



QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE

Rangitikei Street, PO Box 4047, Palmerston North, New Zealand 4442
T: (06) 35 89033 | F: (06) 358 4156 | E: studentcentre@qec.school.nz

19th October 2022

Kia Ora Whanau

Just a quick note today to inform you of some good news for our community. The school has received a significant government funding boost from 2023. This is due to the equity index, which has replaced the old decile funding system. The equity index aims to allow schools to offer extra services and teaching for their communities.

The board has decided on one significant budget item to help whanau directly with some of the extra costs of schooling—for example, uniforms, school camp fees, sports costs, and music lessons.

From 2023 each pupil enrolled at Queen Elizabeth College will receive a \$150 credit for expenses associated with schooling. Families will be able to decide if and where they use the funding. This allows some flexibility for the different needs and passions of our learners.

We have also increased the funding of our curriculum budgets to include stationery requirements. As a result, the College will provide all essential materials for learners to be able to participate fully in the curriculum.

These initiatives support the existing programmes of free school lunches and soup and garlic bread provided at morning tea. The breakfast club is also operating in the morning from Te Matui. Our computer loan programme of 250 devices being able to be booked out and used is also continuing and running well.

Teaching and learning programmes will be enhanced by hiring extra staff for literacy and numeracy teaching. This will allow extra tutoring and support those learners that may face difficulty. In addition, we can support a programme of mana enhancement that Mare Ponga will lead to help learners who are struggling with the mainstream schooling system for some reason. Pa Mare will work with groups and individuals to help improve individual outcomes in learning.

Also, in 2023 we are launching Te Whare Pikiora. Te Whare Pikiora aims to value not only the academic growth of our students but also their emotional and mental well-being. This includes having a professional social worker and counsellor on site who are available to support our students. Our rangatahi benefit from conversations that identify and strengthen resilience and help prepare them for their future. This service is integral to how we care for our learners, and the team works closely with individuals and their teachers. However, if you wish for your child not to access these services, please advise the office. The team can be contacted at 358 9033 ext 211.

Kind Regards

Chris Moller
Principal