

Parent Consultation Summary: Focus on induction of students and whanau to Carmel College - May 31, 2017

Our focus for this inaugural consultation was on the induction of students and whanau new to Carmel. We invited a randomly selected group of Y7 parents and this small group met with the Senior Leadership team.

We will ask the same three questions at each consultation and then have a particular focus for each meeting. The 3 questions are:

- † What does Carmel College do well?
- † What could Carmel College do better?
- † Are there any burning questions/urban myths you want to discuss?

This is the feedback we got from this consultation.

What we do well	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> † Introduction to the House Deans † Website for orientation † Orientation Day before school starts (2x) † Electronic newsletter & consent forms † Communication - diary, emails, newsletters meet the teachers' forum (x 2) † Teachers are available to talk to if needed - they get back to emails promptly † Great to have older students coaching netball teams † Atawhai .. good way to teach the kids some of the informal parts of the school (2x) † Costs ... running account is fabulous † Induction seems to have happened well † Parent portal works well † Atawhai shared lunches are a great idea that really involves the students † Phone call from Atawhai teachers at the end of the first week was really great.....(2x) † Christmas card was really great; made her feel really welcome. † Pre Enrolment evening..... if my daughter.....(2x) women of influence † Pre-enrolment tours great ... fantastic to have Y13 students leading activities 	
What we could do better	
<p>1. GATE ... split into Gifted and Talented better outline and procedures and content</p>	<p>1. New person taking on this role this year, Ms Rachel Hammon. We are exploring the idea that we have Learning Enhancement and Extension Programme (LEEP) rather than GATE. This fits with latest educational research and our philosophy of not just giving students a limiting label that creates a fixed mindset rather than a growth mindset.</p>
<p>2. Info for Y13 netball coaches Y7 girls need more help from parents</p>	<p>2. This query will be handed on to our Director of Sport to follow up with.</p>

<p>3. Something to get to know other parents</p>	<p>3. Work with PTFA to provide some more social activities for the parents. Add a shared contact sheet for parents to sign up to at Orientation Day.</p>
<p>4. Outlining the “chain of command” where to go to if there is a problem. Who to go to for a particular issue.</p>	<p>4. SLT to design a flow chart that can be included in the Orientation Day material and also added to our website, under a tab ‘New to Carmel College’.</p>
<p>5. More info on Atawhai for parents</p>	<p>5. Add to Orientation Day information and also add to our website under above tab.</p>
<p>6. Names of classrooms/ CLG and Atawhai confusing more info online?</p>	<p>6. Add CLG teacher initials to assist parents to know.</p>
<p>7. Club/ activities timetable on line so parents can remind students especially after school. Info on sports..... team number, grade, website, written expectations.</p>	<p>7. Student leaders and Director of Sport to look at ways we can share this information more easily. Also, more information about how parents and students are informed about practice and game times. Pro forma will be developed to standardise and make information clearer.</p>
<p>8. More info for parents during induction re the use of BYOD. What are the benefits?</p>	<p>8. Update information on the website and add that to part of the Orientation Day information to the parents. Add this information to the website as well</p>
<p>9. Having the ability for parents to reset portal password to something more familiar.</p>	<p>9. From experience, we did this initially but parents forgot their password and we had to use the IT support person to reset passwords (and that created delays and additional workload) so we removed this capability. If parents forget their password, a phone call to the front office will get it resent to them.</p>
<p>10. Sometimes the requests for a response on parent paperwork are not clear as to whether it is a general letter / notice or one specific to your child</p>	<p>10. Ensure that the information sent via Parent Paperwork clearly identifies if this is an optional or curriculum activity.</p>
<p>11. More info on class routines for Y 7. Homework expectations. How to use the diary</p>	<p>11. Add this to the information that is covered in the ‘Meet the CLG teacher’ at the beginning of the year. Do a follow up opportunity for all parents towards the end of Term 1.</p>
<p>12. Games during breaks</p>	<p>12. Sports leaders already doing this once a week. Sports equipment available to all</p>

	students during breaks.
13. More work on using Google calendars	13. Calendar that is in Parent Portal is the one to use - can send out more information about how to connect this calendar to own personal calendars.

Urban Myths/ Burning Questions

Is it possible to build a climbing wall/ playground?

There has been a fitness trail installed around the outside of the fields many years ago in response to a request for a more 'playground / fitness' apparatus but this was not widely used and fell into disrepair. Lots of opportunities for students, especially Y7&8, access sport equipment at break times but not sure that the cost of such an installation would reap that much positive benefits. Really a case of cost vs perceived benefit when other options are currently available. Also a problem with supervision and safety as the playground would have to be a supervised area during breaks adding additional duties for teachers.

Is the Faith Cafe area only for Y13?

No, this is a shared area for all students. Initially, when the Harkins Building first opened, it was an area assigned to Y13 but, as other pastoral structures have changed over the last few years, so has the usage of this area. Y13 students do use this area as a study area and use it as a gathering place but other students also gather in that area during interval and lunch times.