



# 2026

## PROSPECTUS

**Taupo-nui-a-Tia COLLEGE**

ESTABLISHED  
1960



## TAUPO-NUI-A-TIA COLLEGE HAS PRIDE IN ITS LONG AND SUCCESSFUL TRADITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

The **BOOK** symbolises the focus on teaching, learning and achievement

The **TAIAHA** represents our link with Taupo's Maori history and culture

LAKE **TAUPO** is the dominant geographic feature of the region

The **COLOURS** link back to the original district High School, our beginning

## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL/TUMUAKI

Kia ora! Thank you for choosing Taupo-nui-a-Tia College. We would like to extend our warmest welcome to you, and we look forward to you joining the Taupo-nui-a-Tia College whānau and community.

At Taupo-nui-a-Tia College our aim is to provide a world class learning experience for the students in our care. Academic achievement is paramount for us, however, we also believe in a holistic education experience. We place great emphasis on shaping and moulding our students/ākonga into the best possible humans they can be.

To help shape our students/ākonga into awesome human beings, we not only encourage academic success, but we also encourage and promote involvement in the many extra-curricular activities that our school/kura has to offer. We offer an extensive range of sporting, cultural, and performing arts activities which, we believe, helps to develop the whole person. Balancing achievement in the classroom and involvement in the wider life of the school enables our students to be challenged, extended, and motivated in many facets of real life. Taking advantage of all our school/kura has to offer will help our students/ākonga to be better prepared for their individual pathways when they eventually leave Taupo-nui-a-Tia College.

At our kura our students/ākonga are supported by a passionate group of senior leaders, deans, teachers, and support staff. We are governed by a hard working and caring board. Our amazing students/ākonga continue to experience success in and outside the classroom, and this success is testament to the hard work, teamwork, and collaboration of all these groups of people. We are proud of our school/kura!

We are sure you will get a sense of the pride we have for Taupo-nui-a-Tia College when you explore the pages in this prospectus, and we look forward to meeting you in the future.

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui – be strong, be steadfast, be willing.

Ngā mihi

**Ben Claxton**  
Principal/Tumuaki



## OUR VISION

Creating an inclusive and dynamic learning environment where all students thrive, achieve academic excellence, and are empowered to make a positive impact in our community and beyond.

***Ka hangaia te taiao ako whakauru me te hihiri, kia ora ai ngā ākonga katoa, kia whiwhi ai te mātauranga teitei, ā, ka whakamana ngā ākonga ki te whai pai i tō tātou hāpori me tua atu.***

## OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

- ▶ Promoting the highest quality teaching and learning environments for student success.
- ▶ Supporting an environment where student and staff wellbeing is supported, nurtured, and sustained.
- ▶ Reciprocal community, whānau, hapū, and iwi partnerships are fostered and maintained.

*Student feedback indicates that the school is an inclusive environment where differences are valued." - ERO Report*

*"Leaders work collaboratively and use evidence to plan and implement strategies designed to improve achievement and wellbeing."*

## OUR VALUES

Our values connect to the tupuna (ancestor) our school is named after, Tia. One of the meanings for Taupō is cloak.

**We are, Taupo-nui-a-Tia, the great cloak of Tia.**

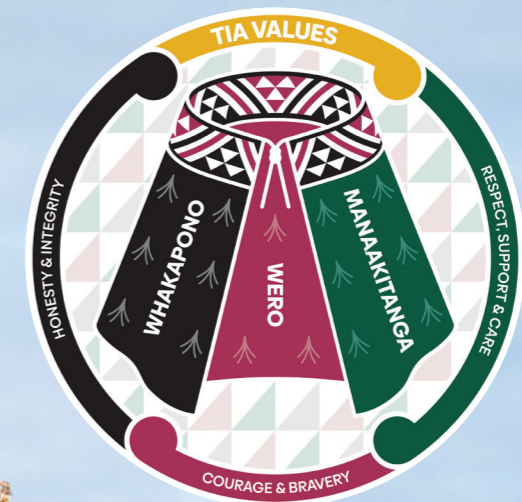
Tia was a humble, peaceful person who had his people at his heart. He had mana and was respected by his people. He understood duty, and his place and role within the community. He also respected authority. Tia embodied the values of Whakapono, Wero, and Manaakitanga.

