



# Otorohanga

Ko te mana mō mua i te whakamana  
Honour before Honours

Principal: Ms Traci Liddall Dip Tchg, Dip TEFL, BA, PGDip Ed, M Ed (hons)

25 February 2020

Kia ora e te whanau

## Community, staff and student update

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held its first meeting for 2020 on 30<sup>th</sup> January and we wish to update you on several important matters. We also include with this update: 1) the Executive Summary and recommendations made during December's Pastoral Care Review, and, 2) a Big Picture summary of major challenges and celebrations experienced by the College, and the various and ongoing measures in place to remedy these. We hope this provides a useful backdrop to our current position.

### Board (BOT) Matters:

Lorraine Fox was re-appointed as BOT Chair and Anthea Tata as Deputy Chair (Terms 1 and 2). The following trustees are continuing in their current responsibilities and roles: Mark Pitts-Brown (Hostel Liaison), Chris van der Heyden (Property and Staff Trustee), Emma Rye (Student Trustee), Michael Ritch and Rex Fare. Our Principal Traci Liddall is ex-officio on the BOT and Paul Matthews attends meetings as the Limited Statutory Manager.

Trustees on the BOT are the legally elected representatives and volunteers of the College community and make important strategic governance decisions on behalf of our students, staff and the wider parent community. Your support and understanding are greatly appreciated as trustees work in the best interests of our community.

The BOT recognises the need to change and refresh the school website; this process is underway. The BOT has revised and upgraded its set of official policies, and these will soon be available on the refreshed website, along with up-to-date news and information for families and community.

The BOT has plans to use the extra property money allocated from the government for urgent work that will lift the appearance of the front entrance of the school. The new toilet block contract has gone out to tender, and a local builder's tender has been accepted. We look forward to the commencement of this work.

### Staffing matters:

Additional staffing appointments for Term 1 are: Jennifer Roughton in Junior Learning Programme (JLP) and Science; and, Ashwini Venkataiya in Junior Learning Programme and Social Sciences.

We also farewell Naomi Bailey who was our school counsellor, and Jaimee Tamaki whose fixed term contract with us came to an end. We are sad to see them go and offer our support and best wishes.

### Year 9 and 10 Junior Learning Programme underway:

The first two periods of each day see our Year 9 and 10 students work with their JLP teacher on a mix of Social Studies, English and Mathematics. This programme is developed with the needs of students at the forefront and is being led by the following staff:

- Mauricia Huata
- Joyce Sneddon

- Erin Baker
- Ashwini Venkataiya
- Jennifer Roughton, and,
- Lillian Williams

These six members of staff bring expertise in Maths, Science, Social Science, English and Te Reo Maori, and they are working together to plan and develop programmes for our Rangatahi. As part of our ongoing commitment to all of our young people, one of these classes is bi-lingual (Te Reo Maori and English) and is a deliberate decision in order meet the needs of students who come to us from a full immersion Te Reo background, or those who wish to be further supported in both languages.

#### **Strategic Review of Pastoral Care:**

A huge thank you to the Pastoral Care Review Group, who worked stoically to complete a comprehensive Pastoral Care Review in the busy weeks before Christmas last year. Putting in place the recommendations from this report has begun and is being undertaken with urgency both now and throughout 2020. A copy of the Executive Summary and recommendations is **attached**.

#### **Social Media and Local Media:**

You will be aware that in recent months the College has been the subject of various social media and local media posts and articles. Through correct channels we are addressing these, and the inaccurate and misleading content held within them. We reiterate that we do not support the views expressed in the recent media statements.

We thank and acknowledge Mayor Max Baxter for his recent positive and supportive opinion piece in the Waitomo News. It is great to see our local leaders getting in behind the school for the future success of our students and entire district. If you have not yet had the opportunity to read it, you can read it here:

<https://waitomonews.partica.online/waitomo-news/18-february-2020/flipbook/2/>

If you have any queries regarding any information within this update, please do not hesitate to contact either Lorraine or Paul.

Thank you again for your patience and support.

Ngā mihi nui



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