



TE AROHA COLLEGE

A purpose joyful; A courage blameless

July 2021

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PRINCIPAL
Mrs Gorrie

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Mr Jager
Mr Aitken
Mr Darby

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Mr Hartzenburg

YEAR 9 DEAN

Mr McArdle

FORM TEACHERS

Aotea, Mr Rowe
Arawa, Mrs Oliver
Tainui, Mr Darby
Tokomaru, Mr Sweeney

YEAR 10 DEAN

Mr Aislabie

FORM TEACHERS

Aotea, Mr Stringer
Arawa, Miss Maber
Tainui, Mr Robinson
Tokomaru, Mr Ashford-Beck

YEAR 11 DEAN

Mr Masters

FORM TEACHERS

Aotea, Mr Pipe
Arawa, Mr Kurian
Tainui, Mrs Spindler
Tokomaru, Mrs Lemon

YEAR 12 DEAN

Mr Aitken

FORM TEACHERS

Aotea, Mr Stringer
Arawa, Ms Baylis
Tainui, Ms Scott
Tokomaru, Ms Hagan

YEAR 13 DEAN

Ms Gemmell

FORM TEACHERS

Aotea, Mrs Jager
Arawa, Mr Rekatsinas
Tainui, Ms McLaren
Tokomaru, Mr Steffert



Dear Parents and Whānau,

In celebration of the passing of the shortest day of the year, welcoming Matariki and the Māori New Year and heading into the holiday break, it has been great to look at the achievement of our students over the past 10 weeks of term 2. We celebrate the achievements of our senior student leaders who, through their hard work, have made sustainable positive changes and created a vehicle for growing leadership throughout our school. We also celebrate the individual and team efforts that have seen such great success this term. Our small size provides countless opportunities to lead, achieve and succeed. We have an incredibly talented student body who achieve amazing things and excel in their areas of interest and passion. We are all very proud of the efforts of our students.

We also acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our teachers and staff who make all this possible every day they come to work. Te Aroha College is very fortunate to have such a strong team of educators who innovate and strive every day to create learning opportunities for all our community of students.

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



Student Leaders Making a Difference

At Te Aroha College we have worked for a number of years to grow the concept of Service Leadership. Our senior student leaders and prefects are expected to serve their school community by developing and building sustainable and positive changes for the future of our school through project and team work. Leadership in this model is not about the badges and blazers but about the commitment to give time and effort to support others. Leadership through service is all about doing the work, rolling up your sleeves and making a difference. We have had three student teams and the Showquest team lead projects this year that have exceeded all of our expectations and made an incredible difference for our school for the future. For our current leaders this is the 'Excellence Plus' that employers, tertiary institutions and universities look for when considering scholarships and apprenticeships. For our up and coming leaders this has been a great opportunity to build their skills and work toward what the following years will look like with the bar set very high for the future. We have also had a number of groups and leaders make major contributions through supporting charity events and worthy causes as part of the student leadership programme. We thank all our students, junior and senior, who stepped up, helped out and showed what being GREAT is all about.





The School Haka

Our student leadership began the year with a key goal of developing 'Our place to stand - our tūrangawaewae' through our own Waiata written last year and then the development of a school Haka this year. Led by our Head students, Cultural Development project team and supported by our Iwi and teaching Staff, this project has seen a Haka created and taught to our entire school body. It has been amazing to see our students get involved and make this their own through term 2.

Manawatia a Matariki

Matariki is a time of reflection, allowing us to embrace the new journey we are paddling, he waka eke noa.

Te Aroha College welcomes the Māori New Year by introducing and celebrating our school Haka. The School Haka acknowledges the mana our maunga holds and which we draw strength from. Ka whati te tai ka pao te tōrea, when an opportunity arises we shall strike and give our best to succeed. This is a well-known proverb that we encourage our students to be GREAT at everything they attempt.

Te Aroha tū tonu mai rā - Keep standing strong Te Aroha.

