

The Education Review Office (ERO) visited in May to conduct their regular review. Even though we were just over a term into our new curriculum design and school management structure, ERO have clearly recognised the changes made and the growth and direction we are heading. "The school has made good progress to address many of the areas for improvement from the 2016 ERO external evaluation. The principal has established a more collaborative and consultative staff culture, and empowered staff to contribute to the school's decision-making." (ERO 2018).

ERO (2018) state "several wide-ranging initiatives are being implemented in 2018. This includes the new curriculum design and school leadership structure. These are critical changes strategically designed to better meet students' learning and wellbeing requirements and to drive initiatives." Furthermore, "the school curriculum is now much better aligned with the principles, values and key competencies of the New Zealand curriculum. It is also underpinned by culturally responsive and inclusive teaching practices. The curriculum is now more learner centred and research informed" (ERO, 2018).

Leaders value community input and have consulted with the community to inform curriculum change. Finding ways to develop ongoing learning partnerships with families is a high priority for leadership to help accelerate student learning (ERO, 2018).

ERO (2018) identify over the past two years, other significant areas of school progress include but not limited to:

A more orderly, caring and settled school environment

higher expectations of learners, teachers and leaders

Evidence of improved student outcomes in Years 7 and 8

Useful assessment processes, and better systems for tracking and monitoring student progress

A more sustainable and growth orientated leadership approach

Improved Personnel Management supporting a more positive work environment

Increased accountability for teacher performance and student outcomes, underpinned by performance management processes that align with Education Council requirements"

Sustainable performance and review (ERO 2018)

- After some significant improvements, school leaders and Trustees are becoming more focused on scrutinising the impact of changes on student learning and adapting practices.
- The board is better placed to continue improving it's performance, focusing on sustainable change and Improvement.
- The principal is providing the board with useful and well-organised informed decision making and strategic planning.

Although our ERO report reflects significant improvement it is important for us to monitor and evaluate student progress, and student and staff well-being to ensure sustainable processes are in place to support the school moving forward.

Many Principals and external agencies around the country acknowledge our student centred curriculum design and re-organised management structure is bold, innovative and courageous. Therefore, ERO will continue to support and monitor our progress over the next 1 to 2 years and I invite you all to be part of this very exciting journey.

To read the full report please visit <http://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/whangaroa-college-27-06-2018/>