

# Principal Report – AGM 2023

## Review of 2022

The direction for Tereora College continues to be derived from our Learning Charter.

*Tereora College is the National College of the Cook Islands for year 9-13 students. Learning is at the core of the College. We believe that all students are capable of learning and that it is our job as teachers to ensure that all learning is maximised. We want each and every one of our students to be the “best that they can be”. Our college motto of “Kia Toa” provides us with our overall strategy. We want all our students, and teachers, to be strong and courageous in their pursuit of learning. Learning can be of all kinds: academic, personal, social, cultural and sporting. Together, these aspects of learning provide us with our mission of developing Tangata Tiratira Tu, “excellence in citizenship”.*

Our school wide goal for 2022 was in response to the NCEA Changes that were to be introduced for 2022, particularly as our Year 10 students were to be introduced to the new literacy and numeracy standards.

Work carried out in the latter part of 2021 had centred on our junior curriculum in terms of exposing our learners to units of learning which mirrored the new standards. This worked well for most faculties and changes were evident from the beginning of 2022.

In retrospect, the push-out for delivery of the new Level 1 standards to 2024 has probably been a blessing as this has, and will allow more time to have all curriculum areas further cement the foundational work needed. The NCEA Change Workshop held in Term 4 was a much needed one, particularly as we had educators across the country come together for a collective understanding. Feedback suggests that another workshop similar to this would be invaluable in 2023.

There is some good work being carried out with most curriculum areas and the level of best practise for delivery and assessment is evident. There appears to be a level of integration of literacy and numeracy across curriculum areas in the junior school and our learners will benefit from this. This is certainly the direction for 2023 and an appointment has been made for a Teacher in Charge of Literacy & Numeracy school-wide which will give a focussed direction for this.

E-asTTle has now been introduced in both English and Mathematics and our junior students have been tested upon entry to Tereora College at the beginning and end of year. This will provide another set of data results for our students which decisions can be based upon.

Following on from this, a supported learning programme has been introduced for our learners who are highly dependent on literacy support. Quindew is being delivered by our Teacher Aides and this programme is supporting 50 of our learners requiring literacy support. This has seen a better use of our Teacher Aides, given that we only have three TA's for our school role of 700+ students.

With the introduction of COVID-19 into the country earlier on in the year Tereora College was able to successfully manage learning during this time. Responses by the school that were made to the evolving COVID-situation continued to support the learning for our students and I believe families had trust and confidence in us that we would deliver. Our preliminary results for our senior students are very high and this is testament to the perseverance and diligence shown during this time.

The effect that we did see during COVID-19 times was more on the pastoral side with connections through families formed at school, and our anau based activities. This was an area that was well noted through the reports that came through. Both staff and students missed out on this component which suggests that our anau system is very much alive.

It is well noted through all faculties moving in to 2023 that there is a need for better access to digital devices for all learners. Our learners have had increased access to digital devices through the purchasing of 130 new Chromebooks. PTA has met the cost for the larger proportion of this and we are thankful for their support.

Going forward, we cannot stress enough the importance of this to ensure our learners are not left behind. Challenges will arise in the form of academic outputs for our students if we are unable to support this.

Mrs Tania Morgan

Principal, Tereora College (2022)

## **Looking Ahead 2023**

### ***Fostering Student Leadership Opportunities***

- Through the expertise of Danny Vakapora, we are currently in the process of producing our very own Leadership Training Manual. This manual will become a reference guide on how we develop our leaders especially from their formative years at Tereora until the pinnacle of Student Leadership at Year 13.
- Tereora College is aiming, through leadership development camps, to build character and skills in our students regardless of their year levels. We work closely with various stakeholders to provide various levels of opportunities for our students whether off-site or on-site at our school. We have for the first time held an Impact Camp that saw various respected young leaders come on-board to provide expert guidance to our young leaders. This has included First Aid Training as well as numerous upcoming ventures.
- The make-up of our 2023 Student Leadership Team mirrors that of our Staff Senior Leadership Team. This has enabled us to allow our leaders to lead various projects that will contribute to the overall vision of our vaka. Our Head leaders (2) with school improvement projects, Deputy Leaders (6) for Community Service Projects whilst our Anau Leaders (16) are the face and stronghold of anau events. Already we have had training and planning sessions with so much respect, pride and excellence coming out of these sessions. Looking forward to a renewed 2023, our leaders will be implementing various projects from Peer Mentoring to Student-Focus Issue Sessions to perhaps our very first podcast. On the flipside we are very mindful as well to ensure that we provide our leaders with the toolkits necessary to ensure they develop themselves as well whilst on this journey as a leader.

