



BRIEFING NOTE: Visit to Mana College on Tuesday 22 February 2022 to highlight COVID support schools

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	23 February 2022	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1281921
Drafter:	Chris Wells	DDI:	04 463 8693
Key Contact:	Roy Sye	DDI:	9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No


Purpose

This briefing note provides information to support your visit to Mana College to highlight the Covid support work the Government is doing to support schools, on Tuesday 22 February 2022.

Proactive Release

agree that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

Agree / Disagree



Nancy Bell
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tai Runga

23 / 2 / 2022

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

___/___/___

MANA COLLEGE (254)

Contact Name: John Murdoch
04 237 5424 (Office)
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Address: Awarua Street
Takapuwahia
Porirua

Key People

Board chairperson: Ms Ranei Wineera-Parai

Principal: John Murdoch
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Head boy: Jack Chapman

Head girl: Melerita Malaulau and Rosa Stratford

Ministry Official: Roy Sye
Director of Education for Wellington
027 836 4850

We understand the College has also invited local MP Barbara Edmonds.

Background information about Mana College

Issues

- 1 There are concerns about the increasing socioeconomic needs of students and whānau and the impact this could have on access to education.
- 2 We are working closely with Oranga Tamariki and other support agencies and seeking to establish systems and approaches that more proactively address need.

Profile Information

School Type	Secondary
School Gender	Co-educational
Education Medium	English
Decile	2
Year levels	Years 9 – 15
Electorate	Mana

- 3 The July 2021 breakdown of roll information is shown below:

July 2020 Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
Māori	315	65
European / Pākehā	76	15.7
Pacific	70	14.4
Asian	21	4.3
Other	3	0.6
International	0	0
Total	485	100

Impact of COVID-19

- 4 On 8 February 2022 the Ministry was notified by Regional Public Health (RPH) of a positive case of a student at the College. We worked with RPH and the College's leadership team to determine who was a close contact and provide advice to them.
- 5 The College notified 25 identified close contacts and they were asked to follow the then current RPH guidance to self-isolate for ten days, get tested immediately, and to get re-tested at days five and eight of their isolation.
- 6 RPH supported us and the College to determine who was a close contact. At that time, RPH advised that unvaccinated household contacts also needed to self-isolate until the close contact had returned a day five negative test. RPH subsequently clarified this advice that household contacts do not need to self-isolate.
- 7 The College noted a drop in its roll in subsequent days, with more students staying home in addition to the 25 close contacts. This is likely to have been a precautionary measure taken by some whānau.
- 8 The isolation periods required also changed part way through the isolation period for this case meaning that the ten-day close contacts now only needed to isolate for seven days. This requirement has been applied to Mana College.
- 9 There have been no subsequent cases at Mana College.
- 10 The College leadership team was really positive to work alongside and already had robust public health measures in place.

Other things to note about Mana College

- 11 Mana College introduced an enrolment scheme effective from January 2019. The College Service Academy and Te Whare Ako (Learning Support Class) are special programmes named in the enrolment scheme. Despite the College controlling out of zone enrolments, the starting roll for 2022 was 503.
- 12 Student vocational pathways and well-being strategies are strong within the College.

- 13 The College runs an on-site Construction school as part of its vocational pathways' initiative.

Education Review Office

- 14 The school was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in July 2018 and the ERO report returned the College to a 3-year review cycle.

Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning

- 15 Mana College is part of Te Puna Mātauranga Kāhui Ako. The Kāhui Ako includes nine schools and ten early childhood centres.
- 16 There are strong connections with the local iwi (Ngāti Toa) and the Kāhui Ako.

Visit and event information

Runsheets

- 17 A draft runsheet is provide below.

