

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers of Hamilton Boys' High School students,

My name is Matthew Lee. I am the 2021 Student Leader of Inclusivity and the Leader of Te Ohu Atawhai, the HBHS HEART Initiative. Our mission is to advocate for issues such as inclusivity and mental health, and to educate both staff and the student body on these issues.

Throughout the year, I have had the honour of crafting our school's progressive new Inclusivity Policy with our Headmaster, Mrs Hassall, and Assistant Principal, Dr Williams, supported by Te Ohu Atawhai, the HBHS HEART Initiative and other key staff members. This policy cements and puts in writing our school's commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students and staff, especially our more vulnerable Rainbow whānau.

This policy is the first step in a 10-year inclusivity-focussed plan. This plan centres on staff professional development and helping all HBHS students develop an awareness of what it means to be part of a diverse and inclusive community in Aotearoa New Zealand. The plan highlights our collective responsibility to foster an environment in which all young people feel valued and affirmed. We are extremely proud that the Inclusivity Policy and associated 10-year plan will position our school at the forefront of boys' schools in Aotearoa New Zealand in terms of promoting inclusivity and diversity.

The policy and 10-year plan will, in particular, provide much-needed support for our school's Rainbow whānau, who are statistically much more vulnerable to bullying and mental health issues than the student body as a whole.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Mrs Hassall, Dr Williams, and the HBHS Executive for their ongoing support as we progress towards our shared goal. I would also like to thank Te Ohu Atawhai, the HBHS HEART Initiative and other key staff members for their hard work in making this happen.

If you would like to read the Inclusivity Policy, please refer to the HBHS website www.hbhs.school.nz.

Ngā mihi,
Matthew Lee
Student Leader of Inclusivity
Leader of Te Ohu Atawhai, HBHS HEART Initiative