



TO THE CHALLENGE: A team from last year's BusinessNZ Challenge at Te Puke High School prepare for judging.

## Students are doing the business

Te Puke High School is offering the BusinessNZ Challenge for students next week — Monday to Wednesday, August 8

After such a successful business workshop for Year 10-11 students last year, head of department Commerce, Margaret McGarva says "we are offering opportunity for another 80 students to part in a 'virtual' company simulation."

The BusinessNZ Challenge programme is a three-day practical business education workshop which involves secondary

school students forming "virtual" companies, researching and deciding on a product or service, writing up a business plan and then launching it in an oral presentation competition.

Next week, at Te Puke High School, the Young Enterprise Trust brings its presenters and resource roadshow to work with another 80 students.

This programme is dependent on the generosity of sponsors who have donated \$400,000 to ensure that this programme is able to be delivered to NZ secondary schools from Invercargill to Whangarei.

It also relies on principals with the vision to see the benefits of this workshop for their students learning and engagement.

"Then it's all up to the students — who, unlike most adults, have "no boundaries to their innovative thinking and brainstorming," says Mrs McGarva.

Te Puke High School host BusinessNZ Challenge co-ordinators, Margaret McGarva, Kevin Addinall and Craig Walker, are looking forward to organising another workshop at their school.

"We are privileged to have this

programme in our school and sincerely hope it gives the students a grand opportunity to experience life-long skills in business."

The workshop is delivered by two Young Enterprise Trust staff. Both have had practical business experience and high level secondary school management experience.

Students are divided into up to 10 teams of eight and, using the latest business theories, they create a hypothetical product, set up a company and prepare a business strategy to produce and sell the product or service.

On the final day, each team's business ideas, creations and discoveries go on display at a Dragon's Den Business Planning Expo.

Judges, who are local successful business people, evaluate each team's presentation and mark them on a range of criteria.

An overall winner in the BusinessNZ Planning Experience is identified by the judges with category winners in innovation, teamwork, sustainability, finance and marketing also recognised.