

3 October 2025

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students

I hope your daughter has enjoyed a well deserved break and is returning to school feeling recharged and ready to embrace all that Term 4 has in store. This update aims to:

- Introduce new staff joining our college community
- Share a few important reminders regarding student matters
- Highlight key dates and events for the term ahead (please note, additional details and further calendar items will be shared via upcoming newsletters)

I want to acknowledge that our school roll is under pressure for 2026, with a growing waitlist of families hoping to join our community. We are aware that state school ballots have now taken place, and with this in mind, if you know that your daughter will not be returning next year, I encourage you to let us know as soon as possible. This will assist us greatly with our planning and allow us to offer places to other families who are eager to be part of Carmel College.

Over the course of this term, we are aware that there is still much to be clarified regarding curriculum and assessment changes, and that negotiations across the sector remain ongoing. While media coverage of these issues may at times create uncertainty or distraction, I want to reassure you that we have an exceptional team of dedicated teachers, support staff, and administrators. Our priority remains firmly on our students and supporting them to complete this academic year to their full potential.

As always, we look forward to a term where our young women continue to grow and be empowered through our Catholic education in the Mercy tradition, to confidently challenge and shape their future.

New staff

- This term, we warmly welcome Mrs Maria Fouhy, who will be teaching 7JGR and Religious Education to Year 7 and 8 classes, as well as serving as the atawhai teacher for K8 for the remainder of the year.

We also welcome back Mrs Pauline Larkin who was on sabbatical during term 3.

New Board of Trustees, including Staff and Student Rep

Following the recent Board of Trustees elections our elected parent representatives are;

- Julie Scott
- Michael Drumm
- Annabella D'Lima
- Melanie Kenrick
- Peter (Young Jae) Lim

Mrs Katie Pidgeon is the staff representative and Penny Macdonald has been elected as our student representative.

On behalf of the Carmel College Board of Trustees we would like to thank all who were nominated, and to all who voted.

Carmel College Master Plan Community Survey

Our proprietor board, Carmel College Auckland Limited, are beginning the process of developing a new Master Plan for our school property. This plan will help shape the future of our learning spaces, facilities, and grounds for years to come.

Input from our community—students, parents, staff, and whānau—is vital to ensuring that future developments reflect and meet our community's needs. I invite you to share your thoughts on what should be prioritised.

We strongly encourage you to take a few minutes to complete this survey, and thank you in advance for taking the time to share your perspective. The survey will close on Friday 17th of October.

Link to google form for community survey: [Master Plan Community Survey](#)

First Aid Room

The First Aid Room is open from 9.30am- 2.30pm and is staffed by our Health and Attendance Coordinator, Mrs Yvette Smith.

Support will continue outside core hours when needed, and staff will respond promptly to urgent health issues. Families are reminded to keep unwell students at home to aid recovery and prevent spreading illness. If a student becomes unwell at school, she must report to the First Aid room, and staff will contact you if collection is necessary.

We do not provide any strapping tape for pre-existing injuries. For any new or pre-existing sporting injuries your daughter might have, we highly recommend **Dynamic Physio**. They're conveniently located across the road at 215 Shakespeare Road and have already been collaborating with our Seniors teams this year.

If you have any queries relating to the first aid room, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Toni Ferens, tfrens@carmel.school.nz.

Measles cases in Aotearoa *(Information from the Ministry of Education)*

Recent measles cases linked to overseas travel have been reported in Te Tai Tokerau and Queenstown. Cases were active in the community while infectious and there is a risk of measles circulating there, and more widely in Aotearoa.

Points to share with parents, caregivers and the school community:

- Measles is very contagious and can make people of any age very sick.
- Watch for measles symptoms – fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes and a blotchy rash.

[Measles: Locations of interest in Aotearoa New Zealand – Health New Zealand](#)

- If anyone in your whānau has measles symptoms keep them home and contact a doctor or Healthline urgently on 0800 611 116.

- Vaccination is the best protection from measles. Check all whānau are immunised.

