



From the Rector's Desk
 Greetings everyone to Newsletter 1
 Kia ora e hoa mā

As we enter a new year, we are excited about the challenges ahead of us and the possibilities presenting themselves within our new Vertical House structure. The school is in good heart. We are fully staffed and some excellent exam results bode well for a successful and busy year.

The Powhiri ceremony on Tuesday to welcome new students and staff was a great occasion. I was very proud of you all. A very positive and enthusiastic Year 9 intake settled well into the school, supported by Year 13 leaders.

Claire Waldron, our Drama teacher, resigned during the holidays. Drama has benefited greatly from the professional depth and hard work that Ms Waldron brought to her teaching. Jennifer Richardson has been appointed to the Drama position. We also welcome other new staff to the school — Joy Snell (Art reliever), Carrie Haugen (English), Katie McCall (Maths and Science) and Isabel Sauer (our GAP student from Germany).

Most aspects of our 2009 NCEA results were pleasing. The percentages below represent those who passed as a percentage of eligible candidates. The Level 1 Merit endorsements and overall pass rate for Level 2 were particularly strong. The Level 3 results, particularly for some boys, were very disappointing.

- Level 1 - 75.2% passed, compared to the national Decile 6 average of 68.4%
- Level 2 - 84.8% passed, compared to the national Decile 6 average of 73.9%
- Level 3 - 69.4% passed, compared to the national Decile 6 average of 66.0

Endorsements	Level 1 Merit		Level 1 Excel		Level 2 Merit		Level 2 Excel		Level 3 Merit		Level 3 Excel	
	GHS	Nat	GHS	Nat	GHS	Nat	GHS	Nat	GHS	Nat	GHS	Nat
2009	37.6	27.3	4.6	7.9	11.5	19.6	3.8	5.6	20	21.4	6.0	5.2
2008	19.9	17.4	2.1	4.6	15.2	12.5	3.6	3.1	9.9	11.2	2.8	2.6
2007	18.9	17.5	5.6	4.3	13.1	12.4	3.0	2.9	5.9	11.1	3.5	2.3

Overall, these are good results. The key to further improvement is for students to value the qualification as a whole and aim for quality (endorsements) and not just quantity (credits).

"Relationships" is an important focus for us this year. Research affirms the need for strong quality relationships between students and staff. The Revised Curriculum sets out the importance of enhancing two key areas that are central to development, "relating to others" together with "participating and contributing". The Vertical House system has been put in place this year to provide a better environment to build quality relationships. Students will get to know/develop their relationship with students from different year levels. We are breaking down barriers and building something new, all within a House structure that has been at the school for 80 years. Another goal for Vertical Houses is to enhance leadership opportunities. New student leadership positions have been created — there will be an Academic Captain, a Cultural Captain and a Sports Captain for every house. The Prefects and Student Council will have strong links back into the house system.

Eoin Crosbie, Rector

GORE HIGH SCHOOL PTA MEETING

DATE: MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

TIME: 7.30 PM

**VENUE: GORE HIGH SCHOOL
MEETINGS ROOM**

ALL WELCOME

TRIATHLON SUCCESS - AARON BARCLAY

On 24th January, I raced in the Canberra Challenge Triathlon in Australia as the first of two selection races for U19 World Champs to be held in September in Budapest, Hungary. It was 40+ degrees, which made it extremely tough racing conditions. I needed to finish in the top 3 Kiwis to be eligible for the elite team and ended up 2nd from NZ, and 7th overall out of 70 athletes from Australia, NZ, Israel and a few other countries. I was stoked with this as I still have next year in this age-group, and happy to go well in such a fast paced race, which was a huge step up from national races. Overall it was a huge experience, as I learnt how to push myself to the absolute limits and it was great having the opportunity to race for my country.



INSTRUMENT LESSONS

Students are being asked to sign up this week for music lessons through the Itinerant Music Scheme. The lessons involve students leaving their scheduled class for a group lesson (usually no more than 4 in a group) for a maximum of 30 minutes per week. The lessons (singing, guitar, bass, guitar, violin, brass, drums, clarinet, saxophone and flute) are taught by visiting tutors. Some instruments are available to hire through school (excluding drums and guitar).

If you are interested, please obtain an information sheet/permission slip from Student Reception.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

Gore High School believes good relationships between teachers and students as well as students and their peers is the foundation on which all behaviour management strategies should be built on. All interactions between all members of the school should be based on the principle of "do unto others as you would like them to do to you".

Over the last year, the staff have undergone considerable training in helping students engage in conversations which allow them to reflect on what they are saying and doing and then take a more mature, responsible approach when making their own decisions and future choices.

Dealing with misbehaviour

Gore High School tries to use, where appropriate, Restorative Practice conferencing to repair the harm and put in steps to ensure that there is no repeat of the initial incident.

Restorative Practices are based on the following principles:

- Crime and misconduct is a fundamental violation of people and interpersonal relationships.
- Violations create obligations and liabilities.
- Restorative Justice seeks to heal and put right the wrongs.

The purpose of Restorative Practice questioning is to:

- Focus on the harm.
- Address obligation.
- Uses inclusive collaborative processes.
- Involve those with a legitimate stake.
- Seek to put right the wrong.

Gore High School is one of many schools in New Zealand and through out the world who are developing their capabilities with restorative practices and if you would like further information, please do not hesitate to speak to the deans or a member of the senior leadership team.

LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS FORMS

At Student Reception, nomination forms are available for Prefects, House Captain (Y12/13), Deputy House Captain (Y9-11), Academic Captain, Cultural Captain and Sports Captain (all Y11-13). Nominations close next week. Being a leader is a great opportunity to grow as a person and influence your school.

HEALTH NURSE

The Public Health Nurse will be attending the school on Tuesday 9th February at 1.30 pm.

**GORE HIGH SCHOOL
PHOTOGRAPHS 2010
INDIVIDUAL – “THE PLACE”**

The following photographs will be taken on **Tuesday 9 February 2010**

Hostel, House Classes, Individual, International Students, Year 12, Year 13, Staff, Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy.

Please Note: All students must be in **correct** uniform.

Please leave class **five minutes** before you are required for your photograph. House teachers are to be with their class for their class photo. Excuse yourself from the class you are teaching for your class photo.

All staff and students go to “The Place” first for individual photographs, line up in alphabetical order of their surname then move to group photos on the hostel lawn at the allotted time. Staff are to have their individual photos taken at 12:20 pm or at the same time as their class has their individual photos. (If wet/windy we will use the Hall for group photos and the corridor next to the hall for individual photos).

Year 12 and Year 13
Formal Group Photographs will happen in **front of the hall**

All international students, the Rector and Sonny and Georgina Ruru at the Hostel grounds at **8.55 am.**

9:00	Hostel	10:04	HKI	11:08	CHY
9:08	AAN	10:12	HMA	11:16	CRI
9:16	ABA	10:20	HMN	11:24	CSN
9:24	ABY	10:28	HPK	11:32	CBK
9:32	ACA	10:36	HPY	11:40	MCK
9:40	AMH	10:44	CCG	11:48	MHR
9:48	AMM	10:52	CHK	11:56	MLI
9:56	HHW	11:00	Interval	12:04	MML

12:20 12:20 Full Staff and Individual staff photos (at The Place)

1:00 SSR

1:10 House teachers take form class to front of school

1:15 **Full school photo (including all staff) at front of school**

1:20 Year 12 at front of school by the hall.

1:30 Year 13 at front of school by the hall

1:40 Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Girl and Boy photographs

2:00 MPM

2:08 MMC

