



# TE AROHA COLLEGE

*A purpose joyful; A courage blameless*

21 August 2023

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### PRINCIPAL

Mr Neil Harray

### DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Mr Peter Jager  
Ms Mary Raleigh

### GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Ms Schuler

### NGĀ MANU TAUPUA

Whaea Areen

### YEAR 9 DEAN

Mrs Ericsson  
FORM TEACHERS  
Aotea, Mr Stringer  
Arawa, Miss Halford  
Tainui, Mr Pipe  
Tokomaru, Ms Bevins

### YEAR 10 DEAN

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

### YEAR 11 DEAN

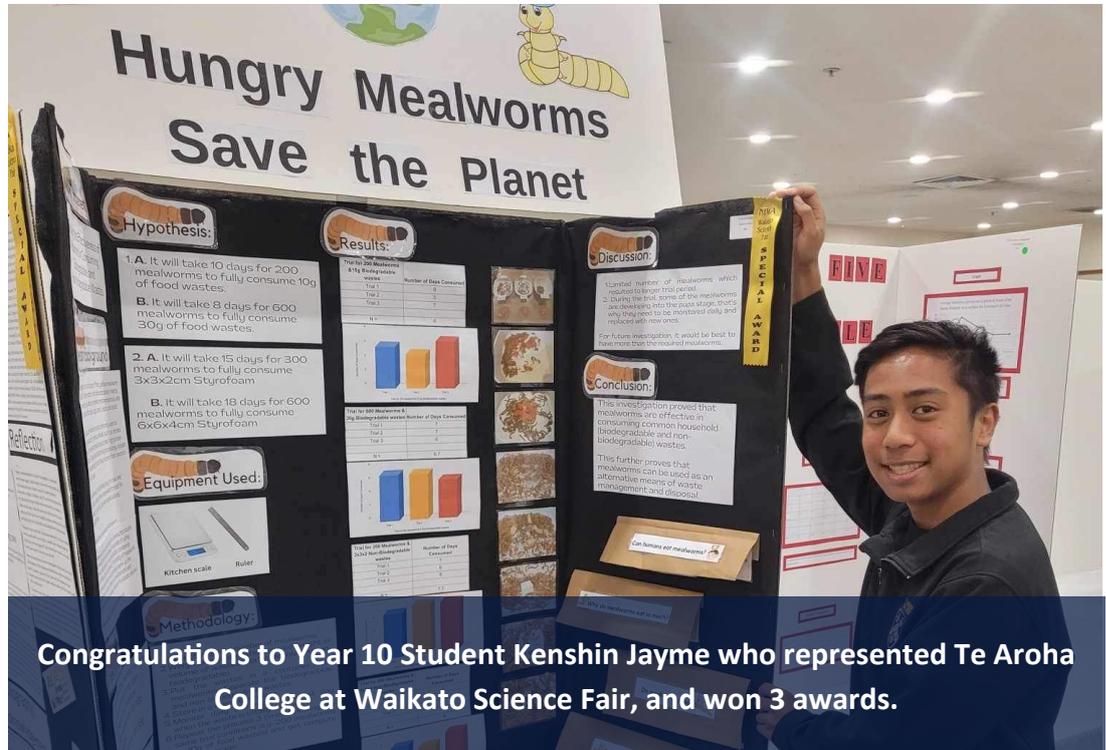
Mr McArdle  
FORM TEACHERS  
Aotea, Mr Rowe  
Arawa, Mrs Oliver  
Tainui, Mr Darby  
Tokomaru, Ms Scott

### YEAR 12 DEAN

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

### YEAR 13 DEAN

Mr Masters



**Congratulations to Year 10 Student Kenshin Jayme who represented Te Aroha College at Waikato Science Fair, and won 3 awards.**

## Newsletter Term 3 Week 6

### In this issue

- Thank you to the community
- Term 3 focus
- Sports uniform
- Staffing changes and updates
- Career pathways
- Youth Intact
- Kura Kai
- WaiMaths
- Year 9 Science
- K'Aute Pasifika
- Model United Nations

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



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## My thanks to the school community

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the school community for your willingness to work with the school as we identify issues or concerns and find ways to collaboratively find solutions. We have focused on trying to improve our communication with parents and raise issues in a timely fashion but also acknowledge the good things that happen every day.

