



EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE TE TARI AROTAKE MATAURANGA

To the Parents and Community of Wellington College.

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

Wellington College is located close to the centre of the city. At the time of this review in August 2009, it had a roll of 1533 students, five percent of whom were Maori and a further five percent were of Pacific cultures. The College culture of high achievement effectively blends its heritage and tradition with innovative teaching and learning. It is a thriving community.

Students achieve high levels of success in many areas including a wide range of sports, music and drama. A school haka has been composed and is increasingly used to engender a sense of identity and unity among the College community. Results in the National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEAs) are consistently above national and decile comparisons and have been improving in the last three years. In 2008, 59 students were awarded 115 New Zealand Scholarships across 19 subjects. This record of consistent outstanding success places Wellington College students amongst the highest achievers in the country.

Members of the Board of Trustees bring professional expertise and knowledge to their roles. Many have multiple associations with the College, as former students and parents. Trustees have a sound understanding of governance.

The Headmaster and senior leadership team have a high profile

throughout the College community. Collectively they are effective in nurturing the aspirations and dreams of students and staff. Students appreciate the many and varied opportunities that are made available to them, and staff acknowledge the fulsome support they receive to advance their subject specific knowledge and teaching expertise. Students express pride in the College and display a sense of ownership and belonging. Those spoken with by ERO state they feel physically and emotionally safe.

There is high quality teaching throughout the College. Teachers regularly engage in professional discussions to improve students' learning. This is evident in, for example: the range and scope of digital learning opportunities; the adoption of a school-wide template for inquiry learning developed in consultation with contributing schools; feedback and discussion with the specialist classroom teacher following class observations; and voluntary professional development gatherings to share and discuss approaches to teaching and learning.

Improvement and accountability are understood to be the key purposes of self review. Internal evaluation is used to effectively inform decision making and improvements, such as the department reviews introduced in 2008. Self review includes increasing use of student focus groups to provide their view of planned change. Many staff actively promote self review in classrooms. Students are encouraged to reflect on each others' learning. They are given, and accept, high levels of responsibility.

Senior managers and staff are aware that improvements need to be made in the way achievement data are used to track student progress over time and in setting priorities within planned whole-school professional development. As the Strategic Plan is due for renewal, it is timely to extend its structure to create a framework that effectively links the many and varied self-review processes through articulating clear statements of intended learning outcomes at all levels of the College.

The Board responded positively to the findings of this review and has developed a recommendation to help guide continuing school improvement.

ERO is very confident that the Board of Trustees can govern the school in the interest of the students and the Crown and bring about the improvements outlined in this report. ERO is likely to carry out the next review in four to five years.

ERO reviews do not cover every aspect of school performance and each ERO report may cover different issues. The aim is to provide information on aspects that are central to student achievement and useful to this school.

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

Dr Graham Stoop
Chief Review Officer