



## Principal's Message – 2 June 2023

Tālofa lava, and welcome to Samoan Language Week (Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa). I hope this newsletter finds you well.

In this paanui, I want to address a matter of great importance that affects the wellbeing of our students – bullying, and more specifically, online bullying. In an era dominated by technology and the internet, it is crucial for us as a school community to tackle this issue head-on.

Online bullying, also known as cyberbullying, refers to any form of bullying that occurs through digital means, such as social media platforms, messaging apps, online gaming, and even email. It can take many forms, including sending hurtful messages, spreading rumours, sharing embarrassing photos or videos, or creating fake profiles to harass others.

I have just come back from a four-day Secondary Principals' Association New Zealand (SPANZ) conference, where one of the hot topics of conversation amongst principals was the increased number of online bullying incidents that they were facing, where the bullying was happening outside of the school but then having repercussions during the school day. This concerning trend is also not unique to Aotearoa, as schools around the globe also struggle to address these same issues.

As educators and whaanau, we must work together to create a safe and nurturing environment both offline and online. Here are some key steps we are taking as a school to combat online bullying:

1. Education and Awareness: We believe that prevention is key. Our school organises awareness campaigns, discussions, and Manaaki class activities to educate students about online bullying, its consequences, and the importance of digital etiquette. For instance, we had our local police come in to talk to all Year 9, 10 and 11 students last week about illegal aspects of online bullying linked to the Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015. We encourage you to continue these conversations at home and reinforce the importance of respectful and responsible online behaviour.

2. Digital Citizenship: We emphasise the significance of being responsible digital citizens. Our students are taught about appropriate online conduct, the importance of respecting others' privacy and boundaries, and the potential consequences of their online actions. We encourage you to reinforce these values by setting guidelines for your child's internet and device usage at home.

3. Safe Reporting Channels: We have a robust system for students to report any incidents of online bullying. We encourage students to report such instances to their teachers, our school counsellor, their year level dean, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, or to any trusted adult. As parents, please encourage open communication with your child and reassure them that reporting bullying will enable the school to address concerns that may impact on them at school.

4. Supportive Environment: Our school provides a supportive environment for students who have experienced online bullying. Our counsellor, Rob Torr, is trained to address the emotional and psychological impact of such incidents, ensuring that affected students receive the necessary support. We encourage you to stay vigilant for any signs of distress or changes in your child's behaviour.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Mon 5 June**  
King's Birthday
- Tue 6 June**  
**Y10 Rostered Home**  
Gateway Aviation Course
- Wed 7 June**  
Gateway Fairviews
- Thu 8 June**  
**Y9 Rostered Home**  
Shooting  
WaiBop X Country  
WSS Squash Teams  
Y10 SSEP
- Fri 9 June**  
Waikato Uni Open Day in Tauranga
- Sat 10 / Sun 11 June**  
Gateway Assessment Event
- Mon 12 June**  
Careers Expo—  
Claudelands
- Tue 13 June**  
Gateway Aviation Course
- Wed 14 June**  
Gateway Fairviews  
Y10 Business Night
- Thu 15 June**  
Field Days Trip
- Fri 16 June**  
Field Days Trip
- Sat 17 June**  
NZSS X Country
- Mon 19 June**  
Semester Two begins



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5. Collaboration with Whaanau: We believe that collaboration between the school and parents/caregivers is vital in addressing online bullying effectively. With this in mind, we are currently organising for a Netsafe community presentation to take place early in Term 3, that is open to all parents and community members interested in finding out more about how to support our rangatahi in navigating the online world safely. Additionally, we urge you to report any incidents of cyberbullying to the school, as your involvement is crucial in maintaining a safe and secure learning environment. We actively investigate reported incidents and work with Netsafe to take down inappropriate content. You are also able to contact Netsafe directly to report any online incidents: <https://netsafe.org.nz/>

On the Netsafe website, there are some helpful resources targeted specifically at parents and at young people. I urge you to take the time to explore the help that is available through this avenue. Matamata College is also using Netsafe resources to support our Akoranga pastoral programme for students.

