

22 February 2021

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome

I extend a very warm welcome to all new students, families and to staff who are new to our school community. Despite the unexpected 3-day lock-down last week, we have quickly re-settled and are back to routines. We value the positive relationships with parents, and I encourage you to contact the school if you have any queries about the learning culture at Howick College. Our school's vision is to **inspire a community of passionate learners** and we appreciate the important part parents provide in helping us achieve this vision. Underpinning our vision are **our 4 C values of courtesy, commitment, curiosity and courage**.

We have high educational standards and celebrate student success at every opportunity but to have high standards we also have high expectations. Some of these expectations include understanding and consistently demonstrating our values. These qualities, alongside subject knowledge will provide a platform for future success.

Coronavirus

As mentioned earlier, we continue to carefully manage the risk and regularly monitor the situation by taking advice and guidance from health agencies and the Ministry of Education. Decisions to close the school are never made lightly and inevitably cause significant interruption but we should feel confident that our government and health agencies are always prioritising actions in the best interests of all New Zealanders. Our distance learning programmes are effective and minimise any potential risk to learning. Below are some of the ways in which we can continue to protect ourselves:

- If unwell, you must stay home and contact Healthline or your GP.
- Washing your hands regularly, or using hand sanitiser, is an effective way to help avoid this illness.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or clothing, and wash hands afterwards
- Avoid being near to people who are sick
- Washing your hands often and covering coughs and sneezes will help protect you

Website, and school communications

The school publishes 4 termly newsletters, **'Hi Five'** a year usually on the last few days of each term. In addition, each week you will receive weekly communication called **'Next Week'** which provides information relating to the week ahead and key dates and activities. Our website has details of our staffing and subject areas.

NCEA provisional results

The school has received provisional NCEA results. Congratulations to all students for their success. I am pleased to advise that the school continues to achieve positive results. In just about all areas of NCEA we perform better than national and decile norms. National averages include all schools in NZ from decile 1 – 10. Decile averages includes ONLY decile 8-10 schools. Howick College is a decile 8 school.

1. NCEA qualification: (% of total number of students in our senior school)

| Year | L 1 | L 2 | L 3 | UE | Literacy | Numeracy |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2019 | 81.1 | 92.3 | 76.4 | 55.1 | 94.6 | 96.5 |
| 2020 | 92.7 | 91.3 | 86.3 | 61.7 | 96.3 | 97.5 |
| Nat. Average | 70.2 | 79.1 | 71.4 | 51.7 | 84.7 | 83.0 |
| Decile average | 74.8 | 85.5 | 79.9 | 68.0 | 88.5 | 87.3 |

2. Maori NCEA Achievement

| Year | L 1 | L 2 | L 3 | UE |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2019 | 65.4 | 96.4 | 76.0 | 52.0 |
| 2020 | 86.3 | 80.0 | 76.2 | 50.0 |
| Nat. Average | 59.3 | 71.0 | 60.4 | 33.3 |
| Decile Average | 67.8 | 83.4 | 71.7 | 53.5 |

3. Pasifika NCEA Achievement

| Year | L 1 | L 2 | L 3 | UE |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2019 | 70.0 | 86.4 | 70.3 | 43.2 |
| 2020 | 92.7 | 90.9 | 88.6 | 31.4 |
| Nat. Average | 66.8 | 76.3 | 68.2 | 32.2 |
| Decile Average | 70.0 | 83.0 | 72.8 | 49.0 |

4. Gender

| Gender | L 1 | L 2 | L 3 | UE |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Boys | 90.1 | 93.2 | 84.7 | 47.9 |
| Decile Average | 70.7 | 82.2 | 74.6 | 59.7 |
| Girls | 95.3 | 89.5 | 88.0 | 75.9 |
| Decile Average | 78.9 | 88.8 | 85.0 | 75.9 |

NCEA Student Excellence Recipients

Congratulations to all our students who achieved excellence in their respective NCEA level examinations.

Recipients will be acknowledged at our Excellence Evening on Tuesday 2 March at 6pm in the Bill Dimery Performing Arts Centre.

