



NELSON COLLEGE

Newsletter

NELSON COLLEGE
pictas probitas et sapientia

Private Bag 16, Nelson
Tel: 03 5483099 • Fax: 03 5466932

Email: enquiries@nelcollege.school.nz • www.nelcollege.school.nz

Calendar Term 1

Feb 23	PTA Meeting, 7.30pm, College Library
Feb 24	Swimming Sports
Feb 25	Photos/Student ID Cards
Mar 3-4	Marlborough Boys' College Sports Exchange
Mar 5	School Athletics Championships (note date change) Mufti Day
Mar 8-9	Sports Weekend
Mar 8	Commemoration Service for Boarders, 9am, Hall Sports Night Variety Concert, 7pm, Hall
Mar 9	House Sports Parent Interviews for Boarders
Mar 10	Tasman Triathlon, Nelson
Mar 12	Senior Dance, Nelson College
Mar 18	Tasman Athletics, Nelson
Mar 23	Young Leaders Day, Wellington
Mar 25-27	Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival
Mar 26	Parent Interviews, 3.45-7pm Board of Trustees Meeting, 4.30pm, Scriptorium
Mar 30	Parent Interviews, 3.45-7pm
Mar 30- Apr 3	Summer Tournament Week
Apr 2	Mufti Day
Apr 3	Top of the South Leadership Forum at Seifrieds Conference Centre
Apr 7-9	Year 13 Production, Suter
Apr 9	Last Day Term I
Apr 10	GOOD FRIDAY
Apr 12	EASTER SUNDAY
Apr 27	1 st Day Term II

Management Team Contacts

Headmaster, Gary O'Shea

Email: oe@nelcollege.school.nz
• general + curriculum

Deputy Principal, Tim Tucker

Email: tk@nelcollege.school.nz
• discipline + property

Assistant Principal, Ron Kelly

Email: kl@nelcollege.school.nz
• discipline

Assistant Principal, Annette Taylor

Email: ta@nelcollege.school.nz

Headmaster's Message

It is my pleasure to welcome all boys back to the College and a special welcome to new boys.

The year has started very well with boys settling into the routine of classes quickly and the summer/winter sports selections, trials and competition games now in full swing.

I would like to thank all parents for their positive support of the behaviour boundaries, uniform requirements and routines we have set in place. I can assure you that these are a major contributor to ensuring that we have a calm and focussed atmosphere both in and out of the classroom.

Our predicted roll for 2009 (excluding international students) was 930 boys; at this time we have 970 boys enrolled. This is a strong indicator that we are providing an educational structure and culture which is endorsed by the community and we take this as encouragement for us to maintain current standards and continue to seek ways to improve what we have to offer your sons.

Boys Performance and NCEA 2008

The apparent widening gap between the achievement levels of boys and girls has held a prominent place in the articles and reports presented in all media forms over the past few years. In direct contrast to this, the 'gap' between the performances of our boys at Nelson College and girls from similar or higher decile schools is very small and has, in fact, diminished over the past two years.

Many factors play a part in this success -

- the College's philosophy of providing multiple course options with many pathways to success
- the experience, calibre and commitment of the teaching staff to the special needs of boys
- the College's strong culture of belonging and commitment to excellence in all aspects of what constitutes a well rounded education

- strong parental support for the caring but firm boundaries that we believe are essential for boys to realise their potential.

Our current academic results place Nelson College as one of the most successful State providers of education for boys not only in the South Island but in the country as a whole.

This success will not breed complacency and we are cognisant of the need to measure our success against our own standards, not merely standards which surpass our immediate competitors.

The following two charts (see overleaf) illustrate the performance of Nelson College boys in the 2008 NCEA examinations. At this stage these results are compared with the performance of boys nationally.

In future newsletters I will make comparisons between our results and those of other local schools.

As a College our results in the National qualification system reinforce our belief that we provide an environment and culture which is centred around the provision and support of a culture of academic and social success for boys.

Our greatest challenge continues to be accepting that there is room for improvement in what we offer, in fact an acknowledgement of a necessity for considerable improvement in the areas of -

- the pursuit of excellence for its own sake
- significant deficiencies in boys literacy and an accompanying lack of articulation in written and spoken expression
- an apparent lack of intrinsic joy in learning for its own sake amongst our youth and where education is reduced to merely the accumulation of a minimum of expected credits

I am committed to improving the quality of education that we are able to provide your sons and I am not

NCEA COMPARISONS CHARTS 2008

content with being a successful school which delivers 'successful schooling'. Young men need to leave here with more than just a minimum qualification and we continue to be challenged in our search for excellence.

