

3 February 2012

To all Parents

This year we have made significant changes in our Boarding house, both physical and procedural. The boys who are boarding have embraced the changes very quickly and are enjoying the new environment.

These changes also affect the way boarding experience and casual boarding is run in the boarding house. It is compulsory for all Year Seven and Eight students to complete a two week "boarding experience" and optional for Year 6. Boarding experiences have been well received by the boys and most have got a lot of personal reward from their time in the boarding house. It is a great way to experience boarding before high school and to gain an understanding of the day to day life of the boarders.

In the past the boarding experience boys have come in with their class at scheduled times over the year. This year that has changed. I have put together a timetable of boarding experience fortnights throughout the year and you will be able to select when your son completes his boarding experience. This allows for boys who are good friends but in different classes to come in together. It also allows for flexibility with families and busy times of the year.

Only seven boarding experience places are available in the boarding house throughout any experience fortnight. This gives us room for boarding growth and some casual boarding at the same time, as well as not dominating our boarder's home with boarding experience boys.

Boarding experience fortnights cross over exams, exam preparation weeks and sports trips. It is important to look at the calendar when looking at boarding experiences and see what best suits your family and your son. The 2012 Yearly Planner will be emailed home to you all within the next week. This will show all our major events calendared for the year. It will also be on our school website.

Please contact the matron, matron@hereworth.school.nz or call her directly to schedule dates for your son's experience. The office can also help when booking dates. See below for the list of these.

We have also put into the boarding program a "boarding in" weekend each term. This is where all the full and five day boarders stay in for the weekend and I set up and run programs for them throughout this time. These are designed to help with the "family" dynamics in our boarding house and provide a great lot of fun for the boys over the weekend. These weekends are just for boarders and no casual boarding will be available on these weekends. These weekends will be noted on the term calendar so please do not be offended if your request for casual boarding is denied on one of these weekends. Boarding experiences are not scheduled on these weekends either.

I am looking forward to the beginning of the boarding experiences, as the day boys add another dimension into our already exciting boarding house.

If you have any questions regarding this or the boarding house, please feel free to contact me directly.

Boarding experience dates.

Term 1

Sunday 26 Feb – Friday 9 March
Sunday 11 March – Friday 23 March
Sunday 25 March – Thursday 5 April

Term 2

Sunday 29 April – Friday 11 May
Sunday 13 May – Friday 25 May
Monday 4 June – Friday 15 June

Term 3

Sunday 22 July – Friday 3 August
Sunday 5 August – Friday 17 August
Sunday 26 August – Friday 7 September

Term 4

Sunday 28 October – Friday 9 November
Sunday 11 November – Friday 23 November

'Boarding In' Weekends (boarders only, no casual boarding available)

Term 1	11/12 February
Term 2	28/29 April
Term 3	15/16 September
Term 4	24/25 November

Sam Chatfield
Boarding Master