

Waimea Community of Learners

Waimea Kāhui Ako

August 2017 update from the Waimea CoL/ Kāhui Ako (for BOTs, staff and communities)

Achievement Challenge Plan

Our achievement challenge plan has been approved by the Minister and is available to view on the MOE website at this link:

<https://education.govt.nz/communities-of-learning/teaching-and-learning/achievement-challenges/>

Thanks to all who contributed to an excellent plan. Our three identified challenges are:

- 1. To improve achievement in writing for boys in Years 1-10**
- 2. To reduce the gap between the achievement of males and females at NCEA Years 11-13**
- 3. To improve the educational outcomes for Māori students in Years 1-13**

Appointing across-school and within-school lead teachers

We are proceeding with the appointment of the five across schools lead teacher positions. The application package will accompany this update and also be posted on the COL Dropbox by the end of the day on Friday 28 July. Principals please promote this widely to your staff. We encourage you to email the application package to all staff and talk about it at staff meetings over the next week or two. The appointment timeline is:

Monday 31 July	Applications open
Friday 18 August	Applications close
Friday 25 August (approx.)	Shortlisting completed
Mon – Tues 11 & 12 September	Interviews
	Referee Checks and attestation against National Criteria
Tuesday 19 September (approx.)	Offers to successful candidates
Friday 29 September	Appointments confirmed

Once the across schools roles are appointed schools will make their within-school lead teacher appointments. We will use term four to train all the new appointees so they can begin working in schools from the start of 2018.

Resourcing

With the achievement challenge plan approved individual schools will now receive a staffing entitlement for inquiry time – look for this on your staffing entitlement notice. Don't hold your breath in expectation of a huge leap in your staffing; our total inquiry time allocation across the entire Kāhui Ako is 1.59FTTE, which averages just 0.13 per school, and considerably less for most schools. We ask schools to consider the idea of consolidating all these entitlements into a single fund, which may be a more useful way to support the work of the Kāhui Ako. Your feedback on this idea is encouraged and it will be discussed at our next principals meeting.

Staffing for across schools and within schools roles is also available now and will be activated when appointments are made. This resource also goes directly to schools employing teachers in these roles.

Meetings with staff and Boards of Trustees

Kāhui Ako leaders have a busy schedule of meetings with staff and boards of trustees over the next few weeks. Thanks to all who have made time in their busy meeting agendas for a 20 minute



presentation. If you have not yet taken up the offer we encourage you to do so now as it gives us a chance to discuss the appointment process for the across schools roles.

Working with our expert partner

Our management group (John, Peter, Graham Avery and Dave Sampson) spent Thursday 27 July with Camilla Highfield from University of Auckland, our expert advisor. We began work on investigating our achievement challenges with the view to creating detailed action plans for these. Principals may wish to take their staff through the same exercise: for each achievement challenge consider the following:

1. Possible hypotheses for the problem
2. What makes us think this is a plausible explanation?
3. How could we test this hypothesis?
4. What further data and evidence do we need?
5. What could our next steps be?

Our attempt at this process is available in Dropbox:

[https://www.dropbox.com/home/Waimea%20CoL%20\(1\)/Expert%20Partner?preview=Testing+the+hypothesis.docx](https://www.dropbox.com/home/Waimea%20CoL%20(1)/Expert%20Partner?preview=Testing+the+hypothesis.docx)

We will post a blank version of the template for your use.

Upcoming meetings

1. Wednesday 16 August, 1.30-3.00pm, principals' meeting, Henley School
2. Friday 1 September, regional COL leaders' meeting, Nelson
3. Wednesday 13 September, 1.30-3.00pm, principals' meeting, Henley School

Kāhui Ako Professional Learning Day

The combined staff from all COL/Kāhui Ako schools will attend a professional learning day on **Monday 5 February 2018**. Ideas for the day (speakers, workshops etc) are welcome and more information will follow. Representatives from Boards of Trustees will be invited to join part of the day.

Thanks for your commitment to supporting the achievement of our students across the Waimea COL/Kāhui Ako. Please contact us at any time for more information.

John Armstrong principal@henley.school.nz

Peter Verstappen: peter.verstappen@wakefield.school.nz