### ***Enhancing Curriculum Development***

- Literacy and Numeracy is the focus for 2023 and beyond especially as these are a factor in the success of our students. With the new NCEA changes coming through in 2024, we are building capacity in Literacy and Numeracy school-wide. This has meant that our Year 10s will be sitting the exam this year to gain the required credits before they even begin their actual NCEA journey. Furthermore, through the data gained in Easttle testing, our staff have been able to pin-point areas of concern for our students and provide them with extra support with the guidance from our leading Literacy and Numeracy team and the Student Support team. It is important to note that with Literacy and Numeracy being a school focus - our staff are working together to ensure that our students embed the necessary skills and knowledge across all the courses they are in so as it becomes a holistic approach.
- We have altered our Junior programmes to ensure that our students in Year 9s and 10s are provided with meaningful learning experiences that will build their skills as they move up to NCEA levels. Our staff are always working collaboratively within and across faculties and this is well supported by MOE here and in New Zealand. This will be better supported with our digital transformation processes.

- As we build relationships as a school community, it is important for us to take heed of where our students are headed when they depart our doors. With careers counselling and advice, we aim to provide our students with the subjects that will lead them to their desired pathway as well as possible alternatives should they need it. Our careers sessions involve what they desire, what is available and achievable as well as what will need to be done. With these we tap into our key agencies and workplaces as well as the scholarship section of MOE for career sessions that can help supplement information.

### ***Boosting Resource Development***

- Tereora College is working closely with the Ministry of Education New Zealand to provide much needed professional development opportunities for staff to assist them with the development of new teaching and learning programmes for the new NCEA standards which are required to implement the new standards which roll out in 2024. This will enable our staff to be well-versed with what is required so that we maximise success for our students.
- Staff will also receive professional development in navigating the digital space; with many of our courses choosing digital examinations, our staff need to be upskilled in the reading and marking of these so as to ensure that we are providing adequate and accurate feedback and feed-forward to our students. This will ensure that as we move towards the new NCEA changes in 2024, our staff are knowledgeable in digital technologies which could be in the form of Google Classrooms and various online learning platforms which not only enhance external examinations but provide similar opportunities for internal assessments throughout the school.
- As we move forward with our digital transformation, it is important that we look at other areas to help bolster our students' experiences at school. This will be done through upgraded resourcing for our Student Research Centre which includes our Library, access to online resources that help support and cater for the different learning needs of our staff and students as well as increasing the number of digital devices available across the school which is an area of immediate attention.

### ***Strengthening External Relationships***

- Strengthening community involvement is important to us and we aim to build stronger relationships with community agencies and members. To kick-start our renewed partnership with CITTI we offered Level 3 Automotive Engineering for the very first time and this has brought about so much success in terms of what our partnership with our Tertiary Institution could mean for the future of our school. Working closely with CITTI means that our students will be able to have possible pathways for their future endeavours.
- To help us stay connected to our community and be better informed about the educational changes coming up and anything and everything happening at school, we have elevated our social media presence. Further to this, we also believe that having face-to-face discussions with our community always works best so we aim for

this through Learning Conversations, NCEA Information Evenings as well as our open-door policy if and when anyone in our community needs to be heard.

- We have also been inundated with tremendous support from agencies and stakeholders to help develop our children towards more of a holistic learning platform. From To Tatou Vai with their Water Awareness campaign to Pacific Resort hosting and supporting our Student Leaders as well as other notable organisations like Air New Zealand, T&M Heather, National Environment Services, CIFA, CISNOC etc... These agencies enable us to be able to provide invaluable opportunities to our students so that they can gain success in various ways.

Mrs Mona Ngaau

Principal, Tereora College (2023)