

Literacy Intervention

Whangarei Boys' High School – the FLANS Programme

The Foundation Literacy and Numeracy Skills programme was put in place at Whangarei Boys' High School in 2013 at the request of HODs concerned about a lack of basic academic skills amongst some students. All staff recognised that this intervention needed to be a priority. The programme is for students who are considered to be at risk of not being 'curriculum ready' for NCEA by the time they reach Year 11. They are given intensive support with the basics in English and Maths in a positive environment, with an emphasis on fostering a love of learning. The initiative is supported by data and tracking.

Testing

- Students complete an entry test to evaluate basic key literacy and numeracy skills.
- PATs and Mid-Yis test scores are also used to identify students who are not yet 'secondary ready' and at risk of failing to achieve NCEA.

How does the programme work?

- FLANS students are timetabled for six hours per week each of English and Maths lessons.
- The FLANS teachers follow the Year 9 programmes of work in English and Maths, with an extra emphasis on skills.
- High expectations of success for the students are maintained.
- Communication and providing information to parents have been instrumental in gaining whānau support of the initiative.

Resourcing:

- An establishment budget was provided.
- Resources such as sets of Scientific Reading Lab equipment were purchased.
- An operational budget remains in place.
- The teacher in charge of the initiative is allocated one management unit.
- Classes have been kept at a reasonable size (e.g. 20 students).
- Experienced teachers have been allocated to teach the FLANS students.

Outcomes:

- End of Year PAT data and examination scores are used to measure the programme's success.
- Raised achievement through a growth in students' confidence, a positive attitude to their study and a love of learning are attributed to the success of the programme.