Remember, it takes a collective effort to combat online bullying effectively. Here are some other actions you can take as parents/caregivers:

- ◇ Encourage open conversations with your child about their online experiences.
- ◇ Teach your child about responsible digital behaviour, the importance of empathy, and treating others with respect.
- ◇ Set clear guidelines for internet and device usage at home, including establishing limits and regularly monitoring their online activities.
- ◇ Encourage your child to report any incidents of cyberbullying to you or a trusted adult.
- ◇ Foster a supportive and trusting relationship with your child so that they feel comfortable discussing their concerns with you.

Unfortunately, most of the online bullying that our students experience occurs outside of school hours, in the evenings and on weekends. The impact of this bullying then spills into the school environment the next day. I strongly urge you to contact the police if your child is being bullied outside of school hours. For immediate threats to safety, please call 111. For non-urgent threats, please report the incident, along with any screen shots of evidence, to Police 105:

<https://www.police.govt.nz/use-105>

Together, we can create an environment where every student feels safe, respected, and empowered both offline and online. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding online bullying, please do not hesitate to reach out to us through the year level deans for less serious matters, or through one of our deputy principals for more serious matters:

Year 9 Dean: Nicola Parkes – [pk@matcol.nz](mailto:pk@matcol.nz)

Year 10 Dean: Jolene Rogerson – [rg@matcol.nz](mailto:rg@matcol.nz)

Year 11 Dean: Natalie McBean – [mb@matcol.nz](mailto:mb@matcol.nz)

Year 12 Dean: Daryl Bennison – [bi@matcol.nz](mailto:bi@matcol.nz)

Year 13 Dean: Andrew Kilham – [ki@matcol.nz](mailto:ki@matcol.nz)

Deputy Principal (for Year 9, 12 and 13 matters): Angela Sharples – [sp@matcol.nz](mailto:sp@matcol.nz)

Deputy Principal (for Year 10 and 11 matters): Nick Bryant – [by@matcol.nz](mailto:by@matcol.nz)

We appreciate your partnership in ensuring the wellbeing of our aakonga/students, and we are committed to working, within our jurisdiction, towards stamping out bullying of all kinds.

Thank you for your continued support.

Manuia le faaiuga o le vaiaso (Have a good weekend)!

Julie Bain

Principal | Tumuaki



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## STAFF CHANGES

Kia ora

My name is **Sheree Petch**. It is a pleasure and a privilege to have been recently awarded the **Business Manager** position here at Matamata College, transferring from my position as Executive Officer of Kaitaia Intermediate School.

After 13 years in the Far North, it is so good to be home!

I was raised on the family farm in Wardville and received my education from Wardville Primary, Matamata Intermediate and Matamata College. It has been a long-term goal, since my employment in the education sector, to return my daughters to the same high level of education I received. I feel even more fortunate to have some of those teachers still able to teach my own children.

I look forward to working alongside these amazing professionals and the Board, for our students and the community.

Together everyone achieves more, and I do not believe there is a better environment in order to excel in a brighter future than right here at Matamata College. I guess that is why so many previous students return to give back.

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata.

What is the most important thing in this world?

It is people, it is people, it is people.

It is with sadness that, after being at Matamata College for just over a term, **Geovanni Redido** resigned from his role as a **DVC teacher**, for personal reasons. In his farewell message, he said, "I had such a short time with the Matamata College family, but I got close to the staff and students. I will miss Matamata College! Thank you from the bottom of my heart."



Thank you for those who have been my working and social friends. After 23 years teaching (21 at Matamata and 2 at Kapiti) I am moving on to exciting new things and, while it sounds crazy leaving in the middle of the year, it is in fact the best time for the students who have always been at the forefront of my teaching and careers roles (above ALL else). Those students going on to further tertiary studies have made their final choices so now is the perfect time.

Plans for the future? I have half a dozen in my head. Early retirement is my favourite. I wish everyone well and bow out before my knees buckle and I can't travel because that's a thing! Good luck to the young up and coming. I will see you all around.

**Michele Liddle, Careers Adviser**



I have thoroughly enjoyed my 11 years at Matamata College and I will greatly miss my wonderful students and the amazing, hardworking staff. However, it is time for me to move on. I will be taking some time out to pursue other interests and to look for a position closer to my home in Hamilton. This move is made easier

knowing that our Science Learning Area is in capable hands, and with excellent staff to take over my classes next term. I wish all my students the very best for their future – be well, work hard and never give up!

