



# NEWSLETTER

## HELLO & WELCOME...

Kia ora koutou,

What an incredible year! A massive thank you to everyone involved with Futures Academy in 2025. We've loved hearing the stories coming through, with so many students describing their courses as inspiring, confidence building, and genuinely life changing. You can read some of these on page 4. If you have any stories to share, please keep them coming. It is never too late to celebrate great outcomes or experiences.

This Trades Academy is successful because of you, your commitment, passion, and belief in creating real opportunities for young people. Every conversation, application, and moment of support makes a genuine difference. Thank you for the part you play in helping students discover what is possible and succeed through Vocational Education and Training as part of their high school journey.

We're also proud to share that our 2024 outcomes show students achieving academic success above the New Zealand average, highlighting the positive impact of combining vocational learning with traditional schooling. More details are on page 6.

We're looking forward to another great year in 2026. Thank you to all schools for sending through applications, and to our providers for your hard work in processing and coordinating enrolments before the end of the year. We truly appreciate the teamwork that keeps this kaupapa moving forward.

Wishing you all an awesome summer break. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ngā mihi nui  
The BoP Futures Academy Team  
Cindy, Sue, and Stacey



Term 4, 2025



## KEY DATES

### FA COURSES START:

- Week of Monday 9th February

### TOI OHOMAI POWHIRI:

- Tuesdays 10<sup>th</sup> Feb - Tokoroa Campus
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb Whakatane Campus
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb - Windermere Campus
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb - Mokoia Campus

### FA CONSORTIUM HUI'S - 12pm - 2pm

#### \*SAVE THE DATE\*

- Term 1 Hui - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March - TGA
- Term 2 Hui - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June - EBoP
- Term 3 Hui - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August - ROT
- Term 4 Hui - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October - TPO

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Day
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec - Boxing Day
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan - New Years Day
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan - Day after New years Day
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan - Auckland Anniversary
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb - Waitangi Day
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Good Friday
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Monday



# CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS



## HAIR TO TRAIN - HAIRDRESSER/BARBER FOUNDATION PROGRAMME 2025 COURSE GRADUATION

A huge congratulations to all of the students who finished the Hair to Train course this year. The Director of Studies, Donna Waterson says “seeing these students start on Day 1 and then being part of their graduation ceremonies, the difference is huge, they have grown so much personally as young people, have greater self-esteem, demonstrate more eye contact, and an overall higher degree of confidence and personal presentation”

The students really enjoyed their experience and found this course valuable. A few comments from the students are below:

- I loved the programme. I would describe it as life-improving, because I learnt skills that I now use in my day-to-day life
- I find the teaching methods Leah had taught us, to be the best teaching I've probably ever been provided with
- To expand my knowledge and to see if my dream since I was little could be a reality
- Once in a lifetime opportunity, this was an amazing experience and I will be forever grateful for the doors this has opened for me
- It was valuable to have a teacher and team that's supportive
- This programme is good preparation as it demonstrates what you could expect from hairdressing and barbering for a potential pathway in the future
- Envisioning my future is now easier
- This course was a 10/10 this year, the people that are in my course are amazing and talented young people and is the reason I came every Monday and my teacher is the most bubbly and neatest person I have ever met



### SPARK YOUR POTENTIAL

Well done to all of the students who completed their L2 Spark your Potential course with ETCO. Students were awarded with Certificates of Engagement & celebrated their success with a group lunch.

This course is a great introduction into the world of electricity and these courses can help pathway students into the expanding Energy Supply Industry, which is expected to experience workforce growth for years to come.



# CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS CONT.



## SOME POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM OUR TRANSPORT PROVIDERS:

### Rose Hemara, Tongariro Transport:

"I want to take a moment to acknowledge the students we've transported this year — they have been amazing, well-behaved, and respectful of our vehicles and also of the fellow travellers. A huge thank you also to the staff I work with directly, who make my role much easier by communicating clearly about changes and supporting us whenever needed. The start of the school year can be challenging, but together we've managed to sort out any issues smoothly."



### Driver at Cross Country Rentals:

"It's been a real privilege to be part of the students' journeys this year. Watching the young teens grow in confidence and independence as they moved between school and polytech each day has been a joy. They bring such positive energy and curiosity — it's inspiring to see how much they learn and mature through the experience. I've truly enjoyed being a small part of their growth and seeing their happy, enthusiastic natures shine through."

## CONGRATULATIONS...

A huge congratulations to all students who received Merit and Excellence certificates this year. Your hard work, commitment, and determination have truly paid off, and we are incredibly proud of what you've achieved.

We also want to celebrate all students who completed their courses and received a Participation certificate. Every step you've taken, every skill you've gained, and every effort you've made is something to be proud of. Well done to you all for your dedication and achievements this year!



## ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY - SHANIA NICHOL

Congratulations to Futures Academy alumni Shania Nickel, who has achieved remarkable success in her baking pathway. Shania began her journey with FA through our QRC Hospitality course in high school, which sparked her passion for culinary arts and led her to continue pursuing this pathway through further study at Toi Ohomai.

Her dedication and talent were recently recognised when she won the Weave Cacao Mousse Masters Grand Final in Auckland, earning the title of Most Promising Young Chef 2025. As the competition's overall student winner, Shania receives a year's supply of couverture chocolate and a two-day intensive cacao training course. She was presented her award by renowned fusion chef and competition judge, Peter Gordon.

Shania's journey is a great example of how early exposure to vocational learning through Futures Academy can inspire a lifelong passion and open doors to incredible opportunities in the industry.