### VALUES

- ▶ **WHAKAPONO** - Reflect honesty and integrity in all that you do
- ▶ **WERO** - Show courage and bravery in all school-related activities, challenge yourself and others around you to be your best
- ▶ **MANAAKITANGA** - Respect and support everyone around you, work well with others, show care and sense of duty for others and the environment

### OUR STUDENTS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO VALUE:

- ▶ Excellence
- ▶ Diversity
- ▶ Equity
- ▶ Participation
- ▶ Sustainability



## STUDENT WELLBEING

Taupo-nui-a-Tia College is committed to the wellbeing of all students. We offer a caring, supportive environment for students to learn, always encouraging a sense of belonging and inclusiveness in our cohesive learning community.

- ▶ We have a strong pastoral care team consisting of year level deans, a guidance counselor (MNZAC) and careers advisor. Their prime objective is to ensure the welfare, academic needs and positive future pathways of our students are met
- ▶ Whānau teachers work closely with our students, offering support and academic mentoring. They provide a great point of contact between school and home
- ▶ The Baytrust Health Centre, where students can access a nurse, physiotherapist, doctor and other outside agencies
- ▶ We endeavor to ensure a 'safe space' physically and mentally for all students. We have a student led and youth service supported Rainbow / Queer group
- ▶ Our students are supported in their learning in various ways. Our learning support team caters to individual student abilities, learning needs and interests

*"Refreshed school values have been developed and implemented to support a positive school culture."  
ERO Report*

### Positive Culture for Learning - PC4L

- ▶ PC4L at Taupo-nui-a-Tia College provides a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment. This embraces our values of Whakapono, Manaakitanga and Wero
- ▶ PC4L enhances student engagement, achievement and excellence, in a positive learning environment that promotes clear expectations, consistency, and a cooperative atmosphere
- ▶ PC4L explicitly and positively develops and teaches the culture we want to see in our kura, enabling all learners to thrive

### Tia Values Card

This values card is designed to recognise and acknowledge the positive culture of our school. When receiving a stamp on their card, students are acknowledged for their positive reflection of our Tia values.

*"Curriculum initiatives and programmes that draw on te ao Māori contexts are focused on building a sense of belonging and identity."  
ERO Report*



## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Taupo-nui-a-Tia College is able to provide a rich and varied range of subjects at all levels.

The subjects provide opportunities across all the essential learning areas from the New Zealand Curriculum and reflect the learning needs of all our students from the wider Taupō community. This curriculum provides the best possible opportunities for success in the student's chosen pathway.

### YEAR 9

#### Areas of learning include:

English | Mathematics  
 Health & Physical Education  
 Science | Social Studies  
 Digital Technology  
 Fashion Textiles  
 Design and Visual Communication  
 Food & Nutrition  
 Resistant Materials  
 French | Spanish | Te Reo Māori  
 Art | Drama | Music  
 Dance Outdoor Education  
 Māori Performing Arts  
 Integrated Learning



*"The school continues to provide a broad and meaningful curriculum that is responsive to the ongoing needs of students... In recent years the school has extended the range of vocational courses and subject choices that reflect the local environment and employment opportunities. Students who require additional learning support and extension are provided with appropriate programmes..."*

*Students' academic pathways are well supported by a strong focus on strengthening students' literacy skills across the curriculum."*

ERO Report

### YEAR 10

#### Areas of learning include:

English | Mathematics  
 Science | Physical Education  
 Social Studies  
 Design and Visual Communication  
 Art | Drama | Dance  
 Digital Technology | French  
 Spanish | Music  
 Māori Performing Arts  
 Te Reo Māori  
 Fashion Textiles  
 Food & Nutrition  
 Resistant Materials  
 Outdoor Education

