



# Francis Douglas Memorial College

## Important Dates

Year 13 Retreat  
Tuesday  
30 October

Wednesday  
31 October

Graduation Mass  
9.00am  
&  
Senior  
Prizegiving  
11.00am  
&

Graduation  
Dinner  
Seated at  
7.00pm

NZQA Exams  
Start  
Wednesday  
7 November

Year 8 Retreat  
Thursday  
8 November

### From the Principal

#### Study hard and work hard in the exams

In last week's assembly I reminded the senior students that they owed it to themselves, their families and their teachers to make the final sprint towards exams a strong one. I made the analogy of an athlete who trains all year. That athlete will not want to waste all the energy that was put in with a lack-lustre attempt at the final event. Instead, all the work done will be designed to create peak performance for the big event. Our students were reminded that they are academic athletes who should be focusing closely in these final days. A study timetable should have been written and it should now be the boss in terms of controlling work times and leisure times. It should allow for bursts of hard study with short breaks followed immediately by recall testing of the material just studied. Comparison of the recall testing with the material in notes should confirm how well the process is going.

Students were also cautioned against counting up how many credits they need to achieve their level's NCEA. Credit harvesting and working to minimum limits is not education. It is limitation. The athlete who works only to minimum requirements cheats only himself. In a parallel manner, a minimalistic student runs the danger of taking the threshold too cheaply and finding work in the following year too challenging.

#### Special Character Review & ERO

Following an ERO visit earlier this year, we received a Special Character Review last week. The team of three reviewers examined our school against a set of criteria and will report back to this community in the next few weeks. It is sufficient to say at this time that they were very impressed with the progress Anna Zsigovits-Mace has led over the last four years.

Our full ERO report is now available at [www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz). Summarised comments from some of it are as follows:

How well is the school achieving equitable and excellent outcomes for all its students?

1. made good progress in further improving outcomes, particularly seniors
2. high numbers gain NCEA at Levels 1 and 2
3. nearly all school leavers gained Level 2 or above
4. Māori student is achievement high, particularly at NCEA Levels 1 and 2
5. overall Māori achievements are comparable to and sometimes above their peers
6. there is some disparity for Māori gaining UE

7. Pacific students all achieved in 2017
8. recent data in Years 7 - 10 shows variations over time in relation to expectations

What school processes and practices are effective in enabling achievement of equity and excellence, and acceleration of learning?

1. The quality, analysis and use of student achievement information in the senior school supports improved rates of equity and excellence, especially at NCEA Levels 1 and 2.
2. There are appropriate processes and programmes that promote the wellbeing, identity and learning partnerships for those Māori and other students whose learning and achievement need acceleration, especially at NCEA Levels 1 and 2.
3. Strong connections and relationships between students and with teachers promotes wellbeing and learning.
4. Effective leadership and collaboration with staff is developing robust and effective processes to know about, monitor and respond to students' pastoral and learning needs.
5. Increased sharing of boys' learning and achievement with parents strengthens partnerships
6. A strategic and coherent approach to building professional capability provides increased opportunities, expectations and resources for teachers to further develop practices
7. Enhanced processes related to senior assessment, teachers' appraisals, inquiry and evaluation are building leader and staff capability
8. A well designed and planned schoolwide PLD programme develops shared understandings and expectations for effective teaching
9. A wide range of curriculum choice and opportunities exist for different interests and aspirations to succeed across all areas within the *New Zealand Curriculum* including specific vocational pathways
10. Students' learning is enriched through a range of training opportunities and vocational experiences beyond the school
11. Ensuring the curriculum is appropriately future focused is part of ongoing review

These comments all give cause for celebration over the work and achievements of our students and staff.

*St John Baptist de La Salle – Pray for us  
Live Jesus in our hearts – forever  
Martin Chamberlain*

### Leadership selection

This week a panel has been interviewing the 24 shortlisted candidates for student leadership positions for 2019. As part of their selection process, students were put into groups and asked to prepare and give a presentation on a school issue.



