

25 August 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers

YEAR 9 CAMPS - ONLINE FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY WEDNESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2022

Camping is an important part of the learning process of all New Zealand High School students and the Ministry of Education requires all Year 9 students to participate in Outdoor Education.

Howick College runs a very successful Year 9 camps programme at our own facility in the Waharau Regional Park. Year 9 Camps take place in Term 4. There are six camps each lasting three days and two nights and all students are expected to attend the camp for their House.

These camps not only provide an important opportunity for students to acquire valuable skills and learning outside the classroom, they are also an extremely enjoyable and memorable experience. Students spend one night sleeping in cabins and the other night in tents. Activities may include Bush Walk, Orienteering, Low and High Ropes activities, Sailing, Kayaking, Archery, Camp Fire, Burma Trail, Mountain Biking, Frisbee Golf and Camp Cooking.

Safety

Your child's safety is of paramount importance. During the past 20 years running these camps, we have established high standards in the area of safety. We follow the recommended guidelines and have risk analysis management systems in place. Each activity will be supervised by qualified or suitably trained staff and/or instructors. Every camp includes a Safety Officer. There are no swimming or beach activities. Life jackets are compulsory for students who participate in kayaking or yachting. There are staff who are qualified in First Aid at all camps but, in the event of a more serious injury, the Medical Centre at Ngatea is 20 minutes by car and Middlemore Hospital is one hour away.

Howick College will strictly follow all Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health Covid-19 protocols. For the safety of all staff, students and instructors, we strongly advise and encourage your child to undertake a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to their camp's departure.

Cost and Payment

The cost per student is \$220.00 and payment is due by Wednesday 26th October. If you have already made payment – thank you. For those yet to pay, you are welcome to set up a payment plan through our Cashier if this is more convenient. The minimum amount of each instalment is \$20.00. To set up a payment plan, please email our Cashier on cashier@howick.school.nz.

Please note: no refunds can be made after 11th November 2022 unless your child is unwell immediately prior to the camp and subsequently produces a medical certificate or positive RAT result.

Payments can be made either on the Parent Portal or direct into our bank account.

Our Howick College Bank Account number is: 12 3011 0160054 03
Please use your child's student ID number and Year 9 Camp as your reference when making a payment.

Medical and Parental Consent Form

Here is the link to the online Medical and Parental Consent form:

<https://forms.gle/Dagx44ngMsAgN5xs5>

This form must be completed and submitted online (complete only ONE form per student) no later than **Wednesday 28th September**. Students must bring their own medication (including EpiPen) for hay fever or other allergies. Please note that we do **not** stock an EpiPen.

Gear List and Food

Here is a link to the gear list on the school website:

https://www.howickcollege.school.nz/files/ugd/95efbc_140d37266dfe42f3bdd748fcaefbca62.pdf

Please follow this carefully and, where possible, label gear. The school does not accept any responsibility for lost or stolen property. Parents are asked to help us in checking that students bring gear appropriate to a school camp and not to allow the banned items on the list. All food will be supplied. If your child has any serious special dietary requirement, please indicate this on the Medical and Parental Consent form.

Conduct

Students are under control of the staff at all times and acceptable behaviour is as would be expected at school, with emphasis on safety, thoughtfulness, and courtesy towards others. Boys and girls will have separate sleeping quarters. In keeping with school policy, any wilful disobedience or the use of alcohol, smoking, vaping or illegal drugs of any nature will warrant immediate expulsion from the camp at the parent's expense and no refund of camp fees will be made.

General

If your child's camp dates clash with urgent family arrangements, or if for any reason your child is unable to attend camp, please contact Mr Thomas by email mark.thomas@howick.school.nz by 16th September. If a student is prevented from going to camp on the day of departure due to unforeseen circumstances, please phone the office by 8.45am. All Year 9 students that do not attend their camp are required to be in their regular classes at school. Attendance at school is compulsory.

Further information

The Howick College website has a link to the Y9 Camps. This will be updated with current information and any changes. See <https://www.howickcollege.school.nz/year-9-camp>

Kind regards

Mr Mark Thomas
Deputy Principal