

“Connecting to the community provides pathways for active lifelong learners – crucial to our future success”: PRINCIPAL KAREN MORGAN.

TAITA COLLEGE

NOW REAPING THE REWARDS OF PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY

Partnerships we believe are the future of education.

At Taita College we find it powerful to build strong partnerships with our community. Recently our students have been involved with outside organisations and their science programmes, such as the Tertiary Education Commission, Wellington ICT-Graduate School, Victoria University and the Hutt City Council. These connections have allowed our students’ opportunities to grow inquiring minds, learn to work as a team, to be communicative, and work out solutions together. We know that the key competencies are essential in order to prepare our students for their future.

Learning outside the classroom in authentic ways makes sense, it makes learning so much more meaningful. Those ‘real’ experiences give our students the opportunities to build information and knowledge sets, and be better able to apply learning in different ways and contexts.

At Taita College we give our students a pathway to become life-long learners.

Take for instance the recent hackathon attended by four students – Malachi Rangī, Eru Keepa, Brody Sowry and Marshall Kennedy-Newton – to introduce them to opportunities in ICT through a highly engaging experience organised by the Tertiary Education Commission and Wellington ICT-Graduate School with support from WelTec’s Engineering School, was inspirational for our talented students.

Currently we are consulting with parents and whanau to ask them what they want their children to learn and how they want their children to learn, as part of our junior curriculum review.

We know from feedback so far our parents want their children to connect with their community. They see life skills as being critical and want authentic ‘real’ experiences for their children to gain ‘hands on’ capabilities. Education outside of the classroom is valued and, for example, they approve of us going to Matiu/Somes Island.



ICT trailblazers: (from left to right) Malachi Rangī, Marshall Kennedy-Newton and Brody Sowry.

‘SCIENCE IN SITU’ ON MATIU/SOMES ISLAND



Natalia Asiata, Tasy Fayen, Alisha Tepania on the Hutt City Science trip to Matiu/Somes Island.

Whilst on the Island students worked with DOC, Iwi, the Kaitiaki of Matiu/Somes and Hutt City Libraries to develop an experiential-based programme where Maori and Pasifika students in Years 9 and 10 from local colleges could touch, feel, experiment, find and explore science *in situ* during a day trip to the Island.

The programme covered Maori Medicinal plants (Rongoa Maori), Conservation (pest, predators, native fauna and tracking tunnels) and information literacy. Our focus at Taita College is to offer a culturally responsive learning environment. This collaboration was an excellent forum to enable positive partnerships and relationships to be developed.

Part of the project was to create posters and four students from Taita College had their posters selected and won family passes to the Island. They were: Mia Welsh-Duffin, Paris Harrop-Hemara, Aroha Koia and Shanika Ram.

Also as part of the project, students were chosen to be science ambassadors to local primary and intermediate schools where they demonstrated practical science, explaining the concept behind it.

The “enthusiasm and effort” of this group from Taita College were recognized and certificates awarded to :Paris Harrop-Hemara, Renee Christianson, Sally Preston, Nikita Seiuli, Manu Kingi, Dre Tiaki, Lori Kiwha, Malachi Rangī, Brent Rikiriki, Jah Hollis, Monique Taylor, William Judge and David Wright.

Education is at an exciting time of change. It is wonderful that there are opportunities to work in partnership with different organisations that encourage learning in different ways outside of the classroom.

The Hutt City Council and North-East Pathways Initiative gives experiences to inspire students to discover how they like to learn and find the ‘love of learning.’

APPROACH BEARING FRUIT

We are already seeing the fruits of this: over the last two years, our interim NCEA results show a 13% increase in Level 1, a 20% increase in Level 2 and an 13% increase in Level 3.

This upwards shift shows at Taita College we have been offering meaningful pathways to our students.

These opportunities are certainly making a difference. Our students are engaged and working hard to be the best that they can be.

Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei

Aim high for what is truly valuable, be persistent and don’t let obstacles stop you from reaching your goal!

See us for what is happening NOW at Taita College.