

Briefing Note: Visit to Wellington Girls' College on Thursday 11 May 2023

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education		
Date:	2 May 2023	Priority:	Low
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1308131
Drafter:	Anne Bell	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Roy Sye	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Proactive Release

1. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing with any appropriate redactions once it has been considered by you.

☒ **Agree** ☐ **Disagree**



Nancy Bell
Hautu | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tai Runga (South)
02/05/2023



Hon Jan Tinetti
Minister of Education
06/05/2023

Purpose of Briefing Note.

2. The purpose of this paper is to support your visit to Wellington Girls College on Thursday 11 May 2023 from 11:00am to 12:00pm to observe and engage with a class of 20 students who are currently using the Banqer Financial Literacy Programme.
3. Banqer is an innovative, online financial literacy learning programme that caters for students at all levels of their education. The programme builds core life skills around banking, careers, property, budgeting, general insurance, investments, including the stock exchange.
4. On 28 April, Ministry officials met with Retirement Commissioner 9(2)(a) from Banqer, and Nick Thomson and Erin Thompson from the Office of the Retirement Commission (ORC). This meeting was in response to a request to discuss the inclusion of Financial Capability within the New Zealand Curriculum and manage the relationship between the Ministry, ORC and Banqer.
5. The conversation was productive but challenging. The Ministry is drafting a memorandum of understanding to facilitate an ongoing partnership, to agree on shared outcomes and define roles and responsibilities to enhance the learning and teaching of financial capability within schools.
6. A run sheet for the visit is attached. Annex 1 refers.

Core Information

Wellington Girls College (272)

Contact Name: Julia Davidson
(At institution) 04 4725743

Address: 18 Pipitea Street
Thorndon
Wellington

Key People

Principal: Julia Davidson
9(2)(a)

Other attendees: Thomas Hensman (classroom Teacher)

9(2)(a), Banqer Co CEO
9(2)(a), Banqer Co CEO

9(2)(a), Education NZ

Ministry Official: Roy Sye, Director of Education
027 836 4850

Profile Information

Authority	State
School Type	Secondary
School Gender	Girls
Education Medium	English
Equity Index Rating	374
Electorate	Wellington Central
Te Mahau Region	Te Tai Runga Greater Wellington

7. The July 2022 breakdown of roll information by ethnicity is shown below:

July 2022 Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
European/Pākehā	885	62.9
Asian	268	19.1
Māori	121	8.6
Other ethnicity	62	4.4
Pacific	47	3.3
International	23	1.6
Total	1405	100%

Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning

8. The school belongs to Te Kāhui Ako o Te Whanganui a Tara. The Kahui Ako has two leads, Melissa Tierney from Karori West School and the other lead is in the process of being appointed. They are also in the process of refreshing their achievement challenge.

Learning Support

9. The school was not allocated a Learning Support Coordinator in the first tranche of allocations and has not raised any concerns about not having access to one.
10. There is currently ^{9(2)(a)} student receiving learning support services at the school. ^{9(2)(a)} is ORS funded at the High needs level.

Participation in government programmes

School Donations Scheme

11. The school is ineligible for the scheme.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

12. The school is ineligible for the programme based on the equity index.

Ikura | Manaakitia te whare tangata – Period products in schools initiative

13. Wellington Girls' College has opted into the national initiative and to date has ordered products. They have also opted to use dispensers which have been installed.

Creatives in Schools

14. Wellington Girls College applied for Round 4 of Creatives in Schools and was successful with two projects:
 - Page to Stage which involves ākonga from Year 11-13 and their creative is Mel Dodge.
 - WGC Dance which involves ākonga from Year 9-13 and their creative is Libby George.
15. Both agreements have been signed and their projects have been publicly announced on the [Arts Online Website](#)

Impact of COVID-19

16. The school was significantly impacted by the protests at Parliament during the Covid 19 pandemic but responded admirably. The local Te Mahau office is supported the local schools and early learning services impacted by the protest to provide cross-agency support with Police to ensure staff and students had a safe corridor to transit to school and updated communications were regularly provided.
17. The school was well prepared for learning from home. They prepared for this in advance by having year levels work from home to ensure any issues were understood and mitigated before the actual lockdowns occurred.

