



Kia ora Whanau,

As a school, we know the importance of attendance for our students and their learning. This letter is just a reminder of key points around attendance and also an encouragement as we move into winter.

Holidays during term time

Attendance has been shown to be directly linked to both achievement and wellbeing for our students. Without regularly being at school it is challenging for students to develop good relationships with their peers and teachers and learning becomes harder as gaps occur in the student's learning programme. While we understand that from time to time a student may be unwell and need to remain at home, it is essential that this is minimised and that any other absences are avoided.

While we understand that travel during school holiday periods comes with associated costs and challenges, we cannot support or authorise any trips during school term time, except where that travel is for a family emergency or bereavement. Under the Education and Training Act 2020, "Students of registered schools are required to attend whenever schools are open".

If you are taking your child out of school during term time, please email the relevant Assistant Principal, Mrs Julie Nola, julie.nola@elimmtalbert.school.nz (Year 9-13).

In terms of work that they may miss, it is on them to keep updated through Google Classroom. We **do not** provide learning for them directly during their holiday.

We also **do not** provide any accommodations for assessments during their holidays. If they miss an assessment during their holidays, they will receive "Absent" on their report.

Ball attendance

This year, we have instituted an attendance threshold for students to attend the school ball of 90%. We have seen higher attendance than in previous years, and also more accountability and responsibility from our students regarding their attendance. This indicates that students *are* able to attend when required, suggesting that some prior absences may have been unnecessary or used to catch up on work.

Traditionally, the last few weeks of term are when absences increase. With the ball being held at the end of week 9, it is important that your children are present at school past this event.

Acknowledging our success

At the end of each term, we acknowledge all students who have 100% attendance for the term with a certificate. We know that not all students can reach this goal, due to genuine medical or family reasons. One big acknowledgement for our senior students is their overall improved attendance from last term to this point in Term 2. Last term, Years 12-13 attended school regularly (less than 5 days absence) at a rate of 66%, and Years 9-11 at 80%. This term, Years 12-13 are tracking at 78% and Years 9-11 at 88%. This has been a good change that we want to keep building on into Term 3. Thank you for your support in getting your children to school.

Ngā mihi nui

Julie Nola
Assistant Principal Year 9-13

Joseph Zoutenbier
Attendance Lead