



IONA COLLEGE
HAVELOCK NORTH, HAWKE'S BAY

HEADLINES

JANUARY 2012

Dear Parents and Friends

A warm welcome to the 2012 school year. While it might not have been the summer we would have wished, I hope all of you had an enjoyable relaxing break and spent well-earned time with family and friends.

At school, renovations continue. As I write, the earthquake strengthening outside my office is nearing completion and the Gatehouse has had a kitchen refit. This combined with a full roll and full staffing complement means we are well positioned for 2012.

We welcome to our staff Mrs Emily Cargill, acting HOD Music for 2012. Emily joins us from Waiopahu College in Levin where she was HOD Music. A talented flautist, playing for the BBC Philharmonic and Halle orchestras has enabled her to hone her skills as a performer. Miss Louise Galpin joins us from Auckland and brings her passion for teaching and teenagers into the PE, Social Studies and Health classrooms. Mrs Christine Taylor replaces Mrs Karen Henry, who retired from teaching, as our Director of International Students. Christine brings a wealth of experience both in New Zealand and overseas to this position. Miss Kim Fraser will be known to many already but she permanently joins our staff as a Science and Biology teacher. Mrs Cathy Blake replaces Mrs Sue Ross as our Careers Advisor and STAR Co-ordinator. She is looking forward to working with students in her new capacity in this important area. We hope they all enjoy their time with us and their new roles.

Next year, we also welcome Betty Adsett, Kiri Hill, Kate Oliver and Jena Peterson to the boarding team. These Night Supervisors are part of the restructuring that has occurred in the hostel. While not many parents will see them as they are on duty from 11pm to 7am, they are an important part of the team that will be providing for the welfare and safety of our students. They have already been on site for orientation during the last week of term in 2011 when the whole school was back. We felt it important that the girls knew their faces and were comfortable with the people supervising their well-being at night.

Not only do we acknowledge new staff but also new parents and students: a warm welcome to the Iona community. Education is a partnership and I hope we can work together to build a sense of connectedness to Iona for your daughter so that she feels she belongs. By doing this we hope to create an environment where she will develop as a person and a learner.



Novelist and social commentator Charles Dickens believed in a comprehensive and liberal education. One of the beliefs that Iona was founded on nearly 100 years ago was a broad and liberal education. Last year ERO visited the school, and found that a "shared vision for education based on pursuing personal best, is moving the college from one that stands on tradition to one that builds on this to equip students with the confidence and skills needed for a challenging future.".... "Students are highly engaged, motivated and keen to succeed.... Iona College is very well placed to sustain and improve its high levels of performance in student engagement, progress and achievement and delivery of the curriculum. On-going review and reflection will continue to contribute continuous improvement and enable students to 'pursue their personal best.' "

ERO's full report is published at the end of this newsletter and I hope it provides and/or reaffirms parents' confidence in the choices they have made. Iona continues to be a school that pursues high standards in all its endeavours and has great expectations for all of its students.



Pauline Duthie
Principal

Information

2012 Handbooks

New this year are our Handbooks. There are two: the 2012 School Handbook and the 2012 Sports Handbook. These booklets provide all the information about the start of the school year and the opportunities available to your daughter during the year. By placing them in handbook form we are responding to requests made by some parents in our communications survey last year. We hope that this format makes things more manageable and so avoids the plethora of individual sheets that used to arrive, and the inevitable loss of the one you wanted just when it was needed!! Both handbooks are meant to be kept and referred to during the year. Please carefully read the information, especially that relevant to your daughter, even if you feel that you know it already.

The third booklet is the Consent Booklet. It contains all the permission forms. **Do not unstaple the booklet.** Please complete only the pages relevant to your daughter and **return the whole booklet.**

Throughout the year, information regarding specific school trips and events will be emailed to you. We hope that this permission can also be returned via email.

A lot of hard work has gone into the preparation of these booklets and I would especially like to thank Mrs Simpson and Ms Rathbone for their efforts. We hope that you find them useful.

Term 1 Events

We warmly welcome parents and friends to all events involving Iona held at school and at other venues. I hope you are able to attend as many as possible.

The Term Calendar and the Sports Calendar (located at the back of the Sports Handbook) give the dates of all such events.

Full School Compulsory Chapel St Columba's, Havelock North Sunday 12 February

The first full school Chapel of the year will be held at St Columba's Church, Havelock North on Sunday 12 February at 10.00am. This service is compulsory for all students and parents are also welcome to attend.

Parents and Friends Cocktail Evening Friday 17 February



Included in this mailout is an invitation to an informal Cocktail Evening to be held in the School Library on the evening prior to Swimming Sports. We hope you are able to attend.

Swimming Sports Saturday 18 February, 9.30am



We warmly invite all parents to attend the Swimming Sports. This is a wonderful family occasion, one of the first significant school functions of the year and attended by almost all the school community. It is an amazing occasion.

To the Swimming Sports you should bring:

- money to buy Parents and Friends raffle tickets
- money to buy lunch, tea/coffee, cool drinks, etc.

Do not bring lunch. At a reasonable cost Parents and Friends provide a superb barbecue lunch.

All students attend Swimming Sports. Leave is only granted for **exceptional** family reasons. Please do not make it difficult for yourselves and the school by requesting that your daughter does not attend the Swimming Sports.

Parents and Friends AGM Saturday 18 February

Notice is hereby given that the Parents and Friends AGM will be held during the lunch break at Swimming Sports on Saturday 18 February. All parents are welcome.

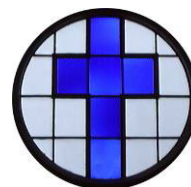
Swimming Sports Exeat Weekend 19-21 February

This exeat weekend begins after Swimming Sports on Saturday 18 February. Boarders must return to school by 8.30pm on Monday 20 February. All boarders are expected to leave the Boarding House during this exeat. Please contact the Director of Boarding if you are unable to make exeat arrangements for your daughter.

Athletic Sports Friday 2 March

Parents are also invited to attend Athletic Sports and support your daughters as they compete in a variety of sporting disciplines.

Founders' Day Compulsory Chapel Sunday 18 March



The Founders' Day Chapel Service will be held at Iona on Sunday 18 March at 11.00am. All students are required to attend and parents are also welcome.

Open Day Saturday 31 March

All students attend school on Open Day. This is designated as a normal school day and gives visitors the opportunity to view the school 'in action'.

House Music Thursday 5 April



House Music will take place in the Sports Centre on Thursday 5 April at 10.30am. Every girl takes part in House Music and parents are encouraged to attend this event.