

Waimea Community of Learners

Waimea Kāhui Ako

April 2017 update from the Waimea COL (for BOTs and staff)

The Waimea Community of Learning has appointed principals Dave Samson (Ranzau) and Graham Avery (Appleby) to a leadership team, along with Justine McDonald (Waimea Intermediate) and a secondary school representative (to be confirmed).

All Boards have signed the Memorandum of Agreement and we are on the way to developing achievement challenges to be sent to the Minister of Education for final approval. A Student Achievement Team has been formed with Gerald Baldwin (Brightwater), Freya Hogarth (Hope), Damian Campbell (Waimea College) and the Co-Leaders. This team is looking at the student achievement data for the 12 schools as a first step in identifying common goals and targets. We intend to have our achievement challenge plan approved by the MOE in July-August and will then begin appointing our across-school expert teachers (5 places) and in-school expert teachers (29 places).

We have appointed Dr Camilla Highfield as our expert partner who will work closely with us to shape our achievement challenge. Dr Highfield is the Director of Professional Learning and Development at the Faculty of Education, The University of Auckland. Her appointment to our Community of Learners is funded by the Ministry of Education and Camilla will work up to 30 days in the next two years focussing on strategies to raise achievement in our schools. For more information on Dr Highfield click on this link <https://unidirectory.auckland.ac.nz/profile/c-highfield>

Our COL leaders attended a recent forum at Lake Rotoiti with leaders from other Communities of Learning in the Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast regions. This allowed us to share ideas, share some of the challenges and to hear what works and what doesn't. It was apparent that the Waimea Kahui Ako has made significant progress in a short space of time.

We are planning a Term 2 event for our BOT's to come together to hear about the work of the COL and ask any questions, as well as share any ideas they may have.

Thanks for your positive support for this exciting initiative. Please feel free to contact either of us directly:

John Armstrong principal@henley.school.nz

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

