



BRIEFING NOTE: Visit to Hillcrest High School to discuss support for Pacific students on 31 March 2021

To:	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	25 March 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1254029
Drafter:	Anneliese Henare	DDI:	07 850 8900
Key Contact:	Alison Harold	DDI:	07 858 7311
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose

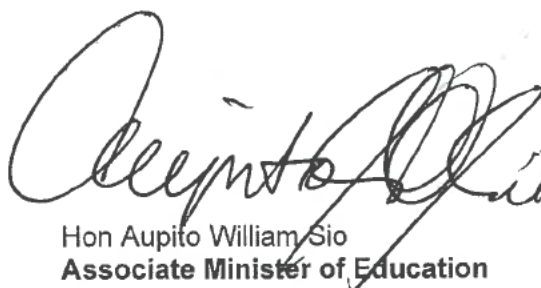
- 1 This briefing note provides information to support your visit to Hillcrest High School on 31 March 2021 at 12.00pm – 1.00pm.
- 2 **Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released.

 Agree / Disagree



Jann Marshall
Associate Deputy Secretary
Network and School Delivery

25/3/2021



Hon Aupito William Sio
Associate Minister of Education

30/3/2021

Hillcrest High School (138)

Contact Name: Christine Williams (Assistant Principal)

9(2)(a)

Address: 141 Masters Avenue
Hillcrest
Hamilton 3251

Key People

Board chairperson: Meleane Burgess

Principal: Kelvin Whiting
07 857 0297

Head Students: 9(2)(a)

Ministry Official/s: Shane Ngātai – Director of Education, Waikato
07 858 0124

Anneliese Henare – Education Advisor, Waikato
07 850 8900

Background information about Hillcrest High School

Profile Information

Authority	State
School Type	Secondary (Year 9-15)
School Gender	Co-education
Education Medium	English
Decile	7
Electorate	Hamilton East

2 The July 2020 breakdown of roll information is shown below:

July 2020 Roll	Number	Percentage (%)
Māori	281	16.2
Pacific	74	4.3
Asian	331	19.1
Other	87	5.0
European/ Pākehā	908	52.5
International	50	2.9
Total	1,731	100

Impact of COVID-19

- 3 As a result of COVID-19, students at Hillcrest High School have experienced heightened levels of anxiety, which has impacted on their well-being and engagement in learning.

Urgent Response Fund

- 4 The school has applied twice for the Urgent Response Fund.
- 5 Its first application was a cluster application with 11 other secondary schools focussed on a collaborative model that boosts wellbeing, attendance and transitions. In Hillcrest High, 22 students **9(2)(a)** will be engaged in a culturally responsive mentoring programme delivered through the school. The application is under the Cultural Wellbeing to Support attendance category and funding occurs across Terms 1 and 2. The application requested \$16,384 and \$8,818 was approved on 17 November 2020.
- 6 The second application requested \$6,650 for Engagement and Learning to support 20 students with additional learning needs. The full amount was approved on 10 November 2020. It will fund an experienced Teacher Aide to support the students, who are struggling to engage in school because of heightened anxiety post COVID-19.

Learning Support

- 7 Hillcrest High School prides itself on its inclusive education programmes, which include the Physical Assistance Centre (PAC) and Independent Learning Centre (ILC).
- 8 Hillcrest High School is a fund holder school for Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) and High Health funding and these two pools of funding are used to cover the operating costs of the PAC and the ILC. The school employs its own specialist staff as it is funded for extra staffing associated with its 55 ORS students.

Kauri Centre

- 9 Hillcrest High School manages the Kauri Centre which is an offsite Alternative Education (AE) unit operated in partnership with Oranga Tamariki (OT) and the Ministry of Education. This unit provides an educational setting for young people in the care of OT who are not able to attend mainstream schools due to behavioural concerns.
- 10 This unit's staffing is predominantly funded by the provision of AE places. Property, transport and ancillary staff funding is provided by OT. A management committee consisting of representatives of the school, the Ministry and OT provide governance.
- 11 The school also has a contract to provide education for the young people resident in the Youth Justice remand home in Hillcrest, Hamilton.