Time	Activity
9:00am	Minister and entourage arrive and QR scans in at Reception Principal John Murdoch will meet the group and escort them to D Block
9:10am	Minister has been there before, so no need for powhiri/whakatau – but Principal will mihi the Minister The Principal will lead proceedings About 30 students from the Year 9 class that had to isolate earlier this month will meet and greet the Minister Principal introduces the Minister and hands over for his response Minister replies and speaks Cup of tea, walk around school, particularly Hauora unit/area focusing on student support systems/practices
10:00am	Minister and entourage depart

Participation in government programmes

School Donations Scheme

- 18 The College has opted into the School Donations Scheme. They received \$80,385 in lieu of donations in 2021 and will receive \$82,800 in 2022 based on their 2021 July roll return.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

- 19 The school is taking part in the programme and has been receiving lunches since Term 2 of 2021. They have chosen the external delivery model with one supplier - Waitoa Catering Ltd - who operate a kitchen onsite.

Access to Period products


20 Mana College has opted into the national initiative and to date has ordered products.

Learning Support Coordinators

- 21 The school is part of the Te Puna Matauranga (Porirua West) Kāhui Ako, which has been allocated four Learning Support Coordinators (LSC). These are allocated throughout the cluster according to need.
- 22 The LSCs are based at Porirua school, which is 300 metres from Mana College.
- 23 There are currently 24 students receiving learning support services at the school. 22 are verified high under the Ongoing Resource Scheme, one student is verified as very high needs and one student receives In-class Support.

Property information

- Mana College is in the Developed Design phase of a significant investment, first announced in 2017, to redevelop and refurbish the school. Plans have developed and changed significantly since the announcement with there being a large increase in student numbers requiring a change in approach.
- It is proposed the school be fully redeveloped in up to five distinct stages, subject to funding prioritisation.
- The full redevelopment will deliver extensive refurbishment to three of the current blocks and the demolition of thirteen buildings and part of the administration block. In addition, four new blocks will be built, one of which will incorporate the current Special Needs Unit as part of the new Specialist Teaching building.
- An 'early works' package was completed in 2020 that delivered refurbishment of the school hardcourts, new fencing, and demolition of the unusable library that had weathertightness issues.
- The school is contributing its 5YA and SIP towards a gymnasium upgrade and strengthening project, and this will provide tiered seating and an additional teaching space.
- Construction of Stage 1 of the major redevelopment will see construction of the Specialist Teaching building and is programmed to commence in September 2022, with completion forecast for early 2024. The separate school led gymnasium project is also expected to start construction in the second half of 2022, and the design team is meeting with the school as required to progress this package of work.
- Stage 1 of the redevelopment is in Detailed Design. In December 2021, a 3D walk through of the design was presented to the school for its feedback. The school is currently compiling this.
- The Ministry continues to meet monthly with the school at a governance level, throughout the design phase, to update the school on progress of the project.

- Some of the buildings planned for demolition will remain in use for longer than initially planned but the school is supportive of the current plans. There will be some interventions taken to ensure these buildings remain suitable for ongoing use through the delivery of the major redevelopment.
- The school has received its CO2 monitor and this has been in extensive use over the last 8 school days. The school had informally noted some areas showing high levels of CO2. We received the initial ventilation self-assessment on 18 February which showed normal patterns and manageable CO2 levels. We will continue to support the school to manage any ventilation concerns they may have.
- The property advisor has completed the annual school visit and condition assessment, and is working with the school to prioritise condition issues/10YPP in light of revised staging noted above. There is a meeting scheduled to progress these discussions further on 24 February.
- The property advisor has also been assisting the school with a learning support property modification request.
- The school has recently appointed its own property manager who is now taking the lead on many of the day to day operational property issues, in conjunction with the school's business manager.
- Previously the Principal has escalated concerns regarding progress of the project, and funding certainty, and has met with Minister Hipkins in 2021 on this issue [METIS 1258007 refers].
- 9(2)(g)(i)


Annexes

- Annex 1: Talking Points
- Annex 2: Reactive Q and A
- Annex 2: Press Release