Regards

Gary O'Shea MEd(Admin)
HEADMASTER

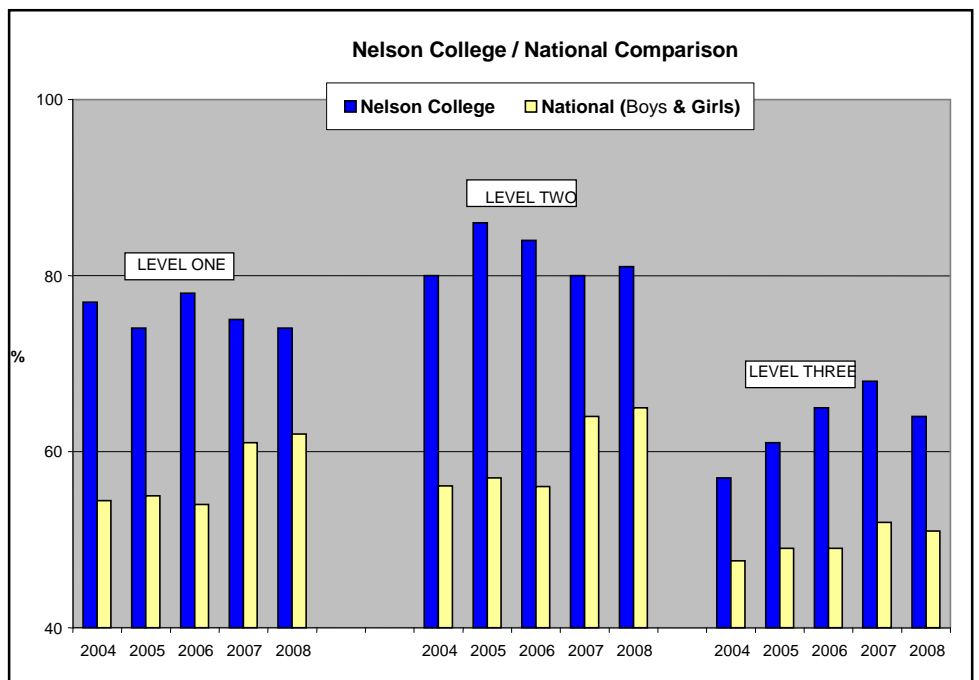
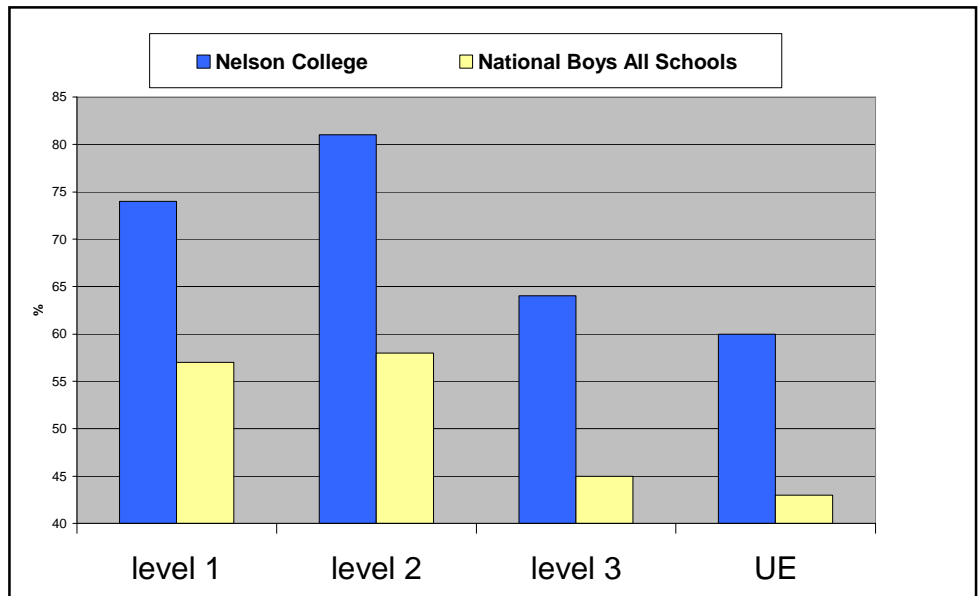
Explanatory notes for charts (right)

