



NEWSLETTER

HELLO & WELCOME...

Kia ora Futures Academy whanau.

We're off to an amazing start this year, and we want to extend a huge thank you for your patience, cooperation, and support as we kicked off this year's Trades Academy courses! The start of the year always brings a whirlwind of changes for students, schools, and providers, but we're committed to refining our processes to make this time as smooth and hassle-free as possible. We appreciate you being with us every step of the way!

This year, a key focus has been identifying cost savings through our trades transport, in line with the Ministry of Education's recommendations. We appreciate everyone's understanding, flexibility, and commitment, which have enabled Futures Academy to successfully meet the Ministry's proposed guidelines. The Transport Plan will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval on April 4th. We expect to have confirmation of our full-year routes by the start of Term 2.

Last year, we saw some truly inspiring success stories, with students achieving outstanding outcomes. While we've highlighted a few of these stories in this newsletter, there are many more to celebrate. If you have any student success stories to share, we'd love to hear them!

We're also excited about our upcoming Hui in Tauranga and look forward to connecting with everyone who can attend. Together, we'll continue to work towards further enhancing the Futures Academy program.

We hope you had a chance to relax during the summer break and are just as excited as we are to embark on this year's journey.

Ngā Mihi,

The BoP Futures Academy Team
Cindy, Sue and Stacey



2025 HUI DETAILS

Term 1 Hui

- Wednesday 26th March
- 9.30am - 11.30am
- MoE office, Tauranga

Term 2 Hui

- Wednesday 21st May
- 9.30am - 11.30am
- Kauri Room, MoE office, Rotorua

Term 3 Hui

- Wednesday 13th August
- 9.30am - 11.30am
- Ngāti Awa Board Room, Whakatāne

Term 4 Hui

- Wednesday 22nd October
- 9.30am - 11.30am
- Upstairs conference room, Taupō Library, Taupō

Email invitations have been sent, so please let us know if you did not receive any.

Reminder emails will be sent closer to the time of each event along with an agenda for the corresponding Hui



UPDATES, NEWS AND REMINDERS

2026 ONLINE APPLICATION FORM

Behind the scenes at the Futures Academy, we are developing an online application process. This will allow students, caregivers, and career advisors to submit applications directly through the Futures Academy website. We are currently testing methods for exporting the information to streamline the enrollment process. Further details will be provided at the upcoming Hui.



FEEDBACK FORM

We'd love your feedback!
Please take a few minutes to fill out this quick 7-question survey before our next hui. It'll help us focus our discussion and make the most of our time together.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

To complete the feedback form, please follow the link below.

[FA FEEDBACK FORM](#)



• STUDENT LEARNING SUPPORT

Please remember that if students have indicated a need for learning support on their application form, it's essential for schools to reach out to their training providers and develop a collaborative plan to ensure the student's success. Additionally, pastoral care can be leveraged to further support the student's learning and overall well-being.

• STUDENT SATISFACTION

To ensure our students are enjoying the FA courses and getting the support they need, we will be creating a student satisfaction survey to send out in term 2. We would like to have input from schools and providers regarding the survey, so we will reach out to everyone over the next month.

ADDITIONAL SHORT COURSES

With the fluctuating enrolment numbers, there might be an opportunity for students to enrol in short courses starting in term 3. The options that potentially will be offered will be an electrical course from ETCO, a diving course from DiveZone, hairdressing from Hair to Train and a few options from Toi Ohomai.



There is a question about the interest of these courses in the FEEDBACK Form, as mentioned above.



MEETING REQUESTS...

If any schools would like to catch up with the Futures Academy, Sue Morton and Stacey Maxwell will be happy to schedule a meeting with you. We would love to get around to everyone to touch base and chat about what is working well and any challenges you may have. Please contact Sue or Stacey to arrange a meeting.

Sue Morton | admin@futuresacademy.nz

Stacey Maxwell | business.support@futuresacademy.nz | 027 214 8766



TRADES COURSES TAKING OFF...

MAHI WHAKAMANA: SUPPORTING SUCCESS THROUGH INNOVATIVE LEARNING

Last year, three secondary schools in the Eastern Bay of Plenty launched pilot courses designed to support ākonga who weren't thriving in traditional classroom settings. This initiative, called Mahi Whakamana, is a collaboration between schools, local iwi, government organisations, and Futures Academy to provide school-specific courses through our trades academy.

