

February 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students

I am delighted with our start-up! We started with a short Powhiri on Tuesday, Period 2 was spent in Tutor classes dealing with housekeeping, and then by Period 3 we were all fully into our timetable. The school has settled well and we have wasted little time in getting down to our work. As of yesterday evening we had only a handful of students who we were working with to sort courses due to missed pre-requisites etc. Bus loading has gone smoothly, and as I walk around the campus after the final bell our school is alive with rehearsals, practices and meetings. We are underway!

My thanks go out to everyone for this smooth startup: timetablers, staff, senior leaders, Prefects and student leaders, students and families. Everyone has played their part.

Demand for places in our school has never been higher, however we have held our Year 7 to 10 classes at 24 students or less. Mostly less, to be honest, with an occasional option class slightly over due to timetable/option demands. Maintaining these class sizes demonstrates our commitment to quality teaching and learning. Senior school class size averages are also low, but this is a less useful guide due to the varying nature and demand of subjects, and the complexities of the school timetable.

We held our first ever Prefects camp last week. It was a fantastic opportunity to host our 51 Prefects over three days at Willow Park. The camp covered a multitude of topics including public speaking, planning new initiatives for the year, the six faces of leadership and much more. We then held their commissioning on Tuesday night. This stunning evening was a time when staff, Prefects and their families came together to celebrate. To view the photo gallery and read more about the Prefect Commissioning please click here.

Wednesday evening saw us launch our FutureMe Academies to a full Chapel. The 9 'Future Me' Academies were introduced by the experts leading them, including representatives from Ardmore Flying School, Whitecliffe School of Design and AUT. We are excited to be able to provide such opportunities and experiences to our young people that are not currently available elsewhere. Enrolments open at 11.59pm on Thursday 4 February and close at 11.59pm on Thursday 11 February. For further information on the Academies including the enrolment links, please go to the OLE: https://parents.saintkentigern.com/homepage/46912. In a world of opportunities, the Saint Kentigern College Academies will support our young people to find their 'Future Me'.

This week we have being helping a few students with reminders about grooming as we emerge from the summer break. Tomorrow is the deadline for any issues to be sorted as it is our photo day and first formal Assembly.

Our academic results form 2020 are pleasing! Especially on the back of the "lockdowns". IB results are stunning with 100% pass, 12 students getting over 40, and two students getting the maximum 45. These look to have topped New Zealand results and are up with the best on the world stage.

NCEA has also improved with the all important excellences and merits increasing. The full comparison results are not available yet, however later this month I will send out a summary to our community.

Parents, you should now be seeing homework being done. Please can you take the opportunity to set out homework structures you want to see in in your home.

Tutor Group & Individual Photos – Friday 5 February

Reminder that all students are to wear formal uniform tomorrow for their Tutor Group and individual photo. Please make sure you meet the expectations outlined in the Parent Handbook. If you are not wearing formals, unfortunately you will not be in the photo.

Students Outside Achievements

Te Pumanawa (Manawa) Rogers, Year 10 will be singing two songs at Opera in the Pa in Rotorua on Saturday 6 of February. Opera in the Pa is held every 2 years, and is a prestigious event, with an array of talented Pacific Opera singers. Well done Manawa and all the best for the event.

Josh Douglas (Year 11), Lukas Maher (Year 10), Ruby Ryburn (Year 12) and Hollie Knowles (Year 10) all competed in an international Ballet competition called the Youth America Grand Prix over the summer break. For this they all submitted videos of themselves performing and of their classwork. They were judge by international Ballet adjudicators. We congratulate them on their effort especially Lucas who was awarded a scholarship for a direct entry into the Royal Ballet Summer School Intensive held in London in July.

Andrew Pugh, Year 11 won the Auckland Polo Club Junior Player of the Year, during the holidays he played in two regional tournaments as a lead up to the NZ BMW Polo Open competition.

The Auckland Polo Club also chose Andrew as a Polo Ambassador to play in an exhibition match at the Clevedon Markets to advertise the sport and charity tournament.

Fides servanda est

Russell Brooke

COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

