

*Dear Parents and Caregivers*

This newsletter includes information around two significant events/projects:

**a) The building of the Gibbons Trades Education Centre**

This Trades Centre will expand and enhance our ability to provide trades/skills based courses at all levels of the school. Such courses are a valuable addition to any boys' education irrespective of whether he will go on and seek a career in the Trades.

The concept of diverse and varied pathways, particularly in the senior school, has a strong philosophical and research base in education.

The 'schools within a school' concept is evolving at the College. The three 'senior schools' which are not mutually exclusive are:-

- Trades School
- Mainstream NCEA school
- Enrichment/Cambridge International/Scholarship school

In their selection of courses, boys can move between these schools with the ability to select courses which are appropriate for their potential career plans.

**b) The Re enactment of the first rugby game Nelson College v Nelson Club in May 1870**

This is a celebration of our history as a school and not solely about rugby.

On September 20 there will a shortened timetable and we would ask boys to bring their lunch with them and to leave heavy bags/valuables etc at home.

Food will be available at the Botanic for purchase.

The College team will be playing in a replica of the 1870's playing strip and the team will consist of 24 1<sup>st</sup> XV members and myself as the 'guest player'; this follows the tradition of two Headmasters in the 1880s and early 1900s who also played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV.

As parents you are of course welcome to view both the whole school haka at the Cathedral Steps (12.00) and the game at the Botanic (1.00pm).

Finally, in my last newsletter, I stated the following:

*The safety of your son during school time is our responsibility and we feel it is timely to conduct a review of our procedures and practices using an independent authority.*

*Whilst our procedures and practices are compliant as stated in our 2009 ERO review, we wish to gather more information on the cultural climate within the school and how we could enhance our practices to further develop stronger positive relationships between boys and an environment which is as safe as we can make it.*

*This review will occur in August.*

This review has been completed and attached in this newsletter is an executive summary of the reviewer's report.

I feel it is important to publish the summary now, given the latest Ombudsman's Report on the violence and bullying that has been investigated at a Wellington School.

The reviewer has made a number of recommendations. The College will develop these into a series of action points which will be reported to you in due course.

Any review should lead to reflection and change where needed. Overall I feel the report was fair, well balanced and confirmed our own review that your sons are in an emotionally and physically safe environment.

The report's recommendations direct us to 'fine tune' a number of areas rather than to overhaul what is already strong school culture, with good inter-personal relationships supported by multiple programmes, policies and procedures.

Nga mihi nui

Gary O'Shea MEd(Admin)  
Headmaster