



TE AROHA COLLEGE

A purpose joyful; A courage blameless

March 2023

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Mr Jager

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
Ms Mary Raleigh

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR
Ms Schuler

YEAR 9 DEAN

Mrs Spindler
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Mr Stringer
Arawa, Miss Halford
Tainui, Mr Pipe
Tokomaru, Mr Samuel

YEAR 10 DEAN

Ms Gemmell
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Mrs Jager
Arawa, Ms Baylis
Tainui, Mr Brigland
Tokomaru, Ms Hagan

YEAR 11 DEAN

Mr McArdle
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Mr Rowe
Arawa, Mrs Oliver
Tainui, Mr Darby
Tokomaru, Mr Daroux

YEAR 12 DEAN

Mr Aislabie
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Miss Park
Arawa, Miss Maber
Tainui, Mr Kurian
Tokomaru, Mr Ashford-Beck

YEAR 13 DEAN

Mr Masters

Ngā Manu Taupua
Whaea McLaren



COLLEGE NEWSLETTER, 22 March, 2023

Term 1 at Te Aroha College has continued to be very busy. As well as structured classroom learning, many students have taken advantage of cultural and sporting opportunities to continue with specific interests or try something new.

Students who make the effort to get involved in these activities get so much more from college years than their peers who do not.

I hope caregivers find the time often to speak with their students about college life, how it is all going and where their college years will lead.

This newsletter is a summary of the many happenings and opportunities for students during Term 1.

Swimming Sports

This event took place on Friday 17 February, a few days later than planned due to our less than desirable summer weather. It was great to have this all school event on the calendar again, with some excellent swimming performances and great student support.

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HE WAKA EKE NOA HE TU MANAWANUI KI TE KEI O TE WAKA



Both Jayden Darby and Jinsei Miyata broke several records in senior boys' events.

Jayden also swam the fastest one length freestyle ever witnessed in the college pool.

Our thanks go to all caregivers and other supporters who helped out or attended the swimming sports.

The six championship winners and runners-up were:

Grade	Swimming Champion	Runner-Up
Junior Girls	Breanna Darby	Morgan Paetai
Junior Boys	Mason Diprose	Samual Corden
Intermediate Girls	Jess Bray	Millah Burge
Intermediate Boys	Toby SHotton	Thomas Lauder
Senior Girls	Renae Meredith	Liz Hensby-Bennett
Senior Boys	Jayden Darby	Richie Gemmell





Showquest

Showquest 2023 is off with a flying start! We have about twenty settled dancers and ten crew, so far. But we are still looking for some positive student souls to join our merry band of dancers and performers. It is not too late!

This year we're off to Tauranga on the 26th June to perform with other schools at the Trust Power Arena. Led by Samantha Goodwin, Jessica Bray and Chaeli Sutherland; the dancing, singing and music is in the early creative stages.

You can attend this fantastic show of student creativity by buying tickets through the usual ticketing agencies nearer the time. Watch this space!

Our theme is about young people dealing with issues in society today. "What about Us?" the performers ask! They need to be listened to as well!

We are rehearsing on Monday after school and during Te Puāwaitanga "The seed has blossomed" on Wednesdays. During Term Two we will begin Sunday afternoon rehearsals from 4pm to 6.30pm as well.

If you have any questions and would like to know more email Ms Hagan ahagan@tacol.nz or Samantha sgo17034@tacol.nz. See you at Showquest! Adrienne Hagan, HOL Performing Arts



Athletics Sports

A great day of Athletics on Wednesday 1 March on the greenest, lushest, most grassy track ever seen at that time of year. Once again, our thanks go to all caregivers and other supporters who helped out or attended the college athletic sports.

The six athletics champions and runner-ups for 2023 were:

Grade	Athletics Champion	Runner-Up
Junior Girls	Morgan Paetai	Nicole Logan
Junior Boys	Shawn Fletcher	Legend McLaren
Intermediate Girls	Millah Burge	Jess Bray
Intermediate Boys	Jake Horan	Sean Costar
Senior Girls	Joint winners were Amber Wotherspoon and Anna Knight	
Senior Boys	Jayden Darby	Seth Karika





Year 9 Barbeque

Our pōwhiri to welcome new students and staff to the college was cancelled this year due to poor weather.

