

HOWICK INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



27 November, 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers

STUDENTS RETURNING 2021

We have had a very eventful year and while there have been some challenges with COVID, there is much to celebrate. Thank you for all your support throughout the year. Our Year 7 students have blossomed and we are looking forward to all they will achieve next year. Included in this letter is important information and reminders to support a smooth end to the year and transition to next year.

School Reports - Your child's school report will be sent home on **Friday 11 December**. Many of the students have made pleasing progress across the year and there have been some outstanding achievements. The report provides important information about their next steps and I encourage you to discuss these with your child over the holiday break. This will provide for a focused start to the New Year.

Prize-giving - A reminder that our prize-giving will be held at the Howick Leisure Centre on **Monday 14 December, from 9:30am to 11:30am**. All students will participate and will walk across the school field to the ceremony venue. We look forward to seeing many of you there. It is a very special occasion and it will be a wonderful celebration of the achievements of our students.

Final Day 2020 - Year 7 students finish at **12.00pm on Wednesday 16 December**. Year 8 students finish at **3:00pm on Tuesday 15 December**.

Dates - The Term dates for 2021 are:

Term 1	Tuesday 2 February – Friday 16 April Thursday 1 April - TOD
Term 2	Monday 3 May - Friday 9 July TOD Friday - 4 June
Term 3	Monday 26 July – Thursday 30 September Friday 1 October - TOD
Term 4	Monday 18 October - Tuesday 14 December Tuesday 26 October - TOD

First Day 2021 - School begins on **Tuesday 2 February 2021**. Your child should be at school by 8:20am. Students will meet under the dome where we will have a brief assembly and assign classes. Classes begin at 8:35am on normal school days.

Meet-the-Whanau Evening - This will be held on **Thursday 11 February**. It will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher, and share your aspirations for your child's learning.

We want to hear from our families about their goals for their child. Therefore we will be having 10 minute one-on-one meetings with teachers.

To support with the organisation of this, a newsletter will be going home on the first day of 2021 with the interview booking arrangements.

Classroom Composition - We are in the process of organising classes for 2021. All classes will be composite (combination of Year 7 and Year 8).

For the most part Year 7 students will remain with their current teacher. However, staffing changes and a range of other factors may result in a change of class.

If your child is not returning next year, please advise us **as soon as possible** by calling 534 3922 or email: admin@howickint.school.nz

As last minute changes may be required to class placements, students are informed of their classes on the first day of school, Tuesday 2 February.

Digital Learning – We are a digital learning school and we encourage students to bring a device to school. Digital technologies is part of the curriculum. Our students use a laptop or Chromebook. Please ensure your child is equipped with a device that meets the specified requirements. For more details, please see the school website.

School Donation – You will have no doubt heard about the Government Donation Bill in the media. This means that the government will give \$150.00 per student to decile 1 – 7 schools if they choose to ‘opt-in’ to the scheme.

While \$150 is less than our school’s previous donation the Howick Intermediate School Board of Trustees has decided to enter into the scheme as we think it eases the financial burden on parents. Therefore we will not be asking for a donation from parents in 2021.

However, this donation will only cover the bare minimum costs. At Howick Intermediate, we pride ourselves on providing an excellent education for our students, which includes education experiences above the government funded minimum.

To continue providing the level of education and the facilities we think that your child deserves, we will still need your support. In all areas of the school, we will be offering optional enhancement activities that parents can pay for.

While these activities are not essential, and many schools do not offer them, we think they significantly enrich the learning experience. We will inform you of these activities in advance and offer you the opportunity to pay for your child to participate.

We look forward to your support to enable us to continue to provide our amazing curriculum.

Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) – Due to an overwhelming indication that our community is keen to continue with EOTC at Howick Intermediate, all students will be invited to attend a one-night, two-day camp in March 2021 at WillowPark, Eastern Beach. The cost will be approximately \$95.00. These camps cannot happen without our whanau support, as we need assistance through parent helpers and payment of costs.

Personal Presentation - We take a good deal of pride in the presentation of students at Howick Intermediate and appreciate your support in helping us to maintain the high standards that have been established. Uniform items that are no longer in good repair or no longer fit will need to be replaced.

Uniform – I have attached the school’s Uniform Procedure for your information. Articles are supplied by John Russell Schoolwear, Moore Street, Howick, phone 534 9373. If you wish to pre-order you can have your child measured for their uniform beforehand. They are more than happy to organise a lay-by if required. You can arrange to have the uniform delivered to you or you can collect it from the store. If you consider your child to be outside the normal size range, please contact John Russell **by mid-November** for any special sizes to be made. This is essential to ensure a school uniform for the commencement of the 2021 school year.

Second-hand Uniform Sale – We will be holding a second-hand uniform sale on Thursday 17 December 2020 from 1.30pm – 2.30pm. Cash and EFTPOS accepted. We anticipate limited items will be available. If you have any items to sell you will need to complete our second hand uniform sale form which will be sent home with your child. All uniform items to be sold must be in good second hand condition. We are unable to sell: socks; dirty, severely faded, damaged or ripped items; and no items with broken zips. Uniforms for sale must be dropped off to the school office on **Thursday 17 December** between **8:00am and 10:30am**.

Jackets – The school jacket may be ordered from John Russell Schoolwear. We prefer that jackets are only worn outdoors and at sports events. While the school jacket is optional, all students are required to wear **the school cardigan/jersey which is a compulsory item**.

Footwear - For Summer (Terms 1 and 4) students wear plain, flat black school (not fashion) sandals. For winter (Terms 2 and 3), students wear leather lace-up school shoes (no sports or skate style shoes for boys and no flat pump/ballet/slip on style shoes for girls). In winter, girls wear long, white knee length socks and boys wear long, grey knee length, school regulation socks purchased from John Russell Menswear. Socks are expected to be worn pulled up.

Jewellery - A reminder that our procedures stipulate one small plain stud in each ear lobe. Other body piercing is not accepted unless for genuine religious or cultural reasons. A wristwatch may be worn.

Hairstyling - Hair styling products, unnatural hair colour or styles, or extreme colouring or streaks and patches of colour, are not permitted. Hair over the collar or longer is expected to be tied back. Hair must be away from the face. Hair ties should be black, white or burgundy.

Make-up - Cosmetics are not to be worn to school.

Hats - Wearing the school hat is compulsory during Terms One and Four.

Stationery Requirements – Stationery packs will be available from MySchool through OfficeMax, www.myschool.co.nz from **mid-December 2020**. The school does not sell stationery. Please have stationery named and books covered, ready for use on day one. Please note OfficeMax no longer operate physical stores and all orders must be placed online.

Buses – Auckland Transport runs a school bus service to Howick Intermediate to and from Manukau. The school is also served by public bus routes. Information about these bus services are available on our website and from the school office. You can also find details on the Auckland Transport website: www.at.govt.nz

Website and Facebook– For more information and regular communication about school life please visit our school website: www.howickint.school.nz and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/howickintermediateschool/>

I look forward to seeing many of you at the prize-giving on Monday 14 December at 9:30am and working with you to achieve the best outcomes for your child in 2021. I wish you a successful end to the year and a happy and safe holiday season with your family.

Yours sincerely

Sara Pickering
PRINCIPAL