

**COMMUNIQUE TO
THE HEBRON CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AND ELIM CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
COMMUNITIES**

31st May 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Biblical Education Services Trust (aka. Hebron Christian College School Board) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Elim Christian Proprietors Trust that aims to see Hebron Christian College become an Integrated Elim school from the commencement of the 2018 school year.

COMMUNIQUE

Since its establishment in 1977, by the Auckland Christian Fellowship Church, Hebron Christian College has provided a significant private, non-denominational, Christian presence in the central Auckland isthmus region. In July 1991 the school was rescued from financial crisis by the generosity of the Institute of Basic Life Principles who purchased the property then leased it back to the school at low interest rates. The school became independent of the ACFC under its own board 'The Biblical Education Services Trust'. In 2000 the school board brought the property back from the Institute of Basic Life Principles.

Since 1990 the principals, staff, boards and many parents and friends of Hebron have worked sacrificially to keep Hebron as a leading provider of education, Christian faith development and missionary engagement in the central Auckland area. Hebron's consistent educational excellence, reflected at all levels of the curriculum, and well-earned reputation in mission, reflects the success of the college. The lives of Hebron's graduates are an ongoing testimony.

The nature of the educational scene has changed dramatically of recent years with it becoming increasingly difficult for small private colleges to be maintained without charging very high fees. The Board sees the provision of Christian education to as many as possible, particularly in today's social climate, as being central to the school's purpose and original objectives of the school. Hebron was never intended to be elitist, which current fee rates are rapidly making it.

It had become obvious that significant change for Hebron was inevitable and much prayer and seeking of the Lord's direction has taken place.

For some years the Hebron Board has been applying for Integration under the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975. Integration enables the resourcing of salaries and general operational costs from the Crown, thus dramatically reducing student fees. Without Integration it has become increasingly difficult for Hebron to keep fees at a level that makes Christian education a viable option for the majority of families. In addition, changes to building policies, such as seismic and asbestos

requirements, provide significant capital challenges moving forward. At a time when there is pressure on school capacity in the central isthmus, Hebron has capacity to grow but is unable to do so, therefore Christian families miss out.

The Ministry of Education has advised Hebron and the experience of the last few years has demonstrated, that the integration of small stand-alone schools is highly unlikely. Integration as part of a larger group or provider however is a realistic possibility. Given current demand there is such a window right now.

Following due diligence, prayer and seeking the Lord's guidance, the Hebron Board has now entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Elim Christian Proprietors Trust that aims to see Hebron Christian College become an Integrated Elim school from the commencement of the 2018 school year. Elim's Special Character ensures a continuation of the same promotion and teaching of Christian beliefs and practices that has been the hallmark of Hebron Christian College.

The features of such a memorandum include - alignment of faith statements and special character objectives, the provision of suitable representation for local community members at school and proprietor board level, proven educational excellence, proven ability to develop a property into a modern learning environment and the opportunity to maximise staffing and operational strengths. While Elim is a denomination of itself, its Integration Agreement with the Crown for the provision of Special Character education, specifically includes all Christian communities of like theological mind.

As we continue to work on details, we recognise the Lord is clearly opening up exciting prospects for the future. We seek your prayers and support to enable this positive development to come to fruition for both communities. Please pray that the doors required will be opened, enabling the vision to be achieved.

Further information will follow, including opportunities for consultation. Please watch for further announcements.

We delight in what the Lord is doing – to Him be the Glory.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C Marshall".

Chairman

HEBRON Biblical Education Services Trust

A handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by the printed text "Senior Minister" in blue.

ELIM Christian Proprietors Trust