### YEARS 11, 12, AND 13

NCEA Levels 1, 2, and 3

#### Areas of learning include:

Accounting | Agricultural Science  
 Biology | Calculus | Chemistry  
 Classics Dance | Design and Visual Communication  
 Digital Technology | Drama  
 Driver Education | Economics  
 Vocational Pathways | Engineering  
 English Enterprise Studies  
 Farming Skills | French  
 Geography | Health | History  
 Hospitality | Mathematics  
 Māori Performing Arts  
 Media Studies | Music  
 Physical Education | Physics  
 Science | Outdoor Education  
 Sport and Recreation | Statistics  
 Fashion Textiles | Food & Nutrition  
 Resistant Materials | Te Reo Māori  
 Tourism | Trades Academy  
 Visual Arts: Painting, Photography and Design

## A RESPONSIVE CURRICULUM

Creating an inclusive and dynamic learning environment where all students thrive, achieve academic excellence, and are empowered to make a positive impact in our community and beyond.

*Ka hangaia te taiao ako whakauru me te hihiri, kia ora ai ngā ākonga katoa, kia whiwhi ai te mātauranga teitei, ā, ka whakamana ngā ākonga ki te whai pai i tō tātou hāpori me tua atu.*

At Taupo-nui-a-Tia College, students will experience learning to prepare them for their future which includes:

- ▶ Encouraging students to extend their learning beyond the classroom
- ▶ Learning that has purpose with authentic and relevant contexts
- ▶ Opportunities to seek, use, and create knowledge
- ▶ A curriculum that readies students for the next stage of their lives and enables them to be adaptable enough for a fast changing world
- ▶ With our commitment to e-learning, teachers are engaging and evaluating their practices with learning opportunities tailored to the students' interests and individual needs as well as improving their engagement and achievement.
- ▶ Junior students will have the opportunity to apply learning across curriculum areas and real world context

### Authentic Learning

Authentic learning typically focuses on real-world, complex problems and their solutions, including the use of role-playing exercises, problem-based activities, case studies, and participation in virtual communities of practice.

Students access/experience...

- ▶ 'Real life' contexts for learning
- ▶ Relevant, meaningful, valuable skills and knowledge
- ▶ Cross subject study and collaboration
- ▶ A focus on learning

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

Which career pathway to follow is one of the most important decisions a young person will make. Taupo-nui-a-Tia College offers a high level of careers support and guidance. Our students benefit from a comprehensive service that enables a seamless transition into tertiary study or the workforce.

### This service includes:

- ▶ A careers advisor who is at the cutting edge of current employment trends and research
- ▶ Bulls-eye careers software to help students gain clarity about their future pathway
- ▶ Careers expos and visits to tertiary institutions & workplaces
- ▶ Individual goal setting to plan future

### Pathways

- ▶ Liaison with Universities, other tertiary providers and also other visiting career specialists
- ▶ The Gateway programme which builds the links between school and employers allowing us to offer contextualised workplace learning opportunities through student placement
- ▶ A learning Hub for Trades Academy students which provides a partnership between school and tertiary to further explore career options
- ▶ Close association with Taupō Pathways - a community organisation working with youth around employment

*"Leaders seek input from students, whānau and the school community to inform school priorities and a strategic direction that reflects the aspirations of the community."  
- ERO Report*



## MONITORING FOR SUCCESS

Leaving school with the qualifications and academic results to enable our students to fulfil their future goals is of utmost importance at Taupo-nui-a-Tia College. There are high expectations of achievement and we provide an environment where success is celebrated and hard work recognised. We focus on every student aiming for and achieving his or her best. We encourage every student to aim for a level which stretches and challenges them whilst at the same time providing the enjoyment that learning should bring.

