

Hewett House Newsletter

26th January 2010

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www.nghs.school.nz

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Firstly, I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break and that you are feeling relaxed and refreshed. I also hope that by now, all girls are looking forward to starting their school year in the Hostel. I personally am looking forward to the girls' arrival and to meeting each and every one of you.

Welcome to all new parents and families. As a way of communication, you will receive an emailed newsletter every week on the latest Hostel news. Parents without an email will be posted one. However, please do not hesitate to ring the Hostel and speak to anyone of us regarding any concerns you may have, news from home or simply just to touch base and ask after your daughter.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all. As you are all aware Varinia Larder left Hewett House at the end of last year to pursue exciting opportunities in Hamilton. So with this being my first week, I too, will be finding my way around the Hostel.

My husband and I have three teenage daughters; our eldest has just left home to study at Agricultural College in Masterton, so I am experiencing first hand what it is like to "hand over" the day to day care of your daughter to someone else! I have been involved in Boarding Schools previously, but most recently have been working in an administrative environment. In the two years since I left Boarding, I have missed the exciting and vibrant atmosphere of a Boarding Hostel and in particular working with youth. I am both thrilled and excited to be here at Napier Girls High School and I look forward to working with you, as together we nurture your daughters throughout their time at Hewett House.

Below is an outline of the programme for the first week back at the Hostel.

A reminder that you please ensure all clothing is clearly named and that all uniform items are in a good state of repair. Please remember that with the exception of one piercing in each ear, all visible piercing should be removed before coming back to the Hostel. I would also like to ask that all mufti clothing your daughter chooses to bring with her be of an appropriate standard for the school environment.

If there have been any changes to your contact details over the holiday period please remember to update us. This includes any changes or additions to medications your daughter may be taking or any changes in her health and well being.

Programme for the first week at the Hostel:

Tuesday 2nd of February

9am Onwards the Hostel is open – All Year 9 and Year 13 girls are required to be at the Hostel by 3pm for an afternoon tea.

On arrival please report to reception and we will advise you of your daughters' allocated room.

Male family members *only*, can assist with the carrying of luggage to the dormitories at the beginning of each term.

At this time Year 9 parents may have addresses of people they want on their daughter's hostess list. Hostesses are people who have your permission to take your daughter on tea leave or other activities. If you would like this to happen from time to time, please supply our staff with these details. This will also be the time to discuss any co curricular activities your daughter attends and to plan the logistics.

3pm Afternoon Tea – the Hostel will host an afternoon tea for families of Year 9 and Year 13 girls. This is an important time for families to network and meet all our Hostel staff and relevant school staff.

Upon the conclusion of afternoon tea, parents are welcome to leave or to continue to assist their daughter with unpacking. Alternatively, parents may want to take their daughter into town or out to tea with their family. This is entirely up to each family and should fit with your schedule and travel plans. Dinner will be provided in the hostel on Tuesday night at 5.30pm for those who wish to stay.

7pm – By this time we expect all girls back to the Hostel and parents to have left. The Year 9 girls will have Hostel Orientation with staff and will meet their Year 13 buddies. Year 13's will then meet with the Hostel Manager and Head Supervisor in their common room after the Orientation session.

Wednesday 3rd of February

All Year 9 girls attend school. Additionally Year 12 girls who are form captains or deputies are also required to attend school. All other Year groups are required to be in the Hostel and ready to commence school at the regular time on Thursday 4th February.

Thursday 4th of February

All year groups attend school beginning with a Powhiri for new staff, students and families.

Friday 5th February

Friday is a normal School day finishing at 3.20pm.

If your daughter is a five day boarder and you wish her to stay in this first weekend, please advise the Hostel by Thursday 4 February, so that we are able to organize our staffing and meals.

Please remind your daughters to book their weekend buses at reception by Wednesday evening, if they are required.

The Hostel is now operating normal office hours this week, so please feel free to phone us with any questions.

Kind regards

Lianne Parkinson
Hostel Manager