

Hereworth Boys' School Chaplaincy Report

The past 12 months have been ones of transition, change and new beginnings at Hereworth School. With the departure of Willy Kersten as Interim Headmaster at the end of 2018 and the arrival of Trevor Barman as Headmaster in 2019, the school has once again had to assess its bearings and find new paths. Leadership is immensely important in almost every context, but particularly so at a school. Amongst the busyness of the lives of teachers and students, a sense of direction and purpose needs to be instilled that motivates and drives people forward. We look forward to that sort of leadership from Trevor, a man of committed faith and excellent experience in school management. That leadership is not the Headmaster's alone, however. I recall a headmaster once saying that besides the Headmaster themselves the Chaplain is the next strongest point for establishing a culture. That is my primary challenge at Hereworth School – establishing the Christian faith and worldview as the foundation of culture and practice. What does that look like? It has many points of operation, but it is nothing less than the desire to see human flourishing in relationships, education, friendship and work.

These goals are significant, and they are going to take time. This is particularly so as through the past year I have only been at Hereworth in a part-time capacity as I complete my Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Primary). This has been a full-time programme, which has resulted in a very busy year. The Graduate Diploma is a necessity however, for two reasons. The first is due to regulation – to teach in the long-term, I need to become a registered teacher, a categorisation that also opens up more opportunity for me around the school. The second is to understand how to teach. For much of my time at Hereworth I have been 'winging it' when it comes to teaching. The training I am undertaking will, and has already, significantly improved my practice.

Looking ahead to 2020, while there is some uncertainty as to what my role will look like, I am developing plans to review the behaviour management structure at Hereworth and continue to work with the Deputy Head for Pastoral Care and the Headmaster to develop better pastoral practices in the school. I am continuing to review the Religious Education programme to ensure that the boys depart with, if not faith, a sense of legitimacy and intellectual credulity to the concept of faith. Alongside this, I recognise an absolute need to further integrate the boys with the Church to which the school belongs. My hope is that, in 2020, we can have at least one team at Top Parish, and continue to connect with St Luke's, Havelock North to share communion services. Of course, the work of connection is not mine or the school's alone. You are more than welcome to get in touch with me if you would like to speak to the boys at a school or family worship service and perhaps promote any events or programmes you have in your parish. Our boys' come from Eastland, Central Hawkes Bay, Southern Hawkes Bay, Napier, Hastings, Havelock North and even further afield.

Our Church schools offer us a captive audience to promote the Christian faith and the Anglican Church, but without Parish's to connect them with truly developing their faith can be challenging. The raising of a child takes a village, and the discipleship of a young Christian takes more than a Chaplain. I look forward to continuing with you to build the kingdom of God in Waiapu.

The Reverend Alan Burnett
School Chaplain
Hereworth School for Boys