



TE AROHA COLLEGE

A purpose joyful; A courage blameless

23 June 2023

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NGĀ MANU TAUPUA
Whaea Arleen

YEAR 9 DEAN
Mrs Spindler
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Mr Stringer
Arawa, Miss Halford
Tainui, Mr Pipe
Tokomaru, Mrs Ericsson

YEAR 10 DEAN
Ms Gemmell
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Mrs Jager
Arawa, Ms Baylis
Tainui, Mr Bridgland
Tokomaru, Ms Hagan

YEAR 11 DEAN
Mr Aislabie
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Mr Rowe
Arawa, Mrs Oliver
Tainui, Mr Darby
Tokomaru, Ms Scott

YEAR 12 DEAN
Mr Masters
FORM TEACHERS
Aotea, Miss Park
Arawa, Miss Maber
Tainui, Mr Kurain
Tokomaru, Mr Ashford-Beck

YEAR 13 DEAN
Mr Masters



Newsletter Term 2 Week 9

Kia ora koutou katoa, in this newsletter”

- Reflections and acknowledgements of events this term
- Raising concerns and making complaints process
- Future plans, possible changes to timetable structure
- Limited Statutory Manager (LSM) revocation
- Te Aroha College students out and about
- Uniform expectations
- Youth Intact counsellor - Drug, alcohol and addiction support

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



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Show Quest

On Tuesday 13 June we had an amazing group of performers attend the Waikato Show Quest competition. This group has been rehearsing most of this year and has been completely student led which is one of the aims of this experience. Ms Hagan has been instrumental in providing support for all of the students and the organisation behind the scenes. Without her very valuable experience our students would have been as successful as they were.

The performance night was a wonderful event celebrating many aspects of the performing Arts and great for our students to feel part of this and proudly represent Te Aroha College.



The theme of our performance was based on climate change and sustainability practices and what our young people may face in the future. They were able to creatively portray this to the audience and our audio visual and lighting effects drew praise from the judges.

Special thanks again to Ms Hagan for her organisation and inspiration and to Mrs Spindler and Mrs Ericson for helping support our students on the day and evening.

Ka rawe team, looking forward to seeing what can be created in two years time.

picture on previous page shows:

An excited Showquest team just before we performed at Showquest on the 13th June at the Claudelands Event Centre in Hamilton. We were awarded : Highly Commended for Live Music and Highly Commended for Costume

Junior parent conferences

Many thanks to those parents that were able to attend the recent junior student/parent teacher conferences held on May 30. It was nice to meet some more parents and I know the staff valued the conversations held that day. It is also great to see parents who were unable to attend, make appointments with staff during the week to catch up. From speaking with parents and staff we will look to continue this format in the future and add some changes to make the time parents spend at school valuable.

John Parsons - TAC Year 9, Te Aroha Kahui Ako staff and boards

Thank you to those parents that were able to attend the John Parsons workshop. John enjoyed his time with the Te Aroha community and is hoping to continue his work here in the future.

John met with Year 9 and this was a very valuable presentation. His message struck home for a number of students, especially about building and maintaining respect for themselves and for others and how some of their social media behaviour impacts negatively on others. His message about students having the ability to change these destructive behaviours and repair damaged relationships was also very good. In fact, we have seen some previously damaged relationships repaired as a result of John's message.

As part of the programme it was great to have combined staff and board presentations with all of the Te Aroha schools. Really nice to work collaboratively with these schools and collectively find ways to support our students.

Cyber safety - all year levels, Senior Constable Natasha Snowden

To follow on from the theme of cyber safety, we were also very fortunate to have Senior Constable Natasha Snowden speak to all of our students about cyber bullying and specifically looking at the legal implications. This was again very well received by our students. Our Year 11 cohort asked the most questions - they had lots on their minds about a whole range of Police based issues, great interaction with Natasha.



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For further information and support please look at the Netsafe website (<https://netsafe.org.nz/>).

Also on the Netsafe website is an easy to read description of the **Harmful Digital Communications Act (2015)**

(<https://netsafe.org.nz/what-is-the-hdca/>)

Raising concerns and making complaints process

We are continually evaluating all aspects of school operations and value feedback from parents and the community.

We want to be more open than we have been in the past and are refining these processes so that parents can communicate with the right people at the right time and that we can open communication lines as early as possible.

