Findings of 2012 Review of Kew High School

Kew High School Council October 2012

In 2012 Kew High School undertook a School Review, looking at performance against the goals of our Strategic Plan 2009 – 2012. School Reviews are a core element of the Department’s School Accountability and Improvement Framework. The external reviewer, Julie Chandler, visited our school a number of times, met with staff and stakeholders and reviewed a number of key school documents including a range of data sets, student and parent feedback, the School’s strategic and implementation plans, annual report, self-evaluation and so on. Julie’s Review Report was finalised in July and presented to staff and School Council in September.

The Review findings note consistently very good efforts and achievements across all areas of Kew High School and in particular the school’s positive inclusive culture and approach. The Report identified a number of strengths, including:

- A high quality learning culture - a solid sense of purpose and vision for learning with enthusiastic and engaged students, focused and determined leadership and a highly professional and talented staff.
- Generally strong student achievement in English 7-10, mathematics 7-10 and VCE with almost every data set indicating that student learning is above the state and well within the expected range.
- Strong focused professional leadership with a clear commitment to the work in the school that will improve learning achievement for all students.
- Positive student attitudes to school in surveys over the review period, and also staff and parent surveys. The combined year 7 to 12 data in the student attitudes to school survey in 2011 indicates a very strong picture of student wellbeing, learning and relationships. Student absence is well below the state and decreased significantly over the review period. Students, staff and parents are all in agreement that they attend a highly effective school.
- Very good student retention from year 7 to year 12 and when students do exit, the majority go to another government or non-government school and a few attend other training providers such as TAFE. Few students leave Kew HS during year 12 and at the end of year 12 a high percentage of students continued their studies or training. There are high rates of university enrolment compared to the state.
- A highly effective and successful international student program that ensures high success rates for the students.
- Strategic allocation of resources for high impact. Considerable resources have been applied to teacher development, student engagement, wellbeing and transition over the review period and the programs have been highly successful. The CONNECT pastoral care program has had a powerful impact on students relationships with their peers and teachers and therefore their connectedness to school. The Restorative Practices program has complemented this.
Specific strategies and actions have been identified to achieve the suggested goals for future improvement:

- To improve student learning outcomes in VCE, literacy and numeracy and across all curriculum areas, and ensure that all students are empowered as learners.
- To build a stimulating culture of learning so that all students are actively engaged in their learning and achieve their potential.
- To improve the transitions and pathways for students at all levels by being aware of and meeting every student’s need as they enter, move through and leave school.

The Review concludes that Kew High School is well placed to enter its next stage of school development and improvement and can look forward to a very exciting and successful future.

This is an excellent report of which members of our school community can be very proud. School Council congratulates and thanks Clare, Ian, Bernie, the leadership team and all our staff for their commitment to education, engagement in the profession, willingness to explore new or alternative approaches, care for our students and sheer hard work. Thanks to these efforts we have a wonderfully robust platform on which to build further improvement.

A copy of the review report is available and can be downloaded from the Kew High School website.

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