

**Nayland College**

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2 May 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers

This letter is to inform you of the Academic Mentoring programme at Nayland College and the upcoming Achievement Conferences.

House tutors are currently working with individual students to encourage them to track their own progress and to become more aware of factors that affect their achievement. Tutors will also be assisting them to set meaningful academic goals, and to monitor their progress towards them. More information about this research-driven approach to goal setting can be found on the following page.

As part of the process, we want to strengthen the relationship and communication between the school, the student and the family. We are asking you to come to the school with your son/daughter for a 20-minute **Achievement Conference** with their house tutor for a discussion that may include:

- Attendance and Punctuality
- Term 1 Interim Report
- A piece of work that the student is proud of
- Achievement Goals
- PAT and other relevant data for junior students
- Record of Learning for senior students
- How NCEA works

Achievement conferences will be held:

**Thursday 16 May 2-5pm, 6-8pm.** *Please note school will close at 12.30pm.*

**Friday 24 May 9am-12pm, 1pm-3pm.** *Please note that there will be no classes running on this day.*

Your son/daughter is expected to attend the meeting with you and attendance will be marked. You will find enclosed instructions for booking your conference online. If you require any assistance with this, please call our receptionist on 547 9769.

I cannot emphasise enough how important this time will be for your child's education and ask that you make every effort to attend. I am happy for you to use this letter in your request for leave from your employment and am willing to be contacted by your employer if necessary.

If it is not possible for you to attend on either of the designated days, an alternative time may be arranged in consultation with your child's house tutor.

Thank you for your co-operation and involvement in your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Daniel Wilson  
Principal

## Achievement Mentoring/Conferences

The academic mentoring programme at Nayland College is based on very specific and proven research.

*“In reporting, there is a need to consider how to create ‘student voice’ because students, as learners, know the most about their learning. Effective reporting systems will be ones where ‘student voice’ is an integral part of the reporting process.” Taylor Patel (2009)*

*Professor John Hattie’s book, Visible Learning, Tomorrow’s Schools (2009) outlines a list of the most effective influences on student achievement, in which student self-reporting is listed as the most significant indicator linked to raised student achievement.*

*The process followed at Nayland College is based on the Starpath research project at the University of Auckland (<http://www.education.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/research/starpath-home.html>).*

Achievement conferences are an integral part of the programme. The research states that for the vast majority of students attending a home-school partnership conference with the teacher, student and parents/caregivers where learning, goals and 'next steps' are discussed has a very tangible correlation to student achievement. Many schools of all deciles across the country are now moving to conference-based systems. Student-led conferences are also an integral part of the Ministry of Education-led school development programme “Building on Success”.

We are working hard to ensure that the house tutor is the direct source of information and the 'significant adult' for students. They should have an in-depth knowledge and overview of student learning and will be given a vast range of data to inform them. If you wish to speak with a specific subject teacher or HOLA the house tutor will assist you to contact them. Alternatively, they can pass on a message for the teacher or HOLA to contact you.

We understand that gaining time off work to attend the conference may be difficult for some parents. We are more than happy to contact employers if necessary, although some evening sessions have been included to assist. Failing this you can contact the house tutor to arrange a more suitable time. We have rearranged the calendar year to ensure that the loss of learning time for the conferences is minimal.

If students wish to use the non-contact time to study the school library will be open. Some non- house tutors may also offer workshops or ‘catch-ups’ during this time.

