

Board talk Thursday, 3 August 2011

Mike Nolan, the Manager of the Catholic Education Office, has presented the Marian College board of trustees of the results of detailed geotechnical reports on our North Parade site. A full summary of the results are available on the Catholic Education Office [www.chchceo.org.nz](http://www.chchceo.org.nz)

In short, Opus International geotechnical engineers advise that any repairs to the site be deferred for at least 1 to 2 years because of significant liquefaction and the elevated risk of further seismic activity. Our Proprietor, Bishop Barry Jones, accepts this recommendation.

Therefore Marian College will relocate to the Catholic Cathedral site in Barbadoes Street for 2 – 4 years, using a combination of permanent and relocatable classrooms

This move is unavoidable, because of Ministry of Education policy that schools are unable to have split shift days in 2012, and the lack of any other options. Meanwhile, the buildings and grounds at our North Parade site will be mothballed.

The board is aware this announcement will be unsettling for some of our students and their families as well as Marian College staff. We are committed to maintaining the culture of our college, independent from Catholic Cathedral College, which is also working through the issues of loss and temporary dislocation resulting from the earthquakes. However, we share the same Proprietor, and belong to the Diocesan school family, each moving eventually into what will be separate futures.

The Ministry has advised us that it is committed to working with all schools and their communities. It will continue to provide buses from North Parade to Barbadoes St. Moving to the new site ensures:

- return to a “normal” (8.30am – 3.00pm) school day
- the possibility for senior classes at both colleges to be timetabled together
- the possibility of access to Catholic Cathedral College’s specialist science, art and technology facilities
- our own administration and office areas.

You are invited to a meeting convened by the board for parents, girls and staff about this change in Chanel Hall, at St Bede’s College on **Wednesday 10 August at 7.30pm**.

As mentioned previously, we are most grateful for the ongoing support from St Bede’s College, and also to Cathedral College for offering to act as host during the period we share their site.

Above all we acknowledge the superb efforts of Marian College staff in maintaining excellent educational outcomes for our girls. For now, we need to support our excellent staff as they continue to support our daughters’ development, and also prepare to move to the new site.

Thankfully, with the constant love of our Lord Jesus Christ, we know all will be well.

Gerard Duignan

Chair

Marian College Board of Trustees