**BRIEFING NOTE:** Visit to Rotorua Boys' High School on Friday 22 November 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To:</th>
<th>Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>21 November 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority:</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security Level:</td>
<td>In Confidence</td>
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<td>METIS No:</td>
<td>1213461</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drafter:</td>
<td>Jon Dimock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key Contact:</td>
<td>Ezra Schuster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messaging seen by Communications team:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Robin:</td>
<td>No</td>
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**Purpose**

1. This briefing provides information to support your visit to Rotorua Boys' High School on Friday 22 November 2019 to congratulate the school on its recent success at the Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards.

2. Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

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Helen Hurst  
Associate Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support

Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

21/11/19  
22/11/19
Rotorua Boys' High School #152

Contact Name: Chris Grinter
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Address: Pukautua Street
Utuhina
Rotorua

Key People

Board chairperson: Herby Ngawhika
Principal: Chris Grinter
Head boy: Te Ao Taumatangi Billing
Ministry Official: Ezra Schuster
Director of Education, Bay of Plenty - Walariki
Nancy Macfarlane
Manager Education Bay of Plenty – Waariki

Chris Grinter has been the Principal of Rotorua Boys' High School since 1991. Previously he was Deputy Principal at Wesley College, Auckland.

Background

1. The July 2019 roll for Rotorua Boys' High School was 896 with 647 (72.2%) identifying as Māori, 132 European (14.7%) 50 Pacific Island (5.6%) Asian 42 (4.7%) and International 20 (2.2%).

2. The school vision is – "To be the outstanding Boys' High School in New Zealand".

3. The Education Review Office's 2015 report states that Rotorua Boys' High School has strong historical links to the Rotorua community. Young men are confident, have a strong sense of belonging and enjoy success in an environment that is safe and inclusive. Their achievements are recognised and celebrated. Relationships among students, teachers and whānau are positive and respectful.

4. The school is very well placed to sustain and improve its performance. School leaders have implemented comprehensive self-review practices that are well aligned to the school vision, strategic aims, teaching and learning targets,
professional learning and development, curriculum review and pastoral care. Self-review is rigorous, highly effective and underpins positive performance and continuous improvement.

5 ERO is likely to carry out the next review in four to five years.

6 Hon Tracey Martin met with Principal Chris Grinter in May of this year to discuss alternative education and the place of Activity Centres.

Visit & Event Background

7 The runsheet for your visit is set out below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>You arrive at school, and will be met by Ezra Schuster (Director of Education) and Nancy McFarlane (Manager of Education) on your arrival. Move to the school hall for mihi whakatau. Ezra will coordinate with Principal Chris Grinter and will have a speaker on hand. Immediately following the whakatau, you will be invited to speak briefly, acknowledging the school's achievement in being the 2019 Supreme Winner of the Prime Minister’s Education Excellence Awards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.45pm</td>
<td>You will be escorted around the school by student leaders – there will be a number of activities of interest occurring.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.15pm</td>
<td>You will return to the board room for tea/coffee and talk with Principal and his guests about the Prime Minister’s Education Excellence Awards. Nancy McFarlane will be in attendance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>Nancy will escort you to your car, and you will leave the school.</td>
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Prime Minister’s Education Excellence Awards

8 In September, Rotorua Boys’ High School was announced as the winner of the 2019 Prime Minister’s Supreme Award after having won the Excellence in Leading Award. The school’s Tai Mitchell Hostel offers students an innovative 24-hour learning environment with a strong element of whānau infrastructure. The judges said:

     … the school demonstrated that there had been significant shifts in the outcomes for these students and that the hostel provided 24 hour learning opportunities. The entry shows the students are thriving in this environment.

9 Through effective leadership, Rotorua Boys’ High School is supporting Māori success as Māori for students in the school hostel. Positive male role modelling, high expectations of student behaviour, and a strong connection with te reo me ngā tikanga Māori are embedded in daily hostel life.

10 Regular access to medical staff and guidance counselling, and strong relationships with housemasters and their families, immerse students in a supportive and safe environment. Housemasters contribute to individual education plans, with strong participation from whānau in academic review days.
Boarders now have 100% pass rates in NCEA, and the school's highest rate of excellence endorsements.

Rotorua Boys' High School was also a finalist in the Excellence in Teaching and Learning and the Excellence in Health and Wellbeing categories.

This is the second time that the school has won the Excellence in Leading category of the Awards. It first won it in 2016 where it was also a finalist in the Excellence in Engaging category of this award.

The Bay of Plenty – Waiairiki region featured strongly at the 2019 Awards evening with several other schools and early learning services from the region becoming finalists and winners

- Te Kōhanga Reo o Tarimano - Excellence in Engaging Finalist
- Toitoi Manawa, Fairhaven School, Te Puke - Excellence in Leading Finalist
- Te Kōhanga Reo ki Rotokawa - Excellence in Teaching and Learning Winner
- Tiaki Early Learning Centre - Excellence in Health and Wellbeing Education Winner
- Te Kōhanga Reo o Tarimano - Education Focus Prize Finalist
- Te Kōhanga Reo ki Rotokawa - Education Focus Prize Finalist.

Other Areas of Achievement

In kapa haka the combined Rotorua Boys' and Rotorua Girls' High Schools kappa – Raukura - is the current National Champion, having won back-to-back titles. Raukura has consistently placed in the top four in national competitions over the last decade.

Other significant Rotorua Boys' High School achievements include:

- 1st Pasifika at the NZ Super Eight Schools Cultural Festival 2019.
- 3rd in Senior Debate at the New Zealand Super Eight School Cultural Festival.
- 1st XV rugby team won the National Secondary Schools’ Championship in 2015 and came third at the SANIX Rugby World Youth Tournament in 2016.
- Senior Touch Team won the National Finals in December 2015 and 2017.
- The Under 15 Sevens team won the North Island Secondary Schools competition this year.
• School waka ama crews contested the New Zealand Schools Waka Ama Championships on the Blue Lake and returned with some impressive final-performances.

• Basketball Team placed fourth at the National Secondary Schools Championship in 2015.

• Golf Teams came first at the JI Manihera Memorial Golf Tournament last year and placed first in the NZ Super Eight Schools Championship this year.

17 This school provides leadership in many aspects of education and enjoys national and international recognition for its academic excellence, sporting achievements and for the quality of its cultural endeavours. All students are provided with the opportunity to develop to their full potential and to strive for excellence.

18 The school is equipped with modern facilities and set in an attractive environment of trees and impressive playing fields. It has a large and well qualified staff who are dedicated to the well-being of all students.

Proactive Release

19 It is intended that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be redacted in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.