



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



Cambridge Middle School - Issue 5 - September 2026

Upcoming Dates

18 September

Teacher Only Day
School Closed.



Principal's Pen 2026

Week 8 Term 3

15 September

WIMS Basketball

Kia ora e te whānau,

25 September

Last Day of Term 3

It has been another very busy couple of weeks at CMS, with a huge range of opportunities for our students both in and out of the classroom.

12 October

First Day of Term 4

Last week, our kapa haka rōpū proudly represented CMS and their whānau at the Cambridge Schools Combined Kapa Haka Festival. It was fantastic to see our students perform with such pride and confidence. A big thank you to Whaea Kahurangi, Te Kore and Tainui for preparing our students, and to Mrs Haddock and Miss Fuller for their organisation and ongoing support of this amazing group.

19-23 October

Samoa Trip

Our music bands have also had the opportunity to compete at Bandquest and experience the excitement of performing their music in front of a large audience. Thank you to Mr Lewis for the time, expertise and encouragement he continues to give our young musicians.

26 October

Labour Day
School Closed

29 October

Athletics Day

We also had our second group of athletes attend Tōtara Springs Sports Camp. Despite some fairly cold weather, the students had a fantastic week competing, working together and making some great memories along the way. These experiences are such an important part of life at CMS, and we are very grateful to the staff and parents who make them possible.

2-4 November

Tui Ridge Camp
(Mangopare)



Principal's Pen Continued...

AIMS Games

At the time of writing, CMS has 119 students competing in Tauranga at the 2026 AIMS Games, alongside thousands of other Year 7 and 8 athletes from across New Zealand and overseas.

Our students have worked incredibly hard throughout the year to prepare for this week, and it has been a pleasure to see them competing, supporting one another and enjoying everything that comes with being part of such a significant event. Just as importantly, our school's HERO values have been clearly on display both on and off the field. A huge thank you to all of the teachers, parents, coaches and managers who give their time to make this opportunity possible for our students, and particularly to Mrs Burr for the enormous amount of organisation that goes into coordinating our CMS team. We look forward to sharing a full update on results and achievements before the end of the term.

Open Day and Orientation Sessions for our 2027 Year 7 Students

Over the past two weeks, we have begun our transition programme for students who will join CMS as Year 7s in 2027. Each year we provide a range of opportunities for incoming students and their whānau to learn more about CMS, meet our people and get a feel for what life at middle school looks like. It was wonderful to see so many of our incoming 2027 students and their families taking part. Transition is an important part of ensuring our new students feel confident, connected and excited about beginning their CMS journey. Thank you to all of our teachers and staff who helped make these sessions welcoming and successful.

Attendance

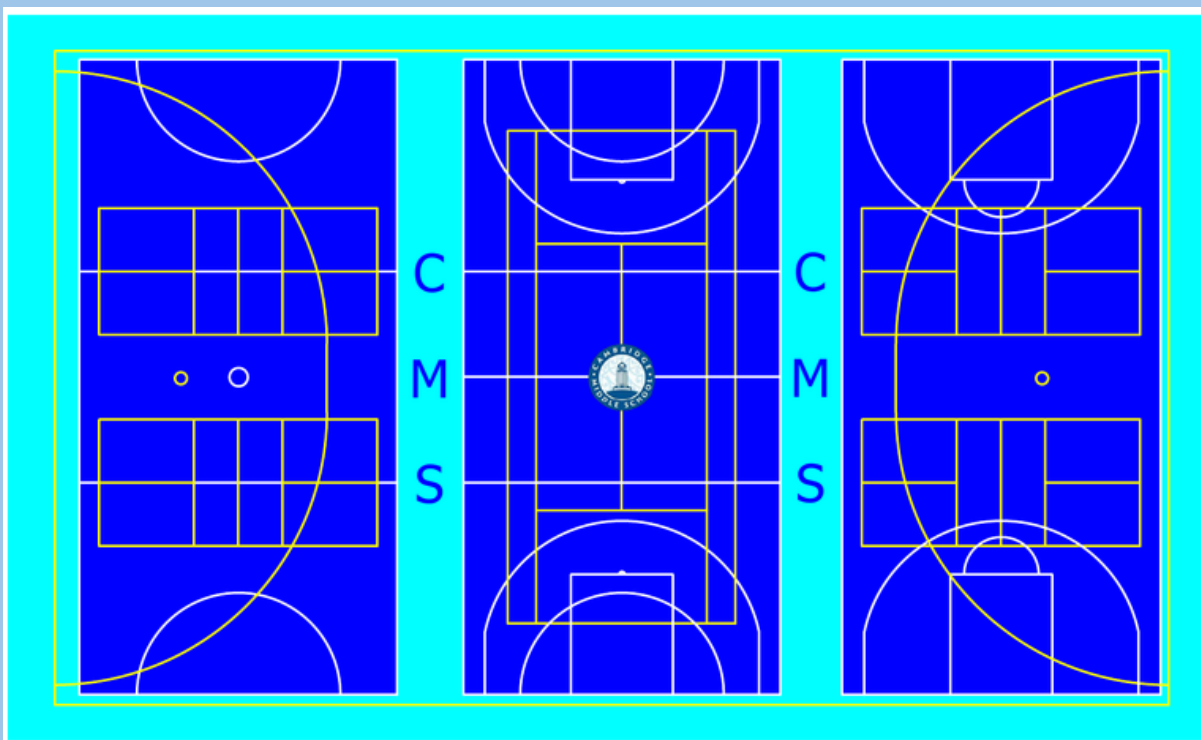
We know there have been plenty of winter bugs circulating this term and, for some families, these have been particularly difficult to shake. A reminder that we continue to closely monitor student attendance. Where a student's attendance falls below 80%, we will make contact with whānau to better understand the circumstances and discuss any support that may be needed.

