

The Journey Towards Our Vision - Part 2

St Peter's College
Palmerston North



‘St Peter’s College celebrates being a Catholic Faith Community where students, teachers and families work in partnership to develop empowered, self-managing, life long learners, who live the Gospel values in a changing world.’

St Peter’s College Vision

September 2016

In our last booklet, we introduced our educational philosophy. This philosophy is driven by our school vision. Copies of *The Journey Towards Our Vision - May 2016*, are available from the school office, and on our school website under 'News & Info.'

In this booklet, we update you on our current plans for 2017.

ERO Visit 2016

Our confirmed ERO (Education Review Office) report is a very strong endorsement of the all-round quality education that we provide as a college to our students and families. We are the only secondary school in the Manawatu area to have been given a 4-5 year review cycle. Only 15% of schools New Zealand wide have the 4-5 year rating currently and the vast majority of those are primary schools. Our ERO report is available on our school website.

Comments from our 2016 ERO report include:

"The curriculum is strongly underpinned by Catholic gospel values and there is a clear focus on the vision of developing: empowered, self-managing, lifelong learners. The Key Pillars of the vision guide the college's strategic direction and planning." (p 1)

"Planned curriculum review started in 2014. The school is considering significant changes and aiming to design a curriculum framework that promotes future-focused, connected, lifelong learners who are supported by relevant pathways through and beyond school." (p 2)

"The college continues to strengthen the quality of teaching. The development of a philosophy for teaching and learning should establish shared principles for teaching. This should also assist the development of the teaching practices desired by the college and evaluation of their effectiveness." (p 2)

Restructuring our day

Our curriculum review challenged us as to whether our current timetable structure effectively supports our vision. A number of New Zealand schools are currently restructuring their timetables, or have already done so.

We are moving to a three period day, where teaching periods will be approximately 90 minutes long in 2017.

Connect to Succeed, house activities, assemblies and staff professional development time are still part of the timetable. The timetable itself is still in development, and it will be made available to the wider school community in due course. There will be no change to the length of the school day.

The key reasons that we wish to restructure our timetable, to enable longer teaching periods are;

1. More opportunity for in-depth learning
2. Providing the opportunity to include a greater variety of learning experiences within a lesson.
3. Increased opportunities for student-teacher interactions.
4. Less pressure during the day for students.
5. Reduction in unproductive transition time between classes.

Research supports the longer learning period. Please follow these links on the website version of this document, under News & Info if you would like to read more.

[Early experiences of longer learning at Alfreton College](#)

[Longer Periods for Secondary School : What does the Research say?](#)

Significant professional development has already begun for teachers, to support the changes required to make the most of the longer period. This will continue over the next few years. Robust review processes will be in place to ensure that we are monitoring the effectiveness of this change.

We are planning to trial this new timetable for 4 weeks, with the Junior School, towards the end of the year.

Changes to C2S

The Connect to Succeed (C2S) coach works in partnership with students and families, providing academic mentoring and guidance. We would like to develop C2S further, to expose students to a wider range of ideas, interests, skills and experiences, to support their learning. Further, we expect the C2S programme to become an increasingly important vehicle for the delivery of pastoral care within the school.

Our Educational Philosophy (outlined in the previous booklet) presented five contexts: **My Faith, My Future, My Learning, My Hauora and My Community**. Within these contexts, we have identified a set of keys. These keys help unlock the potential of each learner, and provide a framework to teach important life competencies. The keys are: **creating, thinking, serving, collaborating, connecting, risk taking, persevering, leading and inquiring**.

The keys will be explicitly taught in the C2S programme. However, they are also expected to be present in pedagogical practice and curriculum documents throughout the school.

At present there is an hour block on a Monday, and a 20 minute block on a Friday for C2S. To maximise the learning time available, we plan to redistribute the time spent in C2S to two 45 minute blocks. It is imagined that this time will need to be further increased in the future.

The development of a curriculum for C2S has made us realise that there are varying needs for the different age groups. A further change is the splitting of the C2S groups into three divisions;

- Year 7 - 9
- Year 10 - 11
- Year 12 - 13

This will be implemented at the beginning of 2017. There will obviously be a change of coach for some students, however, where possible, we will try to keep existing groups of students together. Siblings will still remain in the same group, if appropriate.

Where to from here?

Our vision calls us to be forward thinking. To do this, as a community, we must be prepared to be challenged. We ask for your trust and support as we aim to create the best possible learning environment for your child.

We welcome your comments and questions.

**For more information, please contact any member of the
Senior Leadership Team.**

www.stpeterspn.school.nz

Email: office@stpeterspn.school.nz

Please return the form below to the front office, or email the school, if you are interested in attending a parent meeting early in Term 4.

I / we are interested in attending a parent meeting to learn more about the St Peter's College educational philosophy and the changes for 2017.

Name:

Phone:

Email address: