Relationship between Ancient Greek and modern education

Purpose of Education:

Ancient Greece

To prepare boys for the future. For the Greeks it was about teaching them to prepare to be effective citizens of the city-state. This involved fight and prepare them for politics. "Education and admonition commence in the first years of childhood and last to the very end of life"- Plato, Protagoras (1)

Modern Auckland

Now after a few years of following a particular set of lessons you are able to make a choice on what sort of classes you want to take, probably in year 12 and 13. The choices that you make affect what you might do after school.

Subjects Covered:

Ancient Greece

Boys would learn to play musical instruments, sing, and act/recite poems. They would learn a poem/epic and memorise it to the point where they are able to recite it from memory. "Many tales of ancient, famous men..." "Imitate and emulate..." - Plato, Protagoras (1). In later schooling they would learn how to hold their own in the world of politics, debate, and the art of war.

Modern Auckland

Today we are taught a mixture of maths, English, science, technology, PE and history. It is important that people learn to read, write and have good numeracy. But when we begin our secondary education we are able to take subjects that we are interested in.

Schools-How they are structured:

Ancient Greece

Boys would have various teachers/tutors to help them develop a rounded education

- -Grammatistes-writing
- -Kitharistes-lyre, flute, and singing
- -Paedogogus-discipline

Modern Auckland

School is primarily based on the writing aspects with performing arts and physical education being optional or not seen as important. Primary school teachers teach most of the subjects but in secondary school, you have specialist teachers.

Role Models in Education:

Ancient Greece ·

It was common for boys to have 'close' relationships with their older teachers/tutors. They also had many other elders trying to influence them. "Mother, nurse, father and tutor are vying with one another about the improvements of a child" - Plato, Protagoras (1)

Modern Auckland

Today close relationships like that are very uncommon, though in school students have the option to talk to school counsellors/ or teachers about problems they may have.

Involvement of the State in Education:

Ancient Greece

The main involvement of the state was compulsory 2 years military service at the end of their education.

New Zealand

The government has strong involvement in the education system and are the source for funding and changes in how the system works.