While 80% attendance can sound relatively high, over time, it represents a significant amount of missed learning. Across the eight terms a student typically spends at CMS, 80% attendance is equivalent to missing more than one and a half terms of school. Regular attendance gives our students the best opportunity to stay connected with their learning, friendships, teachers and the many opportunities available to them at CMS. We appreciate the ongoing support of whānau in helping students attend regularly whenever they are well enough to do so.

Principal's Pen Continued...

Turf Upgrade

We are very pleased to share that the CMS Board has approved a significant investment in resurfacing our main turf area and cricket pitches. This work will take place during the Term 3 school holidays and will provide a much-needed upgrade to these important spaces. We are excited to continue investing in facilities that support active, healthy students and provide high-quality spaces that can be enjoyed not only by all CMS students, but also by our wider school and community groups. We have also included new markings to represent a range of sports that the children play. We look forward to seeing these areas refreshed and ready for use in Term 4.



Principal's Pen Continued...

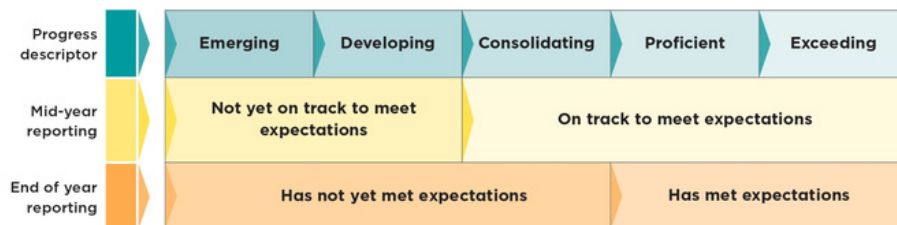
Student Achievement Data

The Five progress descriptors outlined below are used by our teachers to assess and report your child's progress. Your child's achievement is assessed against the revised New Zealand Curriculum for their year level. Below is an explanation of each of the Progress Descriptors. Please note that the expectations within the revised New Zealand Curriculum have increased for each year level. As a result, your child may require additional time and support to meet these new expectations over the coming year.

