



# TE AROHA COLLEGE

*A purpose joyful; A courage blameless*

31 October 2023

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**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  
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**YEAR 13 DEAN**

Mr Masters



## Newsletter Term 4 Week 4

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





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## **Motutapu Camp**

Well it is not often that a camp lives up to all the hype. However, I can see why this camp has been such a long-held tradition for Te Aroha College and definitely delivered a great experience for our students, staff and parents. I'm sure many of you will have seen the photos that showed the activities and emotions of the week.



### Motutapu Camp

It was pretty ambitious to have two year groups at camp together and it took a while for all of us to remember how to “do camp” after years of pandemic changes and cancellations. We are currently re-viewing camp and will fine-tune for next year with only the 2024 Year 9 cohort plus staff and helpers attending.





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## **Teacher Only Day - Monday 20th November**

### **No scheduled classes or supervision available**

As part of the Ministry of Education national NCEA teacher only days scheduled for early November, Te Aroha College staff will be learning more about the upcoming NCEA changes at Level 1. As part of this process, there is a priority about embedding Mana ōrite mō te mātauranga Māori into all learning contexts and assessments. To help support the school, Ngati Tumutumu will work alongside our teachers on this day developing themes and approaches that align with our local context. We will have Ministry of Education staff joining us for the day to further support our work.

This also provides a great opportunity for students to do some final preparation for their junior exams held that week.

### **Drug detection**

Over the last couple of months we have noticed some increased discussion and evidence of the possible use at school. While not overtly prevalent, my concern is high as I do not want any form of drugs at school and their use harming our students.

The board have discussed this further and agreed to use the services of NZ Detector Dogs to ensure that Te Aroha College is a safe environment and drug free. NZ Detector Dogs have worked with a number of schools throughout New Zealand over many years. They have very clear processes that are carried out in accordance with the Education and Training Act (2020) which outline the circumstances in which schools can use private contractors and drug detection dogs.

Further information will be supplied shortly about the processes so that everyone is very clear about what we are trying to achieve and how this will be implemented and the possible consequences.



### **Strategic plan review**

In the next couple of weeks you will receive an invitation to provide feedback on our 2023 strategic plan and goals. During Term 1, the community was consulted as part of the principal appointment process regarding aspects of the strategic plan. Upon my appointment this information was worked through the staff and board and finalised mid Term 3. This is by far not the desired timeline but a very good exercise given a change of leadership at the school.

We are now reviewing these plans and are very keen to hear back from our community. In the future we will look to complete this exercise twice a year, targeting different areas of strategic plan.

Of course, feedback at any stage is welcome.

### **Prize Givings**

Prize Givings are an absolute highlight of the year. They represent the culmination of almost a full year's work and reflect the effort of everyone, the successes of many and the achievements of those students in many areas of school life. It has been wonderful to see parents coming to support these events and something we want to continue to grow in the future. We want our parents to feel part of the school community.

On Wednesday 25th October we had our Sports Prize Giving. This was a wonderful evening and a great way to celebrate the achievements and highlights across so many sporting codes. It was also great to have former student Kerry White talk about her sporting and education and career pathway. One of the key messages she shared is that plans do not always work out and you have to be able to adapt and find a new way ahead in life.

On Thursday 26th October we had our very first Learning Centre and ESOL Prize Giving. This event was a wonderful occasion to share the achievements of those students who are part of the learning centre and who are receiving English language support. There were some surprised faces as the awards were presented. It was also great to see parents attending and supporting the students.

On Thursday evening, 2 November we have our senior academic prize -giving followed the the Year 9 and 10 prize giving Friday morning 8 December which will be the last day of school for 2023.







### Te Aroha College ShowCase 2022 and 2023

Every year, early in term four, Te Aroha College hosts a showcase of artistic, graphic and performing arts, created and performed by our talented students.

At our **ShowCase**, some teachers take the opportunity to display artistic and technical work which has been generated throughout the year. Art Teacher, Jenni Baylis, displays the NCEA Visual Arts Portfolio boards at Levels 1, 2 and 3. So it is a great opportunity to view your son's or daughter's art along with that of other students', all in one place. As you can imagine, much effort has gone

into these portfolios over the year!

Students perform on stage or at our beautiful grand piano with instrumental music, songs and dance. This year, three items were assessed for NCEA Music and Dance. The Food Technology Department provides food for all to enjoy. We are treated to performances from visiting student groups from Thailand, as has happened for two years now.

**ShowCase** is a free event and children of all ages are welcome to attend. It is a very informal event and parents can circulate and chat with teachers and students.







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## Year 10 Taku Wairua

Year 10 students at Te Aroha College embarked on a transformative journey through the "Taku Wairua" program. This initiative focused on nurturing their wellbeing through four essential pillars: Belonging and Identity, Self-Discovery, Goal Setting, and Citizenship. Throughout the program, students gained an understanding of the significance of these pillars and acquired invaluable tools to navigate the challenges of the real world. Taku Wairua empowers these young minds to build a strong sense of self, set meaningful goals, foster a sense of belonging, and actively engage in their communities.

The students generously devoted their time to contribute to their community by planting 150 native trees and gaining insights into the planting procedure, all with the guidance of Rien, Lindsay, Andrea, and Brian from Keep Te Aroha Beautiful. This experience was particularly beneficial for the students as they had the opportunity to connect with individuals who consistently dedicate themselves to community improvement and work towards creating a more positive environment.

Many thanks to staff that help support the Taku Wairua programme.



## Attendance

As mentioned in previous newsletters we continue to focus on improving the attendance of all of our students. In Term 3 we tried to offer incentives as well as formal consequences to try and improve our attendance rates. Regular attendance is by far the best predictor of academic and social success at school. It is very hard to develop sequential progress or address and work through concerns if students choose not to be at school or avoid certain lessons.

During Term 3 we set targets for students to try and achieve. The first was an individual target of 90% or greater. That equates to 1 day away from school every fortnight, which is still a significant amount of time away from school. There were a total of 145 students with this excellent level of attendance. Students were then eligible to go into a draw for a \$20 movie voucher, one for each year level. The winners were:

- Year 9, Zion Pritchard-Blunt (from 45 students)
- Year 10, Talia Coombe (from 36 students)
- Year 11, E.J Agduma (from 35 students)
- Year 12, Jeser Dudas (from 22 students)
- Year 13, Marshall den Boer (from 7 students)

The second target was an attendance rate of 95% or higher. The prize for this was a Samsung Smart Watch. There were a total of 84 students with this excellent level of attendance. The winner of the Smartwatch was Natalee Fulgencio.

There was also a target for the best attending Form Class. This was to encourage competitiveness between form classes. The best attending form class every week of term, except week 1 was 9 Aotea. They received a range of rewards and consistently had the greatest number of high attending students. Below you will see the comparative attendance rates for 2023.

Time Period	Attendance Rates					
	All Students	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Term 1 2023	83.7	87.9	83.0	83.1	80.8	79.7
Term 2 2023	74.6	77.8	71.0	76.2	75.4	67.5
Term 3 2023	75.1	81.2	73.8	74.8	73.6	59.6