School achievements

- 9 Hillcrest High School has a strong record of student achievement. Rates of achievement in NCEA are generally high and in 2020 over half of the students who achieved in NCEA Level 1 and well over 40 percent who achieved Levels 2 or 3 attained a merit or excellence endorsement.

- 10 The school's provisional 2020 NCEA achievement is shown below, along with historical performance compared to the national average:

Academic Year	Hillcrest High School				National			
	Year 11 NCEA L1	Year 12 NCEA L2	Year 13 NCEA L3	Year 13 UE	Year 11 NCEA L1	Year 12 NCEA L2	Year 13 NCEA L3	Year 13 UE
2016	75.7	78.4	62.9	50.0	75.3	78.4	64.2	48.8
2017	83.5	84.6	63.5	55.7	75.0	78.5	65.5	48.9
2018	80.8	83.1	68.3	52.5	72.4	77.6	66.1	48.9
2019	85.3	82.0	66.1	54.7	70.6	77.5	67.3	49.3
2020	82.0	87.1	66.4	54.4	71.6	80.0	72.3	53.6

- 11 The school is a partnership school in the Waikato Trades Academy (Wintec). This programme provides local Year 11-13 students with funded places in vocational/trades programmes on-site at Wintec, generally for one full day of study every week (4 + 1 model), with some two days per week (3 + 2 model).
- 12 Cambridge assessments are offered at Year 12 in English and Mathematics. At Year 13 selected students can study papers at the University of Waikato.
- 13 Hillcrest High School has averaged over 40 Scholarships a year for some time - a considerable achievement. In 2019 the school gained 37 Scholarships, including Jianru Mo who gained the Top Scholar Award for Chinese in New Zealand and also a Scholarship in Music.
- 14 The school has a strong tradition in drama and music, with a reputation for the biannual school productions which are among the finest and most professional in the country. In mid-March the school staged the musical *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, which was well received by large audiences.
- 15 Raiyan Azim (ex-Head Boy) is a second year student on the [Ministerial Youth Advisory Group](#). Also, 9(2)(a) (Year 12 student) is a current second year Waikato Ministry of Education representative on Te Ara Tohu Pūmanawa Taiohi | Youth Secondary Tertiary Advisory Group.

Education Review Office

- 16 The school was last visited by the Education Review Office (ERO) in 2018. ERO found that relational trust and effective collaboration across the school community contribute to an environment conducive to providing effective achievement of equity and excellence, and acceleration of learning. ERO is due to return in three years.
- 17 The school is also trialling ERO's new methodology which involves an ERO reviewer working alongside the school as an evaluative partner. This assists the school to inquire into their practice compared to the previous model of a one-off assessment every three years. The principal has reported very positively about this approach.

Kāhui Ako | Communities of Learning

- 18 The School belongs to Hillcrest Kāhui Ako. The Hillcrest Kāhui Ako was established in November 2015 and comprises 9 schools, 4 early learning services and about 5,200 children and young people. Members are:
- Hillcrest High School
 - Berkley Normal Middle School
 - Hillcrest Normal School
 - Knighton Normal School
 - Matangi School
 - Newstead Model School
 - Silverdale Normal School
 - Tamahere Model Country School
 - Tauwhare School
 - Whaihangā Early Learning Centre
 - Happy Little Learners
 - Big Hugz Early Learning Centre Ltd
 - Old MacDonalds Rural Education and Care Centre.
- 19 This Kāhui Ako has a very close link with the University of Waikato and their pre-service teacher education programme. In the first two years of operation the Kāhui Ako centred around building the relational trust necessary to support effective collaboration.
- 20 The Kāhui Ako had its original achievement challenges endorsed in December 2017. It is currently working on refreshed achievement challenges with the following foci:
- Develop and strengthen cultural pedagogical practices that support Māori students' future aspirations.
 - Foster collaboration with the Kāhui Ako to strengthen teacher and student capacity.
 - Develop and strengthen Hauora (Wellbeing) of learners and educators.
- 21 The Kāhui Ako has connected with its local iwi, Ngāti Hauā, to focus on common goals for Māori students. Several member schools are also part of the Waikato Māori achievement collective (Waimac). The collective focuses on raising Māori student achievement.
- 22 The Kāhui Ako has engaged with researchers at the Wilf Malcolm Institute and Waikato Tainui on a joint pilot study focussing on understanding mātauranga Māori to support the development of their local curriculum. This initiative is a direct result of the collaboration and engagement the Kāhui Ako has undertaken over the last two years.
- 23 The refreshed achievement challenges reflect the Ministry's professional learning and development (PLD) priorities and Māori Achieving Success As Māori.