[Measles immunity – Health New Zealand](#)

[Measles, mumps and rubella \(MMR\) vaccine – Health New Zealand](#)

- Anyone closely exposed to measles who has not received two MMR vaccinations cannot attend their school | kura for at least eight days.

Reports

At the end of term 3 Progress Reports for all students were sent out and made available on the Kamar Portal. These reports are a continuation from the term 1 and 2 reports, and you will receive one further report at the end of term 4. The report has been designed to indicate where your daughter is at with regard to organisation, academic engagement and attitude to learning.

For students in Year 7-11, assessment information that is available at the time of these reports being produced has been recorded in the report.

For students in Year 12-13 there are further sections that contain your daughter's NCEA summary to date, the results from the recent practice examinations and a table of the confirmed NCEA internal assessment results- those that have been marked, moderated, and finalised.

Additionally, for all students in Year 7-13 the report includes a breakdown of your daughter's attendance by subject, and there is a further summary section of her participation in activities and groups to date for 2025.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please contact your daughter's teachers or her Dean.

Cellphones

We would like to remind you about our Carmel College phone usage rules:

- Student's phones are to be in their bags, silent and not used at school, until after 3.15pm.
- Students are not to use their phones during class time. This includes during Atawhai, morning tea and lunchtime.
- 'Phones are not to be seen until 3.15'

If you need to contact your daughter during the school day, you can either email them using your daughter's school email address or leave a message at Reception to be delivered.

Uniform requirements and information

While most of our students wear the uniform proudly, we have noticed an increase in jewellery, in particular multiple earrings, rings and bracelets. We have also noticed that some skirts are getting very short. Please note the following:

- The compulsory uniform items for all students are: blazer, skirt, cardigan, shirt and black leather lace-up shoes, black crew length socks and black opaque tights for formal occasions.
- Carmel PE top/shorts/leggings are also compulsory for students in Years 7-10.
- All students' hair should have a clean, tidy, natural appearance. Hair longer than collar length needs to be tied up.
- Jewellery - one plain stud or sleeper earring in each lower lobe, cross or pounamu pendant worn under the blouse.
- All school uniform items can be purchased from our supplier, NZ Uniforms which is located at 19A Douglas Alexander Parade, Rosedale.

A Restorative Approach

Carmel College is a Restorative, PB4L school. We focus on repairing harm, understanding perspectives, restoring relationships, and encouraging students to take responsibility. This approach reflects our Catholic and Mercy values, fostering a culture of compassion, dignity, and respect. We appreciate your support in maintaining a positive and inclusive environment.

Attendance

The Government regular attendance target is that 80% of students will be present for more than 90% of the Term by 2030.

