



REPORT BY IVANKA ACQUISTO – HEAD - ST STITHIANS GIRLS' COLLEGE

**INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF PRINCIPALS
NEW ZEALAND 2007 : AUCKLAND CONVENTION CENTRE**

Pre-Conference School visits

I visited four schools in two days; 3 public schools and 1 private school: 1 three year old school and others over 50 years.

General comments:

- School numbers are large relative to St Stithians – on average over 1200 students at the College level.
- Class sizes are less than 30.
- Maori is acknowledged visibly through language and programmes on diversity/multi-cultural appreciation. Every child learns the Haka welcome and has a basic vocabulary of the Maori culture. Information uses English and Maori wherever possible.
- IT is fairly sophisticated with hubs and interactive whiteboards and touch screens. Some schools use laptops.
- "Learning intentions and success criteria" – our outcomes and assessment standards were pinned up visibly on the walls of classrooms.
- Integrated learning e.g. Maths/Science was intentional with thinking maps showing the integration.
- Uniforms – emphasis on comfort rather than on looking smart. However, school **sandals** are worn to suit the climate. Only in winter do they wear lace-ups. Year 13s wear Mufti (civvies).
- Schools are battling with perceptions about their new National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA), the equivalent of our Matric.

FOGARTY : THREE STOREY INTELLECT
BLOOMS TAXONOMY
BIGGS + COLLIS : SOLO TAXONOMY
COSTA : Habits of Mind

A strong values programme

The values programme is evaluated by

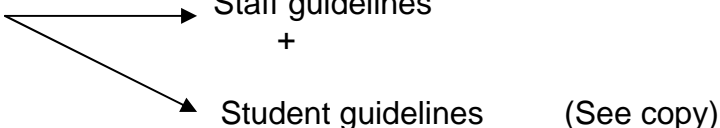
- An online parent panel (2 from each grade)
- The SRC
- The Prefect Group

Middle school students have a card + gain stickers (from teachers as “merits” for bronze, silver and gold awards which are linked to the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

For the Senior school, there is no extrinsic motivation system except that two students are chosen randomly and ‘checked’ in terms of values, participation and goals. The reward is a free tuckshop lunch voucher. At Year 13 level, it includes a friend.

School 3 : Kelston Girls’ College **Large multi-cultural Girls’ School**

- Superb diversity training conducted through “narrator experiences”. One teacher is dedicated to this topic, linked to university research and paid by government. This person helps teachers and students related to diversity, particularly Maori.
- A senior teacher is dedicated to “teacher support” which includes all new teachers and self referred teachers. This person also organises teacher exchanges and links with outside agencies.
- This school has an entire Centre for the deaf in their school, paid by government. Learners are integrated and pulled aside for specialised therapy.
- This school uses an excellent assessment tool for numeracy and literacy. Called ASTTILE (Assessment Tools for Teaching + Learning) (See copies)
- Students are given regular, specific individual information to improve their learning.

- Interesting  Staff guidelines
+
Student guidelines (See copy)

School 4 : St Cuthberts College
Private Girls' College with boarding (Yr 1 – 13)
A Church School

- Resilience Training for girls – at Yr 10 level for one month at a time.
Stand alone building, site and staff.
8 girls to a house
 - Cooking + cleaning + laundry
 - Eco-principals used
 - Sustainability
 - Taught fishing
 - Orchard – learn to dry fruit and make preserves
 - Physical fitness + growth in resilience and self-esteem(See Brochure)
- Only health foods sold in tuckshop and in vending machines
- Impressive ICT (See brochure)
- Advanced Learning Centre – for gifted students (See brochure)