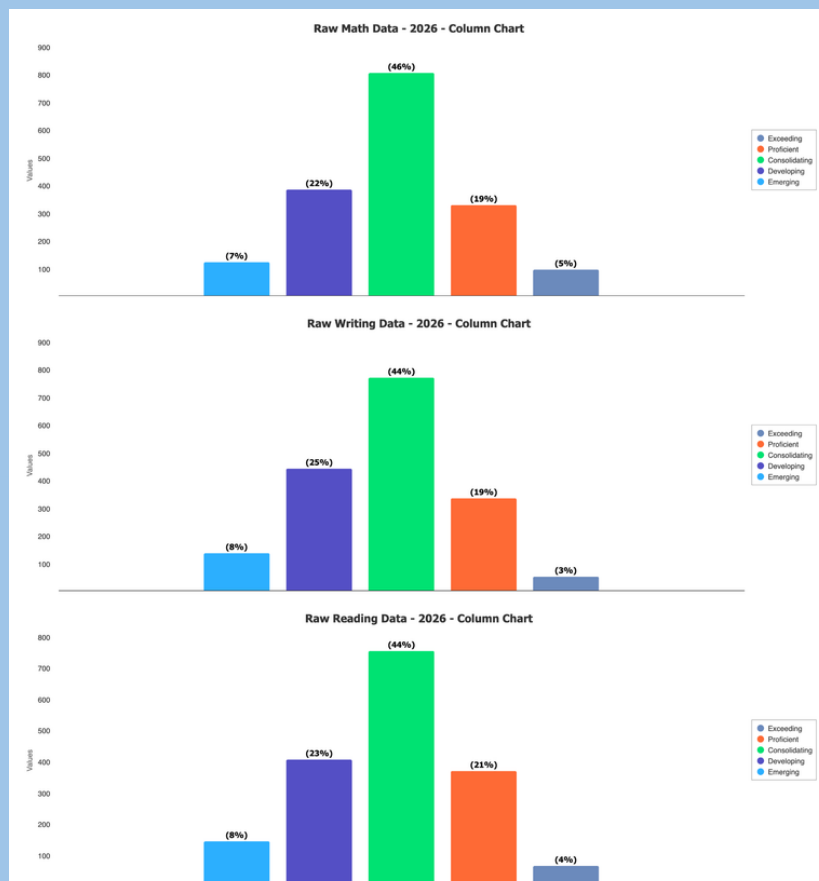
Describing progress for mid and end of year reporting using five descriptors

The progress descriptors describe student progress across the school year – the aim is for students to be proficient by the end of the school year.

A student who has achieved proficiency is prepared for the next year of learning.



For use in 2026 onwards



School Notices

Shrinking Big Talent - The Tiny Masterpiece Competition

Our school library recently wrapped up the Tiny Gallery Masterpieces Competition, an initiative designed to connect students with world-famous art history in a fun, hands-on way. Students were tasked with selecting a classic or modern artwork—ranging from post-Impressionism to traditional East Asian art—and recreating it inside a miniature frame, complete with a fascinating art history fact. The challenge required incredible focus, spatial awareness, and fine detail, and our students certainly rose to the occasion! We were delighted by the high volume and quality of the submissions, making judging a delightful challenge for Mrs Dawick. After careful consideration, we are proud to announce our winners:

- **1st Place:** Carina (Room 3) Carina created a stunning replication of Vincent van Gogh's work. She shared the brilliant fun fact that van Gogh actually painted *The Starry Night* from memory!
- **2nd Place:** Charlotte (Room 20) Charlotte recreated a gorgeous 19th-century artwork. Her entry featured the fascinating legend that koi fish are often depicted swimming up waterfalls because, according to Chinese mythology, any koi strong enough to reach the top transforms into a powerful dragon.
- **3rd Place:** Alexia (Room 13) Alexia focused her artwork on the iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. She highlighted Kahlo's incredible resilience—sharing that Kahlo created many of her paintings while recovering in bed from severe injuries, and went on to produce over 100 masterpieces throughout her life, even continuing to paint right up until her final days.

Congratulations to Carina, Charlotte, and Alexia, who each earned prizes!

The winning pieces, along with a showcase of entries, are currently on display in the Office Foyer. We encourage parents to take a moment to view these impressive mini-masterpieces next time you visit the school. Thank you to all the students who put so much effort into their entries, and to the parents who supported their creativity at home. Stay tuned for our next creative challenge!



WIMS VIBRANT VOICES

SINGING • SPEECHES • SLAM POETRY

Perform a song with a message, or an original song

DATE: THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER

TIME: 10.00 AM - 2.00 PM

LOCATION: BERKLEY NORMAL MIDDLE SCHOOL



Community Notices

GROUP DAY
2026

Save the Date

Friday 23rd October

Host School: Te Miro School
443 Te Miro Road
Cambridge

TIME: Gates open 8:30 am
Registrations 9:30 am
Judging commences 10:00 am

FOOD AVAILABLE
BBQ including steak sandwiches
Coffee cart

RAFFLE TICKETS
Lots of food goodies, vouchers, and
farm animal products up for grabs

CASH ONLY

ANY QUESTIONS?
PLEASE CONTACT THE HOST SCHOOL

Contact person: Jennie Molloy
Phone: 07 827 8146
Email: office@temiro.school.nz



HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

& VILLAINS & HEROES

DESCENDANTS INSPIRED

5 - 8 OCTOBER

CAMP

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

ROCK

MUSIC WORKSHOPS FOR BUDDING ROCKSTARS

JUNIORS: 28 - 30 SEPT (3 DAYS)
SENIORS: 28 SEPT - 1 OCT (4 DAYS)