Head Boy/Head Girl and Student Leadership team 2021

Congratulations to Krish Patel and Hannah Milo who will lead our student leadership group for 2021

| Surname | First Name | House/Council |
|------------|------------|---------------|
| Alsabak | Leila | Trustee |
| Anand | Apurva | MacDonald |
| Bains | Riya | Cultural |
| Bingham | Emma | Community |
| Chandra | Lorisha | Ingham |
| Couillault | Rafe | Ingham |
| Fitzgibbon | Paris | Bell |
| Flexman | Bri | Bell |
| Fowler | Meagan | Pastoral |
| Groves | Holly | Pastoral |
| Hamilton | Brooke | MacDonald |
| Hill | Ethan | Irvine |
| Huang | Siyang | Irvine |
| Israel | Grayce | Community |
| Moore | Lily | Arts |
| Pairama | Mikaera | Cultural |
| Schoeman | Tim | Academic |
| Scully | Brooke | Bacot |
| Shelley | Grace | Bacot |
| Snyman | Nicolas | Sports |
| Tabunot | Renee | Academic |
| Tanner | Leighton | Minerva |
| Verry | Crystal | Arts |
| Walmsley | Amelia | Sports |
| Wilson | Benjamin | Minerva |

School Athletics Day – Thursday 25 February

This event is compulsory for all Year 9 students and by entry for other year levels. All competing students are permitted to wear non-uniform for this event. Historically, it has always been a hot dry day, so students are reminded to take care under the sun by drinking plenty of water and applying sun block. Don't forget hats! The school canteen will be open, but we recommend you provide a packed lunch for your child if competing. Buses will run at the regular time for a normal school day.

Year 9 and new to school family picnic – Wednesday 3 March

Due to Covid, we had to change our original date. We wish to invite all parents and students of Year 9 and any new enrolments to Howick College to join us in a family picnic on the school field to welcome you to our school and a chance to mix and mingle with the Senior Leadership Team, Deans, Assistant Deans, and Tutors of Year 9. You are welcome to bring a picnic dinner and drinks to this event. Each House will provide sausages for parents and students. We encourage you to join us on this night as it is a great way to meet other parents and staff associated with your child's tutor.

Collecting and dropping off children at school

In the interests of your child's safety, we ask that you **do not** use the bus bay or the school front car park areas to uplift or drop off your child at the beginning or end of the school day. Both pedestrian and vehicular traffic at this time is at its heaviest and is increasingly difficult to manage. Please talk to your child and agree to an alternative location for pick up/drop off so that we can ensure everyone arrives and departs safely from school each day. We also ask that all students use the pedestrian crossing.

School donations

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing our students with a wide range of learning experiences in order to meet the school goals and fully maximise the talents of all of our students. Consequently each year the Board of Trustees requests the Annual Parent Donation to cover all costs associated with the delivery of the special nature of the Howick College curriculum. Please remember that one third of the donation can be claimed back when tax returns are filed in March. A more detailed letter will be sent later this term from the Board of Trustees. We appreciate our parents' support.

Annual School Goals 2021

Thank you to all parents and caregivers who took the opportunity to contribute to our community survey. You will find a summary of results at the end of this letter. This and other feedback has helped inform our long and short term goals. Strategically, our Board has confirmed our annual plan priorities which include:

Goals 2021

1. To grow strong leadership
2. To enable highly effective teaching and learning
3. To connect positively with community
4. To strengthen school wide culture

Property development

We continue to improve our facilities at Howick College and I am pleased to advise that our community development office is well under construction at the front of the school. This new office will serve our local and international communities by enabling genuine partnerships that will support the school moving forward. In addition, we also have a number of other improvements for the year including the 'G' block classroom refurbishment, bus bay, courtyard canopies and sports field seating development projects to name a few.

Uniform and attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of expectations we have of your child's uniform and grooming. We appreciate your support.

Howick College students are expected to wear their uniform correctly and with pride to and from school. Students are regularly reminded of the importance of the Howick College uniform and personal grooming as an indicator of respect for oneself and the College. Please refer to Howick College website <https://www.howickcollege.school.nz/uniform-stationery> or the student orientation booklet for specific information if required.

