



**CAMBRIDGE
MIDDLE
SCHOOL**
CONNECT · INSPIRE · GROW



Cambridge Middle School - Issue 1 - February 2026

Term One

03 March

WIMS Volleyball

04 March

Swimming Sports at CHS
for more information click
[HERE](#)

10 March

WIMS Swimming

17 March

WIMS Touch

27 March

Parent Teacher
Conferences
Further Information to come

31 March

WIMS Ultimate Frisbee

02 April

Last day of Term 1

03 April

Good Friday

20 April

First day of Term 2



Principal's Pen 2026

Week 4 Term 1

Kia ora koutou,

It is already week 4 and we are definitely underway with the many opportunities on offer at CMS. It has been great to be back at school, and to see students trying new things, making new friends and showing our school values regularly. Our staff have already had two professional learning days focusing on the new Mathematics and English curriculum areas, to ensure we are well placed to deliver high quality core learning.

This year, we have welcomed 300 new students to Cambridge Middle School. The school already has a settled and positive atmosphere, with all students learning about the HERO values and expectations that guide our culture at CMS. I want to acknowledge the fantastic way our students, especially our new ones, have adapted to their new school environment. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout your child's time at CMS. We know the transition from primary to middle school can be a big one, and our staff are committed to supporting both students and whānau during this time. We have an open-door policy and encourage you to make contact with your child's teacher as the first point of contact if necessary. Our teachers and staff are dedicated to supporting your children academically, culturally, socially, and emotionally as they grow through these crucial years.

It was great to connect with a number of families who took the opportunity to meet their child's teacher before school started and on Wednesday at our Whānau picnic.



Principal's Pen Continued...

New Staff for 2026

This year, we are delighted to welcome back Gareth Cogan. Gareth was a homeroom teacher at CMS and left 4 years ago to teach Food Technology at Hillcrest High. This year he returns as our Food Tech specialist. Matua Haydn has also enjoyed the start to 2026 in his role as Deputy Principal and has enjoyed getting to know the staff and meeting many students and whānau.

Opportunities at CMS

CMS is always a busy place, and Term 1 is already full of exciting opportunities. Sports trials for inter-school, Totara Sports Camp and AIMS teams have begun. The production cast has been selected and our Kapa Haka roopu as well as our specialist subject enrichment programmes are underway. We also have a variety of interest clubs and interclass sports to engage children at lunchtimes. Very soon we will begin our academic enrichment programmes in Mathematics and English.

Our School HERO Values

At CMS, our HERO values guide everything we do:

| h | e | r | o |
|--|--|--|--|
| HAPPINESS HĀKOAKOA | EXCELLENCE PANEKIRETANGA | RELATIONSHIPS WHANAUNGATANGA | OPPORTUNITY WHEAKO |
| <p>We provide an environment where everyone's identity is nurtured and they are cared for and safe.</p> <p><i>"Mauria te pono"</i></p> <p>Believe in yourself, to be authentic, to be honest</p> | <p>We encourage the pursuit of our personal best in environments that are engaging and innovative.</p> <p><i>"Whaia te iti kahurangi"</i></p> <p>Strive for excellence</p> | <p>We create a sense of belonging through valuing diversity, kindness and respect.</p> <p><i>"Aroha atu, aroha mai"</i></p> <p>If kindness is sown then kindness you shall receive</p> | <p>We offer a variety of meaningful and enriching experiences to enhance our lives.</p> <p><i>"Tūwhitia te hopo"</i></p> <p>Feel the fear and do it anyway</p> |

To set our students up for success, our teachers have been unpacking these values with students, helping them understand what they look and sound like in everyday school life. This focus helps build a positive class, team, and school culture.

CMS Curriculum

In 2026 a strong focus will also be placed on Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, supported by research-based learning programmes such as The Code, Writer's Toolbox, and Oxford Mathematics. Our teachers are actively engaging in professional development to ensure high-quality teaching in these areas.

Principal's Pen Continued...

Sun Safety

At CMS, we encourage students to become more self-managing, but we also recognise they still need support in making healthy choices. During Terms 1 and 4, school hats are a compulsory uniform item and must be brought to school daily. Sunscreen is available in classrooms, and teachers regularly remind students to apply it before breaks.

How you can help at home: Encourage your child to apply sunscreen before leaving for school, ensure they bring their school hat daily and discuss the importance of sun safety and making healthy choices.

