

9 May 2022

Dear parents and caregivers

Last Friday I received a call from our Principal, Iva Ropati. With mixed emotions, Iva advised me that he has been offered and has accepted the role of Principal at Pāpāmoa College, in the Bay of Plenty. It is with equally mixed emotions that I pass this news onto the Howick College community.

Iva Ropati has been a very well-respected leader of our college for over 12 years. During his tenure as Principal, the College has gone from strength to strength including bringing in new and innovative ways for our students to learn. The results students attain at the College have improved significantly as have the opportunities for students to achieve in ways that are meaningful for them. Leadership opportunities for students and staff have significantly increased under Iva's leadership including the appointments of our Head Students over the last five years.

The culture/wairua of the College is strong. Our values are embedded and guide our behaviours and the course we are on. These are all part of Iva's legacy. There is a significant sense of loss and some sadness associated with this news. Iva has great mana amongst our students, staff and community and this will be hard to replace. However, there is also excitement.

Excitement for Iva as he explores a new part of the country to live in and a new community of staff, students, parents and caregivers to lead.

Significantly, there is excitement for the College. A strength of Iva's leadership is his courage in surrounding himself with a strong and highly competent senior leadership team. This team has already demonstrated its ability to lead the school in his absence. This took place last year, when Iva supported the NZ Teachers Council in developing a framework for school leadership development. The senior leadership team is in turn, supported by highly competent and passionate Heads of Learning Areas (HOLAs), Heads of Department (HODs), teaching and support staff.

Iva leaves the College in excellent shape!

As with any change, there is of course some uncertainty. The Board will go through a thorough appointment process, engaging with a variety of groups along the way including SLT, staff, students and potentially community. We will provide updates to you all on what this will entail once the Board has had time to digest the news.

In the interim, I am confident that those core values of courtesy, curiosity, commitment, and courage will serve us well in ensuring the College travels forward on the waka and we continue to enjoy and build on the successes we have enjoyed, under Iva's leadership and guidance.

Iva's departure will not be immediate. We will update the community with a date closer to the departure on the appropriate planned farewell. There will be plenty of time for those who wish to communicate with Iva to do so. I have no doubt there will be many who, like myself and my fellow Board members, are grateful for his years of service and wish him well on the next steps he is taking professionally and personally.

Yours faithfully

Miles Stratford
Howick College Board
Presiding Member 2022