

Visit to Massey High School Friday 2nd June 2006

Prior to visit I had a telephone conversation with Vicky Clampen about the operation of their sports academy.

Prior to enrolment a staff team visits all contributing intermediate schools and offers the opportunity to any students who have an interest in sports to become involved in the academy programme. Interested students apply in writing and are invited to come in for testing. About 200 students undergo an interview, physical and mental assessment and about 50 or 60 are selected for two classes at year 9.

The same group flows on to year 10 with a few of the best general PE students being offered a place. Years 11,12, and 13 apply for their places to continue in the academy. They need to provide a CV noting their interest or involvement in sports to date and outlining their future plans in relation to their sports.

If selected they sign a contract to be involved in two 7am training sessions per week and agree to maintain a training diary for the duration of their involvement.

They must choose to make a commitment to one summer and one winter sport and be a member of the school team in those sports.

During their programme sports-specific external coaches come in and give cutting edge training and advice to the students.

Five winter and four summer sports are available for their choice.

Basketball, Rugby, Hockey, Netball and Soccer
Athletics, Tennis, Sevens, Touch.

Students have to maintain a top level of fitness and be recognized as elite athletes.. They are given a PE Kit to wear and they must maintain a good attitude to school work in general to remain in the academy.

Apart from the compulsory early morning sessions the academy students integrate seamlessly into the normal school timetable. Each timetabled option line has five periods per week (1 Hour periods). Half the year 9 classes are timetabled together for PE/Health and the two academy classes are separated off to follow their own specialist programme. Their five hours are spent in 2 Hours sport-specific coaching sessions, 1 hour of academic PE (Sports theory), and 2 hours PE/Health Education.

The seniors do 2 hours coaching and 3 hours sports theory from which they can gain up to 20 NCEA credits. They do Standards for elite athletes and Anatomy and Physiology. Academy students are expected to be the top players in their teams and to be fine role models for junior students.

Coaches taking the various specialty sessions are giving their time free and are supported by their respective codes and by SPARC. They may be given petrol vouchers to cover

their transport costs. Rugby coaches may be employed by the North Harbour Union so can then give their time free to the school. It's in their best interest too.

Hockey, Soccer and other codes use the skills of teachers in the department.

To date the Academy caters for 67 year 9's, 65 year 10's, and 20 to 25 at each of the senior levels. Seniors tended to drop out of the Academy in previous years when there was pressure from parents for them to tackle NCEA accredited courses. Now with credits built into the programme and with arrangements made with Technical Institutes the Academy students have a clearer success path for their future and can anticipate success in many sporting related fields.