



FAHS - Feilding High School

Principal: Roger Menzies B Sc(Hon), Dip Tchg
Telephone: (06) 323 4029

Email: admin@feildinghigh.school.nz
Fax: (06) 323 9359

SABBATICAL REPORT

During my recent sabbatical I wished to focus on initiatives and structures that would impact positively on student achievement and engagement. With the advent of the new New Zealand Curriculum I also wished to look at ways in which schools could address the teaching of values and thinking.

I visited four schools while in Britain:

Nottingham High School
Whitchurch High School
Ysgol Esgob Glantaf
Filton Senior College

and in New Zealand:

Manawatu College
Wanganui High School
Taupo-Nui-A-Tia College

I attended a three-day conference in Paris on Education Economy and Society which had an eclectic mix of workshops on offer. Of specific interest to me were workshops focusing on values, distance learning, engaging students in science, and values education.

I also did some professional reading:

'Enhancing Student Achievement – A framework for school improvement' – Danielson
'What Great Principals Do Differently' – Whitaker
'What's Worth Fighting for in Principalship' – Fullan
'Developing a Thinking Curriculum in Your School' – Michael Pohl

The time away from the daily grind of principalship gave me the opportunity to think strategically about what the new curriculum could offer rural schools like FAHS – Feilding High School.

Initiatives that I saw that could well benefit our students were:

- Mentoring programmes
- Junior graduation programmes
- Cornerstone values programmes
- Incorporating thinking pedagogy into core curriculums

My readings highlighted that much work needs to be done with achievement data and how this should be used to impact on the teaching programme.

However the greatest overall benefit of the sabbatical was the refreshment aspect. I have returned to FAHS – Feilding High School recharged, invigorated and keen to take on the challenges that our rewarding profession offers. This aspect should not be undervalued.

R.S. MENZIES
Principal