

26 April 2010

To the Parents and Community of Marist College

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on Marist College.

Marist College is a state integrated secondary school that caters for girls in Years 7 to 15. The special Catholic character of the college reflects Marist traditions and affirmation of Christian values underpins all aspects of the school. The multicultural nature of the school community is affirmed and celebrated.

The principal and senior management team lead the school well. They work collegially with staff to promote ongoing improvement in student outcomes. Pastoral care systems remain a core strength of the school, providing students with high quality support and guidance so that opportunities for learning and personal development are maximised.

Trustees work actively to ensure that educational programmes are well resourced and students are provided with a high quality learning environment. The recent addition of four new classrooms, and planned increases in teaching spaces and the gymnasium area, are indicative of the board's forward planning and focus on students. Self-review processes are well established and findings are used to inform decision making at all levels of the school.

Student academic outcomes continue to reflect positively on the school. Achievement in the National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) examinations for all groups of students, including Māori and Pacific, significantly exceeds national and decile averages. The college also achieves highly in New Zealand scholarship examinations and a variety of other national and regional academic, sporting and artistic competitions and events.

Emphasis is placed on providing students with an holistic education, meeting individual needs, and promoting personal excellence. Students appreciate the wide range of academic, spiritual, sporting, cultural and artistic options available. They respond well to leadership opportunities and their strong sense of social responsibility is evident as they continue the college's well established tradition of service to others, within the school and the wider community.

ERO affirms the college's continuing high standards of performance and recommends that time now be taken to consolidate and embed new teaching strategies. Recent processes for self review of the strategic plan have provided trustees with useful information about next steps to clarify and support their work in the governance of the school. Strengthening board systems for recording overall student progress and achievement, and progress against strategic and annual goals within this developmental work, could also be useful.

Future Action

The board of trustees has demonstrated that it is governing the school in the interest of the students and the Crown. The board, together with the principal and school leaders, continues to be highly effective in using self-review procedures to further promote student learning: engagement, progress and achievement. ERO is likely to carry out the next review in four to five years.

Review Coverage

This report provides an evaluation of how effectively the school's curriculum promotes student learning: engagement, progress and achievement. ERO's evaluation takes account of the school's previous reporting history and is based on;

what is known about student achievement information, including the achievement of Māori and Pacific students;

decisions made to improve student achievement using the information; and

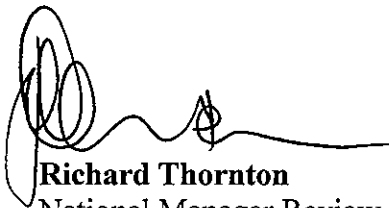
teaching strategies and programmes implemented to give effect to the school's curriculum.

ERO's review is responsive to the school's context. For example, when ERO reviews a school, it takes into account the characteristics of the community, from which it draws its students, its location, and the aspirations the community has for its young people, and relevant local factors.

ERO also builds on the school's own self-review information. That is, ERO is interested in how a school monitors the progress of its students and aspects of school life and culture, and how it uses this information.

ERO also gathers information during the review to contribute to its reports on national education evaluation topics. Comments relevant to this school are included in the report. The national reports are published on ERO's website.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact the school or see the ERO website, www.ero.govt.nz.



Richard Thornton
National Manager Review Services
Northern Region