From time-to-time, things might not go to plan. I have attached our raising concerns/complaints process chart for you and this provides a clear way to raise concerns and if needed, make a formal complaint.

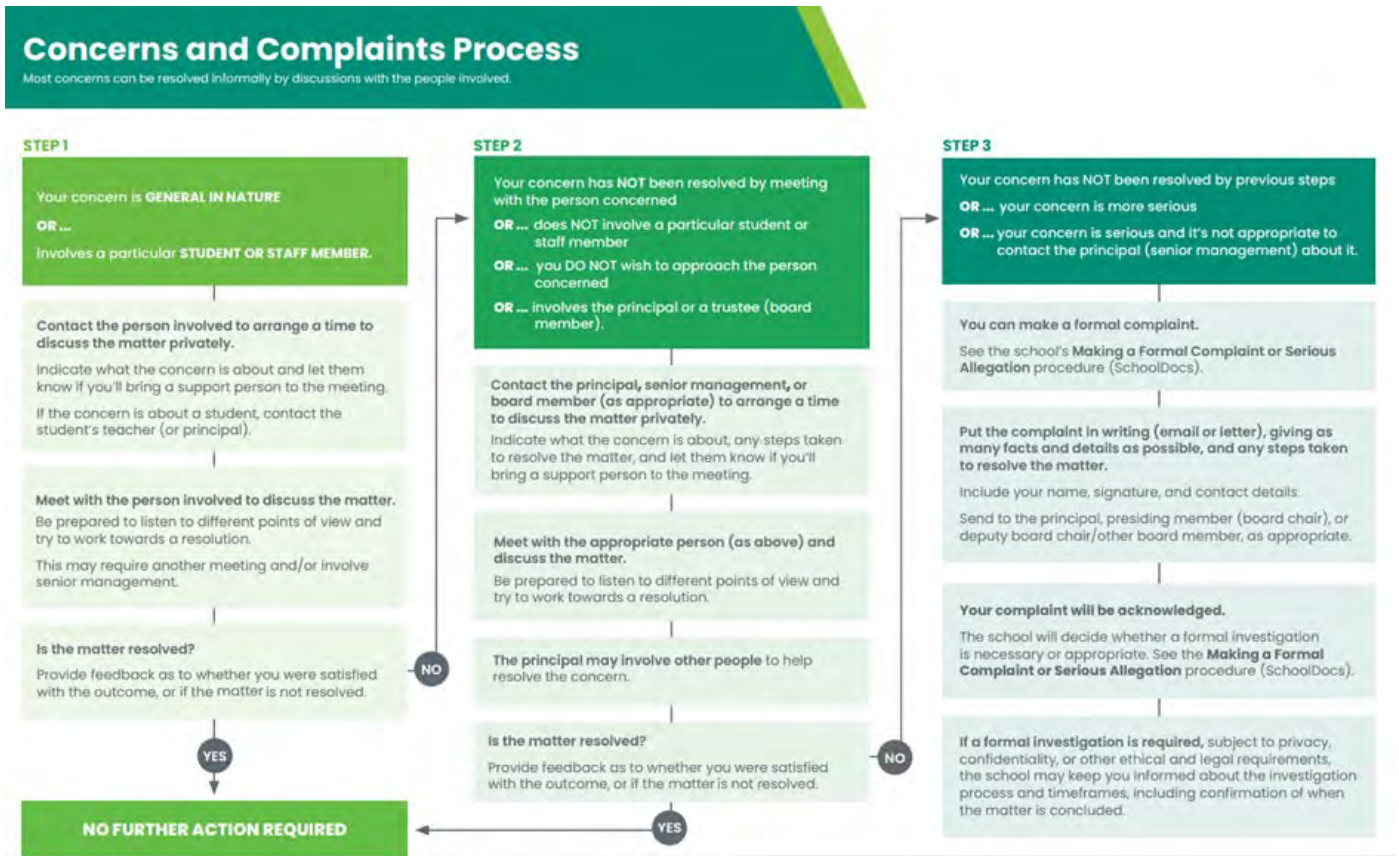
All parts of this process will be treated seriously. The reason we have this process is so that concerns/complaints can be dealt with properly, outcomes tracked and followed up and there is transparency in how we deal with situations.