**Toni Waugh, HOL Science**







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## School Ball

It's been over a week since our school ball and that means it's definitely time for a sneak peek at a few photos from the evening.

The first photo shows our Head Students waiting to greet all the guests. The second is a shot of our prizewinners for the evening and the third is the first time we've managed to get our entire Senior Student Executive together for a photo all year. The remainder of the photos are a mixture of shots taken in our photo areas and on the dance floor.

Special thanks to our ball committee of Maddy Beattie, Aimee Blackstock, Wiki Hartley, Jorja Jones, Jaimee King, Ju-viné Marx, Ava Payne and Keeley Temm who did a superb job organising this huge event. Great work team!

We expect to be able to make the full set of photos from Julie Maree Photography available early next week.







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### Y13 Agribusiness

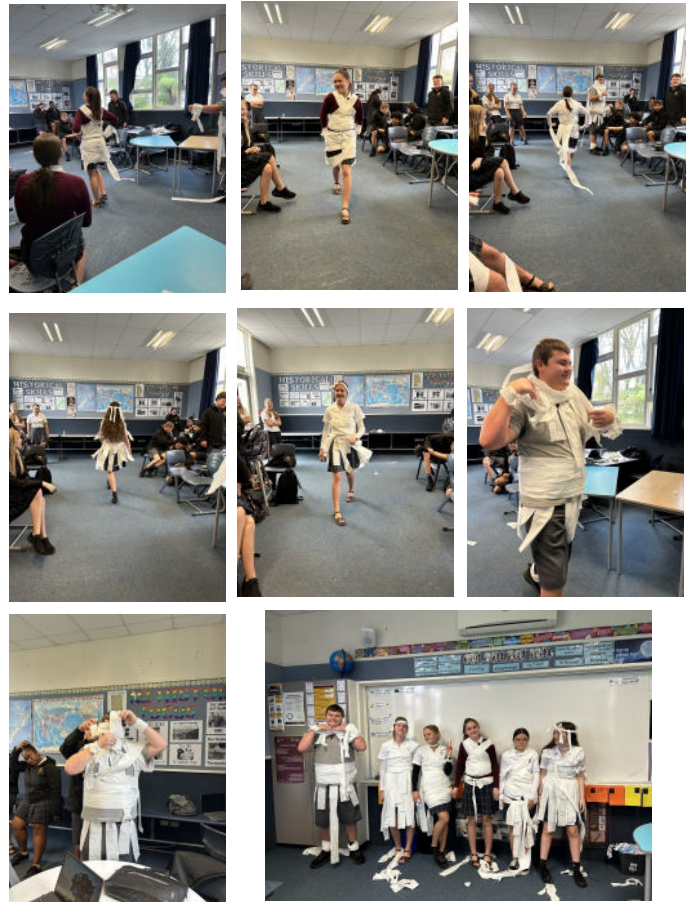
Last week Miss Frew's Year 13 Agribusiness class made haloumi cheese as part of their learning around the value chain and innovative market needs. The students started with all the raw ingredients and were directly involved in each step of the cheese making process. Of course, they also got to cook and eat it during one lesson before starting their internal assessment!

Special thanks to Ms McFarlane and the Technology Department for the use of the Food Technology room on Monday.



### Y10 Business Studies

On 15 May, Miss Frew's Year 10 Business Studies class participated in the "Business Fashion Awards". They were tasked with making an outfit made from two rolls of toilet paper for one group member to model along the classroom catwalk. The models were absolutely outstanding, and the class enjoyed some great learning about teamwork and innovation in preparation for their upcoming business market night.



**Y10 Business Market Night**  
**When: Wednesday 14 June**  
**Where: Matamata College Hall**  
**Time: 4.30pm—6.30pm**  
**Everyone welcome**



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### Tough Guy / Tough Gal Event

Last Wednesday 24 May we were thrilled to have so many of our neighbouring schools with us for our annual Tough Girl / Tough Guy event.



### Student Voluntary Awards

Student Voluntary Awards were awarded by our SVA Ambassador Heather Hills (left) today to four students giving back to our community; Mikayla Furness is now Silver and has clocked up over 400 hours, Otis Burt is Bronze (35 hours), Mars Harrison Bronze (absent) and Emma Holdem who has earned her Member's badge .