They were then given a group challenge to build a bridge that met specifications. This was enjoyable for them and enlightening for Tim Stuck who recorded his responses for selection consideration. Leadership names and positions will be announced at Prizegiving.



### BYOD (or T)

Once again, all students entering Year 9 in 2019 will be required to purchase a computer for class use. This is often referred to as BYOD/T - bring your own device or technology. Details about this, including options, will be given to families on Orientation Day on the afternoon of Friday 16 November.

### Board of Trustees' Student Representative

Congratulations to Corban Dravitzki who has been elected by his peers to serve one more term on the BOT for the next twelve months.



### Seniors' last week

Next week will be our seniors' final week for the year. It is action packed with Prizegiving rehearsals, Hostel Christmas Dinner, Year 13 retreat, Graduation Mass, Senior Prizegiving, the Graduation Dinner and the lead up to NCEA exams. I wish all Year 11 to 13 students well in the hope that they are able to round off the school year with lots of celebrated happy memories.

Other

### Events for next week

Tuesday:

- Year 13 retreat

Wednesday:

- School as usual for Years 7 to 10
- Graduation Mass - Chapel - 9am - morning tea for leavers and their families follows
- Senior Prizegiving - 11am

*St John Baptist de La Salle – Pray for us  
Live Jesus in our hearts – forever  
Martin Chamberlain*

### Jacob Ratumaitavuki-Kneepkens New Zealand Secondary School's Rugby



Congratulations to Jacob Ratumaitavuki-Kneepkens who was selected to represent the New Zealand Secondary School's Rugby side. The team toured Australia where Jacob was selected to play in the last two games. This included their test match against the Australian Schools team in which New Zealand won 24-12 at Ballymore.

At a recent school assembly, Jacob spoke about his time with the team and concluded by presenting FDMC with a replica playing jersey.



## NCEA MATHS FREE TUITION

with experienced teachers

Sundays. 5-7pm  
Brooklands Church Hall

*Starts 28 October*

Contact 027 364 9274  
bowers-mason@orcon.net.nz

Food & drink provided

### Brayden Meuli National Swimming Champion

Congratulations to Brayden Meuli who recently competed at the New Zealand Short Course Swimming Champs in Auckland.

He had a great week winning New Zealand titles in the 14 year old 50m & 100m fly and silver medals in the 200m fly & 50m freestyle. He also broke the 14-15 year boys Taranaki Records in the 50m and 200m fly.



This is another outstanding sporting effort by a College student on the National stage.



Nick Taylor  
Director of Sport



## NCEA External Exams

All NCEA (LEVELS 1-3) and New Zealand Scholarship examination sessions are three hours long. All exams sessions start at either 9.30am or 2.00pm

The NCEA exams start on **Wednesday 7 November**. The exam timetable can be accessed via the school website or the NZQA website.

Students are expected to wear full school uniform and to be clean shaven. The exams are considered to be a school event and students are expected to behave accordingly.

Senior teachers will be available for further tutorials up to Tuesday 6 November.

If a student is unwell or unable to make an exam, please let the school know. Please note: a Doctor's Certificate will be needed for any derived grade application.

All students have been given their Admission Slip and a Candidate Information Booklet. The information booklet covers the rules and procedures for the NCEA external exams. If your son did not receive this information he is to check at the College office or see Mrs Stevenson, Deputy Principal – Curriculum, as soon as possible.

Please ask your son to show you his admission slip which lists the exams he is enrolled in.

Please put the exam timetable somewhere visible so you can refer to it.

As an extra backup, you could follow NCEA on Twitter. NZQA has harnessed the power of Twitter to ensure all candidates sitting exams can receive regular updates about where and when their assessments are. Anyone wanting to receive these messages can follow the Twitter account **@NCEAexams**.