This process also negates the “gossip” or unsubstantiated rumours that surface in schools and communities. Unfortunately, in the world we live in, some people can not help themselves and look to create drama or discredit the work people do without having any form of evidence to support their claims. Our concerns/complaints process addresses this and if there are genuine concerns then it is clear about how to deal with the situa-

tion. This includes concerns about staff, the principal or the board.

There are a lot of positive things happening at Te Aroha College. We want to build on this positive momentum and address areas that we can improve on.

A copy of the concerns/complaints process will be added to the school website.





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Future plans - changes to the timetable structure

In Term 1 there was community consultation regarding the timetable structure, specifically the 100 minute lessons and Smart day. As you will know, Smart day has been reduced from a full day to two hours on Wednesday afternoon and has been re-named Te Puawaitanga.

There was a strong feeling from that consultation that 100 minute lessons were no longer fit for purpose. Staff consultation has supported this view. Since the introduction of 100 minute periods there has been a shift in the future direction of NCEA with a focus returning to external assessments.

The disruptions to learning during COVID lockdowns and subsequent isolation health practices, and more recently the industrial action from the MOE and PPTA collective agreement negotiations, have highlighted how the reduced frequency of face-to-face lessons has impacted students' learning.

We are currently investigating what the best structure for our school will be. Will be looking at lesson length for example whether 50, 60 or 75 minute lessons. What does subject loading, junior/senior course options, while still trying to maintain some of the unique aspects of Te Puawaitanga look like?

What opportunities do we have to use time to engage our students with the community for vice-versa?

As we progress through this process we will keep you updated and seek feedback. If you have any immediate thoughts please feel free to contact me directly via email at nharray@tacol.nz

Revocation of the Limited Statutory Manager (LSM) Ted Benton

During the last six weeks the Ministry of Education has gathered feedback on the progress of Te Aroha College since the appointment of the principal. Based on the feedback and progress that the school has made, the Ministry of Education has revoked the LSM position, effective from the 15th of June 2023.

Many of you will have met or dealt with Ted in some way since his appointment on 19 October 2021. Ted has been an outstanding member of the Te Aroha College team, focused on improving the school environment for the benefit of our students. His vast experience as a former Secondary School principal of two schools and his sector knowledge through his leadership roles in the Ministry of Education has meant that Ted has effectively dealt with a wide range of issues. equity in achievement for

Most notably his focus on equity in achievement for all students and improving learning and engagement of our students has been great for our school. Ted has provided significant support to our staff and the board of trustees during his time at Te Aroha College. We wish him all the best as tries to *re-retire* from the sector.

Te Aroha College students out and about

This term we have had a number of students heading out and having some pretty experiences. These opportunities support their classroom learning but also support building the culture of the school outside of the regular sporting fixtures that happen in Term 2. Some examples of these trips are;

- Waikato Show Quest
- Thames Valley Cross Country Championships
- Thames Valley Badminton
- Waikato University Young Leaders Day (next week)
- Waikato University Science trip
- Year 10 Business market day
- Boulton Cup - Thames Valley Netball tournament
- Year 10 Agriculture - farm visits
- Supporting Ngāti Tumutumu at Tui Pā marae





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Uniform expectations

I have previously mentioned that we want students to wear the school uniform as described in the prospectus and this has been reminded about in previous newsletters. I am aware that some parents and students would like additional items added or changed and this is something we are starting to consider. However, it is not that easy, especially for our supplier which has to plan and order stock on our behalf.

At the start of Term 3 we will be focussing on students wearing the correct uniform and contacting home when this is not happening. We are also aware of the cost of uniform items and can look at various payment schemes to help spread the cost of these items.

Youth Intact counsellor

From Week 9 of Term 2 we will have onsite weekly a specialist Youth Intact counsellor. The counsellor is trained to help students deal with issues around Vaping, Smoking, Drug & Alcohol and to help them in their efforts to quit or fight addiction. The youth epidemic in Vaping is of particular concern to us, as it is for schools and families across the country. It is our hope that this free service can make a difference for our young people and their health. The counsellor will be in schools on Mondays and we would like a consequence of being caught vaping at school to be that students must attend a number of these counselling sessions. In addition to appointments, the counsellor will also be available for drop in appointments.

