



New Plymouth Boys' High School Te Kura Tamatāne o Ngāmotu

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10 February 2012

Dear Parents / Caregivers of Year 9 students

I hope things are going really well for your son. I am delighted with the Year 9 intake this year and the staff have shared with me how pleased they are with the boys.

Please note that **our planned meeting with staff and parents, scheduled for Tuesday February 14, has been deferred to the following week, Tuesday, February 21. We look forward to seeing you in Ryder Hall at 7.00 pm.**

Other matters:

1. **PTA Meetings – are held on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7.30 pm in the staffroom.**

This is not a fundraising organisation but the PTA discusses issues pertaining to teenagers and shares ideas on how the school can improve. I find this group most rewarding and if you want a positive say in your son's education, please come to the meetings. They are a wonderful group of parents.

2. We have collected a lot of data on your son's ability in English and Mathematics. The data has been explained to the staff and I have encouraged staff to show your son where he is capable or needs assistance. Wendy Bayley (wendy.bayley@npbhs.school.nz) is in charge of Learning Support and is assisting teachers with differentiated learning techniques, so that your son receives an education that fits him well and targets areas where he can improve.

3. We run a programme called **Junior Diploma**, which is designed to motivate students by encouraging excellence. Each term there are a number of assessments through which the student achieves credits (the quality of the pass is called achieved, merit or excellence). These academic credits are supplemented by self-management credits allocated by class and group teachers. They cover such aspects as endeavour, behaviour, participation, organisation, class work, homework, social relationships and individual planning. A student achieves a diploma by attaining 50% of the available credits – if he gets 70% he attains a diploma with merit and with 85% a diploma with excellence.

The boys get quite competitive and like to check how their friends are going.

Again I repeat my delight with the calibre of this year's Year 9 cohort. If you have any questions or comments at any time contact me or the Dean of Year 9, Glen Hannah (glen.hannah@npbhs.school.nz).

M J McMenamin
Headmaster



Work Day

Friday, March 9, 2012

Each year we dedicate one day where boys are involved with projects that benefit the school in a major way. Work Day has been held over many years, where boys offer their services to the people of New Plymouth and further afield, by doing modestly paid work for five hours, or longer. The hourly rate is \$5.00 (minimum) and the **TARGET** for each boy is \$30.00. We feel this is reasonable and achievable.

Last year, Work Day money was spent on the STAGE AREA in RYDER HALL. This year the money raised will be targeted for continuing this upgrade. This area is in much need of repair and will be used when New Plymouth Boys' High School hosts the combined NPBHS and NPGHS production.

The PTA offers great support in running the Work Day and will advertise in the newspaper for work offers in the first week of Term One. If you have work - simply make contact with:

New Plymouth Boys' High School - Office 758 5399 (Business Hours)

Give your name, address, telephone number and specify the work available and the number of boys required.

Your son will need to start planning for this day. In the first two weeks of term1 he will be asked by his group teachers to outline the work he is undertaking for that day. Each student will then receive workday payment forms which thank the employers and outline how payment is to be made.

Work Day not only aids the resourcing of the school, but also develops social skills as your son could well be introducing himself to a future employer. It also offers all students a chance to gain part-time employment if they market themselves well by being responsible, well-mannered, honest and hardworking.

It is not considered a "day off" from school.

If parents do not wish their son's to participate, they must attend school as per normal and will be supervised in study.

All students who do not attend school on the 9th of March will be considered as having taken part in Workday and as such, be expected to pay the minimum of \$30.

If they do not either attend school or return the workday payment, they will be considered Truant and will face a Saturday detention.

Workday in 2012 is the 9th of March, which is the Friday of Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. **Boys MUST return their \$30 to school on Tuesday the 13th of March.**

If you have any queries regarding this day please contact Mr Leath, Assistant Principal and organiser of Work Day.

Michael McMenamin
Headmaster