We also suggest you spend some time going over the *NZQA Rules for Candidates* with your son. Here are some key points to note:

### Students must:

Take their admission slip to every exam. It must be face up on their desk during all exams. Students must not write on the admission slip in any way, at any time.

Keep their admission slip safe. If they lose their admission slip, then the student should let the office know so that we can print a new one.

### No Admission Slip = No Entry.

Remember to arrive early on exam day – at least 30 minutes before the exam starts. If a student arrives more than 30 minutes after the official start of the exam they will NOT be able to sit the exam.

Morning exams start at 9.30am and afternoon exams start at 2.00pm. Exams are for a maximum of three hours. If a student has an afternoon exam they may need to organise alternative transport home.

Follow all instructions given by the exam supervisor/s.

Electronic devices not required for the exam must be switched off and inside the student's emergency evacuation pack (ziplock bag). [Please note: an electronic device is anything that can store information and/or be used for communication purposes e.g. a phone].

Students are not allowed to bring any paper (except for the admission slip) into the examination room.

Watches must be stored in a ziplock bag under the student's desk. They are not to be worn.

In an exam students are not allowed to:

- ★ talk to, communicate with or copy another candidate's work
- ★ communicate with the marker, including writing or drawing anything that could be viewed as offensive
- ★ leave the exam room within the first 45 minutes or the last 15 minutes of the exam; or
- ★ touch or open any emergency evacuation pack without the permission of a supervisor.

We wish all students well in the exams.

## LEARNER-LOGIN

Students should access the Learner-Login area of the NZQA website to view their NCEA results in early January and Scholarship results in mid-February.

Printed NCEA result notices will NOT be distributed to all learners automatically. Learners who require a printed result notice must request one from the Learner-Login page between September and December.

Certificates, School Results Summaries and Records of Achievement will only be distributed on request for delivery (in 15-20 days). The first copies of these documents are free, but additional copies will cost \$15.30 each.

Learner-Login - To Register on-line – you will require your National Student Number (NSN)

- Go to [www.nzqa.govt.nz/learner-login](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/learner-login)
- Click register
- Complete your details online

## Study Help

The following are some great websites to support students with their examination preparation and study:

<http://www.studyit.org.nz/> (focused on mathematics, science and English)

<https://www.nobraintoosmall.co.nz/> (science focused)

<https://studytime.co.nz/> (excellent study tips and guidance)

Melinda Stevenson  
Deputy Principal

## Daniel Lewis Under 12 Tennis

Congratulations to Daniel Lewis who has been selected in the Under 12 Tennis Central team who are competing at the National Teams Event being held in Christchurch next January.



Gill Hurley  
Sports Co-ordinator

### To the parents of Year 11s

Please do not believe your sons when they tell you they have got 80 credits so do not need to try anymore. It's like thinking, "I've got a job so I do not need to try anymore." Life demands continual hard work, tenacity and improvement. We would not accept this sort of mediocrity in life so we must not accept it from education.

Remember that success in the externals has been shown to make the transition into Level 2 a lot smoother so encourage your son to keep pushing himself. Our recent exams certainly suggest more preparation is necessary.

If your son has changed his mind about the subjects he has selected for next year please email me and I will keep a record of this. The actual change will not be able to take place until the HOD concerned permits it.

Thanks for your support this year.

### To the students of Year 11

Lads – most of you have been pretty wonderful to work with. Throughout the year most of you have worked diligently and tried to earn credits and I am proud of your efforts.

Unfortunately, now that many of you have passed you are saying that you've lost motivation. That sounds like an excuse to me – we all lose motivation at times but need to dig deep and get the job done properly anyway. You need to work with pride and determination - not just to gain credits, but to prove to yourself that you are not afraid of hard work.

Your aim should be to learn as much as possible during your time at school. So pull your headphones out, put down your phone, turn off the TV and get some study done!

Kath Curd  
Year 11 Dean

### Indoor Bowls

16 intermediate students attended the North Taranaki indoor bowls competition last week.