Visit and event information

- 24 The school held a Pacific Fono on Thursday, 18 March. This activity was identified as a prime opportunity for the Pacific school community to co-design the Minister's visit along with the Senior Leadership.

Time	Event	Key people	Notes
12:05	You arrive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelvin Whiting (Principal) • School Leaders • Members of the Board 	Hillcrest High School Hamilton, NZ (hillcrest-high.school.nz)
12:10	Welcome – Mihi Whakatau or equivalent Pasifika welcome (to be confirmed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matua Hemi to start Mihi Whakatau • Church Minister will say a karakia • Principal Kelvin Whiting will give a welcome speech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone from the Ministry will respond on behalf of the visiting group.
12:20	Light refreshments and conversation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshments will be available.
12:30	Round table discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelvin Whiting (Principal) • Jarred Williams (Deputy Principal) • Shielendra Achary Teacher in Charge Pasifika • Lia Stowers - Pasifika Hauora teacher • Christine Williams (Assistant Principal) • Board members • Student leaders • Alister Turner - COL leader STEM project • Tony Pyne (Head of Chemistry) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round table conversation led by Kelvin (Principal) • Suggested Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Pasifika initiatives at Hillcrest High School ◦ Action Plan for Pasifika Education 2020-2030 to better support Pasifika learners.
12:50	Pasifika Group performance in the Auditorium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasifika Group • Kelvin Whiting (Principal) • Jarred Williams (Deputy Principal) 	This will be an opportunity to meet and chat with School leaders, teachers, Board members and students.
1:00	You depart		

Participation in government programmes

School Donations Scheme

- 25 The school opted into the School Donations Scheme for 2020 and 2021.
- 26 The school received \$290,145 in lieu of donations in 2020 and will receive \$288,248 in 2021 based on the July roll return.

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunch Programme

- 27 Hillcrest High is ineligible for participation in the Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunches programme based on the equity index.

Access to Period products

- 28 Hillcrest High has opted in to receive access to free period products. We are planning a phased rollout of products from the end of Term 2 and funding for the initiative is secured until June 2024.

Learning Support Coordinators

- 29 The school does not have access to a Learning Support Coordinator because this community did not receive an allocation of Learning Support Coordinators in the first tranche.
- 30 We are working with the Hillcrest Kāhui Ako to consider what the Learning Support Delivery Model might look like within the Hillcrest Kāhui Ako and across the wider community.

Creatives in schools

- 31 Hillcrest High School did not apply for Round 1 or 2 Creatives in Schools projects.

Property

- 32 Hillcrest High School's 5 Year Funding Agreement is \$1.4m.
- 33 The school is concerned about roll growth and has requested additional teaching spaces to accommodate its growing roll. However, the school has a high number of out-of-zone students (291) and the Ministry only provides teaching spaces for in-zone students. We are working with the school to manage down their out of zone enrolments before we explore providing additional property provisions.
- 34 The school provides special needs education through an Inclusive Learning Faculty programme and is keen to grow their programme. We* are seeking additional investment to expand existing facilities. Additional investment in the Inclusive Learning Faculty will depend on the outcome of a review of the provision of special needs education in the wider Hamilton region. We are supporting the school to maintain their existing facilities through business as usual property funding until this review is complete.

***Correction: The School are seeking additional investment to expand existing facilities**

Proactive release

- 35 We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be redacted in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

Annex 1: Speech Notes

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