For students who are unable to attend school through sickness or other reasons, we ask that parents notify the school of a child's absence via our email service at note@howick.school.nz Please do not call the school to report an absence as we no longer offer this service.

Inspiring a community of passionate learners

I wish all our community a very successful year ahead and again encourage parents and caregivers to fully engage with our staff so that we can continue to provide quality care for your children.

Mr I L Ropati
Principal

Summary Parent Survey Analysis 2020

STATISTICAL DATA OF RESPONDENTS

456 Respondents, about 26% of total Howick College parent community; 75% had 1 child at Howick College ;25% had 2 children at Howick College; Respondents were mainly parent of Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students; 65% Respondents were mainly NZ European

MOTIVATION

ANALYSIS:

All respondents were consistently positive about how the school motivates their child/children in a variety of ways. There were 2 areas which fell below the average ranking of 85% for all other questions regarding motivation being

- Howick College provides appropriate access to career Advice and guidance (66% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed) – it should be noted that 24% (101 respondents were unsure)
- Howick College provides appropriate information to support subject selection (73% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed) – it should be noted that 13% (60 respondents were unsure)

KEY ACTIONS FOR 2021:

We will include a new leadership inquiry into school career systems and structures to ensure pathways for all learners are enhanced.

LEARNING

ANALYSIS:

Average ranking in the 'agree and strongly agree' response section was 70%. Parents overwhelmingly regularly check in with their child about their learning (95%). Most of the anecdotal parent criticism was the apparent variable teaching practice across the school and lack of timely communication.

KEY ACTIONS FOR 2021:

We will continue to strengthen our staff professional development programme to ensure we consistently maintain highly engaging and effective teaching practice in the classroom.

TEACHING

ANALYSIS:

Many respondents were unsure. Parents felt teachers could do more to help 'realise their child's potential'. Co-curricular acknowledgment by school was low but had the highest 'unsure' factor of all questions in this section. Overall, there is a strong suggestion from the feedback that teachers should provide more communication back to parents about teaching in general. The impact of Covid-19 is acknowledged by some parents.

KEY ACTIONS FOR 2021:

We will include a new leadership inquiry into improving communication with parents. We will put in place a clear communication and engagement plan.

Summary Parent Survey Analysis 2020 continued

ENVIRONMENT

ANALYSIS:

Based on the feedback, parents value their children conducting themselves appropriately against some family values that are considered important to them. Only 49% of parents could recall the school's values. Understanding unique place for Maori was an area that was poorly understood by parents – 37% but 60% were unsure of what this means for them. About 80% of parents considered Howick College had a healthy learning culture for their students.

KEY ACTIONS FOR 2021:

We will continue to strengthen our current students' values education programme which will be communicated to the wider parent community. We will include a new leadership inquiry into understanding Maori - Te Ao Maori.

SPECIAL FOCUS: NCEA MERIT & EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENT UE PATHWAYS / SCHOLARSHIP

ANALYSIS:

Parents overwhelmingly value merit and excellence attainment for their child (94% agree/strongly agree) while 82% value the UE qualification. It must be noted that most of the respondents to the survey had children in the junior school. In terms of scholarship aspirations and support, 61% of parents agreed/strongly agreed but 18% were unsure. Overall, the feedback strongly suggests that parents support higher levels of achievement including the university entrance qualifications for their child/children. There were significant 'unsure' positions which indicates a need for more explicit communication and information.

KEY ACTIONS FOR 2021:

We will include a new leadership inquiry into strengthening our focus on supporting students achieve higher qualifications.

SCHOOL VISION

ANALYSIS:

Some very positive comments considering a reasonable number of 'unsure' indications from parents. 75% (17% unsure) parents felt the school was meeting its vision expectations, 84% thought the school was 'good' for the child and 80% (13% unsure) felt it was progressing well. The school seems to be compared often to what other schools have or don't have.

KEY ACTIONS FOR 2021:

We will continue to strengthen understanding and application of our school vision and values.

