



TE AROHA COLLEGE

A purpose joyful; A courage blameless

March 2019

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Straight From the BOT Table

Welcome to the March edition of **'Straight From the BOT Table'**. This edition brings you up-to-date with news from the Board's second meeting of the year.

Cheers to 2018

The Te Aroha College Annual Variance Report for 2018 has been received and approved by the Board for submission to the Ministry of Education which is part of our legislative obligation. The report contains information about how the college has achieved its goals set for the 2018 year. Thank you to all staff for all their contributions to making 2018 a successful year for our students.

Included in the Annual Report are the provisional NCEA achievement data which shows the following percentage of students passed:

Level 1: 70% with pending results expecting it to lift to 85% (17 merit & 11 excellence endorsements)

Level 2: 85% with pending results expecting it to lift to 92% (4 merit & 3 excellence endorsements)

Level 3: 50% with pending results expecting it to lift to 70% (7 merit & 2 excellence endorsements)

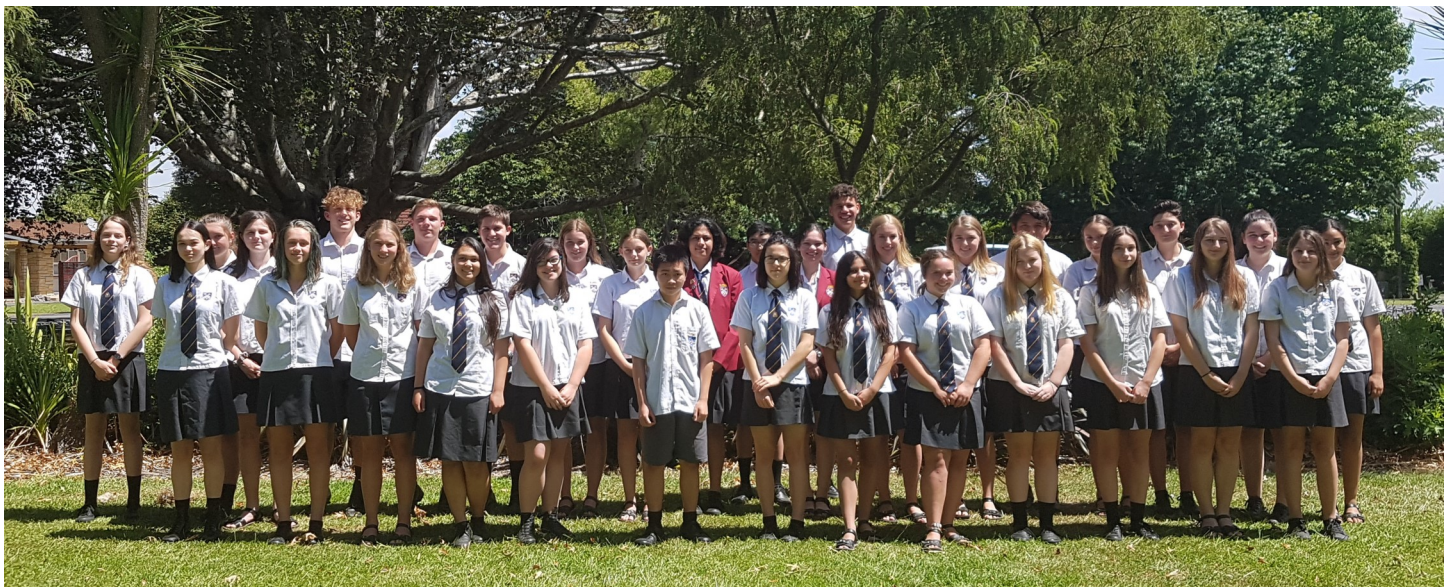
A PURPOSE JOYFUL A COURAGE BLAMELESS
HE WAKA EKE NOA HE TU MANAWANUI KI TE KEI O TE WAKA



Year 13 Leavers Destination Data from 2018 shows 31% of students intended on going to university and 27% of students intended on going to polytech either this year, or in 2020 after a gap year. 31% of students have gone directly into employment, with 4 of those gaining employment through Gateway programmes. Another 7% have entered apprenticeships, and 3% are job seekers.

