

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Media Statement

7 April 2018

The Catholic Bishop of Auckland, Bishop Patrick Dunn, as Proprietor of Hato Petera College is undertaking a second consultation process about the possible cancellation of the Integration Agreement for Hato Petera College. This consultation process is being undertaken by mutual agreement with the Minister of Education, under section 430 of the Education Act 1989. Following due process, this could ultimately result in the closure of the school.

Although the Minister of Education, on the 17 November 2016, decided not to close Hato Petera College following the consultation process undertaken earlier that year, it is recognised that Hato Petera College is now in a very different situation and the Proprietor's concerns about the ability of the school to provide a holistic Catholic education that students need and deserve for life in the 21st century, have escalated significantly.

The 2017 roll had been predicted to be 36 students but the 1 July 2017 roll was just 14 students. At the start of Term 3 2017 the roll had dropped to 11. Hato Petera College started with 5 students in February 2018 but currently only one Year 10 student remains at the College. Consequently there are serious concerns about the school's ability to deliver the requirements of the *New Zealand Curriculum*, financial viability, low levels of student achievement, lack of extracurricular opportunities in sport, and cultural activities and the ability to maintain the required breadth and depth of Catholic teachings and practices.

Hato Petera College has not been the secondary school of choice for Catholic Māori within the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for some period of time. Past students have also chosen not to send their children and grandchildren to Hato Petera College. However Catholic Māori are increasingly choosing the other 15 Catholic secondary schools within the Auckland Diocese as their preferred option for Catholic secondary education, with 1,100+ Māori students enrolled at these schools on 1 July 2017. The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is confident that these 15 schools are committed to providing a quality secondary Catholic education for Catholic Māori as Catholic Māori.

The Diocesan consultation process being undertaken will provide the opportunity for the Bishop to consider the views of whanau and other key stakeholders about the long term viability of the school and the possible cancellation of the Integration Agreement.

All interested parties are therefore invited to read the 2018 Hato Petera Consultation information available on the Diocesan website www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz from Tuesday 10 April 2018 and make a submission. Submissions must be in writing and are due by **5pm 14 May 2018**.

Ends

For further information, contact

Lyndsay Freer

Media & Communications Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Phone: 021 272 4895