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Principal Mr Dale Burden B.A. Dip. Tchg

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I trust that everyone has enjoyed the break and that our students are refreshed and ready for the term ahead. A special welcome to the new families that have chosen to join us from other Auckland high schools and beyond.

Term 3 promises to be busy for our students, especially as our seniors meet internal assessment deadlines and prepare for their practice exams leading up to the final NZQA examinations in November. These practice exams are crucial as they provide students with a clear indication of their progress, highlighting any areas that need further attention before the external exams. They also serve as evidence for derived grades in the event of a legitimate absence during the NZQA exams. Practice exams will take place from 16 to 20 September and the timetable will be available on our website early in Term 3. More information regarding these exams is available [here](#).

In the weeks ahead, we also look forward to welcoming our school community at the following events:

- **Major School Production – *Blood Brothers***: Tuesday 30 July – Saturday 3 August, 7:00pm in the Bill Dimery Theatre.
- **Year 9 2025 Enrolment Information Evening**: Wednesday 7 August.
Session 1 – Starts 4:00pm. Session 2 – Starts 5:00pm. Both sessions begin in the Bill Dimery Theatre. To book your session, please visit our [website](#). Spaces are limited.
- **Year 10 Subject Information Evening**: Thursday 15 August, 5:00pm - 7:00pm, in the Bill Dimery Performing Arts Centre. This is a valuable evening for Y10 students and their parents as they consider subject choices for 2025
- **Dance Showcase 2024**: Wednesday 28 – Friday 30 August, from 7:00 – 9:00pm, in the Bill Dimery Theatre.
- **Howick College 50th Jubilee**: Friday 18 – Saturday 19 October. Please click [here](#) to register for the events you would like to attend.

ENROLMENTS

We have been receiving enrolments for 2025 for over six months now, with high interest from local in-zone families. We recommend that in-zone families enrol as early as possible to ensure their child has the best chance of securing entry into their preferred subject or pathway. There will also be limited out-of-zone places available at all levels.

SCHOOL TONE

It is pleasing to observe the overall improvement in the school's tone this year. We have raised expectations regarding uniform wearing, personal grooming, attendance, and general behaviour. Our students have worked hard to meet these higher standards; however, there is still room for improvement. Please see below for some general reminders of our expectations:

1. **Uniform & Grooming:** As winter continues, please ensure students stay warm wearing the appropriate uniform items as stated on our [website](#). Please note the following:
 - Singlets **ONLY** may be worn underneath the school shirt and **must not** be visible.
 - Tee shirts **are not** permitted
 - Long sleeved thermal wear of any colour **is not** permitted.
 - **ONLY** Howick College jackets are to be worn. Hoodies and puffer jackets **are not** permitted.
 - Students must be **clean shaven** unless they have been granted an exemption by their House Deputy Principal or the Principal for cultural or religious reasons.

Non-regulation items will be confiscated and returned following the [Uniform Process](#).

2. **Attendance:** We are pleased with the improvement in student attendance and the adherence to the attendance procedure. If your child is unable to attend school, please ensure you follow the school [Attendance Procedure](#).
3. **Punctuality:** The daily start times for 2024 are 9:10am from Tuesday to Thursday and 8:45am on Mondays and Fridays to allow for assemblies and tutor class. Please note the [Late Procedure](#).

As part of our regular review cycle for 2025, we are reviewing the 9:10am start times on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

4. **Mobile Phones & Personal Digital Devices:** We have been very pleased with student adherence to our [Mobile Phone & Personal Digital Devices Policy](#) inside the classroom. However, outside the classroom during interval and lunchtime, there is still a need for improvement. Duty staff spend a disproportionate amount of time ensuring compliance with the granted exemptions. Students will be reminded that mobile phones and digital devices must be silent and out of sight during interval and lunchtime, as well as when moving between classes, unless they are using it for one of the exempted reasons.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Dale Burden
Principal