

Starpath Implementation

Onehunga High School

Onehunga High School joined the Starpath Project as a Group B school, late in 2012. After a positive trial with Year 11 students in 2013, the full Starpath programme was implemented. This allowed the school to gradually introduce Starpath strategies, with minor adjustments and regular review in the first year of settling in.

Group approach

- The SAM (Student Achievement Manager) is supported by a group of staff who share the workload of managing data.
- A regular Starpath forum is used to discuss strategies, share ideas and talk about what is working well.
- With a roll of around 1200 students, this approach is a better fit to ensure all students benefit from the initiative.

Trial Year

- A lead group was made up of representatives of senior management, deans, HODs and Year 11 form tutors.
- A second group of Year 11 form tutors, who were also academic counsellors, met regularly to discuss what was going well and what improvements were required.
- The systems set up by these two groups were continuously reviewed.
- A great deal was learnt during this first year of implementation. Many changes were made to the initial systems, for example academic counselling was initially conducted in form time, then changed to a timetabled slot once or twice each term.
- Input from the form tutors was critical in this learning phase.

Academic Counselling

- Every child in the school has a Starpath Tutor Teacher assigned to them who provides academic counselling and keeps them on track toward their academic goals.
- Year 11 staff who were Starpath tutors and academic counsellors in the trial year have been critical in allowing the initiative to expand to other years through sharing their experience with other staff members.

Relationships

- The school's involvement in the programme has strengthened student-teacher and teacher-teacher relationships.

- It has allowed for a greater emphasis on student achievement in all conversations.

Tom Webb, Associate Principal, said about the Starpath Project: “At its heart, Starpath is about relationships. Our involvement in the programme has strengthened student-teacher and teacher-teacher relationships and has allowed us to place a greater emphasis on student achievement in all our conversations.”