The Challenges and Rewards of Implementing a Holistic Curriculum

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Outline

1. The holistic curriculum – The Christ’s College Diploma
2. The change process
3. The challenges
4. The rewards
5. Questions & Answers
The Christ’s College Diploma

- Two-year programme designed for academic rigour and character development
- Years 10–11 (14–16 year olds)
- Choice and Challenge – a range of academic choices where possible
- Recognition of achievements that reflect character development
The Christ’s College Diploma

- Replaces the first year of New Zealand qualifications (NCEA Level 1)
- Four semesters over two years
- Multi-level courses (core and prep; mixed Years 10 and 11 in choice classes)
- Student bids for non-academic elements
- Black and White, Silver, Gold, and Gold with Academic Honours
A model for change leadership

Kotter's 8 Step Change Model

- Create a sense of urgency
- Build a guiding coalition
- Communicate the vision
- Remove obstacles
- Generate short-term wins
- Implementing and executing the change
- Anchor the change in culture
- Build on the change

Preparing the climate for change

July 2019–August 2020

- Leveraged the NCEA Change Package
- Commissioned a ‘Drive team’ (staff volunteers across a range of subjects)
- Options presented to staff for consultation
- Developed the overarching framework
Engaging and enabling the change

September 2020–November 2022

- Concept of the Diploma launched to all staff
- Centre for Teaching Excellence and Research created details of the framework including extensive review of educational research
- Departments empowered to create dream courses and bespoke learning progressions
- Parent and student focus groups
- Launch to community
- Diploma Awards co-ordinator for student tracking and support
- First Diploma awards
Implementing and sustaining the change

2023 onward

- Ongoing
  - Parent communication
  - Student individual, House, and whole cohort support
  - Course and learning progression refinement
- Diploma review working group
The challenges

- A simple idea but a complex reality
- Finding the balance of wants and needs
- Student buy-in for first year of change
- Anxiety around Level 2 NCEA preparation
- Communications with the community
The rewards

- Fantastic staff support
- Creative and engaging pedagogy
- High engagement in younger years
- Flow on to Duke of Edinburgh awards
- Staff confidence from being change leaders
Thank you.