Instead, Year 9 Students and Caregivers were invited to an evening BBQ to learn about events throughout the year related to Year 9 students, to meet Teachers and Form Teachers, and to see first hand the classrooms where Year 9 students have their structured learning this year.

Thanks to students and caregivers who took up the invitation to attend.

Ngā Manu Taupua: (A new initiative in 2023)

Ngā Manu Taupua is an educational initiative set up to create a warm, culturally safe and welcoming environment for our Whānau Māori of Te Aroha College. Ngā Manu Taupua – the many Chiefly Birds that helped navigate Māori to Aotearoa. Ngā Manu Taupua are likened to individuals who aspire to be future leaders and chiefs of their education journey.

Ngā Manu Taupua aspirations are for Whānau Māori and Māori students to excel in all areas while being proud of who they are and where they come from whilst attending Te Aroha College.

Ngā Manu Taupua will run alongside the daily form class, meeting in Te Huihuinga (the Pavillion) from 8:45am to 8:55am. Ngā Manu Taupua will have the opportunity to enhance their understanding of te reo me ona tikanga (karakia waiata, haka and mihimihi).

Please follow the link for an in-depth information booklet of Ngā Manu Taupua: [Ngā Manu Taupua](#)

For more information or enquiries, please do not hesitate to reach out to Whaea Arleen: amclar-en@tacol.nz.



Te Matatini

On the 24th of February, the Senior Te Reo Māori classes travelled to Ngā Ana Wai (Eden Park) to be a part of the largest Māori event - Te Matatini. Te Matatini is the Nationals' Kapa Haka competition where elite kapa haka performers come together and perform the best of the best.

Although we were unsure that Te Matatini was going to go ahead due to the recent impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle, the students were very appreciative of having the opportunity to attend. This provided a positive insight into Te Ao Māori, where students were exposed to a range of Māori artists, Māori organizations, and of course - kai.

We must mihi (acknowledge) to the Ngāti Tumutumu iwi Trust who also financially supported this kaupapa to ensure the students had the opportunity to attend Te Matatini - Ehara taku toa, he takitahi, he toa takitini.

A big mihi also goes to Whaea Arleen, Terry McCardle and Rozlyn Hirawani who accompanied these students, te amorangi ki mua, te hapai o ki muri. Without the organization and support of our pakeke - adults, our students wouldn't have had this opportunity to attend.



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Kapa Haka:

Te Aroha College has reestablished Kapa Haka this year, which has attracted a remarkable number of students from Year 9 to Year 13.

Through the different waiata that the students will learn this year, Kapa Haka will enable students to learn a range of skills, such as whanaungatanga, kotahitanga, manaakitanga, history and whakapapa of Te Ao Māori. Providing students this opportunity, contributes to students growth and development of Te Ao Māori. Students are currently preparing to host a pōwhiri for the students from Thailand.

If you are interested in supporting Kapa Haka, please feel free to reach out to Whaea Arleen:

amclaren@tacol.nz





College Tennis Championships

Many matches were played over several days to determine the college's best tennis players of 2023.

Individual Champions and Doubles Champions are to be commended for their efforts

Singles Champions

Junior Girls	Morgan Paetai
Junior Boys	Mason Diprose
Intermediate Girls	Millah Burge
Intermediate Boys	Calan Diprose
Senior Girls	Liz Hensby-Bennett
Senior Boys	Richie Gemmell

Doubles Champions

Junior Girls	Perryn Diprose and Morgan Paetai
Junior Boys	Samual Corden and Felix Burri
Intermediate Girls	Jess Bray and Erica Dodge
Intermediate Boys	Calan Diprose and Baraka Maina
Senior Girls	Anna Wade and Anna Knight
Senior Boys	Richie Gemmell and Jayden Darby

Te Puāwaitanga

In previous years, Smart Day has occupied all of Thursday.

In 2023, the college is running Te Puāwaitanga on Wednesday afternoons.

Te Puāwaitanga translates to "The Seed has Blossomed" which relates to learning journeys and ongoing learning.