The finale and our school celebration of Matariki was held on Wednesday 7th July where our Haka was presented for the first time and House teams performed in front of judges to see who has the best House Haka. Earlier in the week our sports teams also showed their talents in this area. As this tonga and tradition will now be passed from each school generation to the next, it is a true testament of sustainability and cultural pride and we congratulate our leading students on the courage and effort to push through and make a lasting legacy from their time at our school.



The School Food Programme

Another project from our student leadership team is the 'Food in Schools Lunch Programme' led by our Foods team. This group has worked tirelessly to make a major change in the way we support our students at school. Not only have they provided affordable and free food at breaks from the Pavilion for the past two terms, but they have also worked with the school leadership and the Ministry of Education to gain a place on the Free Lunches in Schools programme that will start at Te Aroha College on the 26th of July. This group, with the support of Mr Ken Rowe and Mrs Rebecca Johnson, have devised an affordable menu, held Fun Food Fridays, created a token system so all payments are cashless and worked with our sponsors and benefactors to support the programme. Our students have met with business and services groups and told our story and through all this work we now have three years of guaranteed lunches for all of our students every day. This is an incredible achievement that literally changes lives for the better every day.

A special thank-you must go to the Red Cross for allowing our students to come and present at the Soup Day event. Our students enjoyed the opportunity to meet our community retirees and share their story.

A big welcome to Ms Karyn Blair who will be managing the 'Food in Schools Lunch Programme' with our student team and Mr Ken Rowe. Karyn brings an extensive range of skills, experience and passion to this critical position. We look forward to working with her. Thank-you to our sponsors and supporters: The Masonic Lodge Te Aroha, Farm Source, Countdown, the Red Cross and Inghams.



Kia Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunches Programme



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The TAC Way

This project has seen multiple groups and individuals lead special initiatives including fundraisers, non-uniform days and Friday fun events.

Pride Day

To celebrate diversity in our community we have as a school community acknowledged Pride month with the raising of the progression flag and a Rainbow on uniform day. All proceeds for this day have been donated to Rainbow youth. We would like to thank the Health Promotion group for their work to make this event possible.

Blood Drive

The NZ Blood Service visited the school for a day and our community provided donations from 56 people to help those who need blood products. Thank you to student, Emma Mohring, for her commitment to getting this very worthwhile cause off the ground.

Gumboot Day

We raised funds and awareness for student mental health by taking part in Gumboot Day.

Pink Shirt Day

We raised awareness to reduce Bullying with Pink Shirt day.





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Showquest

Showquest provided a student-led production event showcasing our creativity, organisation and ability to create a stage piece from the ground up.

Congratulations to the Showquest team for their amazing work in putting together a multi-dimensional approach to dance and drama. Performing at the regional competition, our students did a great job representing our school and showcasing their talents. This is a student-organised event and we would like to congratulate Isabelle Bray and Keisha Wootton who were presented with Te Aroha College Excellence Awards for their leadership and organisation of this event. Also receiving excellence awards were Stephanie Cornes for her solo singing and Luca Gemmell-Taylor for his work on the digital video wall. At the prizegiving, a third place overall and prizes in choreography and drama were fitting for the amazing work done. A special thank you to Ms Adrienne Hagan for her tireless hours of support.



Regional Leaders Meeting

Our Head students hosted a day-long meeting with other Head students from our region. Welcomed by all Year 13s, this was a positive showcase of the work our leaders have achieved this year and was a great time for sharing ideas across our wider Thames Valley district.

Chess Tournament

Congratulations to our Chess Winner, Fabian Hubbard (Year 9), after an intense tournament run through term 2. The 16 players played up to 15 matches each to determine the Top 8, and then the knockout rounds ensued. The multiple matches had some significant upsets and from it all a new force emerged as the winner. We want to congratulate all our players who week after week fronted for games and gained points for their houses, and all that made this year's tournaments one of the best we have seen. A special thank you to Mrs Marion Kroukam for hosting and organising this event in the school Library.





