



# Hutt Valley High School News

## Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

### Dear Parents and Caregivers

I thought I'd discuss a few changes in this newsletter. As a school, we are constantly evolving and refining systems and practice in an ongoing effort to improve what we do.

One major change in recent years is our shift towards a whole school Bring Your Own Device operation, Next year will be year four of this process, so we are now over half way through a full school generation. For parents and caregivers there is a cost, of course, even though for most families this has displaced a family supplied cost for a device that in effect changed to a (in most cases cheaper) Chromebook. Meanwhile at school, there have been infrastructure upgrades that are continuing so that we have a site that is wireless and ultrafast and can handle simultaneous access by over 4000 users to cater for the reality that a majority of users have both a smartphone and a Chromebook. To maintain the services and infrastructure for that level of provision will cost around \$340,000 in 2018. It's a big commitment, and it is designed so that learning can take advantage of the anytime/anywhere access that the digital world provides. The changes in teaching and learning have also required a considerable and ongoing upgrade of staff digital skills. Our membership of the Wellington Loop cluster of schools has helped with that process. Increasingly, the digital world offers new possibilities to increase learning.

One area of such possibility is in increasing the ability to offer a student-centred programme of learning accessing resources across a range of sources. Done well, this can offer a flexibility only dreamed of in the past. We have already been trialling in this space. Year 11 Science allows students to work on an assessment programme tailored to student choice. English has this year run a Y11 innovative learning environment exercise in our less than beautiful C Block, with adjacent rooms and the linking corridor being treated as common teaching space to allow students to work in specific workshops for an aspect of a wider writing task. Even if we can't wave a magic wand and replace a tired and poor building (and we continue to be in touch with the MOE to see what might be done about that) we can offer the facilities that overcome the limitations of the space and that includes a first rate digital backbone. In Maths next year, the staff will trial combined Year 11 and 12 classes that will see

students working at their own pace on the standards they select and doing the assessments when they are ready, so that each is truly on an independent learning programme in the subject. Teachers will offer specific teaching into the core work and tutorial support as it progresses, with the digital access to resources and tracking of work record that makes the whole thing work. Small scale trials this year have already suggested the model is likely to be highly successful. In practice, this kind of model is replicating some of the inquiry style work already familiar to some of our contributing schools, and will increasingly provide continuity of style as students transition into high school.

Another area of change is in student leadership and its style in the school. In recent years we have expanded the roles available and this year, at students' request, that has led to the implementation of a new house system that will produce an evolving and increasing presence in the school. We've changed the selection system for Year 13 leaders this year to eliminate the traditional formal letter of application. That has been a barrier for some students and we want to make sure we tap into talent across the board so we have asked students to nominate themselves as interested in leadership via a form that is less demanding of literacy and more attuned to practical experience. We go from there to a student and staff vote through a digital one-time vote poll that will identify who on the nomination list are seen as leaders by the rest of the students and staff. This is a small but significant change, as it will focus more clearly on leadership itself. I hasten to add that our highly literate types remain strongly represented in the mix, but that should not be the dominant skill in this stage of the selection process.

Another change is in the timing of our formal prizegivings. We have already moved the Year 13 event to the end of the year in order to have a ceremony that actually closes the year at its end, rather than earlier as used to be the case. We are taking the same step this year with the Year 11 and 12 equivalent. Our school tradition has been to hold these ceremonies just days before students leave for NCEA examinations. That has always seemed odd; holding an end of year event that sends "it's over" signals to students just days before they sit the external examinations which offer definitive proof that the year is not only not over but has just changed gear into the

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definitive high stakes section of the academic programme. This year we will schedule a combined Year 11 and Year 12 ceremony with the to-be-confirmed date of Tuesday 5 December. This will congratulate students after they have completed NCEA examinations and so say to them "Well done. Your year is complete," at the time when that is actually so.

We are constantly thinking about school culture and how we can do it better and smarter. Those efforts appear to be appreciated by our community, judging by the strong demand for places we are experiencing. Already, our Year 9 intake for 2018 is running at historical highs and that means we will not be going back to our wait list this year. With the MOE telling us of a primary school bulge in numbers that will hit secondary schools in two years time, we are very much pressed to keep the school at something like its current size. We are keen to continue to offer a first-rate state education in a setting which replicates national patterns of ethnic and social diversity. That is New Zealand and we love being part of that energetic mix. We also want to ensure that our students graduate from here with strong values and strong skills so they can make the best possible contribution to their world. This week's Gateway presentation evening showed the spread of their aspirations; the range of jobs, apprenticeships, training destinations and university intentions was brilliant. Our students "get" being New Zealanders and it is the unique privilege of the teacher's job to help them on that pathway by staying alive to the need to change, adapt and improve in all that we do.

