

School Goals and Priorities for 2010

Each year the Board of Trustees sets goals for the College which the senior staff uses to develop the school's Strategic (next 3 to 5 years) and Operational (this year) Plans. As part of their annual cycle of work the Board also reviews these plans in relation to the goals both during, and at the end of the year. These detailed plans and review documents are available for public perusal at the College Office at any time.

The main goal, to improve student achievement, remains the same from year to year and the other goals are designed to support this in some way. There are two levels of goal – planning and reporting goals - which are ones we are required to report formally to the Ministry of Education and the school's auditors on each year and Board goals - which are ones we set for ourselves as priorities for the year. The goals for 2010 follow:

1.Planning and Reporting Goals and Targets

Overall focus: Improving student achievement

(Unchanged)

Goal 1:	Raise achievement of students entering NCEA through the development and use of personalised learning plans (adds Year 11) with a particular focus of increasing the number of merit grades at each level and at least one Excellence endorsement at each of Levels 2 and 3.
Goal 2	To implement National Standards at Years 7 & 8.
Goal 2a:	To have 50% of the students achieving at or above the standard for each of Years 7 and 8. (<i>This is based on two assumptions – the first is that the standards are set at the appropriate level for the Year group and the second that achievement is related to ability which is normally distributed. As this is the first year of National Standards we do not have any baseline to base the targets on.</i>)
Goal 2b:	To review and where necessary rewrite our reporting formats to comply with the requirements of the revised NAG in relation to National Standards.
Goal 3:	Develop a positive learning environment which values achievement and effort.
PD Goal	To develop a shared understanding of the new national standards across the whole school and, on the basis of this, to develop and put in place an implementation plan across the junior school and on a departmental level.

2. General Board Goals

These goals tend to be more general than the MOE goals and we use them to set our annual plan for the year. Like all schools of our type two of our general goals need to be the ongoing work towards the implementation of the new curriculum and the implementation of the Government's National Standards policy. This latter goal will need to include upskilling teachers, coming to grips with the details of the standards, some community liaison work and the review and possible redesign of our reporting systems (we will be consulting parents about this).

Even though the funding has been removed for the work we have been doing on personalised learning we are keen to continue work on this as we believe it is making a real difference in terms of senior achievement (as shown by our good NCEA results in 2009). Careers, school review and student engagement are other areas we have identified as important for further work during 2010. Another area that we need to continue

working on is that of Maori Achievement and meeting our NAG requirements in terms of our Maori Community.

Property is always an area where work is needed. This operates on a different timescale from all other school activities as the “property year” is July – June. The goals for the last part of the current year are to finish the special needs and computer room work and for the next year (from July) to start planning to refurbish our maths block.

School Goals and Priorities for 2009 – Report

The reports on the 2009 BMC Goals and Priorities are available for reading at the College Office. Overall the Board was pleased with the progress made during 2009. The goals set were challenging and comprehensive and most were met within budget and within the timeframes specified.

MOE Planning and Reporting goals included the improvement of student achievement through the use of personalised learning plans with Year 12 and 13 students where we took a wider view of success and, from this; we can report that all but one of those students reached the targets they set for the year. Our focus with the younger students was in terms of literacy programmes with a focus on writing and while we found it challenging to identify objective measures and teachers consider we have made progress in this area.

Our main PD goal had to do with the implementation of the new curriculum in ways that will improve learning and teaching and the results here were positive. One way we approached this was through our participation in a multi-school development project with 5 other small Otago Secondary Schools which was showing great progress but unfortunately was cancelled half way through as part of the Government's cost cutting last year.

There were a wide range of Board goals. The majority of these are ongoing priorities that simply go from one year to the next but there were also a number of goals that were completed during 2009. These included the completion and equipping of the new Metals Shed facility (and I must acknowledge the work of Jim Erridge, Alan Ritchie, the late Alex Gow and numerous student helpers) and the redevelopment of the computer room (which will be completed early in 2010). We also made progress in terms of the provision of a Special Needs room. One of our goals was to improve student access to computers (this was the reason for the changes to the computer room) and we successfully trialled the use of n-Computers (this is where one grunty computer allows 6 simultaneous users). We are also very grateful to the MLT, through the Trusts' Charitable Foundation, for their generous contribution towards the provision of interactive whiteboards in the College which has allowed us to equip a further 5 rooms with this cutting edge technology.

Kevin McSweeney
Principal