Level One -is equivalent to School Certificate/Year 11 (5th Form) qualification

Level Two -is equivalent to University Entrance/Year 12 (6th Form) qualification

Level Three/UE -is equivalent to Bursary/Year 13 (7th Form) qualification

The second chart illustrates a longitudinal study of the performance of Nelson College boys at NCEA over a 5 year period compared to the National combined performance of both boys and girls over the same period of time



Staff News

New faces in 2009 -introducing the new teaching and support staff

Annette Taylor Assistant Principal, Commerce/Fell House Tutor

Annette is an experienced teacher and administrator, having graduated from Auckland Institute of Technology and Auckland Teachers College. She has since completed a Masters of Administration through Massey University. Her interests include sports [tennis, rowing, and rugby]; reading and collecting antiques.



one year in the UK. His interests are sports (rugby, cricket and running), fishing and the outdoors.



New Staff from left: Lee Nelmes, Andrew Siggers, Frank Driessens, Margie Lou Thompson, Stephen Allely and Alex Crisp

Alex Crisp Mathematics

Alex is a first year teacher, having graduated from the University of Canterbury. He is relieving for Mary Turner, who is on leave for 2009.

Prior to teacher training, Alex was employed in the sustainability field working on climate change issues. His interests include kayaking, mountain biking, tramping and swimming.

Lee Nelmes Assistant Sports Co-ordinator

Lee Nelmes is the new rugby/cricket administrator and Assistant Sports Coordinator at Nelson College. Lee is currently in his last stages of finishing a degree in Sport and Recreation through Auckland University. Lee is an Old Boy of Nelson College playing 1st XV rugby and 1st XIII rugby league in 2003/2004. Lee is also a tutor this year with Rutherford House. Lee's interests are all forms of rugby and he is a keen hunter and fisherman.

Margie Lou Thompson Mathematics
Margie Lou is a visiting Canadian teacher on sabbatical from her

Simon Mardon HOD Commerce

Simon has joined us this year as HOD Commerce. He has been teaching for 12 years, 11 of those at Nelson College for Girls, and



permanent job in Kingston, Ontario. She has taught for 23 years, including exchange years to England, Australia and Hamilton, New Zealand in 1997. Having been to Nelson several times before as a tourist, she is delighted to be living in Nelson, though temporarily, and to be teaching at Nelson College.

Frank Driessens *Mathematics*

Frank is relieving in the Mathematics Department for one year. He has taught Mathematics at Christchurch Boys High School for 17 years. In 2003 Frank and his wife Nicky moved to sunny Nelson and for the last 4 years he has been working for a local civil engineering contractor as an estimator. Interests include fishing and golf.

Clare Bransfield *English* (Long term relieving for 2009)

Clare comes to Nelson College from Hillmorton High school in Christchurch and is relieving in the English Department. She is also a Rutherford House Tutor.

Stephen Allely *Physics/Chemistry*

(Long term relieving for Term 1 2009) Stephen is in his third year of teaching, and has taught Physics, Science, Media Studies, English, and Mathematics at various Auckland and Wellington schools, most recently at Botany Downs in Auckland. He enjoys outdoor pursuits including snowboarding, hiking, rock climbing, and kayaking, and is a keen musician also.

Sarah Watts *Prep and Future Problem Solving*

Sarah is a second year teacher having graduated from the Southern Cross University, Lismore in 2007. In 1990 Sarah completed her law degree at the University of Queensland and has worked as a corporate litigator before making a career change to teaching. Sarah teaches FPS at the College and literacy and FPS at Prep. Her interests include writing, art, cooking, music and enjoying the NZ countryside with her family.

Patricia Burton *Librarian*

Patricia has a Masters in Library and Information Studies. For the last 8 years Patricia has worked in libraries in Nelson and Christchurch, the Nelson Provincial Museum and the Institution of Civil Engineering in London. She is passionate about gardening and recycling and all creative pursuits.