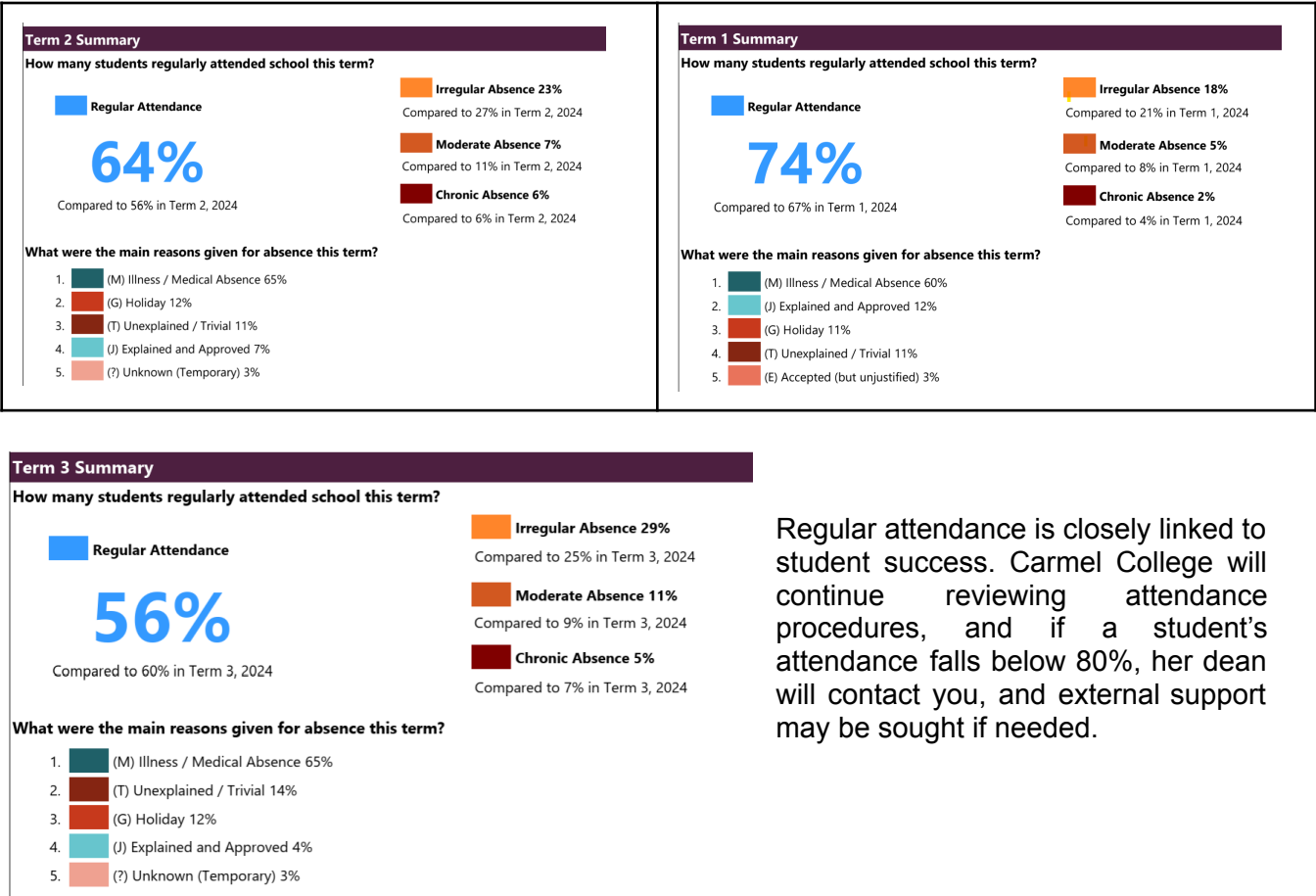
As a result of this target, attendance data for each school is being collected by the Ministry of Education. Four ‘Student Attendance Categories’ have been developed which are reported back to individual schools termly to provide a snapshot of how the school is performing in reaching this target.

Below are the four ‘Student Attendance Categories’

	Student Categories	Student with	Equivalent to
	Regular attendance	over 90% attendance	missing fewer than 5 days across a term
	Irregular absence	more than 80% and up to 90% attendance	absent for between 5 and 9 days across a term
	Moderate absence	more than 70% and up to 80% attendance	absent for between 10 and 14.5 days across a term
	Chronic absence	70% attendance or less	absent for 15 days or more across a school term

Whilst our school attendance as a whole is **above 90% on a weekly basis**, the Government target, and the reports that are being provided, drill down into individual student’s attendance, so that schools can understand how frequently each student attends.

Below is our student attendance data snapshot for Terms 1-3.



Student Absences, Late Arrivals, Early Departures, Appointments during the school day

All absences, including late arrivals and early departures, must be logged in advance via SchoolBridge. Students must sign in/out at reception, and cannot leave without prior notification. Accurate records help keep students safe. If a student becomes unwell at school, she must go to the First Aid room, and staff will contact you if collection is needed.

School contact for SchoolBridge: Mrs Sharlene O'Donnell (sodonnell@carmel.school.nz)

Co-curricular opportunities

Carmel offers a variety of co-curricular activities. For information on Music, Sport and clubs, please see the Carmel website: Menu – 'Student Life/ Co-curricular at Carmel', or the links below:

- Music Department: [Carmel Music Dept](#)
- Student groups and clubs - information [HERE](#)
- Sport at Carmel [Current Term 4 Sports Signup Links](#)

Group and Team Photos - Wednesday 6th October in the Carmel school hall [Schedule Link](#)

All students are to take note of the uniform requirements. The school uniform includes a blazer for the photos and the sports playing uniform includes the correct shoes. All photos must follow the school uniform rules around jewellery and hair being tied up.