Special Congratulations

Basketball

Special Congratulations to Junior De Young and Te Tuhi Lewis for being selected for 2 of 20 spots in the Steven Adams basketball training camp being held these holidays in Wellington. This is a well-deserved opportunity for both players to further their sporting futures.



Volleyball Excellence Awards

Congratulations to Harry Burge and Annabelle Oosthoek for making the following Aotearoa Maori teams. They will attend a Matariki camp for 4 days at the start of the holidays - involving playing games and training - and will play in a tournament in their teams later in the year.

- Harry Burge- Te Kapa Poirewa Maori O Aotearoa Maori Tāne U17 Teina
- Annabelle Oosthoek - Te Kapa Poirewa Maori O Aotearoa Maori Hīne U17 Teina



Leadership in Our District

Congratulations to our Co-President Julian Davis-Gorrie (Year 13) for being selected to present at the Regional Year 9 Young Leaders' Day in Hamilton. He was commended by the organisers for his inspirational presentation about 'Finding your Why' and what it is like to overcome adversity to achieve and succeed.

Student Volunteer Army Awards

Bronze awards have been achieved by the following students for the completion of 32 hours of community service:

Hollie Storey

Travis Diprose

Riley Toogood

We remind all students completing community service to log on to the Student Volunteer Army website and log all of the positive contributions to our school and community that they make this holiday.



Student Governance

Taking Student Voice to the community, Student Trustee Braye Stewart has worked to address concerns about our school uniform and has surveyed the student body and community on facial piercings and facial hair. We will be continuing work on uniform reviews through term 3 as we plan for 2022.

Buildings and Property

It has been an exciting term for our staff and students as they took over the new blocks after a year of temporary classrooms. Although we are yet to complete the exterior paint and final canopies on the decks, the refurbished blocks and state-of-the-art toilets have made a huge difference to our student body. We are all very grateful to the Ministry of Education for the additional funding that allowed the blocks to both be completed together. The deck covers will be fitted these holidays and painting will be completed in the summer.





Sports Round Up

Rugby

Thanks to the passion and commitment of Mr Aislabie, rugby is alive and well with both a Junior and Senior team competing in the region this season. Strongly supported by Mr Gemmell, Mr Lauder, Mr Ali-ifaalogo, Taine Wilson and Mr Darby, the teams have had a stellar season with exceptional results. Both are young teams but this has not stopped growing momentum and success as they have progressed through the season.

The Year 9 and 10 team finished 5th at the end of the regular season. On Saturday 3rd July they lost a close semi-final to Whangamata 41-39, just missing out on the chance to defend the Berry Cup. The Future XV team finished top of the table after the regular season, winning all 6 games. On Friday 2nd July they played their semi-final against a much bigger Te Kauwhata team. After a hard-fought first 20 minutes they established some dominance to run out as comfortable 51-5 winners. This Saturday 10th July they will play their final against Thames High School. The game is at Ngatea and kick off is at 10.15am. The team has been well supported this year and it would be great to see Te Aroha supporters on the sideline again this Saturday, cheering the boys on.





Hockey

Our two 1st eleven teams are performing well in their respective competitions.

The girls are competing in the Thames Valley competition played in Ngatea and are unbeaten, playing Te Kauwhata, Hauraki Plains 2nds and Paeroa teams. We are a relatively young side, comprising of Year 10 and 11 players, and the improvement that they have made already so far is impressive, so expect exciting things to come in the next couple of years as the team grows with experience!

The boys are playing in Hamilton on Monday nights in the C Grade competition. The team is also unbeaten with 6 wins and 1 draw so far. Harrison Burge leads the competition goal-scoring leader board with 21 goals.

We have a range of players from Year 9 through to Year 13, and they have also shown immense growth since the start of the season. Some of the goals they have scored this year have resulted from some well-executed teamwork and skills.

We are yet to play the bottom four teams in the competition, so with a bit of luck on our side, we can continue our winning streak and have a successful result for the end of the season.