- ▶ Meeting regularly with your whānau teacher
- ▶ Development of close relationships with family/whānau so we can support students in their academic journey
- ▶ Online tracking system which allows whānau teachers, whānau and students to review progress on a regular basis
- ▶ Whānau Days where students, parents, and whānau are invited into the school to set goals with the whānau teacher
- ▶ Subject Days where students, parents, and whānau get to discuss student progress and next steps to further enhance their learning
- ▶ Encouraging parents, caregivers, and whānau to be active participants in their children's education
- ▶ Personalised education and goal setting to suit each student's individual needs
- ▶ Targeted literacy and numeracy programmes
- ▶ Kia Eke Panuku (Building on Success) – a school wide programme based on international research to enhance Māori student achievement
- ▶ A future focused school with 21st century facilities and digital technology tools
- ▶ A well qualified, progressive, and passionate teaching staff
- ▶ Website access to student's progress
- ▶ Shared access to student learning via Google Classroom for caregivers
- ▶ Use a range of Positive Culture for Learning 'PC4L' strategies across the school environment

## Parent Feedback from Whānau Day

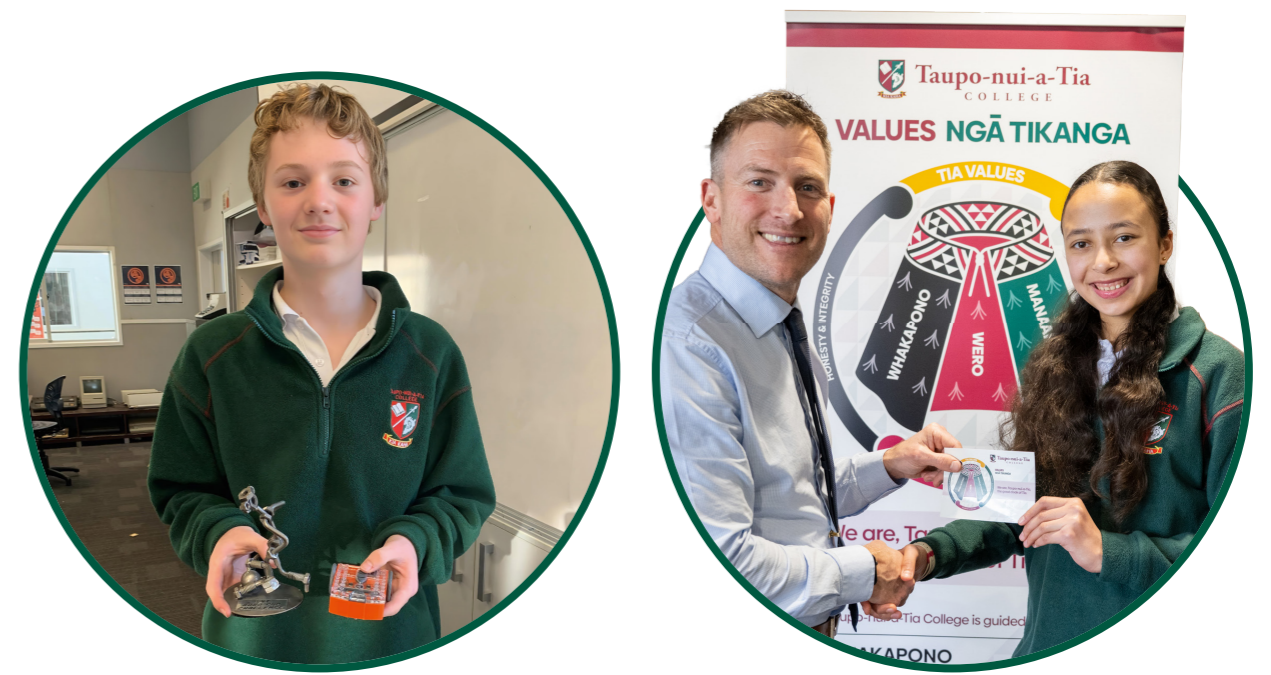
*"Very easy to see the areas that my son needs to work on. The whānau teacher was very organised and highlighted comments from report. Nice to not be in a crowded hall with lots of noise, so can have a detailed personal conversation."*