I have really appreciated the way that parents are working with teachers, our pastoral team and senior leaders to find what works for each individual child. I also appreciate parents making the time to come and meet with the team. I know this is at times hard to manage with work commitments.



Please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate staff member if you have concerns, we are here to help and support.

## Term 3 focus

Term 3 is a busy time of year for our students, especially our senior students. This week they will have the latest checkpoint data updated and discussions again about their progress towards gaining NCEA. In week 9, 11-15th of September are the Derived Grade Exams for our NCEA students. These are important exams for two reasons. Firstly, this provides a formal grade for students should something unexpected occur during the external examinations in November. Secondly, the feedback from these exams provides a guide for students to focus on for the remainder of the year.

As winter sports season comes to an end we have one team attending Winter Tournament week. Our Senior A Netball team are competing at UNISS in Hamilton 28th September - 1st August. This is a great opportunity and the team are looking forward to the challenge ahead. We look forward to hearing of their results.

### Sports uniform

In assembly this week we unveiled the new sports uniforms. This has been an initiative led by our

board of trustees student representative Jessica Bray with the full support of the board. Mrs Williams, Mrs Wade and Whaea Arleen worked with Ngāti Tumutumu in the design of our uniforms that reflect and acknowledge our local area. Many hours have been spent looking at designs, colours, styles, and the many options available now with sports uniforms. They definitely look distinctive and our students can proudly compete in a nice new modern uniform.



The whakamārama for this design starting at the top with the maunga, poutama and waka: to persevere to one's goals or overcome life's obstacles. The waka being a vessel used to travel. This could be to a venue or a new life stage.

The puhoro: Representing the Waihou, the pakati running through the puhoro symbolises a spine, in the same way that rivers were the "backbone" for the iwi providing a means of transport and kai.

The manaia koiri kōwhaiwhai: Representing people flourishing in unison, the retoreto within the manaia representing whānau.





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## Staffing changes and updates

The nation-wide concern regarding finding a range of suitable candidates for teaching vacancies is a very real issue.

We have employed an overseas teacher from South Africa, Mr Ade Popoola who will soon be joining the Science department. His specialities are Biology and Agriculture. We are in the final stages of his visa application and he should be joining us within the next six weeks. It has been a long process, however I am confident that Mr Popoola will be a great asset for Te Aroha College. Mr Popoola is due to fill the vacancy of Mr Samuel who left in Term 2.

Mrs Cath Spindler leaves us to join Morrinsville College. We are very sad to see her depart and wish her all the best at her new school. Mrs Spindler has done a wonderful job building Agriculture through-

out the school. We are very fortunate to have Ms Patricia Bevins in a fixed-term position until the end of the year to complete the good work that Mrs Spindler has put in place. Ms Bevins has general science and horticulture strengths.

In addition, Mrs Alidia Ericsson will take over the Year 9 Dean position from Mrs Spindler. Again, Mrs Spindler has done a wonderful job supporting our Year 9 students this year and as they transitioned into the school as Year 8 students last year. We look forward to Mrs Ericsson further supporting the Year 9 students as they progress through the school.

I am also pleased to confirm that Mrs Laura Wade will be the Year 9 Dean for 2024. She will work closely with our contributing schools, the Kahui AKo Learning Support team and parents as we welcome these students to Te Aroha College



### New Deans:

Left: Laura Wade, Year 9 Dean  
2024

Right: Alidia Ericsson, Year 9  
Dean 2023



### Career pathways

One of my visions for Te Aroha College is to work with local employers to develop meaningful career pathways for our students. Recently we had Manukora Honey (<https://manukora.com/>) working with Sarah Verran-Tye to identify future opportunities for our students. Last term I visited Ingham's Enterprises to have a similar discussion. There are a large number of opportunities at Ingham's and we want our students to be able to find a career pathway that suits their interests and skills.

