

January 31 2018 – Day 1 Newsletter



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Kia Ora, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Bula Vinaka, Malo e Ielei, Talofa Lava, Taloha, Kia Orana, Ni Hao, Buenos Dias, Chao, Malo Ni, Habari Dobar Dan, Namaste, Salam!

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME!!! I am extremely excited and passionate about what is in store for all of us here at Royal Oak Intermediate School in 2018. We hit the ground running, with no time to waste over the next four terms. There are a number of progressive changes happening this year, including the students been given their own School Diary. This is a partnership tool between school-child-parent/caregiver. Please take the time to look at every evening, connecting with your child on their learning and up-coming events/reminders.

This year we are implementing a 'FIVE DAY TIME-TABLE', which will allow a more structured and consistent approach to our day-to-day happenings here at Royal Oak Intermediate. This will see us retain all of our exciting programmes and curriculum time as well as open up pathways for a new, specific Gifted and Talented Programme across the curriculum.

This has also resulted in altered bell times for 2018 and beyond – this information can be found in your students' School Diary (handed out on day 1).

Uniform

Our uniform remains largely the same as previous years. However, we have introduced a new school sock, primarily for boys. This is a knee-high black with blue and green trim sock, which is optional for Term 1 and compulsory from Term 2 onward. We are also phasing out all WHITE socks for girls to be replaced by plain black ankle socks. The new boys sock can be purchased from The Warehouse, Royal Oak.

Composite Classes

Royal Oak Intermediate is committed to 21st century teaching and learning resulting in enhanced student achievement. By making clear and meaningful links to the New Zealand Curriculum (and getting away from the now dated alignment of National Standards) we have restructured all classes into composite (Year 7 and 8) for the year ahead. This has seen us group students into learning abilities, interests and relationships rather than their date of 'manufacture' (stages rather than ages). This has been supported by developing teacher pedagogies in order to circumvent teaching in a 'siloes' fashion e.g. a different 'strand, topic, concept etc...' to the year 7's and another to the year 8's, but allowing all students to access level 4 of the curriculum, teaching to ALL needs rather than year level. This is most prevalent having just come out of an in-depth Staff Only Week, where our teachers have undergone strong and effective Professional Learning Development.

BYOD

This year we have become a **BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)** school. Over the last few years there has been a vast amount of community consultation surrounding this; going through the 'ins and outs' of the constructive elements and the concerns. All of which have been taken into account in this step forward. BYOD gives the students the opportunity to bring their 'laptop-like' device to school to use as a TOOL to aid their learning.

The spec requirements are as follows:

- A physical keyboard
- A screen size of 11" or larger
- Minimum battery life of 5 hours

A Chrome Book is a good suggestion for Royal Oak Intermediate's BYOD programme

NOTE: This is not a compulsory initiative, but one that we encourage students and families to invest in.

New Staff

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our new staff to the Royal Oak Intermediate whanau! We are very lucky to have...

Jacqueline Phillips (Kokā Jackie) in Room 4 – BINSTED
Rene Loggie in Room 8 – JORDAN

Susie Kosi
Shyam Puru
Roseanna Baker

in Room 10 – BUCHANAN
our Art Specialist – GRAINGER
in Room 7 (3 days a week) – BINSTED

At Royal Oak Intermediate we aim to give all our students a strong background in all eight learning areas whilst developing the five key competencies as specified in the New Zealand National Curriculum. This is achieved through the Core Curriculum Programme as well as the Discovery and other programmes on offer. Neither is more or less important than the other, with these other programmes offering unique learning experiences for our students.

The eight learning areas are:

- ◆ Literacy
- ◆ The Arts (Music and Visual Art)
- ◆ Health and Physical Education (Hauora/Health, Physical Education, EOTC, Bio-Food)
- ◆ Learning Languages (Te Reo Maori, Mandarin and other languages)
- ◆ Mathematics and Statistics - Numeracy
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Social Sciences (covered through Literacy and Discovery Programmes {which includes Geography and History})
- ◆ Technology (Hard Materials and in-class ICT)

The five key competencies are:

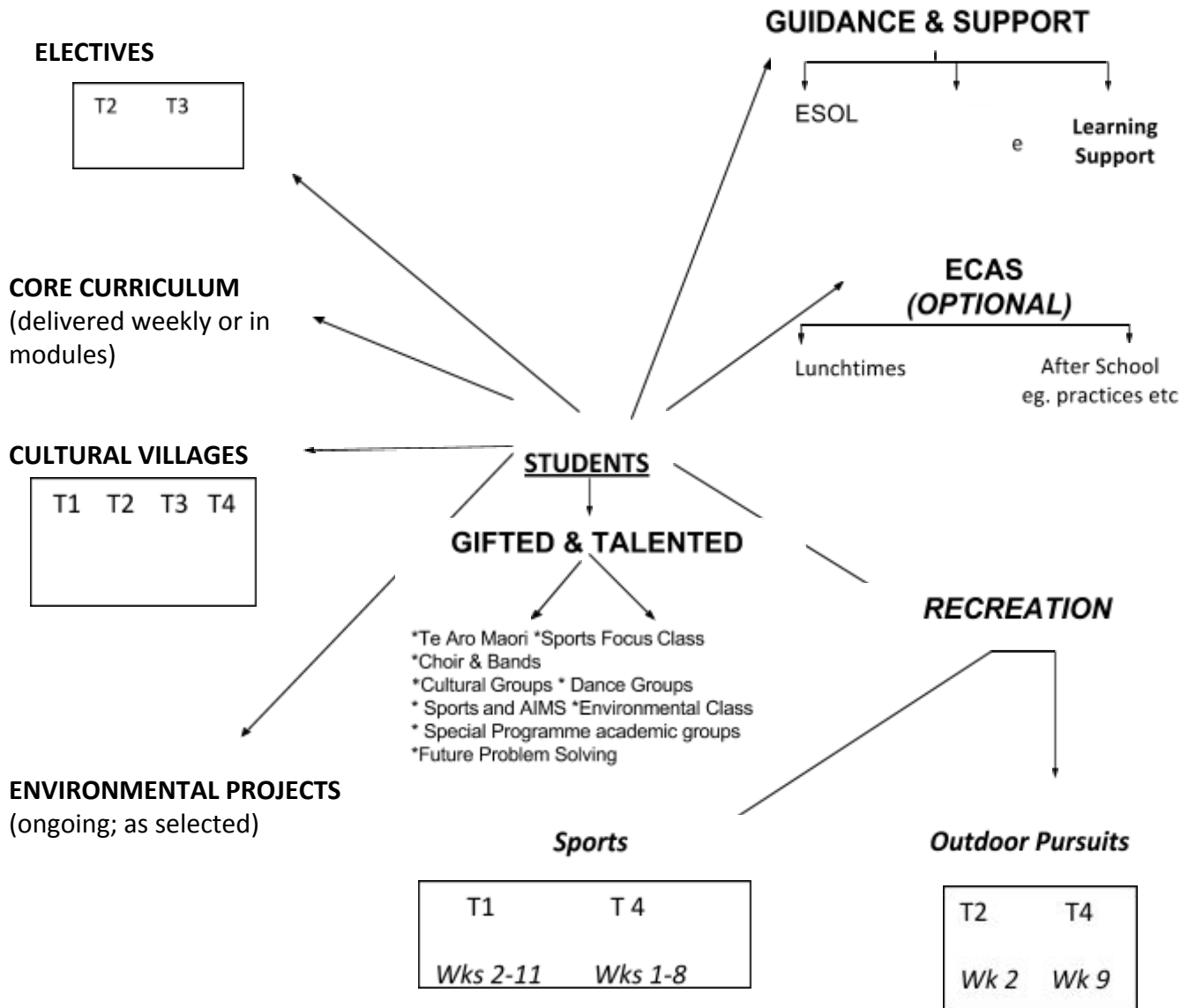
- ◆ Thinking – using creative, critical and reflective processes to make sense and question information, experiences and ideas
- ◆ Using language, symbols and texts – working with and making meaning of the codes in which knowledge is expressed
- ◆ Managing Self – self motivation, a ‘can do’ attitude; the ability to establish personal goals, make plans, set high standards for self. Knowing about who you are, where you come from and you fit in.
- ◆ Relating to others – interacting effectively with a diverse range of people in a variety of contexts.
- ◆ Participating and contributing – participating actively in local, national and global communities.

Nurturing young lives is an immense responsibility that we share with you, the parents/caregivers and your child’s wider whanau and we take this very seriously. Ensuring that the children in our care are confident, connected, actively involved lifelong learners who are well prepared to engage with life as contributing citizens of the 21st century, able to communicate and negotiate, to think critically and to live life with dignity, care and compassion, is not only our responsibility, but also our delight. We believe all young people in NZ schools have the right to gain, through a state school system a broad, balanced education that prepares them for effective participation in society.

Whilst making a caring educational environment where all students will develop an enthusiasm for learning, we are also able to offer our students a myriad of other special programme activities and options, coupled with the emphasis on academics, extension and recovery work.

Your child will be in a small class of approximately 25-27 students learning the core curriculum subjects and will then rotate around teachers specialising in Music, Art, Foods and Hard Materials. They will interact with others from across the school when they are involved in the Discovery programmes. This involves Electives; Cultural Villages and a modular recreation programme of sports and outdoor pursuits. Any interested students can also be involved in the after school or lunchtime ECAs (Extra Curricular Activities). The school will be incredibly busy and exciting...as an intermediate school should be!

In Summary



“A student at Royal Oak Intermediate School will receive a broad, balanced and ‘academic priority’ education setting them up for secondary, tertiary or a trade education, the world beyond, and the 21st century!”

SCHOOL PORGRAMMES

Throughout the year all students will be involved in a wide variety of programmes, both compulsory and choice based. These involve the Core Curriculum, Discovery Programmes and Other Programmes.

1. CORE CURRICULUM

(A) These are the compulsory core learning areas all students do every week all year:

- Literacy (English {reading and writing}; Social Studies) – 5 periods
- Maths – 5 periods
- Science – 2 periods
- Physical Education – 2 periods
- Hauora (Ka RERE, Values, Social Skills, Sexuality and Relationship Education, Puberty, Healthy Lifestyle Choices, Self Esteem/Confidence and Road/Water Safety, Goal Setting and Reflections) – 1 period
- Friday Fusion (Careers; Com-Lit, Financial Capabilities; Service) – 1 period

(B) These are the compulsory core learning areas all students do in either module 1, 3, 5 and 7 each year in a rotation system ie. each subject for approx. one term each for two lots of two periods per week:

- Music – 4 periods every week, for one module
- Art – 4 periods every week, for one module
- Bio Food – 4 periods every week, for one module
- Hard Tech – 4 periods every week, for one module

(C) These are the compulsory additional programmes all students do every week:

- Cultural Villages (performance groups) – 1 period every week, every term
- Recreation (sports rotations) – 1 period every week, terms 1 and 4
- Electives – 1 period every week, terms 2 and 3
- School Singing - 0.5 of a period every week, every term

So, as you can see we have a jam-packed year ahead! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions, concerns or issues that we can help with; we greatly value whanau and family partnership. Here's to a wonderful year at Royal Oak Intermediate, as we continue Ka Rere – to fly!

Kind regards

Ross Devereux
Principal