# GREAT OUTCOMES...



## SCHOLARSHIP, SUCCESS, & A TWO YEAR PAID OPPORTUNITY AT PATCHELLS

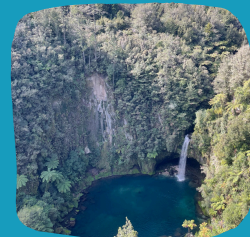


Year 12 student Allizaye Wheto (Tarawera High School) has excelled in the Bay of Plenty Futures Academy Trades Programme. After completing her engineering course with Patchell Industries, she was named Top of the Class for 2025 and has been offered a two-year paid learning opportunity with the company, starting in 2026.

Allizaye also received a \$3,000 Tasman Scholarship, which will support her as she continues training and works towards a future career in the engineering sector.

Allizaye says "I am very grateful for the opportunity that I was provided as it has helped me to establish roots and confirm my pathway moving forward."

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORY: LEADERSHIP AND GROWTH THROUGH SPORT



This year, a Futures Academy student from Aquinas College completed the Level 3 Leadership in Sports and Outdoor Recreation course, successfully achieving all five Unit Standards — an outstanding accomplishment that reflects her dedication and personal growth.

Through hands-on experiences such as planning a rafting trip on the Ōhau Channel, designing a six-week athletics training programme, and leading group recreation activities, she developed strong leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. The course also deepened her understanding of fitness, anatomy, and goal setting, helping her build confidence both personally and academically.

Her journey through the programme inspired a clear career direction — to study a Bachelor of Social Sciences at the University of Waikato, majoring in Kaupapa Māori Psychology with a minor in Human Performance Science, with the goal of becoming a Sports Psychologist.

Her story is a great example of how Futures Academy pathways empower young people to discover their strengths, grow as leaders, and take confident steps toward their future careers.

# MORE GREAT OUTCOMES...



"This year Trades Academy has opened up many opportunities and allowed to grow significantly as a person. I am now a lot more confident in who I am, and much more comfortable stepping outside my school comfort zone to build relationships with students from other schools, tutors at Toi Ohomai and farmers who have hosted us. My farming course has definitely confirmed my farming career pathway, plus it has shown me that you don't have to go to university to be successful. Thank you so much for this opportunity. I cannot wait to start my fulltime farming course at Toi Ohomai in 2026." **Farming and Agriculture L2, Toi Ohomai**

"Overall, I've really enjoyed my time at ETCO this year. When the classes were merged at the start of Term 2, it took a bit of getting used to, but it was also cool getting to know more people and work with a bigger group. I feel like I've learned a lot from the course, and it's given me a good base of knowledge to start an apprenticeship."

**Spark Your Potential L2, ETCO**

"Trades are not just for the boys. Once I started, I realised I was just as capable. Learning how to use tools, read plans, and work on real projects made me proud and confident. It's what motivates me to come to kura. I'm building my skills and my future at the same time." **Building & Construction / Civil Infrastructure L2, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa**

"My time at Trades was valuable, as I learnt skills that I can take with me to university. I took the fashion course, and I further developed my sewing skills and created things I didn't think I was capable of creating. From making wearable art just from my imagination to carefully adapting a pattern to make my new favourite skirt, I have gained skills that wouldn't have been offered to me in my normal sewing class at school. Although it was hard missing a day of school, so I had to balance studying as well to keep up, I don't regret my choice in taking this course, as this is what I'll hopefully do as a career."

**Fashion & Design L2, Toi Ohomai**

"Completing my scuba diving course at Dive Zone Tauranga was an awesome experience. I worked towards my Rescue Diver qualification and learned valuable skills like teamwork, confidence, and staying calm under pressure. Fiona was an amazing instructor, and Liz and Tony did a great job running the programme. I really enjoyed every part of it and would definitely recommend the course to anyone interested in diving. It's inspired me to keep developing my diving skills in the future."

**Suba Diving, DiveZone**

"Before I started the Level 2 Construction and Civil Infrastructure courses, I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do or even if school was for me. But learning hands-on skills like framing, concreting, and site prep gave me a real sense of purpose. I realised I'm good at practical mahi — building something solid that people can actually see and use. Matua Andre pushed us to work hard, show up on time, and take pride in our work, and that attitude has carried over into everything I do. These courses made me want to come to kura every day, not just for the credits, but because I could see a future for myself in the trades". **Building & Construction / Civil Infrastructure L2, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa**



# NEWS & UPDATES



## VET IMPACTS 2024

The 2024 Futures Academy data highlights the positive impact of combining vocational learning with traditional schooling. These results demonstrate how Futures Academy supports students not only to succeed academically but also to move confidently into meaningful pathways after school.

	FA	NZ Comparison
<b>STUDENT RETENTION</b> % of students who had an attendance rate of at least 80%	73.2%	65.6%
<b>STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT</b> % of students who had achieved NCEA L2 by end of STP	84.9%	80.1%
<b>STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT</b> % of students who achieved 80% or more of the programme specific credits	78.8%	66.6%
<b>STUDENT TRANSITIONS</b> % of students who had a positive transition	98.9%	91.6%

	FA	NZ Comparison
Apprenticeships	3.1%	3.0%
Employment	20.5%	13%
Other Tertiary Study	19.1%	14.7%



## CONTACTING THE FUTURES ACADEMY...

Over the summer holiday, Futures Academy staff will be taking some leave, but we will be checking emails and will respond to everyone as soon as possible.

We wish you all a safe and restorative summer.

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