Mahi Whakamana offers innovative learning approaches that help keep students engaged and motivated in their education, allowing them to achieve success and build stronger pathways to employment. The pilot courses were a huge success, and we're excited to share that all three schools are now officially offering these courses to students in their local communities.

The initiative focuses on hands-on, practical learning experiences, such as construction projects, where students gain valuable skills. This approach has led to increased student engagement, improved attendance, and higher achievement rates in NCEA. Many students have also secured apprenticeships and employment opportunities, with a focus on creating long-term career pathways in the trades. This is a fantastic step forward in ensuring that all students have the opportunity to thrive in an educational environment that suits their individual needs and goals.

With the continued success of Mahi Whakamana, it's clear that these courses are making a real difference, helping students gain skills that set them up for success in both education and future employment.



There's a great article in the Education Gazette about how these schools and iwi created this initiative to help their students thrive. **Check it out here:**

Bay of Plenty schools and iwi join forces to transform futures – Education Gazette

CREATIVE BUSINESS ACADEMY



A new and thought-provoking course is being trialled this year at Trident High School. Nine students from Eastern Bay of Plenty are delving into their own self journey, finding out how to make money doing what they love.

One of the key focuses is pulled from the Japanese Concept; Ikigai, which explores oneself to find a creative way to turn what you love into paid employment. This course guides students through their individual journey gaining NCEA credits along the way.

The Tutor, Jeff Lee, said that "he hopes to help students to start putting time into themselves to ultimately find ways to make work not feel like work at all".

ACHIEVING GREAT OUTCOMES



Several of our talented students from the Futures Academy have successfully secured apprenticeships and are now embarking on their Level 4 training with ETCO.

Independent Apprenticeships:

Caitlin, Finn, Blake, and Madison have all landed employment as independent apprenticeships, marking the beginning of their Level 4 training journeys. These students will be gaining hands-on, practical experience in their chosen trades with ETCO, taking a significant step forward in their career development. We are excited to see them build their skills and knowledge as they progress in their apprenticeships.

ETCO-Supported Apprenticeship:

Mitchell from Otumoetai College has made a strong impression on the ETCO recruitment team and secured a paid role as an ETCO-employed apprentice. Through this opportunity, Mitchell will receive full support from ETCO, including practical placements with a range of host companies. This will allow him to grow and develop in his trade while being mentored by industry professionals.

Furthering Education:

Yasmin, another standout student from our Trades Academy at Te Kura, has also started her Level 4 apprenticeship training with ETCO. We're excited to see Yasmin embark on this next stage of her journey, gaining valuable experience as she continues to hone her skills in the trade sector.

MEET SOPHIE.

After successfully completing the Farming & Agriculture, Level 2 trades course through Toi Ohomai, Sophie has secured a cadetship at Otiwhiti Station. The course tutor said that "Sophie exemplifies everything good about a young person wanting to create a successful career in the agriculture industry. She has a strong sense of self, a wonderful attitude, a strong work ethic and a great sense of humour. Sophie has amazing intuition with livestock and is genuinely passionate about farming. I'm incredibly proud of what she has achieved so far and excited to see what the future holds for her".

Well done Sophie, this is definitely a great outcome achieved.



VOCATIONAL AWARD WINNER



Congratulations to Roydon from Rangataiki College who won a Vocational Excellence Award.

A GREAT START TO THE TERM

AN UPDATE FROM DONNA AT HAIR TO TRAIN

We're happy to share that enrolments were completed early, and all locations are now full with only a few withdrawals over the summer break. This shows strong interest in our programs, and we're excited for the term ahead.

Our students are eager to learn and they arrive well-presented, showing a real interest in barbering and hairdressing. It's clear they're not just here for a day off school, but genuinely excited about their studies.

Communication with schools has been smooth, helping everything run well. We've also had a great experience working with one transport company, Cross Country Rentals. Lucian has been very accommodating and easy to work with.

To keep students on track, we've set clear benchmarks for tutors to ensure everyone meets the unit standards over the three terms.

Overall, it's been a positive start, and we're excited to see what's ahead!



CONTACTING THE FUTURES ACADEMY...

MANAGER: **Cindy Lee** | manager@futuresacademy.nz | 021 058 0565
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