### Boil Up Tuesday!

'As part of our inquiry into our novel 'Wild Pork and Watercress' by Barry Crump, we were lucky enough to prepare and share kai together as a class whaanau.

TK and Pire shared their knowledge, skills and recipes and led us in making Boil Up and the most delicious Fry Bread on earth.

We invited extended whaanau and friends to come and share with us after school and meet our teacher Whaea Katie.

For some of us this was our first time trying these foods and they were very popular.



### Pink Shirt Day

On Friday 19 May, we had a pink themed Civvies Day.

Students were asked to bring a gold coin donation and our Wellness Committee and other senior students ran a range of activities including selling candy floss.

\$708.70 was raised and will go towards the Mental Health Foundation.





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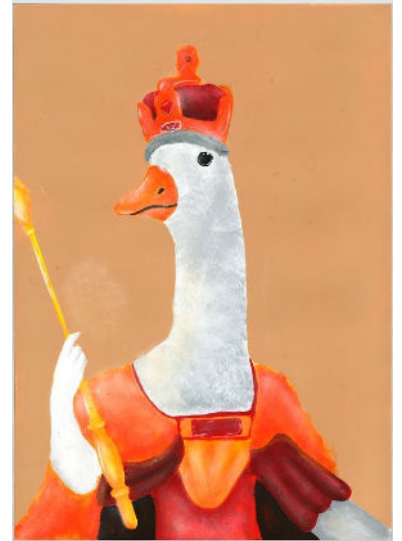


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### Year 9 Art Project

Students chose an animal that best represented themselves and then painted them in human clothes.

They were tasked with capturing emotion within the animals face followed by the tone and texture to bring their work to life.





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## *Year 9 Wood Technology have been working hard on their Skillsbots and Bandsaw Boxes*

The Bandsaw Box students are:

- Luke Taylor
- Haiden Kerr
- Jed de Jong
- Austin Oliver
- Aaron Lambert
- Angus Colebrook
- Vann Magill
- Zeke Morrison

The Skillsbot students are:

- Josh Hawke
- Lucas Smith
- William Chevis
- Lucy O'Reilly
- Charlotte Bell







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### Kia ora from the TLC

Every year, Matamata College hosts the Special Olympics football event. On Wednesday 17 May we were joined by 11 other teams from around the area who were all trying to win bragging rights, for their school. Over 150 students competed on the day, and travelled from Hamilton North, Goldfields, Patricia Avenue, and Hillcrest. TLC enter two teams in the football games competition and one team in the football skills competition. In the skills competition the teams had to complete various skills, such as dribbling, passing and shooting goals, to gain points for their team.

The day was a great success and with the amazing support and help from Year 11 HPE students and Mr Bennison, all the competitors had an awesome day.

The Year 11 HPE students set up and ran the day and had to referee games, record scores and points, encourage all the students and generally keep the day running smoothly. A very big thank you to them all for their amazing effort during the day.





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## Term 2 Matamata College Policy Reviews Due

### LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION POLICY

- Education Outside the Classroom
- EOTC Planning and Review
- EOTC Risk Management
- EOTC Coordinator
- EOTC External Providers
- EOTC Staff Competence
- EOTC Event Categories
- EOTC Communicating with Parents

To complete a review, please follow the instructions below. The review process closes 30 June 2023.

1. Visit the website  
<https://matamatacollege.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. Enter the username (matamatacollege) and password (comconxt).
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.
4. Read the policy.
5. Click the Policy Review button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
6. Select the reviewer type "Parent".
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Submit your ratings and comments.
9. If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.

To arrange a printed copy of the policy and a paper review form, email [tfo@matcol.nz](mailto:tfo@matcol.nz) or ph 07 881 9018.

### TE WHAKAUTE RESPECT

"We uphold our mana"



### MANAAKITANGA CARING

"We care and look after ourselves, others, and our environment"



### TE KAWENGA RESPONSIBILITY

"We meet expectations and take ownership of our actions"



### NGAAKAU TAPATAHI INTEGRITY

"We do what's right even when no one is looking"