Ross Sinclair  
Principal

### KNOWLEDGE SHOP NCEA HOLIDAY PROGRAMME ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN

Knowledge Shop will be holding its highly successful **NCEA Exam Preparation Programme** from **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October** at **Hutt Valley High School**. Subjects include English, science, maths and study skills. This is an excellent opportunity to revise the most important areas of the curriculum to ensure you are prepared for upcoming NCEA exams. Visit our website at [www.knowledgeshopnz.co.nz/campaign/](http://www.knowledgeshopnz.co.nz/campaign/) for the full programme. All bookings can be made online. Limited spaces so please book early.

## Looking Ahead

### September

- 25 Japan Trip departs
- 27 **Board of Trustee Meeting, 5.30 pm**
- 29 **Last day of Term 3**

### October

- 10 **Japan Trip Returns**
- 16 First day of Term 4
- 16-25 **Senior Derived Grade Exams**
- 17-20 Year 8 2018 Interviews
- 23 **Labour Day Holiday**
- 24 Maori Achievement Awards, 6.00 pm
- 25 **HVHS Hoscars, 6.30 pm**
- 27 Last day for Year 13 students
- 30 **Senior Art Show**
- 31 Sports Awards Ceremony, 6.00 pm

## Congratulations to:

- ★ Congratulations to **Joshua Watson 12HK** who represented HVHS in schools cycling in Wellington last the weekend. He came 3rd in the U19 Wellington Schools Cycling Championship. Racing format was a series of three races, hill climb, individual time trial and criterium race.

## Winter Sports Group Photographs

Available online now at [inphotography.nz](http://inphotography.nz). The files are available as full resolution downloads for your electronic record keeping, and or you may order prints to be delivered to you directly.

The photographs are password protected and are subject to INphotography's full website terms and conditions and privacy policy as indicated on the website.

Details have been emailed out to families.

## Movie Fundraiser - Thor: Ragnarok

**Screening 7.30 pm, Sunday 29 October at the Lighthouse Petone**

**Tickets on sale now - \$20 including lollies**

Money raised will be used to support Māori students and the marae at HVHS.

To buy your tickets, email [kirsteng@paradise.net.nz](mailto:kirsteng@paradise.net.nz) or call Kirsten on 021 337 457. Payment by online banking available.

## Student Contact Details

Are your contact details changing due to Vodafone closing their email service? Please update us either by phone or on the email address below:

**Phone:** 566 4584 or **Email:** [principal@hvhs.school.nz](mailto:principal@hvhs.school.nz)

## School Office, Library and Resource Centre Closure

The School Office, Library and Resource Centre will be closed on Wednesday 27 September until 9.30 am due to professional development.

### Derived Grade Examinations October 2017

**Exams start at 8.45am and 1.30pm every day**

**Catch up sessions on Wednesday 25 October start at 8.45 am and 12.15 pm**

Practical sessions for Arts and Technology subjects will be running most days, check with your subject teacher for details.

Date	NCEA L1	NCEA L2	NCEA L3
<b>Monday 16/10 8.45 am start</b>	Geography	Mathematics Mathematics & Statistics	Art History Calculus
<b>Monday 16/10 1.30 pm start</b>	English	Biology	Classics Accounting
<b>Tuesday 17/10 8.45 am start</b>	History	History Maori Music	Geography Maori
<b>Tuesday 17/10 1.30 pm start</b>	Science	Chemistry	French Media Studies Physics
<b>Wednesday 18/10 8.45 am start</b>	Mathematics	Dance Economics	Dance Drama
<b>Wednesday 18/10 1.30 pm start</b>	Economics	English	Business Studies Japanese
<b>Thursday 19/10 8.45 am start</b>	Classics	Geography Media Studies	Statistics
<b>Thursday 19/10 1.30 pm start</b>	Spanish	Physics	English
<b>Friday 20/10 8.45am start</b>	Drama Music	Accounting Classics	History
<b>Friday 20/10 1.30 pm start</b>	Business Studies	Business Studies French Japanese	Biology Spanish
<b>Tuesday 24/10 8.45 am start</b>	Accounting Media Studies	Te Awakairangi	Economics
<b>Tuesday 24/10 1.30 pm start</b>	French Japanese Maori	Drama Spanish	Chemistry
<b>Wednesday 25/10 8.45 am start and 12.15 pm start</b>	Catch ups	Catch ups	Catch ups