Kia ora All,

You are warmly invited to join us for a presentation from talk from the renowned Scottish educator, Dr Stuart Farmer entitled:

The Curriculum Improvement Cycle in Scotland: Successes, Mistakes and Lessons Learned

Dr Stuart Farmer is the Learning and Skills Manager at the Institute of Physics, Scotland and an Honorary Fellow at the University of Stirling. A former physics teacher and department head with over 30 years' experience, he has led national curriculum and assessment development, advised the Scottish Government on STEM education, and recently completed a PhD on teacher professional learning. In 2016, he received the Institute of Physics Bragg Medal for outstanding contributions to physics education.

* WHEN: Thursday, 30th October (4:00pm - 6.00pm)
* WHERE: The staffroom, Burnside High school, 151 Greers Road, Christchurch
* NO COST: Afternoon tea will be provided
* ABSTRACT OF TALK:

Why This Matters for New Zealand

- New Zealand is currently engaged in its own curriculum redesign.
- Scotland's experience provides timely and practical guidance.
- Key takeaways will help inform physics curriculum development—from national policy to everyday classroom practice.

Background

- In 2004 Scotland introduced the *Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)* for ages 3–18.
- Implementation, particularly in the Senior Phase, proved challenging.
- The Scottish Government commissioned two OECD reviews (2015, 2021), sparking further reviews, consultations, and even a restructuring of national curriculum and assessment agencies.

The Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC)

- Launched in 2023 to refresh and improve the curriculum across ages 3–18.
- Stuart Farmer is a member of the CIC Core and Collaboration Groups for the Sciences.
- His role: advising on the design of a new, coherent science curriculum.

Key Themes of the Talk

- **Successes and Mistakes**: What worked in Scotland's reforms and what caused difficulties.
- **Design Principles**: Insights from the Institute of Physics' *Fundamentals 11–19 Physics* framework.
- **Research-Informed Practice**: Contributions from the Stirling Centre for Research into Curriculum Making.
- **Experience**: Lessons from 40 years of involvement in curriculum development in physics.