It was an enjoyable outing with one team finishing in the top 10 Ashton Dobson & Joe Douglas.



### Motor Cross Cullen Hurley

During the holidays Cullen Hurley competed in the Taupo MX Series 13-16 125cc and finished 3rd overall. This was the conclusion of a 6 month series of competitions.



### New Plymouth Wrestling Club



#### Tuesday

6.00pm Kid's Wrestling  
7.00pm Adult's Wrestling

#### Thursday

6.00pm Kid's Wrestling  
7.00pm Adult's Wrestling

18 Lawry Street, Moturoa  
(behind St James Church)

For more info contact coach:  
Nick Daly 027 760 0501

Gill Hurley  
Sports Co-ordinator



**Future Problem Solvers.** - Exciting news! - Two FDMC Community Problem Solving groups have made it to Future Problem Solvers National Finals in Auckland with the chance to represent New Zealand at the International Competition in Massachusetts, America.

### Year 10 Future Problem Solving

One of the groups was the Merry Foresters of FDMC who planted the Food Forest/Orchard on the farm by the Agdome. Heath Waayer, Germaine Grewal, Isaac Jones, Daniel Prendiville and Josiah Gillespie have worked as a well oiled machine to achieve this.

We started off as a group who didn't know what they wanted to do until our amazing teacher Mrs Wackrow got us focused and we realised there was a lot of horticultural expertise in the group.

We discussed ideas about how we could support the local families and to make FDMC greener at the same time. After many weeks that turned into months of planning and research we had decided to go ahead with our plan.

We called on the community for help with funding in exchange for a plaque with their name on it. This was hugely successful and we received pledges from 57 families.

After purchasing the fruit trees for the forest we needed to negotiate land.

With the goodwill of everyone we have successfully planted 57 trees including peaches, apple, feijoa, citrus, pear and plum. We have carefully chosen varieties so that we can supply the Food bank and others in our community with fruit every month of the year.

This is the journey of the Merry Foresters so far.



Isaac and Daniel  
Future Problem Solvers

### Community Problem Solving

In Future Problem Solving this year, the Year 10's overall goal was to paint Francis Douglas Memorial College green.

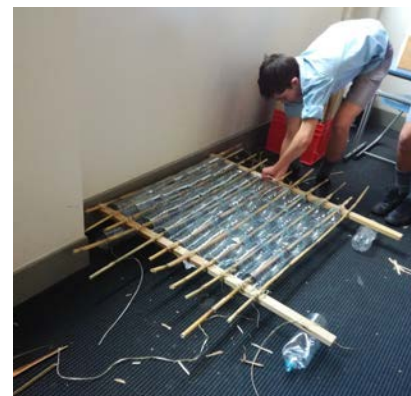
A group of students consisting of Year 10 boys Sreeram Murugaiyen, Josh Goble, Jackson Powell, Cade Thompson, and Amos Pease branched off to use our creative and critical thinking skills to make a difference to the environment. Our group has qualified for the FPS National Finals.

During the time of Cyclone Gita, a tree fell on a water pipe and ruptured it. For a couple of days, FDMC was bombarded with single-use plastic water bottles. This is when the Bottle Boys were struck with an idea, to make a "Plastic Bottle Greenhouse". The school was alerted to our project and students were requested to deposit their used bottles in Mrs Wackrow's Hobbit Room.

Sacred Heart, St John Bosco, St Joseph's and St Pius kindly donated their bottles to us (actually they were very pleased to get rid of them!) After a count of around 1800 bottles, we were ready to build. We put our mathematical and engineering skills to good use and decided to build a greenhouse using all of the plastic bottles. We encountered difficulties, but in the end we prevailed by using the problem solving process to modify our design.



Finally we ended up creating a 0.9 by 1.2 metre greenhouse shelter. We still have many more bottles for even more greenhouses which we will donate to members of our community who wish to grow food year round.



