to collect the item from Student Services at the end of the day. If the item is confiscated for a second time, a parent/caregiver will be required to come and collect the item. The items we are having the most issues with are hoodies and non-regulation jackets.

Uniform items can be purchased online or in-store at NZ Uniforms, 455 Blenheim Road. We also hold a small stock of quality second-hand uniform items. To make a time to view these items please phone Viv or Grace in reception on 03 348 5073.

Please see here for a guide to our uniform options: <https://www.riccarton.school.nz/uniform/>

SCHOOL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP:

Just a friendly reminder for all our parents and caregivers: the library carpark is reserved solely for library patrons. Please do not use this area for drop-offs and pick-ups. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

A big thank you to all our families and caregivers who have been making an effort to keep our ākonga safe by dropping off and picking up students from outside the school grounds in the appropriate areas. We encourage all our families to join in the effort to keep our students, staff and visitors safe.

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Wednesday 12 February	10W Camp at Orohaki, returning Friday, 14 February.
Friday 14 February	L2 GEO Field Trip to the Avon River.
Tuesday 18 February	Filippino Parents' Evening. Manu Tiria 4. 6.00pm to 8.30pm
Wednesday 19 February	10A Camp at Orohaki, returning Friday 21 February
Thursday 20 February	L3 Biology Field Trip to Orana Park.
Friday 21 February	Class and individual school photos.
Wednesday 26 February	Year 9 Parents Information Evening. Manu Tiria. 6.00pm-8.00pm.
Thursday 27 February	Board of Trustees meeting. RHS Board Room. 5.00pm - 9.30pm.
Friday 28 February	2TEF & 3TEH Field Trip to Ohoka Farmers Market.
Tuesday 4 March	Gala Day
Friday 7 March	Fortnightly Reports issued

Ngā mihi nui,

N Haywood

Neil Haywood
PRINCIPAL