Student News

Student Leaders 2009

Congratulations to the following

Head Boy -**Nick Bell**

Deputy Head Boys **George Westenra**,
Bruno Simpson and **Ollie Nees**

Maori Head Boy -**Kodee Goldsworthy**

Issue 1 February 2009

Sports News



Proud Sponsors of Nelson College Sports and Physical Education Departments

Basketball

Michael Karena attended the Australia Youth Olympics with the New Zealand under 18 Basketball Team. The team finished 3rd in the competition.

Adam Rainbird is part of the New Zealand Junior Tall Blacks squad preparing for the under 19 World Championships in Auckland in July.

Adam and **Chad Garratt** are also members of the Nelson Giants training squad.

Volleyball

Nelson College's senior volleyball team played at the 2008 Australia School's championships held in Melbourne in December.

Nelson College continued its improvement through the tournament finishing 5th in the first division.

Congratulations to **Nick Bell** (Team Captain) who was named in the Tournament team.

Team members were: **Nick Bell**, **Alex Low**, **Johnny Skeggs**, **George Westenra**, **Johnnie Cameron**, **David Chamberlain**, **James Townsend**, **Charles Owen** and **Joe Bywater**.

Beach Volleyball

Tahunanui Grand Slam

Nelson College's beach volleyball pair **Alex Low** and **Johnny Skeggs** recorded their first beach volleyball win at the Tahunanui Grand Slam over the summer. Low and Skeggs took out the Under 21 boys, College Grade Title against a tough Waimea College pair in a tight encounter.

Tahunanui Challenge

After coming off some good form **Alex Low** and **Johnny Skeggs** were seeded 4th in the Tahunanui Beach Volleyball Challenge over Waitangi weekend. The pair managed to qualify for the quarterfinals after some tough pool play games, including a win against fellow Nelson College students **Nick Bell** and **George Westenra**.

In the semi final **Low** and **Skeggs** drew the top seeded Chilean pair which included the No 1 ranked beach volleyball player in Chile. A thrilling encounter saw the boys defend 6 match points and finally take out the match 15-13 in the third set.

This put them into their first Men's A Grade final against an experienced

team which included former national representative Pat Shone. In a creditable performance **Low** and **Skeggs** won the first set before succumbing to the powerful serving of Shone losing the match in the final 2 sets.

This result augurs well for the pair and for Nelson College. **Low** and **Skeggs** are looking to compete in the national championships in Taunanga next year and have big plans for the future.

Inline Hockey

Congratulations to **James Burn** (Year 10) who has been selected to play inline hockey for the New Zealand under 14 squad.

Softball

Softball report from the summer tournaments held over the holidays

Under 15s

David Orr and **Tas Norress** played for Marlborough at the South Island under 15's tournament. Their team made the final which they lost in a close game against Central Otago. **David Orr** hit three home runs -the most at the tournament. He was selected in the South Island under 15's tournament team - congratulations!

Under 17s

Jack Fletcher, **Eli Carter**, **Tom Arps**, **Sam Church**, **Sam Thorn**, **Josiah Henare**, **Kyle Casey** and **Paul Grant** represented the Nelson team that made the top four play-offs at the national under 17s tournament. The Nelson team knocked out Auckland and Canterbury to secure a top four play-off position. Close games in the play-offs saw them lose by one run to North Harbour and Hutt Valley with Nelson recording the closest score by any team against the eventual winners Wellington.

Congratulations to **Jack Fletcher** and **Tom Arps** who were selected for the national under 17s tournament rest team. **Jack Fletcher** once again pitched his team to the playoffs and proved one of the countries best pitchers. **Tom Arps** finished in the top 5 batters in the country under 17s, hitting: 500

Eli Carter was selected by his coach as the Nelson teams MVP (most valuable player). It was a well deserved award for a top hitting and fielding effort that included scoring two runs in the top four playoffs.

Under 19s

Jack Fletcher, **Paul Grant**, **Sam Church** and **Eli Carter** represented Nelson at the national under 19s tournament where their team finished 8th.

Nelson College Rugby

WANTED...

Parents who are keen to be involved with Nelson College Rugby

The Nelson College Rugby Teams are a competitive force throughout all local grades, but as with all co-curricular activities it relies on the enthusiasm and support of volunteers.

Nelson College is currently looking for coaches and managers at all levels for the 2009 season.

