

St John's College (Hillcrest) 24/11/2010

Community Page

24 November 2010

To the Parents and Community of St John's College

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on St John's College.

St John's College, an integrated secondary school, is located in the Hamilton suburb of Hillcrest. The context of the school's special Catholic character is underpinned by the Marist charism that provides five core values and attitudes based on the 'Marist pillars.' Through the Catholic character and the promotion of these values the school supports its commitment to 'preparing young men for life.' Since the last ERO review there have been changes to leadership with all members of the senior management team currently in acting roles. Recent property development includes the addition of a new staff room and work spaces.

In Years 9 and 10 the results of standardised testing in aspects of literacy and mathematics show that a high proportion of students are achieving at or above nationally expected levels. The next step in assessment practice is for the school to strengthen its use of analysed student achievement data particularly at Year 9 and 10 to inform teaching and learning, resourcing and decision making.

2009 National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) data analysed by the school indicates that the proportion of students who gained Levels 1, 2, and 3 was significantly higher than for students in schools of similar decile. The data also shows that Māori students achieved at levels similar to other students in the school at Levels 1 and 3, and above that of Māori boys in decile 8–10 schools and Māori students nationally. Across the school, there continue to be high levels of participation by students in a wide range of sporting and cultural activities, with students achieving notable success at local, regional and national levels.

The school provides comprehensive support for individual students with specific learning needs. A significant range of well coordinated learning pathways effectively support students with their academic, vocational, social and emotional needs. Students with special needs and abilities are clearly identified and catered for in Years 9 and 10. In Years 11, 12 and 13, students have a wide range of learning opportunities that cover academic and vocational qualifications and transition to work placements. Sound student learning experiences allow them to follow their career plan and meet their potential interests and talents.

Teachers are hardworking and committed to raising student achievement. They willingly give their time to support students in tutorials and co-curricular activities and there are examples of teachers effectively engaging students in learning. School leaders acknowledge the need to continue professional learning to further strengthen the effectiveness of teaching practice across the school. Such an approach is likely to assist school management in the self review and sustainability of a professional learning culture based on continual improvement.

Board members provide sound governance for the school. Led by an experienced chairperson, competent and knowledgeable trustees are committed to governing the school in the best interests of students, their families and the Catholic community.

Future Action

ERO is likely to carry out the next review within three years.

Review Coverage

This report provides an evaluation of how effectively the school's curriculum promotes student learning - engagement, progress and achievement. ERO's evaluation takes account of the school's previous reporting history and is based on:

- what is known about student achievement information, including the achievement of Māori and Pacific students;
- decisions made to improve student achievement using assessment and self-review information; and
- teaching strategies and programmes implemented to give effect to the school's curriculum.

ERO also gathers information during the review to contribute to its national reports. The national reports are published on ERO's website.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact the school or see the ERO website, **www.ero.govt.nz**.

Richard Thornton
National Manager Review Services
Northern Region