*"The teacher had all of the information about my child on the board ready to see when we got there and it was very informative. It was good for him to set goals and the teacher helped him do this in a positive way."*

*"This was very positive in the sense that I know exactly where my son's at and what he needs to work on to improve his performance in school."*

*"Actually getting the kids to go through subjects & thinking overall about ongoing focus/goals/study etc."*

*"More personally relevant. More private and therefore more effectual. Much more informative. Made parent feel more relevant in child's education."*



## SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES

Taupo-nui-a-Tia College is a top sporting college. The school is renowned both locally and nationally as a nurturing ground for fine young sportsmen and sportswomen, a number of whom move into professional sport. Every year we are proud of the achievements of our students, with an impressive line-up of national achievers across different codes.

Our aim is for students of all ages and abilities to get involved in being active as it provides fitness, social opportunities, experience in working as part of a team, and enhances their learning. There are multiple opportunities for students to participate in sporting activities:

- ▶ Using the sporting equipment available from 'the HUB' sports store at interval and lunchtime
- ▶ Inter-whānau and inter-house sports competitions
- ▶ Joining social and competitive teams in over 30 different sports
- ▶ School athletics day
- ▶ Cross country
- ▶ School athletics days - Colours day and Finals day



*In the senior school, the range of sporting based subjects includes: Physical Education, Sport and Recreation, Health, and Outdoor Education.*

## PERFORMING ARTS

Taupo-nui-a-Tia College is renowned for its performing arts with a tradition of students moving into this area as a career choice. Across all areas, students are provided with a huge range of opportunities.

**Music** forms an integral part of the education of many of our students. It can be selected as one of their subjects or be studied separately with specialised tuition. Students may also choose to be a part of a school band or music group that exist in the college and perform regularly.

**Drama** is a popular choice by many students. Our thriving drama department provides students with opportunities through school productions, drama festivals, competitions, and also as a subject through to NCEA level three.

**Dance** is an important part of many students' lives in Taupō.

Our dance program offers students an opportunity to develop their performance

and choreographic skills in the Junior school and build upon this knowledge through a full NCEA course in years 11 - 13. Multiple authentic performance opportunities are made available for all students through Taupo-nui-a-Tia College's celebration of dance - 'Momentum' as well as other community wide festivals such as 'Huihui' and 'DanceNZ Made'.

Te Awhiorangi, our **Kapa Haka** group, has built a powerful reputation throughout the region.

The group has represented the community at many civic events and also performs with distinction at Kapa Haka competitions. Māori performing arts is also an NCEA subject available to students.



## ACCELERATING ACHIEVEMENT

*"Teachers have a high level of commitment to helping students to achieve well. Their openness to new ideas within a culture of ongoing reflection places them in good position for continual improvements to teaching and learning."*

ERO Report



The Taupō community is brimming with talented students across the academic, sporting, and cultural arenas. Taupo-nui-a-Tia College offers a wide range of opportunities, with high expectations, for the most capable students to reach the highest levels in their chosen field, through:

- ▶ Opportunities for our top achieving senior students to begin university study whilst still at college
- ▶ State of the art equipment, modern facilities and digital technology in a BYOD environment to stretch and extend all our students
- ▶ Zenith – A weekly club for students to learn and develop public speaking skills
- ▶ Innovative programme design responding to the ever-changing needs of our students
- ▶ Specialised music programmes – performance opportunities, entrance into music competitions and tuition from a range of leading teachers and performers
- ▶ A learning community where students and teachers alike are striving to further enhance outcomes for students
- ▶ Opportunities to participate in a range of local and national academic competitions and examinations including: Maths Matters; Young Enterprise Scheme and participation in Education Perfect in a number of subjects: particularly languages
- ▶ Scholarship opportunities for students
- ▶ Seminars for students and parents on study techniques, motivation for success and accelerated learning to enhance academic potential
- ▶ Strong links and regular use of community based professionals and experts
- ▶ A biennial school production of the highest quality

## SPIRIT AND PRIDE



**From the moment you walk into Taupo-nui-a-Tia College, you will feel the positive vibe in the place. There is an enviable school spirit and a strong sense of pride.**

At the heart of many school activities and events is the college inter-house competition. All students belong to one of the four houses: Tongariro, Ngauruhoe, Ruapehu and Tauhara. The sense of loyalty and pride that students have in their house makes inter-house competitions keenly contested.