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited for another fantastic year of learning, growth, and opportunities at CMS.

Ngā mihi
Daryl Gibbs

CMS Camp 2026 - Tui Ridge Adventure

We're thrilled to confirm our **2026 CMS Camps** at Tui Ridge Park, an unforgettable outdoor experience set on **400+ acres** of native bush near Rotorua! Tui Ridge is a place where students can build confidence, connection and resilience through **adventure-based activities** like high ropes, flying fox, giant swing, mountain biking, team challenges and more, all in a beautiful natural setting.

Camp Dates:

4th–6th November (two teams)

9th–11th November (two teams)

11th–13th November (one team)

The **approximate cost is \$315**, covering **return buses, accommodation, food and trained activity staff**, everything needed for a fun and safe time away. Full details, and final cost information will be emailed home before the end of term.

This is more than a trip, it's a chance for our tamariki to explore the outdoors, make new friends and challenge themselves in a supportive environment. We can't wait!



School Notices

Student Safety and Community Considerations

Thank you to our students who continue to use the crossing areas safely and who take care to check carefully for vehicles before stepping onto the road. Your awareness and responsible behaviour help keep everyone safe.

A reminder to parents and caregivers that around 3:00pm is an extremely busy time on our surrounding streets. If you are dropping off or collecting your child, we appreciate your patience and careful driving to help ensure all students remain safe.

If your child rides a bike or scooter to school, please ensure:

- A helmet is worn at all times.
- The bike or scooter is locked securely in the bike racks (these cannot be stored in classrooms).
- Students do not carry (double) other students, as this presents a serious safety risk.

The bike rack area is under camera surveillance. We encourage families to provide a good quality lock.

We also ask that you continue to respect our neighbours by parking considerately. Please ensure you park well clear of driveway entrances so residents are not blocked from entering or exiting their properties. We value our positive relationships with our neighbours and appreciate your support in maintaining these.

Finally, please only use the Dental Clinic driveway and carpark if you have a dental appointment. This area needs to remain available for their patients, and using it for after school pick up creates safety concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our students safe and maintaining strong relationships within our community.



School Notices

Attendance

One of the things we are continuing to focus on in 2026 is student attendance. You will hear us talking about this with you, with our students and it remains a strong subject of conversation in the staff room.

If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by 16 years of age. As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside our school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school.

You must let the school know if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason, like a tangi or medical procedure. Family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (not organised by school) are not acceptable reasons for being absent.

Knowing if your child is well enough to go to school can be tricky. Health guidance to support you to decide is available [HERE](#). If you are still unsure, get in touch with us and let's work together to support your learner.

If you're struggling at home with getting your child to school, talk to us. If you are finding it hard to get your child to school, please talk with us so we can work together. Our school is committed to supporting your child to attend school.

Our school continues to build a culture that fosters attendance every day by having:

- School staff who have strong relationships with students and family.
- A school culture that recognises your child and your family for who you are, where you come from and what you value.
- A school whānau that takes all practical steps to make sure your child is at school and progressing in their learning.
- A school that is safe and welcoming for everyone in our school community.

If you have any attendance queries and issues, please email attendance@cms.school.nz so we can work together.



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education



**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government

School Notices

Immunisations for Year 7 & Year 8 – Timeframe & Changes for Year 7's in 2026

Year 7 & 8 immunisations are booked in for the first week of Term 2 – Monday 20th April & Tuesday 21st April.

At some stage next week, classroom teachers will be showing your child this presentation [HERE](#) and this video [HERE](#). Your child will also be given a consent form to bring home for you to choose whether or not to have your child immunised by the Public Health Nurses at school.

- From this year onwards, Year 7 students will now receive both the Boostrix (tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough booster) and HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccinations at the same time.
- Year 8 students will continue to receive their scheduled HPV doses as per current guidelines.
- Information on the Year 7 and Year 8 immunisations is included on the consent form which will be given to your son/daughter by their classroom teacher.
- If you DO consent to your child being vaccinated at school, please answer all the questions in section A of the consent form then return the form to the classroom teacher before Friday 13th March.
- **** Note: If you DO NOT consent to your child being vaccinated at school you still need to complete the questions in section B and return the form to the classroom teacher before Friday 13th March.**
- Please check with your doctor or practice nurse if you are unsure if your child has had a tetanus injection in the last two years.

For further information on these vaccines you can phone **0800 IMMUNE (466 863)**



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