In other data, we note that in 2018 there were no suspensions or exclusions, but there were 10 stand-downs predominantly in the year 9 and 10 age groups for continual disobedience and gross misconduct. Stand downs were used as a last resort for repeat offences where the restoration process had not made the expected changes or restorative agreements had failed to adjust the required actions and behaviours of the students. Any issues involving physical violence were managed through high end restorative process and all involved parent and police engagement and presence at full and formal restorative meetings.

Communication platforms grew in 2018 as the School App was added to provide a direct connect mechanism. This complemented Facebook for sharing and event promotion, emails for detailed and personalised messaging, Kamar portal for timetable and reporting, Google for surveys and information gathering, school website for general information and updates, the calendar for events, regular newsletters for celebration and longer-term messaging, and phone and txt for absentees. We also added the electronic sign – unfortunately, this was short-lived as it suffered fatal damage in the electrical storm prior to Christmas and is still pending an insurance claim which is why it hasn't yet been replaced.



NCEA Merit and Excellence Endorsement Recipients



2018 also saw a refining of reporting to the Board of Trustees as we moved to a more structured strategic format together with a move to policy refinement through the use of School Docs which is still a work in progress, due for completion by the end of May.

The Te Aroha College 2018 Variance Report is a public document that contains a lot more about Te Aroha College successes against our goals - anybody wanting to view a copy should contact the school office to make a request.

Continuous Improvement into 2019

Smart Day 2019 has grown with the inclusion of extra Smart Day topics and Smart Paths programmes. The Board was presented with its annual curriculum report around the vocational pathways framework, and commends the teachers and tutors for their insights and tireless 'tweaking' to accommodate further learning opportunities for our students.

It is interesting to note that discussion documents around the Ministry of Education frameworks and the review of the future of NCEA are pointing to national moves to enable young people to select courses that meet their needs and interests, with choices about pathway rather than solely based on NCEA credits. The discussion documents talk about striking the right balance and empowering learners to pursue their passions through real-world learning, inclusive of a range of community and cultural contexts. Given the context of the discussion documents from the Ministry of Education, Te Aroha College appears well-placed on its journey with the Smart Day concept to be meeting many of the weaknesses identified with the NCEA system as it is currently delivered in schools around the country.

The Board was also presented with a curriculum report from the Technology Department at its March meeting, with a highlight being the display of the new Pen Tablet and associated software that has been added as a design tool. Again, we are lucky to have highly competent staff who are hardworking, dedicated, and excited about giving students the best opportunity to the start of life after their secondary education.

environment for learning.

Strategic Budgeting

After directing considerable financial resource towards the purchase of additional learning resources throughout the school earlier this year, the Board is now looking to invest in further asset replacement and improvements as it looks to spend today's money on today's students. While there is big ticket operational equipment such as tractors and vehicles that need to be considered for replacement, the Board is also motivated to invest in assets and projects that help to achieve its goals around student learning, wellbeing, and an environment for learning.



An astro-turf court area, bus shelters, covered outdoor area, and additional kitchen are some of the options being considered. Next steps are quotes and designs for consideration at the May meeting of the Board.

Board of Trustees Elections

Election date for the BOT triennial elections is 7th June. The Board is in the process of appointing a Returning Officer to run the elections with a view to calling for nominations in early May. There will be vacancies on the Board so if you have a desire to be involved at a governance level, please feel free to give one of the current board members a call to discuss what's involved, or search the internet for information on the 'board of trustees role'. The following is a useful start:

<https://www.nzsta.org.nz/assets/Information-for-parents/A-parents-guide-to-the-role-of-the-board-of-trustees.compressed.pdf>

Education Review Office

We have had advice from the Education Review Office that it will be visiting Te Aroha College for its external evaluation in the week beginning 17th June. We look forward to working with ERO as part of our school's continuous improvement journey.

Julie Sweeney (BOT Chair)