



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:** On Wednesday 13th February 2019, 11.15am at Te Aroha College, as William Pike Challenge Award director, author and amputee William Pike launches the programme.

A chance to become young explorers through exciting outdoor activities, community service and personal development is a reality for Te Aroha College as they take part in the William Pike Challenge Award (WPCA) this year. These students will join more than 2400 other students from over 80 schools across the nation as they embark on the WPCA.

Over this year, these young people will be participating in 5 outdoor activities, 20 hours of community service and personally develop a new passion project in order to gain the award. These adventurous opportunities help students develop essential soft skills such as leadership, values, empathy, independent thinking and teamwork as well as contributing to their local communities. Student and teacher feedback shows that students are becoming more resilient, capable and connected as a result of participating in the WPCA.

The WPCA provides schools with year 7-9 students and community groups with support, resources and inspiration to facilitate the programme. Resources include an online resource for students and teachers to track and measure progress. Students also receive ongoing inspiration and education during this year long programme and a certificate on completion.

"I'm really excited about having the Te Aroha students taking part in the WPCA. It will be great to have the wider community involved and seeing the positive outcomes for all." says Pike. "We're in a point in time where our world is fast paced and changing. What works today, won't work tomorrow. I believe our young people need to be equipped with the soft skills and life experiences to prepare them for whatever life throws at them" adds Pike.

"Our school community is really looking forward to running the WPCA this year. This programme will offer our students an exciting pathway for Education Outside the Classroom and the Health and Physical Education learning area. The establishment of positive connections across home, school, peer and community life is one of the many outcomes we look forward to." said Sam Mortimer, Teacher in Charge.

The WPCA provides youth, their families and the wider community a tool which not only strengthens the communities they live in, but empowers youth to explore new places, relationships and skills. At the end of the day, the WPCA is about growing a world of explorers - in every sense of the word.

William knows firsthand the value of life skills, resilience and relationships for facing big challenges. He was one of two young climbers caught in a volcanic eruption on the slopes of Mount Ruapehu, in 2007. Pike suffered numerous life threatening injuries, and as a result, his right leg was amputated below the knee, needing extensive recovery and rehabilitation. By adopting an explorer mindset, William was once again, able to embrace his love of the outdoors and education, which now he now passes on to a new generation of Kiwi kids through the WPCA.

**ENDS**

- High-resolution photos available on request via [sally@williampike.co.nz](mailto:sally@williampike.co.nz)
- For more information or an interview with William Pike, contact: William Pike on 021 240 2464 or [william@williampike.co.nz](mailto:william@williampike.co.nz)

# Fact Sheet

## WHO IS WILLIAM PIKE?

Find out more at; <https://williampike.co.nz/about-william/>

## THE WILLIAM PIKE CHALLENGE AWARD

The William Pike Challenge Award is a youth development programme with a vision to grow explorers - in every sense of the word. We empower educators with support and resources to grow resilient, confident and capable youth that positively contribute to their local communities. Students aged 11-14 participate in 5 outdoor challenges, 20 hours of community service and 20 hours of passion projects for one year. Our flexible structure helps passionate educators deliver purposeful Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) to develop a positive youth culture. Educators and young people use our innovative software to track progress, save time and access resources.

## VISION

A world of explorers

## MISSION

Creating opportunities to grow resilient, capable and connected young people.

## PURPOSE

Empowering youth to explore new places, relationships and skills.

## VALUES

COURAGE, TEAMWORK, RESILIENCE, COMPASSION, PRIDE, ENTHUSIASM

## PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- Increased capability, resilience and connectedness
- Increased participation in the outdoors
- Increased sense of belonging and connectedness to home, school and community
- Increased student focus and direction while in a formative stage of life
- Increased ability to deal with difficult situations and overcome challenges
- Increased decision making skills
- Increased opportunity to lead a healthy lifestyle

## THE WILLIAM PIKE CHALLENGE AWARD AND THE NEW ZEALAND CURRICULUM

The William Pike Challenge Award offers an exciting pathway for schools to meet achievement standards for EOTC and the Health and Physical Education learning area, in an engaging and authentic context for kiwi kids. The key competencies sit naturally within the WPCA programme, giving students opportunities to develop, practise, and demonstrate the key competencies in a range of original contexts.

## THE CHALLENGE HUB

The Challenge Hub is an online tool that gives teachers an overview of their students progress and a centralised place to access programme related resources. The Hub also allows students to log their journey, upload photos, and write reflections on their experiences and ensures transparency of progress. Access is from [wpca.co.nz](http://wpca.co.nz)

## DIGITAL REFERENCES

[www.williampike.co.nz](http://www.williampike.co.nz) - main website

[www.wpca.co.nz](http://www.wpca.co.nz) - Challenge Hub

[WPCA Facebook](#)

[WPCA Instagram](#)