House points are awarded over a number of different areas such as athletics 'colours day' with the famous marching and chanting of the colours, cross country, swimming sports, academic opportunities, 'Tia' Value Cards, service to the school community, and Spirit Week attendance.



### Our spirit and pride can be seen through:

- ▶ Te Awhiorangi Kapa Haka Group rousing performances locally, nationally, and globally
- ▶ Easter bunnies hopping around the school delivering eggs to every student over Easter
- ▶ Random Act of Kindness wall for students and staff to show their appreciation for all the hard work that others do
- ▶ Our students raising the New Zealand flag every day
- ▶ The compassionate nature of our students, raising thousands of dollars for charity through mufti-days, daffodil day, cupcake day, and other student led initiatives
- ▶ The wide range of sporting opportunities students get to represent our college
- ▶ ANZAC Day - our students show their respect marching with the returned servicemen and women in our community
- ▶ The willingness of our students to share their successes and to acknowledge the support that they receive
- ▶ The school ball which is a sophisticated and glamorous night for senior students and staff
- ▶ The pride our students take in representing their college in a range of formal occasions
- ▶ LGBTQI+ - actively promoting a safe and inclusive environment that enables and supports an acceptance of diversity
- ▶ Student run markets and a Cultural food festival held in the quad at lunch times

## ENRICHING OUR STUDENTS

Opportunities exist within the college in a range of other areas where our students can excel, including:

**Extensive range of leadership opportunities including:**

- ▶ Head students
- ▶ Board of Trustee representative
- ▶ Year level student councils
- ▶ A full student council
- ▶ Student committees
- ▶ Senior executive
- ▶ House leaders
- ▶ Year level "specific" leadership opportunities

**Other opportunities include:**

- ▶ Zenith – a weekly club for students to learn and develop public speaking skills
- ▶ Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Scheme
  - ▶ Year 9 Achievers Award
  - ▶ Year 10 Achievers Award
- ▶ Year 10 Expeditions – students are encouraged to participate in a week long expedition into the great outdoors
- ▶ Year 9 Activity Week - students participate in a week of educational and recreational experiences.
- ▶ Kiwi Forever Programme
  - ▶ Spirit of Adventure
- ▶ Overseas trips related to academic subjects, performing arts, cultural activities and sporting ventures (e.g. *Australia, USA, Cook Islands, France*)
- ▶ International student exchanges
- ▶ CACTUS - NZ Police Leadership Course
- ▶ Greening Lake Taupō
  - ▶ Pink Shirt Day
- ▶ Youth Peace Week -Peace Foundation
- ▶ International students enriching our students



# TAUPO-NUI-A-TIA COLLEGE LEARNER PROFILE

By embodying our three values of Whakapono, Wero and Manaakitanga, students will develop the skills and characteristics encompassed in our learner profile.