Property

18. The school roll has fluctuated between 1,350 and 1,450 over the past five years.
19. The Ministry is working with the school to deliver roll growth teaching spaces, replace earthquake prone buildings, a hall and other supplementary accommodation.
20. The project was originally announced in 2018 by the previous Minister of Education and responded to the need for additional accommodation to support the school's growing roll. The project has since evolved due to the seismic performance of the current school hall and Tower, Brook and Pipitea blocks.
21. The two biggest factors influencing the planning of this work are the prudent use of the site footprint and ensuring the seismic stability (and longevity) of any replacement buildings.
22. Seismic testing of the school hall, Tower, Brook and Pipitea rated the buildings below 34% NBS, the threshold for being deemed earthquake prone. Increasing the seismic stability of the hall and Tower and Brook Blocks through remediation and improvements is uneconomic. Replacement is planned instead.
23. On 12 December 2018, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee approved the funding of \$31.49 million for the redevelopment of the property, namely 16 teaching spaces and staff and student amenities. This funding predated the identification of the seismic vulnerability of the buildings, leading to the need for greater investment.
24. A costing estimate in July 2022 noted a budget of over \$200 million would be needed to deliver the full scope of required works in consideration of the earthquake prone buildings, rising construction costs, and complexity of the site. The Ministry is now considering how best to budget for and deliver the project including phasing and staging of investment.

25. The Ministry has advised the school that progression of the project is subject to funding and different funding, scope and delivery options will need to be considered. The Principal and the Board are unable to confirm plans for the redevelopment with the school and community and are frustrated by the lack of certainty the Ministry can provide.
26. The Ministry is in close contact with the school during this project and has agreed to fund one FTE to support the school during this time in acknowledgement of the operational impact the building project is having on the school and Principal.
27. An update on the property issues was provided to your office on 4 April 2023.

Delivery progress

Building	Status	Planned works	Notes
School hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School hall is partially demolished. Two teaching spaces (the music suite) attached to the hall are still in use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music suite to be relocated into portacom accommodation, pending building consent. Complete demolition of the hall and music suite is expected to be completed by the beginning of Term 4, 2023. 	N/A
Tower Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decanted in readiness for demolition. Teaching moved to a new purpose-built modular village. Asbestos removal ahead of demolition completed in February 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demolition of the Tower Block to take place in November 2023. Lessons impact of weather constraints and will result in shorter demolition period. Most noisy work undertaken at the end of the school year and through the school holidays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry has committed to finding an offsite solution for NCEA and scholarship exams taking place during November 2023 demolition.
Brook Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully occupied, by agreement with the school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement planned to follow other stages of the schools' redevelopment. 	N/A
Pipitea Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building required enabling work to provide continued access to Pipitea Block once Tower Block is demolished, as well as support to the glazed atrium roof. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seismic performance to be increased to 67% NBS through staged remediation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling work caused significant disruption to the school through noise, dust and vibrations, leading to the demolition of Tower Block during quieter time period.
Library	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening planned later in the schedule of building and improvements. 	N/A

Annexes

1. Annex 1: Runsheet
2. Annex 2: Speech Notes

Proactively Released

Annex 1: Run Sheet

Time	Activity	Other details
11:05am	<p>Minster and entourage arrive and meet at the school's reception.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because of the extensive building works on the school property there are no car parks available. 	<p>Representatives from Banqer and Education NZ attending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9(2)(a) (Banqer Co-CEO) 9(2)(a) (Banqer Co-CEO) 9(2)(a) Sector Engagement, ENZ) <p>Ministry official attending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roy Sye, Director of Education for Wellington
	Informal visit to class to observe programme in action.	No formal powhiri or mihi whakatau is planned
12:00pm	Minister departs	

Annex 2: Speech Notes

Minister's Speech notes – Banquer High at Wellington Girls College (WGC)

10 May 2023, 11:00am – 12:00pm

9(2)(g)(i)

