



24 October 2023

Kia ora koutou,

We are now well into term 4 and, spring is most certainly upon us. Nelson is emerging from winter and the prospect of warm, dry weeks is getting more real every day. Our senior boys are preparing for NZQA examinations that start in week 5 and I wish them all the best for those important assessments.

I would like to start by thanking Simon Mardon, Tony Anderson, Michael Hayes and Ciaron Beasley who took over 60 boys down to the west coast for the annual Matt Gunter memorial tour in week 1. This tour is about fun, participation, and a celebration of our sporting talent. The senior rugby game on the Friday, against Grey High, is a memorial game for Matthew Gunter, a boarder at Nelson College who passed away in 2012. The two football games, two junior and senior rugby games and two basketball games were competitive and enjoyed by all. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Ciaron to our boarding family. Ciaron comes from Rugby School in the UK where he is the Strength and Conditioning coach for their rugby programme. He is helping Mark Cochrane with rugby at NC and has been a considerable help already as the 'extra pair of hands' that is always needed in boarding.

House competition really ramps up in term 4 and last week we were treated to House Singing and House Haka. The boys' renditions of their own choice of song and Sweet Caroline for all was acknowledged by the staff getting on stage and joining the housemasters for their own (terrible) version. The boarders came a respectable 3rd in both the singing and the haka. The Haka Competition was rounded off with a stirring full-school haka to farewell long-serving teacher and Learning Support Co-ordinator, Jenn Arais.

On Friday 20th October, Rutherford hosted the annual house dinner, held at Tides Hotel. Staff and boys leaving the house are formally and emotionally farewelled and Year 13 leadership positions for the following year are announced. Thank you as always to all our parents who were able to join Tracy and her team and support this special dinner. Barnicoat will be hosting their house dinner on Saturday 28 October.

On Wednesday 25th October, we will hold our annual Old Man's Supper. This is an opportunity to thank and farewell any staff leaving along with our Year 13 boys. This year, speakers will be Devon Clarke, head of Barnicoat House and Manaia Roberts, head of Rutherford. The event is so named as traditionally the Headmaster (Old Man) would shout the meal for the boys. Whilst unfortunately the budget now firmly sits within boarding, we have extended an invitation to the new Acting Headmaster, Mr Tim Oughton who is looking forward to this Nelson College tradition.



On 24 November, we open our boarding doors to next year's Year 9 students for a day of activities and for them to familiarise themselves with boarding life by 'sleeping over' for the night. Many of our senior boys will remember this first experience and, for many, it would have been when lasting friendships were forged.

Each term seems to be busier than the last and this term is no exception. The year has flown by, and it is a pleasure for us to be able to give the boys as many of the opportunities that had been lost in recent years due to the disruptions of Covid.

As ever, I would like to thank you all for your support of your sons and the Nelson College boarding community.

Ngā mihi

Tim Middleton
Deputy Principal and Director of Boarding

UPCOMING EVENTS

Old Man's Supper

Wednesday 25 October

Barnicoat House Dinner

Saturday 28 October

Boarding New Entrants Sleep Over

Friday 24 November