



LEARNING THROUGH INQUIRY

IN 2022

Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro nōnā te ngahere, ko te manu e kai ana i te mātauranga nōnā te ao.

The forest belongs to the bird who feasts on the miro berry, the world belongs to the bird who feasts on knowledge.

Mission: *Learning Through Inquiry fosters learning environments that celebrate diverse learners. Inquiry encourages students to interact with their learning and promotes environments that encourage students to; take risks, critically think about their world, problem solve and be an active member of their learning.*

Vision: Learning Through Inquiry aims to support learners to explore the world around them through the development of the essential skills they will need for their future.

This is a challenging and exciting time to be a learner. Educators in New Zealand are working to ensure that we remain responsive and relevant to the demands of the future. Whakatāne High School look forward to continuing to work with learners, whānau, teachers, educators, iwi and industry so that our tamariki can Qualify for the Future World: Kia noho takatu ki tō āmua ao. (NZQA)

An example of an integrated theme is; How does choice impact social and environmental sustainability. This unit of learning encompasses learning opportunities from Social Studies, Science, English and Mathematics. Students use the design thinking process to investigate a socio-scientific issue with the goal of producing something that benefits their chosen issue. This could be designing a product, generating awareness or working within the community.

Whakatāne High School is re-thinking the way we deliver learning so we can provide different opportunities for all of our learners. In 2022, we will offer **Learning Through Inquiry (Inquiry)** classes (previously Future-Focused Learning). Inquiry classes are designed to create contextual connections between subjects creating an engaging learning environment, which is student-driven and future-focused.

Students will learn in a cross-curricular environment with a focus on inquiry and thematic-based learning. This will allow connections to be made between subject areas and the opportunity to develop their competency skills. Students use skills such as critical thinking, creativity and collaboration, which challenge them to apply the knowledge they gather throughout the year, both in and out of the classroom.

Learning Through Inquiry is a learning environment that aims to meet the needs of our 21st century learners and equip them with the skills necessary to succeed in a dynamic and ever-changing world.

Studies comparing learning outcomes for students taught via inquiry-based learning versus traditional instruction show that, when implemented well, inquiry-based learning increases long-term retention of content, helps students perform as well as or better than traditional learners in standardised tests, improves problem-solving and collaboration skills, and improves students' attitudes toward learning (Strobel & van Barneveld, 2009; Walker & Leary, 2009).

Parents and students interested in this option should discuss it at the enrolment interview.