Students have chosen their learning experience/option which runs for a two hour block each Wednesday, for a nine week period. This gives students the opportunity to pursue an existing area of interest, or to attempt a new pursuit.

Several students use this time to complete their Gateway Work Experience Placements in the Te Aroha community.

Travellers' Programme and Wellbeing Survey

Year 9 students will be completing a Wellness Survey in Week 8 as a part of the Travellers Programme. The programme is aimed to promote wellbeing through building resilience. From the survey, an eight week, one hour weekly course will be made available for a small group of students to participate in. This will be run by our school guidance counsellor, Catherine Schuler.

If you want to know more about the programme, or do not want your child to participate, please get in touch with Catherine Schuler at cschuler@tacol.nz

More information is available at <https://www.skylight.org.nz/build-resilience/travellers>



International Students

A group of twenty students from Thailand was welcomed to the college on 22 March. Post Covid, several groups of International students will be spending time at college during the year, and this is our first group for 2023. Thanks to those students and caregivers who are housing our visitors during the next two and a half weeks.

Science Learning Area Report

Our students had the opportunity of experiencing using an electron microscope to develop their scientific observation skills recently. This high end technology device was brought to us by Waikato University and much curiosity and enthusiasm was evident among our students.





Sheila Winn Shakespeare Competition

Erica Dodge and Lyla Gemmell-Taylor competed in the 2023 Shakespeare Globe Centre NZ - Sheila Winn Shakespeare Regional Competition with support from the Ministry of Youth Development at Te Awamutu College on Friday, the 17th March. In a scene from William Shakespeare's MacBeth, Lyla played Lady MacBeth and Erica played MacBeth who were both upset having just killed the King.

We were one of six Waikato secondary schools with 16 scenes presented. It was a great learning curve and we learned a lot. Thanks so much to Erica and Lyla for participating - our first ever Te Aroha College entry! Learning five minutes worth of Shakespearean language is not easy and our students remembered every word.

The winners of this Waikato Regional Competition's 15 minute scenes was Hamilton Girls' High presenting a scene from The Tempest and the winner of the 5 minute scene was Cambridge High School with a scene from Measure to Measure.





Motutapu Island Camp

Some groups of students over the last several years have missed out on what used to be a well remembered Te Aroha College experience - The Year 9 camp at Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf.

Increasing costs and Covid prevented camps going ahead in recent years.

This year we are organising a combined Year 9 and 10 Student Camp during the first week of Term 4.

Timing might not be the best but the camp is heavily used and these were the best dates available to us.

A separate newsletter will be sent soon to Caregivers of Year 9 and 10 students detailing exact dates and costs. This year the college will be looking at fundraising options and grant applications to reduce costs as much as possible for this camp experience.





Student Attendance

There is a nationwide drive initiated by the Ministry of Education, to improve attendance at all schools.

At college we monitor student attendance closely, and follow up on student absences and truancy.

We report the following levels of student attendance to date for 2023.

Student Group	Attendance rate for 2023 to the end of week 7 (17 March)
Year 9	89%
Year 10	85%
Year 11	83%
Year 12	80%
Year 13	77%
All Students	84%

We thank caregivers who get their students to college every day.

Lessons mostly follow previous learning and if students are absent, it makes knowing what happened previously and following on from that very difficult.

Please encourage your students(s) to attend college every day. We appreciate that many absences are unavoidable and justified. If a student is away from college, please contact the college

office.

It is unfortunate that we have some students who are away with the knowledge of caregivers when they should be at college.

Uniform

Another thankyou to caregivers who send students to college in clean and correct uniform.

Please remember that a small nose stud is now permitted. This does not include nose rings of any sort.

Shoes and socks should be black only and sandals should be only black roman sandals.

Term 1 Reports

These will be sent to Caregivers during Week 11 of this term.

Reports will be completed for all students in all subjects and will focus on:

- Independent Learning Skills
- Respectful Relationships
- Motivation
- Resilience for Learning
- Attendance.



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Communication

As stated in an earlier newsletter, “We aim to be a friendly, community orientated and opportunity providing secondary school in 2023”

If there is any aspect of your student’s college where you feel we could do better, please contact us.

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Peter Jager
Acting Principal
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