



NEW PLYMOUTH BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

TE KURA TAMATĀNE O NGĀMOTU

Assembly Speech

May 2018

Kia ora koutou

Thank you for your behaviour at the haka competition. What a superb turn-around from the previous year's effort. I was immensely proud of you all.

Today we have a special presentation to a young man who has worked very hard and has been rewarded for that hard work. At the end of each year, I inform all the Year 12 Leadership young men, that we will only pick a certain number of prefects, and many quality young men will unfortunately miss out.

However, I do say that we do have the option to add to our prefect group if any student performs exceptionally well the following year. Today boys, I am really pleased to announce that we have a new addition to our prefect team for 2018: Pacey Healy.

Pacey, you have performed with distinction this year and have earned your right to join our high-performing prefect team and I invite you on stage to collect your prefect badge.

Pacey Healy.....I think that, given this presentation, it is a good time to talk about resilience.

Resilience is not about how you perform when everything is going well.

"Winners are gridders" - when life is going well and you are getting results it is actually quite easy to be 'a good man'. It can be easy to work harder and you sort of snowball into working harder again and getting more success.

The only challenge for winners, and for any human being enjoying success, is keeping humble when things are going well.

But, when you receive a setback, when hard work is not instantly rewarded, when you are on the end of some bad luck, what you do *then* is what defines you, and what you do is very, very important.

Boys, you can almost guarantee that in your life you will miss out on your dream job, the partner of your dreams will break your heart; you will have an unexpected health crisis; you will have a financial setback; you will lose something you treasure; you will not achieve a sporting or cultural goal; something you set your sights on will not eventuate.

How you react in these situations is critical. When employing staff, and as an employer of over 150 staff I do not mind telling you that I observe closely people's behaviour in the face of adversity. I observe how staff deal with crisis, how they deal with the disappointment of not getting a promotion, or dealing with an unexpected event - it is a great display of character and the window to the soul and heart. It is when the chips are down, and the response is natural and unguarded, that we see true character.

Of course, the same goes for you. Staff watch that closely also. We watch that. It is important when we are picking future leaders. We see how you handle difficult situations. We watch you in the classroom and during cultural and sporting activities.

What do you do when the chips are down; when the odds are stacked against you; when something happens that is unfair - as life is sometimes? Do you drop your lip; are you destructive and toxic; do you give up and blame everyone around you other than looking at yourself in the mirror and deciding that you can, and you will, do better?

Think about a time when you had a major setback. What did you do? Were you sulky? Did you drop your lip? Were you angry and aggressive? Did you give up and blame everyone around you?

Now if you have been like that, that is ok, do not panic. No one is perfect. We have all let ourselves down at some point in time by not acting positively to a bad situation. You can and you will recover from that.

Tell yourself next time *'I will learn from this, I will continue to hold my head high, I will get through it, I will work even harder, I will be more determined to recover from the setback. I am a good person, I will learn from it'*.

When there is a bad situation; something tough to deal with, seek guidance from someone you trust. Ask for help, take your time. Try not to think the worst straight away. Don't fire shots. Don't send an abusive text or email. Be considered and be patient. Everything can be worked through and there is always something positive to be gained from a tough situation.

All the best to our boys performing in the Super 8 Cultural Festival. A huge amount of work has gone into this event and we wish all our teams the very best. Thank you to the many students and staff who are supporting this event. The school is closing early on Friday to accommodate the hundreds of guests arriving.

P J Verić
Headmaster

107 Coronation Ave, New Plymouth 4312

Private Bag 2028, New Plymouth 4342

T: +64 (6) 758 5399

npbhs.school.nz