Jackson & Josh  
Future Problem Solvers

### Lost Property

We currently have a lot of lost property.

Please remember to NAME your boy's clothing as this gives a much greater chance of reuniting the article of clothing with its owner.

If it's named we try to notify the owner using the daily notices. If it is not named we have no way of getting it back to you.

For example this week we had five un-named new jerseys and four un-named Canterbury jackets.

Lost property is placed in the plastic bins under the stairs in the student foyer (by the office). Parents are more than welcome to come and hunt through for their son's belongings as although we remind boys we find that many don't look themselves or respond to calls on the daily notices.

#300LaSale



## ROKARE TENNIS CLUB

### Spotswood

### Tennis Coaching

*It's not too late to register for tennis coaching at Rotokare Tennis Club in Spotswood.  
The membership fee is only \$60 for beginners aged 4-7 years, and \$100 for those aged 8-17 years.*

*This price includes two coaching sessions per week after school  
(on Mon or Tues plus Thurs) during Term 4 and Term 1 next year, and interclub fees.*

*This is the best value junior tennis package in New Plymouth!*

*For more information see [www.blitztennis.co.nz/rotokare.html](http://www.blitztennis.co.nz/rotokare.html)  
or contact Chantelle Peters ph 027 726 5248 or [chantelle.peters@hotmail.com](mailto:chantelle.peters@hotmail.com)*

FREE PARENTING

# HELPLINE

0800 568 856

all issues - all ages  
9am - 9pm, 7 days a week  
[www.parenthelp.org.nz](http://www.parenthelp.org.nz)





Our goal is for Aotearoa New Zealand to be the  
best place in the world to raise  
children/tamariki.

### Negotiating the Minefield – for parents of teenagers.

#### Content includes:

- 📌 Emotional issues, confidence, self esteem and self concept
- 📌 Stress, trust and respect, risk taking behaviours
- 📌 Inter-dependence for teenagers and parents
- 📌 Problem solving, dealing with anger, love language

New Plymouth: 51 Buller St  
Thursday Evening  
1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> November &  
6<sup>th</sup> December  
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Phone: (06) 7585037; (06) 7650531 or (06) 278 6385

Costs: \$10 per person for full course. Please register to attend

## 2018 Calendar of Events

### OCTOBER

Mon 29 TSSA Road Relays  
Tues 30 Y13 Retreat  
Wed 31 Senior Prizegiving  
Graduation Mass  
Graduation Dinner  
TSSA Junior Rugby  
League  
AWD Taranaki  
Swimming

### NOVEMBER

Thur 1 Yr10 Mass Chapel  
Fri 2 Future Problem Solving  
  
Tues 6 TOPEC  
Wed 7 NZQA Exams start  
Catholic Athletics  
Yr 9/10 Cricket vs  
NPBHS  
  
Thurs 8 Yr 8 Retreat  
  
Mon 12 TSSA Modified Sports  
Week  
Wed 15 Junior Exams  
Yr7 Mass Chapel  
Friday 16 Junior Exams  
Orientation Day

FREE Microsoft Office for  
students for up to five home  
devices.

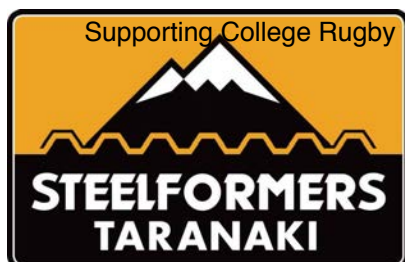
[https://products.office.com/  
en-nz/student](https://products.office.com/en-nz/student)

Requires a current school  
email address

### Physiotherapy @ Carefirst

ANDREW  
LARKIN  
& ASSOCIATES

99 Tukapa Street • New Plymouth • Phone: (06) 753 4702  
[carefirst@clear.net.nz](mailto:carefirst@clear.net.nz)



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