Central question:

If the school – and the world around it – is already changing, how do you personalize education for boys at the same time as building the strength and the identity of the institution?

Discussion person next to you

Are these priorities both possible and to what degree?
**Westlake Boys High School 2007**

**Known for:**
- Academic Achievement
- Competition
- Streaming
- Discipline
- Sports
- Music
- Cambridge International Examinations
- Traditional Models of Learning

**A fuller picture:**
- Competition
- Streaming
- Discipline
- Sports
- Music
- Academic Achievement
- Cambridge International Examinations

**AND:**
- Literacy focus
- ICT stirrings
- Changing staff demographics
- Beginnings of Assessment for Learning
- Changing student population

**Curriculum Choices / Options**
- New technologies
- Learning to Learn - metacognition
- A range of teaching and learning styles
- Excellence in a range of co-curricular activities
- Ensuring that managing self is core

**Elements of school life that could be considered personalization**
- Peer and self assessment
- Increased guidance and mentoring
- Skills-based teaching; key competencies
- Targeted streaming
- Data mining: intelligent target setting

**Personalization: where are we?**

Questions for us all to consider:
- Do these elements reflect on what you see as personalisation?
- What do you understand by ‘personalization’?

**Time for discussion.**
Westlake Boys High School

Our answer:

- We needed to personalize what we were doing
  and
- We needed to strengthen the sense of what it meant to be 'Westlake' if we were to personalize successfully: to build the strength of the institution.

Personalizing Westlake

Teaching and Learning
- Literacy across the curriculum
- SCT role
- Junior exams and assessment grids
- PPTPP
- Key Competencies
- Student-centred learning enhanced

Late-Start Internal PD
- Format used
- 80% Internally based
- Literacy focus
- Group work
- Peer and self-assessment
- Questioning Techniques
- Assessment for Learning
- Junior Exam writing
- Behaviour management

Personalization: what have you done?

Questions for us all to consider:

- How much have we done to personalize the education of our boys and
- How much do we want to do to?
- What some implications for our schools by personalising the education for the boys in our schools?

Time for discussion.
Personalizing Learning

Data Mining
- Enhanced achievement data analysis
- Performance of specific groups
- New ‘value-added’ Westlaker model: ‘Feather’
- Target setting for individual students
- Tracking and intervention strategies

Guidance, targeting and Mentoring
- New mentoring programmes
- SLT Intervention
- Deane Intervention
- New ‘Level 1 Achievement’ focus

Personalizing Learning

Student Voice
- Academic Council
- Student Council
- Cultural Council

Cultural Focus
- Wharehu Group and Kahaiauhoea
- Pacific Peoples Group

Personalizing Learning

- Which of these approaches is your school adopting?
- Which might be adopted?
- Which would be inappropriate?
- Have you moved far further in any of the areas?

Personalizing Learning

Strengthening the Institution

The Westlaker Way
- Values
- Ethos
- Emphasis on tradition
- Attempt to forge shared identity
- Gym ‘hikings’ – celebration of excellence

Assemblies
- New Auditorium – heart and soul
- Two weekly whole-school Assemblies with enhanced focus on achievement and use of AV technologies
- More focus on Academic Excellence
- More focus on cultural excellence
Strengthening the Institution

House System
- Vertical Form Classes
- Re-shaping existing school events
- New events
- Sports
- Arts and Culture
- Academic
- Haka competition

Media and Communications
- Business Awards
- Press coverage
- Examination results publicity
- 'Traditional and Progressive' branding
- BTB
- Strong voice on discipline

Graduation
- Focus on effort and behaviour
- Rewards for all students
- Carrot and stick
- Parental support

What do you think?
- What approaches would be successful in your school?
- How far would you go to duplicate the dual approach?
- What do you see as the advantages and the potential problems?

Some discussions on this

Westlake 2009
- Scholarship passes have gone from 26 in 2006 to 69 in 2008
- CIE results have improved year-on-year
- NCEA results have been steady; we now have systems to identify, target and mentor students in danger of failing
- School has a clear identity
- Technology is an integral part of teaching and learning
- Assessment strategies are consistent
- Teaching and learning is generally more student-centred

... but there's a long way to go.