Academic Support

NCEA Checkpoints for Senior Students

We are continuing to run NCEA Checkpoints every five weeks for our senior students. This is a process of collecting information on all our senior students' assessment work, focusing on who is keeping up with the work and who has to catch up. We saw significant improvements in overall school results using this process through the last few years and we have advanced this in 2021. Our next checkpoint has just been completed in Week 10. Our Deans are working hard to meet with the families of all students who need to catch up. Working with you, they will provide support for students to get organised and manage the necessary workload to achieve learning success. Please make contact with our Deans' team if you have questions or concerns about your student's learning. Their contacts are printed in the newsletter.

Smart Days

As we work through the second block of Smart Days, we can celebrate the amazing variety of learning and engagement that occurs on a Thursday by our students and staff from both the Smart Day and Smart Path Programmes. Smart Day has also enabled 52 Gateway places to be operating positively in our community and we thank our local and regional employers for their incredible support in getting our young people to understand about the real world of work. Our in-school Smart Days have engaged students in a wide variety of future career starters from Agriculture to Flying to creative and innovative arts including the Showquest, the School Production, music, fashion and foods. We covered technical and ICT skills along with study and wellbeing programmes. We have also seen a growth in business alongside life skills of driver education, animal care, sustainability and many more. All topics covered fit within the scope of Vocational Pathways and have challenged our learners to step into a future-focused way of learning. The William Pike project for Year 9 and Year 10 has been a key feature in Smart Days. This rotation's group is about to complete its Waihou River Kayak trip and last rotation's group ventured out to the Pinnacles on their overnight trek. These activities form part of the five major outdoor challenges alongside each student's passion project and community service time.



Nuts and Bolts for Term 3

Vaping and issues with Health

Reminder to all students and caregivers that it is illegal to sell or give a vaping product to someone under 18, and that it is prohibited to vape on school property or grounds 24/7.

The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act 2020 (the Amendment Act) prohibits smoking and vaping in schools, kura kaupapa, kōhanga reo and early childhood education and care centres (including their grounds and buildings). This means they are smoke-free and vape-free at all times. School management and boards must take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that no person smokes or vapes in any part of the premises, whether inside or outside, at any time of day. This applies to everyone who comes onto the grounds, as well as in the buildings – for example parents and caregivers, teachers and kaiako, contractors and workers, students, or the community using the grounds at the weekend.

In New Zealand vaping is only recommended as a way to quit smoking, and is not for young people. Vaping is not harmless. Vaping contains unregulated chemicals and flavours whose long-term effects are unknown. Breathing in anything can have side effects. Learn the side-effects of vaping, by visiting:

<https://www.vapingfacts.health.nz/the-facts-of-vaping/side-effects-of-vaping.html>

Vaping contains nicotine which can have some negative effects on brain development in adolescents. Nicotine is highly addictive which, although it helps to quit smoking as it replaces the nicotine with less of the toxins in cigarette smoke, it is not harmless if you don't smoke. Please support us to ensure that Te Aroha College is smoke-free and vape-free. This will be a priority for term 3.





EOTC

Education Outside The Classroom is a critical part of our extended programmes of learning. The Board and Leadership team have worked hard through term 2 to ensure these programmes are well planned, safe and any student travelling from school has gained informed consent from their parents or guardians to be out of school. This means permission slips must be filled in and returned the day before any event. Students with late permission slips or no permission will not be allowed to go. Please support our staff by making sure you have discussed any planned trips with your student and signed and returned the permission slip timeously.

Bus Bay Safety

Again we ask our parents and guardians who pick up and drop off students to be considerate and keep clear of the bus bays on both sides of the road. We are very concerned that there will be an incident and have asked the Police to support us on random days next term to ensure we can uphold safety in this critical and 'high traffic' area, particularly in the afternoons.

Upcoming Events

Term 3 starts on the Monday 26th July

Accord Teacher Only Day - Thursday 12 August

