



Kia ora, Talofa lava, Kia Orana, Bula Vinaka, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa lahi atu, Hola, Marhabaan

Positive Beginnings!

It's certainly an exciting time of the year for secondary schools. At Mana College there is a real buzz of excitement with the promise of a great year ahead.

Everything for our young people is new and shiny; their uniform, their attitudes and the promise of great things. Let's encourage this and take time to ask your child some key questions:

- Who is your Learning Advisor (teacher)?
- Which academy did you choose?
- Have you signed up for Waka Ama, Futsal, Volleyball, Tennis, Touch, Cricket, Golf or Dragonboating?
- Who is in your class?

I know from personal experience that we get one word answers or grunts sometimes but I think if we show interest we'll generally get a good response. Good luck!

At our full school assembly we welcomed the Year 9 students, new staff, and students from Year 10-13 from other schools to the school, and spent some time explaining the history and future pathway for Mana College. The school roll continues to grow and we are now at 400 students. This growth will be a key factor in the \$9 million property redevelopment. Architects, Stephenson and Turner have recently been appointed as our Lead Designers for the redevelopment at Mana College, and we look forward to starting our design process next week.

I have now had the opportunity of meeting most Year 9 students with their families, and sitting down to discuss what exactly secondary school is about. It's awesome to have this conversation and to learn from parents and whanau about their aspirations and expectation for their child. It's also fantastic to learn, first hand, of the talents, skills, and dreams they have. This is the very reason we come into teaching and leading schools.

My main point here is that it's a partnership, and a critical partnership for our young people at this stage of their life, and we all need to bring something to the table. Young people need to bring a positive, growth mindset every day. They need to turn up, and give it their best shot. They will at times fail, and this, we believe is a good thing, as failure is often a great teacher!

I look forward to our partnership this year as we grow and develop our Mana culture.

Our School Curriculum

As is stated on the timetable, there are some funny terms floating around on the timetable, names like PBC, Academy, Learning Advisory, STARS and Skills & Drills. Some details on what each of these relates to follows:

What's Coming Up?

Thursday 22 February – Learning Conferences (all year levels)

Friday 23 February – Year 9 Wellbeing Survey

Tuesday 27 February – AWD Athletics

Wednesday 28 February – School Athletics Day

2 – 3 March – Senior Volleyball Tournament

Wednesday 7 March – CSW Western Athletics

8 – 9 March – First Aid Course

Saturday 10 March
– Waka Ama
– Dragonboating

12-16 March – Porirua Student Leaders OPC

12-23 March – Services Academy Induction @ Waiouru

Tuesday 13 March – 3x3 Senior Basketball Tournament

Wednesday 14 March – CSW Futsal Championships

Thursday 15 March – CSW Regional Athletics

19-23 March – Summer Sports Tournament week

Mana College Vision

- *High expectations*
- *Demonstrating pride*
- *Meaningful achievement*
- *Clear and purposeful pathways*



Place Based Curriculum (PBC)

Is an integrated curriculum at Years 9 & 10 so that English, Maths, Social Studies, Science link into a project-based approach. Term 1 focuses on Turangawaewae and the aim is to engage young people in relevant experiences which will make them critical creative thinkers regarding what our students bring to Mana and the place where they stand.

STARS

This is a Graeme Dingle Foundation programme which is run by Jeff Chapman and Faafoi Seiuli (GDF) and supported by Year 12/13 student mentors. The programme looks at supporting young people into secondary school and includes camps, a big day out, etc.

SKILLS & DRILLS

These are Literacy and Numeracy lessons targeted at student's needs and level. This will also link into the Place Based Curriculum.

ACADEMIES

Students choose from 19 different Academies each term which will offer them a wider course selection and an opportunity for them to try something that they may never have had experience in before. Academies include:

- Film Challenge
- Local Event Challenges
- Ancient Egypt
- Myportfolio (Digital)
- Cheese & Yoghurt making
- Surfing
- Earthcare (Papa Taiao)
- Chess
- Football Academy
- Instrument Academy
- School newspaper
- Te Ara Moana
- Ki o Rahi Nationals preparation
- Creative Design
- NZ Literature & Film
- High Performance Athlete
- Services Academy/Boxing
- Japanese language
- Marae Catering

LEARNING ADVISORY

This is the student's whanau group consisting of 12 students. Their Learning Advisor will be a significant person in school for them and will connect with you at home. In this class, they will develop goals for the year, learn about the school and other important areas of learning, such as mindfulness, relating to others, digital citizenship and other topics.

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Heads Up

Wednesday 28 February – Athletics Day

Our Athletics Day will be happening on Wednesday 28 February from 8.50am to 3.10pm. Students can dress in whanau colours and will need to bring lunch and water bottle. More information will be sent out soon.

Thursday 22 February - Learning Conferences

Learning Conferences will give parents the opportunity to meet with their child's Learning Advisor for a 20 minute period and discuss their goals and plans for the year. You will receive a letter next week with details on how to book using the school interviews website.

Saturday 17 February – Phoenix Football Game

Thanks to Porirua City Council, Mana College has been gifted a number of tickets for students to attend the Phoenix Football Game on Saturday 17 February. Students can put their names down for a ticket at reception before Tues 13 February, but this will be a 'first in-first served' opportunity. A bus has been organised for travel to the game from school and return back to school after the game has finished.

Blacktown Cultural Exchange

Blacktown is Porirua's 'sister city' in Sydney, Australia and, along with our Mayor Mike Tana and some Council staff, we held a powhiri to welcome a group of dignitaries and cultural performers to the school on Monday 5 February. There was a riveting cultural exchange after formalities had completed and we experienced and learned the meanings behind a number of different aboriginal dances



Year 9 Parents BBQ

It was a great evening for our Year 9 Parents BBQ on Wednesday 7 February. Thank you to all who were able to make it. There was a positive vibe and it was a great way to start off the new year and welcome our Year 9 families to the school.

