

04/10/2023

## **Funding Proposal - written by Principal of Mount Aspiring College, Nicola Jacobsen**

The following proposal outlines different ways in which the MAC Foundation could contribute to ensuring that the College is resourced appropriately to support the needs of the growing diversity of students attending the college. This list would assist the College to be able to address the growing needs of our school community, and maintain our excellent programmes.

### **1. Te Ukāipō Scholarship**

\$1000 awarded each year to a student who demonstrates commitment to Te Ao Māori through their service to and involvement in aspects of College life. The scholarship is for the student and their whānau to connect with their marae. The scholarship can be used for travel and accommodation.

Funding required:  
\$1000 per annum

### **2. Staffing: Educational Psychologist**

The Ministry of Education provides a service where schools can apply for an educational psychologist to work with a student, their whanau and teachers to ensure that the child's needs are met and that they can participate in their learning. Students who require this kind of support often have a combination of learning needs, behavioural needs, poor mental health and a disrupted family situation. For the Central Otago/Southland region there are three educational psychologists, each with a caseload of 15 students, and it can take 6-8 weeks for a student to meet with an educational psychologist once the referral has been approved.

In 2023, each student that I have referred to the Ministry of Education's support service has been suspended before the service can be made available to meet the student and start working with them. Suspension is the most severe action that any Principal can take. With a staffing change, I have an opportunity to employ an educational psychologist, however, I need to be able to meet the market in terms of the salary.

The benefits of the college employing an educational psychologist:

- Timely intervention, and before behaviours/absences become extreme or chronic;
- Ability for the person to work in the primary schools;
- Support for students transitioning into MAC;
- Support for teachers in terms of behaviour plans being able to be monitored and adapted easily;
- Support for whānau, and not having to wait until the educational psychologist is in town;
- More support for a wider range of students - not just the most needy.

#### Salary

To meet the market I need to provide a salary of \$105-\$120K. The College can fund \$90K from the Ministry of Education teacher salaries grant.

The position needs to be a permanent position in order to attract high quality applicants.

#### Funding required:

\$15,000 - \$30,000 per annum

### **3. Staffing: Year 7 and 8 Literacy and Numeracy Specialist**

There is a growing diversity of student needs in our year 7 and 8 cohorts, and while we have a number of literacy and numeracy support and acceleration programmes in place, we are only just meeting the needs of students. The change to how literacy and numeracy is assessed for NCEA level one means that in order for students to achieve any level of NCEA they need to have passed these three (reading, writing and numeracy) online tests.

What we currently have in place to support students:

- Numeracy enrichment (3 hours per week)
- Numeracy support (4 hours per week)
- Literacy support (4 hours per week) - this is our acceleration class
- Lexia - a skills-based programme for students to work at their level. There are two teacher aides in place to support students in years 7 and 8 who need additional support.
- Kitenga - for enrichment and problem solving skills.
- Professional learning for staff - literacy, new pedagogies for deep learning, structured literacy and numeracy.

Proposal: That the MAC Foundation fund an additional full time teacher to work in year 7 and 8 to support students with literacy and numeracy skill development. This would need to be a full time position, but could be fixed term or permanent.

#### Funding required:

Variable, depending on the length of service the teacher has completed.

\$75,000 - \$95,000 per annum

#### 4. Equipment Grant

In order to maintain our Outdoor Pursuits programme, we need to regularly upgrade equipment - everything from vans to kayaks, climbing ropes etc. By having a yearly grant available from the Foundation, the College can maintain an excellent standard of programme, and meet the growing needs of this subject as student numbers continue to grow. We are currently one of three schools in New Zealand to hold an AdventureMark health and safety accreditation for our outdoor pursuits programme.

Funding required:

\$20,000 - \$60,000 per annum

Conclusion

These four items are a starting point for what we need now in order to achieve excellent outcomes for our students.

Nicola Jacobsen



Principal

Mount Aspiring College