



HAKA: Flaxmere College students perform a haka to open the new administration block and welcome John Key.

PHOTOS/WARREN BUCKLAND HBT131967-37

College may be rebuilt

Flaxmere College might be completely rebuilt, says principal Louise Anaru.

At the opening of the school's new administration block by Prime Minister John Key, she said the building would help lift student learning.

"Our administration block was designed with 21st century learning in mind—we have aimed to create a range of spaces that are focused on our students and their needs," she said.

"There are no principal, senior management or dean office spaces, as with a traditional office.

"Instead there are larger spaces to create larger team environments."

The building of a teen parenting unit and early childhood centre was due to start this year.

"We also have a great opportunity as a school to address our earthquake bracing and leaky building issues, with potentially rebuilding our whole school.

"This would ensure only the very best environment for our learners and community as a whole.

"So the future is looking very bright at Flaxmere College."

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Key welcomed at two schools

By Patrick O'Sullivan
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EDUCATION was the focus of Prime Minister John Key's visit yesterday starting with Tumu

Timbers' manufacturing facility in Hastings where he viewed its automated pallet-making facility.

He told workers the New Zealand education system was "pretty good"—seventh in the world—but needed to lift the performance at the lower end of the scale.

"In modern New Zealand if you can't read and write and do maths then you're in pretty big trouble," he said. "The higher skilled you are fundamentally the more you are going to get paid and the more your company will get paid. So we as a country have got to stop selling logs to Korea and start selling processed wood."

Mr Key visited both Flaxmere and Lindisfarne colleges.

At Flaxmere he was greeted with a five-taiaha challenge of both staff and students.

Mr Key said some students be from challenged backgrounds and told them when he was six his father had died, leaving the family broke.

"So I'm just like you."
He opened the school's new administration block, but said buildings were not that important.



EDUCATION: Prime Minister John Key visited Lindisfarne College in Hastings yesterday, as part of his Hawke's Bay tour.

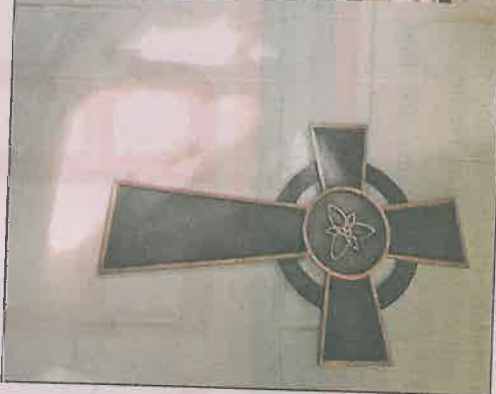
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"What really takes the school forward is the culture that you develop and the friends that you make and the education that you get."

Through education "you can be the master or mistress of your destiny".

"You are going to live for a very long time in all probability so you may as well do something you enjoy. Don't be afraid to make mistakes—everyone makes mistakes. The challenge is to learn from them and not repeat them."

At Lindisfarne he was greeted with a pipe band.



WELCOME: Prime Minister John Key receives a hongi from Flaxmere College head boy Niko Hungahunga.

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At both colleges he gave students the same message about moderation with alcohol, sharing the story of a Kings College schoolmate of his son's that drank himself to death.

Both colleges performed rousing whole-school hakas to honour him.