Note the schedule has two tabs on the sheet, photos will be running all day on two halves of the school hall. Any students who are late to their photo will miss their timeslot, we do not wait.

Contacts and General Information

If there are any issues to be discussed with the school, the first point of contact is your daughter's Dean, followed by members of the Senior Leadership Team and then the Principal.

As it may be difficult to phone during the school day, emailing is the recommended communication method. Please note that staff will endeavour to reply within 24 hours. Email contacts for all staff are found on our website:

www.carmel.school.nz/contact/

Before and After School Reminder

If your daughter drives to school, please make sure she is aware that she cannot park in the bus bay before 9am (noting that school starts at 8.45am).

If you collect your daughter after school, please avoid parking or arranging to meet her at the neighbouring medical units or businesses along Shakespeare Road.

Finance Update

- All Term 3 student accounts should now be fully paid.
- Term 4 student accounts were emailed on 19 September with payment due by 10 October, 2025

If you have any queries regarding your student account, please contact: Mrs Lorna Bryce (lbryce@carmel.school.nz)

- For a breakdown of term costs, please visit the Carmel College website: [Finance - Carmel College](#)

- Payments may be made via Monitor - accessed through SchoolBridge. If you have any questions regarding Monitor, please contact Mrs Claudia Officer, Business Manager (cofficer@carmel.school.nz)

Term 4 Key events and activities

This term has a number of events and activities we wish to highlight for your family calendar. Please see below a summary of important dates for the term ahead. Please ensure that you read the newsletter for updates.

As mentioned, I hope your daughter has had a wonderful term break and we look forward to her back on Monday, ready for a successful and busy Term 4.

Ngā mihi nui,



Sarah Kemble
Principal

Term 4 Key events and activities

Please note, additional details and further calendar items will be shared via upcoming newsletters.

Week 1 (A)

Wednesday 8 October	Team photos - Link to Schedule
Thursday 9 October	Year 8 vaccinations
Friday 10 October	Tamaki Makaurau Mercy Day Secondary Schools Combined Mass - Victory Centre - Whole school attending.

Week 2 (B)

Tuesday 14 October	Y9-13 Sports Awards Evening
Wednesday 15 October	Music Awards Evening

Week 3 (A)

Monday 20th October	School Board meeting 5.30-7.30 pm
Wednesday 22 October	Final Whole School Assembly for 2025 Y7 and 8 Music Showcase

Week 4 (B)

Monday 27 October	Labour Day - Public Holiday - <i>school closed for instruction</i>
Tuesday 28 October	Senior Prizegiving Evening Y12 and 13
Thursday 30 October	Thanksgiving Mass 9.30am in the school gym Leavers' Dinner Y13 Last day of school for Years 12 and 13

	Friday 31 October	Orientation Day for new year 7's to Carmel in 2026
Week 5 (A)		
	Tuesday 4 November	NCEA Exams Commence
	Friday 7 November	Teacher Only Day - <i>school closed for instruction for Y7-11</i> NCEA Exams continue
Week 6 (B)		
	Friday 14 November	Year 11 Exam Assessments Commence PTFA Carmel Twilight Christmas Market
Week 7 (A)		
	Friday 21 November	NCEA Exams End Year 11 Exam Assessments End Last day of school for Year 11
	Sunday 23 November	Year 10 Camp - Group 1 Departs
Week 8 (B)		
	Monday 24 November	Activity Week Y7-10 tbc
	Wednesday 26 November	Year 10 Camp - Group 1 Returns, Group 2 Departs
	Saturday 29 November	Year 10 Camp - Group 2 Returns
Week 9 (A)		
	Monday 1 December	School Board Meeting 5.30-7.30pm
	Wednesday 3 December	Y9 - 11 Junior Prizegiving
	Thursday 4 December	Y7/8 Junior Prizegiving Last day of term
	Friday 5 December	Teacher Only Day