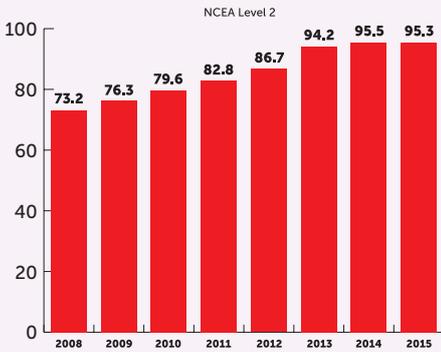


# A remarkable turnaround through better attendance and participation – The Selwyn Way

**JOHN HATTIE**, internationally recognised expert in education, said of Selwyn College recently, “The most remarkable turnaround of any school I’ve seen in the last five years.”

Since 2008, Selwyn College has undergone a significant transformation in student attendance, co-curricular involvement, leadership development and, most crucially, academic achievement. Throughout the past eight years, PCSchool has been a critical partner in enabling that change. During this time, Selwyn’s NCEA Level 2 pass rate lifted from 73 per cent to 95 per cent recapturing the confidence of the local community.

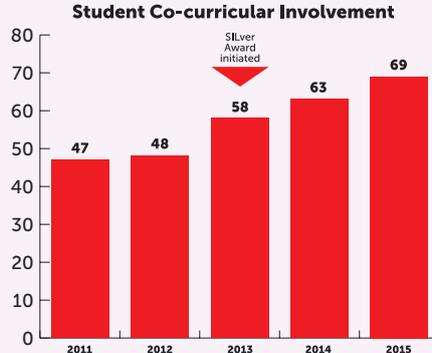
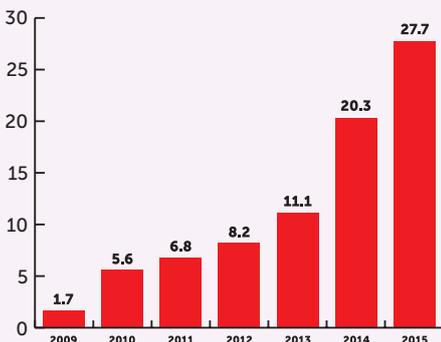
**Student achievement 2009 to 2015**



Clare Linzey, Assistant Principal, says, “At Selwyn College we make full use of the PCSchool database to ensure all the stakeholders in our students’ education have timely and accurate access to student data. Students, staff and parents use the Spider (PCSchool’s web interface) to track student achievement, attendance and participation in the wider life of the college. Our SILver award system (tracking Service, Involvement and Leadership) provides evidence of students developing their key competencies. This evidence is vital beyond the college when students apply for employment and scholarship opportunities.”

Andrew Saunders, deputy principal, tells the story: “Back in 2008, we re-established an agreed set of values, including a focus on student attendance, which in the following years reaped incremental change in both student involvement and academic achievement.”

**L2 Excellence endorsements 2009 to 2015**



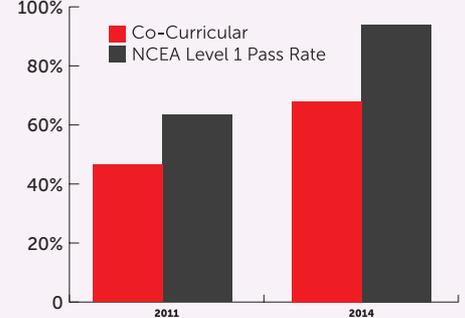
At first it was people-intensive work that utilised PCSchool reports both readily available and custom written by PCSchool. Key staff including the attendance officer, mentor teachers and heads of houses all used data generated from marked electronic rolls to help students get to class on time and stay there! As PCSchool developed the new browser Spider interface, the tracking of student data became easier. Parents could also check their students live attendance data via the parental portal. The interactive interface also enabled staff to contact parents through SMS messaging, emails and form letters.

The impact of the partnership between the Selwyn and PCSchool staff team was obvious. There was a significant improvement in attendance for the whole school including high priority learners. Student absence during the day was markedly decreased and overall attendance rose to well over 90 per cent.

Furthermore, collaboration with PCSchool staff enabled a multi-layered approach to improving both co-curricular involvement and leadership development. Selwyn College’s drive for all round excellence gave PCSchool staff opportunity to develop specific reports and awards for whatever new idea we had. For example, the SILver award designed as an incentive to foster students’ involvement in the wider life of the school led to increased student involvement in both co-curricular opportunities and leadership development.”

“PCSchool was also able to provide support and advice to develop tracking systems to fuel the competitive inter-house competition. With house points generated from the comparison of co-curricular involvement, academic excellence and daily attendance, staff were able to drill down on an individual student’s participation and

**Co-Curricular Involvement and Academic Achievement at Selwyn**



achievement and identify trends within each year group and ethnic group. Check and connect mentoring enabled mentors to monitor and encourage student focus on co-curricular goals, school awards and appropriate course selection. This further enhanced student learning.

“The November 2014 ERO report concluded Selwyn College was a high performing school, saying, ‘Students experience personalised learning in a caring, respectful and vibrant learning environment. Students have a strong sense of school pride and belonging to their culturally inclusive school. The innovative and individualised curriculum and highly effective teaching practices are resulting in students achieving academic success and becoming confident lifelong learners.’

“PCSchool provided the SMS platform and was an active partner in this significant transformation.”

**By Andrew Saunders,**  
*Deputy Principal, Selwyn College*

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**Does student attendance impact achievement at Selwyn?**

