



23 May 2023

Kia ora koutou

Last Wednesday, I met with the parents of a Year 9 male student who had witnessed inappropriate student behaviour at school – to be clear, their son was an observer/viewer of the inappropriate behaviour; not a participant in the behaviour. He could, however, have chosen to react and respond in other ways that would have supported our central school values of LIFE: Learning; Integrity; Fellowship; Excellence.

I greatly appreciated his parents making an appointment to meet with me last week to discuss their concerns. I was able to talk through with them the zero-tolerance I have for inappropriate student behaviour at Whanganui High School and our follow-through consequences for students who misbehave.

When a student is caught vaping, fighting or involved in other incidents of inappropriate student behaviour, I stand the relevant student down from school for a period of two days up to five days depending upon the seriousness and the severity of the incident.

Re-entry meetings before returning back into school classes are held in my office with me, the relevant House Deputy Principal and/or House Dean, the significant adults in the student's home life, and the student.

At the re-entry meetings, agreed commitments and outcomes from the student are set and agreed to by everybody present at the meeting. Those agreed commitments and outcomes are then sent electronically to all the relevant student's subject teachers, the House form teacher, the entire Deaning team, our two Counsellors, and my Senior Leadership Team.

Follow-up messages are then sent out exactly two weeks later to check that the student is meeting the agreed commitments and outcomes; if not, Deans and the Senior Leadership Team continue following through with the student and family.

I firmly believe that 97% of the students at our large school essentially do the right thing at the right time and concentrate on their education – making the most of all the wonderful opportunities at Whanganui High School. 3% of the school roll (just under 45 students) appear to be more visibly interested in pushing back against school rules and boundaries. These students and family members often become very well known to me. The majority of these students get back on track and some go on to succeed very well at school as the years

progress; a minority continue to misbehave and they end up exploring alternative places of education and learning. The bottom line is that our school must always be a safe place for all students and staff.

I appreciate your support in ensuring that your children do not become followers, observers or viewers of inappropriate behaviour in this constantly intrusive digital age and world. Please encourage your children to demonstrate our LIFE values at all times. For your information, I am including a link to extremely useful Netsafe information for parents, students and the wider community: <https://netsafe.org.nz/what-do-do-if-something-upsets-you/>

Suspension of PPTA Union Industrial Action

PPTA Union nationwide industrial action has been suspended from Monday 22 May to Tuesday 30 May. This is to allow the Union and the Ministry of Education to work with urgency to explore options for revised offers. Year 11 students will **not** be rostered home on Thursday 25 May and Year 13 will **not** be rostered home on Tuesday 30 May. Students should continue attending all classes as normal.

If agreement is not reached by Tuesday 30 May, it appears that PPTA Union industrial action will resume on Wednesday 31 May 2023. I will send an updated newsletter next week if the industrial action is about to resume.

Ngā mihi nui

Martin McAllen

PRINCIPAL