



TE AROHA COLLEGE

A purpose joyful; A courage blameless

07 December 2023

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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



End of Year Newsletter

In this newsletter:

- Thanks, and best wishes for the holiday season
- 2024 start of school dates, term 1 dates, term dates
- Results of drug dog detection screening
- Uniform changes and expectations
- End of year activities
- Junior Prizegiving

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



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Celebrating the end of the year

I want to wish students and their families all the very best for the upcoming summer holiday break. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Te Aroha College community for your support this year. We have made lots of progress in many areas and are in a good space to really push on continuing to lift the expectations, aspirations and outcomes for our students.

I hope that you are able to spend some time together during the festive season and enjoy a chance to relax.

I am excited for what lies ahead in 2024 and have really enjoyed my time at Te Aroha College this year. We are a school with a great deal of potential. I am very humbled that the community once again strongly supports our school. Our 2024 roll is looking very promising, especially in the senior school.

2024 start of school and term dates

The school office will be open from Monday 22 January. Deans and Heads of Learning will be available on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 of January. Some key dates for the start of the year.

Tuesday 30 January	Year 13 and kapa haka students to attend school
Wednesday 31 January	Year 9 and 13 students - evening powhiri and BBQ
Thursday 1 February	All students attend
Friday 2 February	All students attend

Term 1

Start date:	Tuesday 30 January
School closed:	Monday 5 February
Waitangi Day:	Tuesday 6 February
Kahui Ako TeacherOnly Day:	Thursday 28 March
Easter: Friday 29 March -	Tuesday 2 April
End date:	Friday 12 April
School holidays:	Saturday 13 April - Sunday 28 April

Drug dog detection screening

On Monday 13 November we had our first drug detection screening at Te Aroha College. The aim of this exercise is twofold. The first is to make sure we take all possible measures to ensure a safe physical and emotional environment for our students by checking that our school grounds and property are drug free. The second reason is to act as a future deterrent for those students who are involved in drug use.

The drug screening process is used to support the drug education programme that is part of the health curriculum. The bottom line is that drug use, particularly during adolescent/teenage years can have a significant impact on a child's health and wellbeing with potentially life-long implications. I want every student to be in a healthy state of mind to learn and grow, physically and emotionally without the drugs interfering in these formative years. I have seen far too many students' dreams and aspirations ruined by drug use.

The results of the drug screening were very informative. We had three indications, two in classrooms and one in one of the toilet cubicles. This meant that the detection team were able to identify three areas of the school where drugs had possible contact or use. One of these indications

resulted in further action taken in accordance with our policy. The other two indications have helped us identify key areas of the school to monitor more closely. The detection team went to 7 classrooms, all of the toilets, gym changing rooms, library, staffroom and staff toilets, administration block and outside areas around the school.

We will continue this process in 2024.

Uniform changes and expectations

Firstly, thank you to the many, many parents that support the school by ensuring that your child (ren) comes to school in the correct uniform. We really appreciate your efforts and realise that doing this has a financial impact and also there might be some difficult conversations with those teenagers looking to push the boundaries or be a bit lazy. Oh the joys of parenting teenagers! We also understand that for some, getting the right uniform and then replacing items may not be possible due to financial constraints.

Next year will see a significant focus on our students wearing the school uniform correctly. We are a uniform school. When students and parents enrol at Te Aroha College there is an agreement that students will wear the uniform correctly at all times.



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At our last board of trustees meeting for the year, the board agreed to two changes to the uniform to make the uniform more enjoyable to wear, easier for families and more cost effective. These changes have come as a result of some student feedback.

The first change is that students will be able to wear **plain** black pants. These are to be semi-formal in style. No cargo pants with pockets on the sides, black jeans or tracksuit pants. Grey pants are still part of the uniform.

The second change is to allow Birkenstock style leather sandals alongside the current Roman Sandals. The sandals are to be two strap and black in colour. There are much more affordable options from the Warehouse and Kmart.

Examples can be seen below:



Double Buckle Sandals
\$17.00

★★★★★ 4.9 (10)

Colour selected Black



FIT: TRUE TO SIZE [What's My Size?](#)

Size

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Select size

afterpay

On orders up to \$2000

[Learn more](#)

Please support us in order to have all students wearing the correct uniform all of the time.

Just to clarify some misconceptions:

- Absolutely no cros-style shoes or foam sandals; and
- No socks and sandals to be worn in combination. If students have cold feet, please wear plain black shoes with socks.

Harry's in Morrinsville continues to be our uniform supplier. We are very grateful for their support and the relationship we have with them. They most certainly try to source the best quality uniform they can at the best prices.

At the start of next year there will be further information regarding these expectations and the processes to develop a school culture where it is the norm to wear the uniform properly. We will use incentive and consequence based approaches to support this school priority. There will also be opportunities for the school to help support students and families that find it hard to purchase some uniform items. We want all of our students to have the opportunity to look their best and be proud of themselves.



350+ people viewed this in the last week

Color: Black



Size: Select size

[Size Chart](#)

\$20⁰⁰

End of year activities

As we raced towards the end of the year we tried to find some fun activities for our Year 9 and 10 students to do after their end of year examinations. Hopefully you have seen some photos of our Facebook page over the last couple of weeks. On Wednesday 29 we had a sports morning and then a water based obstacle course which was good fun and the staff definitely got involved. It was nice to see the students and staff enjoying the activity together. Many thanks to the PE staff for organising the inter-house sports and to Ms

Verran-Tye organising the Te Aroha Fire Service to provide plenty of water to keep everyone cool.

On Friday 1 December approximately 70 Year 9 and 10 students plus 14 staff climbed Mount Te Aroha on an absolutely stunning sunny day. This was hard work for some and pushed the resilience of a few. At the summit it was a magic view with very little wind. For a few people this was the first time they had climbed our mountain - so a special day for them.





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On Tuesday 5 December the students were involved in an inter-house competition. There was a wide range of activities, some TV based classics like Deal or No Deal, Face the Music and Family Feud. Other activities included Trivial Pursuit, Darts, Volleyball and Ki O Rahi. Another entertaining day for our Year 9 and 10 students. Many thanks to Steve Darby who organised the day and all of the staff that supported their houses and students.

Junior Prizegiving

Congratulations to our top junior scholars:



**Wynn Williams -
Top Year 9 Scholar Award**



**Natalee Fulgencio -
Year 9 outstanding applica-
tion to schoolwork**



**Chloe Reddy -
Junior Forum Cup for Service
to Te Aroha College**



**Chloe Reddy & Aurora Christey - Year 10
outstanding application to schoolwork
(jointly awarded)**



**Bethan Lauder -
Top Year 10 Scholar Award**