We will continue to reach out to our local employers and look to work together to develop a tailored approach so that our students are in a great position to go into the workforce ready and able to do so.

### Youth Intact

**Te Aroha College is strongly committed to educating and supporting our students to know the risks and dangers of alcohol and drug use.**

On Wednesday 9th August, a team from Youth Intact Waikato ran a promotion at lunchtime in the quad. Youth Intact are a service who support young people to manage issues around drugs & alcohol. They provide our school with a specialist trained counsellor who is on site weekly to offer guidance and support around quitting vaping etc. <https://www.youthintact.org.nz/>

Some community concern has been raised around the information on brochures handed out by Youth Intact at the promotion, especially the "be safer with..." section on the back. This information is not in any way intended to suggest we advocate for young people to use alcohol and drugs. Not at all. We will be giving Youth Intact your feedback about their brochures. For any further queries around this, you are very welcome to contact Mary Raleigh, Deputy Principal, Te Aroha College. [mraleigh@tacol.nz](mailto:mraleigh@tacol.nz)







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## Kura Kai

Kura Kai is a collective of like-minded community organisations that provide meals for those families in need. Through various sponsorships these groups meet fairly regularly and provide a valuable service within the Te Aroha community. Te Aroha College is really proud to be part of this group and provide leadership and assistance.

Last week Yr 10 Junior Forum students prepared meals to go in the Kura Kai freezer. The Kura Kai freezer meals are delivered to whānau or takitahi in the community who require assistance with

food. The meals are freshly prepared and then frozen. The amazing students who produced approximately 60 meals, Macaroni Cheese and Roast Chicken, Roast veg and gravy, were: Chloe Reddy, Camille Pivott, Bethan Lauder, Chloe Forsman, Felix Burri, Elayna Van Marrewijk, Paige Sayer-Richards, Taranpreet Singh-Mahal and Olivia Carey. Principal Neil Harray also popped in to lend a hand.



**NĀ TO ROUROU, NĀ TAKU ROUROU, KA ORA AI TE IWĪ**  
With your food basket and my food basket the people with thrive



### Every Donation Makes a Difference

Te Aroha College | Kura Kai

Kura Kai is a charitable organisation that provides resources for communities. They live by the value of manaakitanga (generosity and caring for others). Through fundraising they provide freezers that can be filled with Kai. This Kai is generously made by other people in the community who give their time and money to provide nutritious family meals.

We are very fortunate at Te Aroha College to have been included in this organisation. Kura Kai have provided a freezer that we can stock, so whānau can access support when they need it.

If you know anyone who you think may need support with meals then you can help. This can be your whānau, a neighbour, elderly relative, friends or just someone you know needs help. If you would like to access Kai and support someone in the community, all you need to do is come and see Mr Rowe.

**CONTACT:**  
Mr Rowe  
E| krowe@tacol.nz

[www.kurakai.co.nz](http://www.kurakai.co.nz)    Kura Kai NZ    @kurakai\_nz





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## Wai Maths

We took a Year 9, 10 and 11 team to Waikato Math Champs at Waikato University. Wai Maths is an annual problem solving competition from Waikato based schools. Each team is given a number of

problems which they have to collectively try and solve. They get the opportunity to submit their answers and can re-submit if incorrect. The competition for each team is 45 minutes and the team with the most number of correct answers wins. Sounds like a pretty intense way to spend 45 minutes. So good these students gave it a go and we look for-



Our Year 9 team was Wynn Williams, Luca Grey, Julian Domingo.

