

Highlights of UPT Board of Trustees meeting 17 January 2011

NCEA results

Since the release of the 2011 NCEA results in early January, some students have indicated to Brent that they are applying for “top-up” credits. They have until February 25, 2012 to obtain these last-minute internal re-sits. The school will mainly focus on supporting those students who have missed getting their intended qualifications by just a few credits.

NCEA credit cards

User-friendly NCEA “credit cards” will be introduced this year. Information from the KAMAR student portal will be loaded individually onto individual students’ cards, which will show what credits the students have, in particular, their literacy and numeracy credits.

Courses

Most of the NCEA-level course overviews for 2012 have been on the school website since the end of last year. Some overviews are still being written.

There will be seven colours options (courses) in each block in term one, instead of last year’s six.

Communities

Communities this year will be “communities of interest”, based around different interests e.g. ICL, creative activities (for a drama and fashion show), community involvement. There will be 3 or 4 LAs, and 35-60 students, in each community. There will be no community team facilitators this year.

The first hour of school on Thursday mornings will be community or homebase time for the whole school. Communities of interest may change throughout the year.

University hub

The final stages of the lease for the school’s hub at the University of Canterbury is being sorted out with the university and the Ministry of Education. From this week, the school will have access to certain buildings on-site, including science labs, the Jack Mann Auditorium and the College of Education library, as well as office and teaching space for the school’s new enterprise centre.

2011 leavers’ survey

A brief examination of the exit questionnaires of students who left UPT at the end of 2011 showed that, for 19 students the school overall exceeded their expectations, 26 felt it met their expectations, and 6 said it was worse. Of the parents surveyed, 18 indicated that it was better than their expectations for their children, 18 said it was the same and 9 said it did not meet their expectations. 11 students and 12 parents indicated that they (the students) struggled with a lack of structure/too much freedom/time management.

Tanja will involve parents, students and LAs in setting up a survey to receive regular feedback about the school programmes, support, communication etc.

Highlights of the Tanja's report to the board

- Two new science and maths learning advisors, one drama and dance LA, one enterprise, textiles and food tech LA and one special needs coordinator will be starting in the first term.
- With the addition of the university site and some suggested changes to the timetable, to be announced soon, there'll be consultation with the school community about possible changes for term 2.
- Celebrations of learning (COLs), a chance for students and LAs to publicly share about their learning, are being re-introduced and will be held once a term. The first will be held on Tuesday 3 April in Hagley Park.
- From the start of the year, students will have weekly 25-minute one-to-ones with their homebase LAs. The one-to-ones will have clear guidelines and will be followed up by Alistair and Tanja.
- There will be three days of orientation in the first week of school, starting on Wednesday February 1. On the Thursday and Friday, students will meet all the LAs and meet in year levels. The students will also select their homebases, and the senior students will select their courses.
- At this stage, the number of students expected to be at UPT at the start of the school year is about 414.