

## **Interview with Simon Richards, Sports coordinator Pakuranga College.**

Simon has a history in senior Soccer both Nationally and Regionally.

Pakuranga College has had a sports department separate from Physical Education. Senior soccer players come in to help out in the development of these young players.

Community resourcing and the use of skilled coaches is the secret of success in any academy which aims to develop top sports men and women. Expressions of interest are sought in January and a selection process takes place to ensure that the potential academy members have the appropriate skills and attitudes to develop into elite participants. The school currently fields four boys and 2 girls teams and interest is increasing.

Coaching sessions are held two or three times a week before school with talented senior coaches

Academy members must commit to playing in school teams and must buy their own training kit and also pay affiliation fees to ASSFA.

Simon is not part of the teaching staff so he is free to organize the activities of the academy... running tournaments at intervals and lunchtimes to maintain interest and involvement. There is a teacher in charge of soccer who manages the teams. No coaching or training takes place during lesson times as yet but that may change in the future.

The key is to keep the academy operating on a professional basis with a view to developing elite sportspeople who have the right attitude to the game and to their relationships with training staff and with each other. The academy is seen as the nurturing ground for the future of the school's Saturday teams and also for the potential career development of the students involved.