

26 July 2006

Interview with Gaynor Matthews, Papakura High School.

Papakura operates a Sports Academy and an Academic Institute

The Sports Director is Darren Jardine

The Academic Institute enrolls students from year 8 by seeking applications and then following through with tests of academic ability similar to the Cambridge entry tests. They have a mastery learning type of outcome which results in the top 50 students being offered places in year 9 to fill two classes.

These students are offered the opportunity to study a foreign language in year 9.

The year 10 class take level 1 standards in Geography, History and Economics and are able to gain NCEA credits. Motivational and other specialist speakers are brought in from time to time to enrich their programme.

Academy students who proceed to level 11 MUST take science as one of their options. The two academy classes are blocked on the timetable with two A Stream classes so that some intermixing can occur based on relative strengths in English and Mathematics.

There is a requirement to be committed to the course so expectations are high. If a student misses out on handing in three pieces of set work their place in the academy becomes in jeopardy.

Year 9's take technology, music and art outside their basic core of subjects, the year 10's take two options