Your assistance will enable the College to offer many boys the opportunity to participate in this sport.

If you are interested in any kind of role to do with Nelson College Rugby please email me at ns@nelcollege.school.nz and we can discuss this further.

Lee Nelmes
Rugby Administrator

PTA NEWS

PTA Meeting

**Monday 23rd February
7.30pm in the College Library**

We hope to build on last year's successful fundraising activities.

All parents are very welcome to attend our lively and informative meetings.

We welcome in particular, parents of new students of the College.

Our meetings are a forum to share information and views with staff on a wide range of issues which affect student life.

On 23rd February, we will be joined by Anne Harvey who will give a short introduction to her "Mothers Raising Boys" workshops which are specifically designed to assist women to gain the skills and personal resources required to navigate the teenage years with their sons. Anne is offering to run a course at Nelson College in Term 2 and further information on course content and enrolment is available on the website; www.lifework.co.nz. Anne describes her course as a 'fun, interactive and informative workshops, with a woman who has been there with her four boys and survived'. If you cannot attend the meeting, Anne can be contacted on telephone 548 1235 or email: lifework@xtra.co.nz.

Contact details for further information:

Brenda Black, PTA Chairperson

Tel: (03)546 6068

Email: mbfcbblack@xtra.co.nz

Alison McLeish, PTA Secretary

Tel: (03)548 9998

Email: parinnessmcleish@xtra.co.nz

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Raising Boys through Adolescence

Growing great young men
An evening for parents of adolescent boys!

**Wednesday March 18, 7 - 9 pm
Nelson College Hall
Cost: Koha**

Presenters:

Adge Tucker -Tracks Trust

Simon Dadley-Moore -Family Coaching NZ

Raising Boys through Adolescence is a dynamic, informative evening for parents of boys between the ages of 12 and 16. Adge and Simon raise awareness and encourage open conversation on issues affecting young men and their parents, as well as discussing the **Tracks Trust programme**.

Topics covered include:

- The 'bridge of adolescence'
- Building boys capacity to succeed
- Getting and staying involved in their lives
- Young person friendly communication
- Positive boundary setting
- Rites of Passage in today's society

Tracks Trust aims to bring out the potential in young men and have them full of inspiration and hope as they look toward the future.

Website: www.tracks.net.nz

Adge Tucker - 03 525 8778

Simon Dadley-Moore - 03 548 8486

Information for Boarding Parents

School Newsletters

Please note that in future all newsletters will be emailed to Boarding Parents.

If you are not able to receive the newsletter by email then please contact your son's housemaster and they will arrange to have future copies of newsletters posted out.

Newsletters will also be posted on the Nelson College website www.nelcollege.school.nz during Week 3 and Week 10 of each Term.

This newsletter is kindly sponsored by



Hamish.Fletcher Lawyers

Contact Hamish Fletcher on tel: 03-5390210 or cell: 0272205122



NELSON COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Nelson College Old Boys are invited to attend the Nelson College Old Boys' Association AGM

**Monday 6 April 2009
5pm
Nelson College Scriptorium**

John Towns
PRESIDENT

Lost Property

Lost property will be kept in the main reception office for one week. It will then be transferred to the lost property room in the crush hall. This room will be opened for viewing every Thursday at interval. **It is important however that all uniform is named so any items can be easily identified.**

PTA Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Term 1 Thursday: 3pm - 7pm
Friday: 12pm - 1.30pm

Contact Jill Heath

Phone/fax (03) 546 3265

After hours (03) 548 8961

Term Dates 2009

Term 1: 3 February - 9 April
Term 2: 27 April- 3 July
Term 3: 20 July- 25 September
Term 4: 12 October - 10 December

DISCIPLINE SYSTEMS AT NELSON COLLEGE

The College works hard to support students in learning appropriate behaviour in and outside the classroom. Young men often need help in developing suitable behaviour and the college discipline systems are designed to support them in this.

We hope the following explanation of our systems will be of help to parents:-

Classroom behaviour management

- Firstly, the classroom teacher has the primary responsibility for behaviour management in their classrooms.
- Teachers are able to use a lunchtime detention (of half an hour) for students who do not respond to minor impositions.
- Departments also often use a 'red card' system where a student who is unable to control his persistent chatter, for example, can be sent to spend the rest of the lesson in another class under the supervision of a senior teacher.
- A more serious transgression (persistent disobedience and/or gross misconduct) means a student will be 'transferred' out of the class to a member of the Management Team.