Year 10 team was Bethan Lauder, Shawn Fletcher, Aurora Christey



The Year 11 team was EJ Agduma, Pascal Burri, Ashton Carppe.





## Year 9 Science

Year 9 Science classes have been creating a solar system model on a toilet paper roll. This is a bit of fun and an effective way to introduce students to the basics of astronomy and the wonders of the

universe. It offers a multidimensional learning experience that combines science, creativity, and hands-on engagement. They also explore the limitations of this model by exploring what is missing in this model and how this model could be improved.



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## K'aute Pasifika

**PACIFIC. NEVER PASSIVE.**



K'aute Pasifika Trust came to Te Aroha College to meet our Pacific students on Friday 18th. They deliver educational mentoring, employment support and other wellbeing and health care support services to Pasifika students and their families. The beauty of their organisation is they take a whole family approach and deliver their free services in a Pasifika way. We hope to welcome them back to mentor our students further in the very near future. Some of the students who met the team to-

day took home enrolment forms to connect them and their families with the organisation. <https://kautepasifika.co.nz/>

If you have any questions around this, please feel free to contact Mary Raleigh, Deputy Principal. [mraleigh@tacol.nz](mailto:mraleigh@tacol.nz)





### Matamata Piako Inaugural Model United Nations

Last Saturday, the first ever Matamata-Piako Model United Nations was held. This is an exciting first ever event to get students to think globally in Matamata-Piako. A United Nations is a conference where secondary school students are randomly allocated a country, at this event we had 30 countries, from the USA to Kiribati. Students attended from all schools from in the Region, such as Matamata College, Te Aroha College, Morrisville College and even students from Tauranga and Hamilton attended. These students are to represent delegates from their allocated country, meaning they have to learn how to represent that country. They have to learn it's politics, its demography and much more. And then finally, they have to debate a issue from that countries perspective. This allows students to be exposed to some cultures and countries that they may have not ever researched before. The issues that were discussed at MPMUN



were the United Nations Security Council on The Question of foreign intervention of in Humanitarian Crises and The question of Equity in Education. The organising committee felt like these topics were important to cover, particularly with the guest speaker coming in the afternoon speaking about women's rights in Afghanistan.

All delegates spoke and debated excellently, offering convincing debates and speeches on why other countries should vote for their amendment on the question. They all did so well in debating and taking part in this event. The atmosphere of students discovering their joy for an event like this was exceptional, many first time MUN attendees have come away really enjoying it, looking for more to expand on this new passion of theirs.

At the end of the day, Olivia Yates from Amnesty International was the guest speaker.



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Talking about the current Amnesty Freedom Challenge, supporting women's rights in Afghanistan. Mayor Adrienne Wilcock came in during the afternoon as well and spoke about Civics and looking at the world with a long-term plan.

Model United Nations events such as this one are usually quite inaccessible for students in rural communities such as the Matamata-Piako, as most events are held in Auckland or Wellington. The goal of this event was to get students to start thinking globally and to expose them to a new experience that they may have never been to. Many from the event are already looking forward to another experience, looking to the next Bay of Plenty MUN and events happening in Auckland early next year. The whole event was organised by a committee of 4 Year 13 students across Te Aroha College and Matamata College. The Coordinator was Luca Gem-

mell-Taylor, Promotions and Communications Manager was Sanya Bun, Finance Manager was Heather Hills and Educations Manager was Samantha Goodwin. This team has spent the last 3 months organising this event to happen, representing the National charity of UNYOUTHNZ. Also Mayor Wilcock helped with sponsoring the event and making it happen.

Adrienne commented, "It was my pleasure to support the small group of local student leaders in organizing this event, a first for our district. Having the opportunity to think globally, it was no surprise to learn that while there is some interest in politics, many attendees were keen to undertake courses at university that would lead them into the humanitarian sector."

Article written by Luca Gemmell-Taylor as published in the Te Aroha News.