After school detentions

These are only able to be given by members of the Management Team and Deans.

Boys are provided with a letter to take home detailing the reason for the after school detention and parents are able to contact the Management Team directly for clarification and/or concerns.

The great majority of students will respond well to the above processes and we are grateful for the support of parents in maintaining a good tone in the College.

The process for students who repeatedly miss detentions or whose behaviour is not modified by the processes outlined above:

- a) in school suspension for one or two days,
- b) contact home (sometimes a parent conference)
- c) behaviour and/or non association contract with Deputy Principal or Headmaster
- d) usually, a referral to careers and/or guidance counsellor

Continued disobedience / serious incident(s)

- a) Ministry of Education stand down for up to 5 days
- b) Parent contacted before the decision to confirm a stand down is implemented. This will occur with the Deputy Principal or Assistant Principal
- c) If a stand down is enforced, then the boy is to meet the Headmaster/ Deputy Principal on his return to school
- d) Second contract + other conditions (eg mandatory counselling) may be imposed

Breaking of contract and/or other serious incident(s)

- a) Second period of Ministry of Education stand down for up to 5 days
- OR** indefinite suspension pending a Board of Trustees disciplinary Hearing (options to expel (over 16), exclude (under 16) or readmit to the College with or without conditions)

EXPECTATIONS

These expectations are all centred around self respect and respect for others. In turn this builds pride in themselves and in our College.

Uniform

The following are acceptable items of uniform:

- Pale blue long-sleeved shirt with open neck.
- Light blue polo shirt or white shirt and school tie.
- Regulation dark grey shorts or longs.
- School jersey (Dark blue – Juniors; Light blue – Seniors)
- Regulation socks
- Black shoes (shoes must be totally black)
- Sandals – one colour, black or dark brown, any style

The College uniform shop has all items of uniform available.

Students may wear any combination of these items:-

- Boxers should not be showing
- Socks must be up
- Blue polo shirts may be out (all other shirts in).
- If students choose to wear a belt it should be plain dark blue or black.
- Singlets and/or polypropylene vests are recommended in winter but should be short sleeved (single colour blue or white) and not visible.

It is important that students wear these uniform items correctly:

In particular it is **not acceptable** to wear:

- Mufti clothing
- Beanies
- Jandals
- Running shoes/cross trainers etc.
- College Sports Jackets
- Any visible jewellery
- No "dickies" skateboard pants
- Long sleeved polyprops (unless under a long sleeved shirt)

Nelson College chooses to have a uniform as part of the style of education that we provide. The students who choose to be part of our College also choose to accept that wearing our uniform well is part of what Nelson College is.

At times a student may not be able to comply with the uniform standard. If this does occur then it is expected that parents write an explanatory note for that day. This note should be presented to Tim Tucker (DP), Ron Kelly (AP) or Annette Taylor (AP) for an exemption note.

If this does not occur then a student will be followed up by his classroom teachers and will be sent to the Assistant or Deputy Principal.

Non-Regulation Uniform

- Will be confiscated and given to an Assistant Principal or the Deputy Principal. They may be collected at the end of a day.
- Detentions will be given for wearing non-regulation items of uniform.
- Students who continually offend will be withdrawn from class, parents contacted and could be sent home to dress correctly.

General Appearance

A Jewellery/Tattoos

No form of jewellery / tattoo should be visible. This includes ear studs, rings, body piercing. Bone carvings and any other religious insignia should be underneath shirts.

B Hair

- Hair must be neat and tidy. If long it must be tied back.
- Mohawks, dreadlocks and unnatural colouring are unacceptable.
- Hair must be of a style and colour that is acceptable to the Management of the school (if in doubt parents should consult the College before they invest in expensive hair treatments/colouring for their sons which may not meet our standards of what is acceptable)
- Facial hair is not accepted. Students must be clean shaven.

General Conduct

As well as focussing on our students' appearance we believe it is important to remind our students that the 'casual language' that the majority of young people are using today is not always appropriate within the classrooms and grounds of Nelson College.

Swearing is not acceptable and will not be tolerated, whether this is directed at fellow students or to adults is irrelevant and any inappropriate language will not be tolerated.