STUDENTS WILL BE				STUDENTS WILL HAVE	
EMPOWERED PARTICIPANTS IN A CHANGING WORLD	CULTURALLY LOCATED AND CONNECTED	VALUES	DRIVEN	WELL-BEING HAUORA	POSITIVE PATHWAYS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Contributing</li> <li>▶ Independent</li> <li>▶ Effective Communicators</li> <li>▶ Collaborative</li> <li>▶ Creative</li> <li>▶ Curious</li> <li>▶ Critical thinker</li> <li>▶ Motivated</li> <li>▶ Enterprising</li> <li>▶ Confident</li> <li>▶ Resilient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Sense of identity and culture Language understanding and awareness</li> <li>▶ Interacts positively with a diverse range of people in varying contexts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Whakapono is about reflecting honesty and integrity in all that you do.</li> <li>▶ Wero is about showing courage and bravery in all school-related activities and challenging yourself and others around you to be your best.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Manaakitanga is about respecting and supporting everyone around you, working well with others, and showing care and a sense of duty for others and the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Mental and Emotional - Taha Hinengaro</li> <li>▶ Physical - Taha Tinana</li> <li>▶ Spiritual - Taha Wairua</li> <li>▶ Social - Taha Whanau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Life skills</li> <li>▶ Employability skills</li> <li>▶ Appropriate qualifications to pursue broad career choices</li> </ul>



**"PAST STUDENTS MAKING POSITIVE IMPACTS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND."**

# BELONG TO TAUPO-NUI-A-TIA COLLEGE

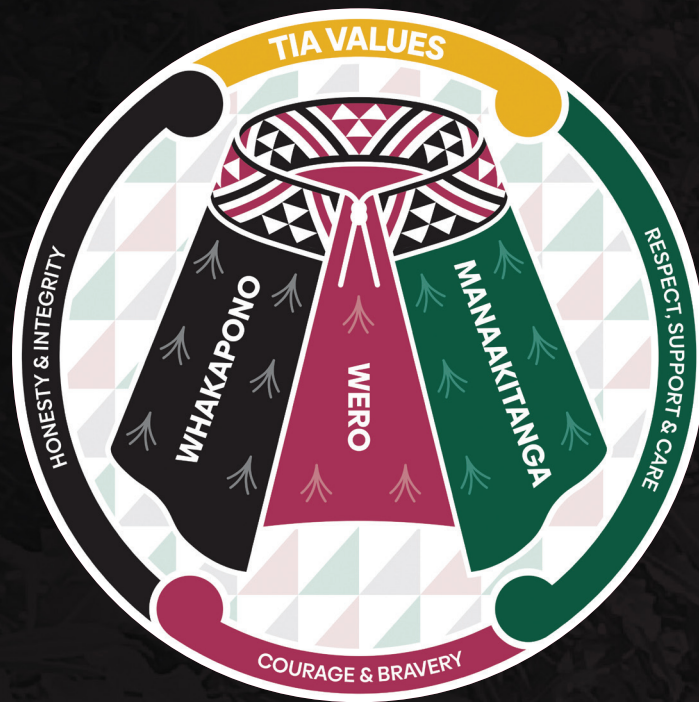
Ko Tongariro, ko Tauhara, ko  
Ruapehu,  
ko Ngauruhoe nga maunga  
Ko Taupō te moana  
Ko Waikato te awa  
Ko Rangatahi te marae  
Ko Tia te wharenuī  
Ko Karikaroa te wharekai

Ko nga akonga mataou o  
te kareti o Taupo-nui-a-Tia.

The mountains are Tongariro,  
Tauhara, Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe  
The lake is Taupō  
The river is Waikato  
The marae is Rangatahi  
The wharenuī is Tia  
The wharekai is Karikaroa  
The college is Taupo-nui-a-Tia

We are the students of  
Taupo-nui-a-Tia College





## WE WELCOME YOUR ENROLMENT AT TAUPO-NUI-A-TIA COLLEGE

Your enrolment form can be dropped off at the college or posted to the address below. You are invited to visit the college where a senior staff member will be available to meet with you to discuss any aspect of the enrolment process. All new enrolments will receive a Welcome to the College pack which provides further details of courses available and student life at Taupo-nui-a-Tia College.

### For inquiries contact:

Taupo-nui-a-Tia College  
Spa Road, Taupo  
Box 549, Taupo 3351, New Zealand

**TELEPHONE:** 07 376 1100

**EMAIL:** [mail@taupocollege.ac.nz](mailto:mail@taupocollege.ac.nz)

**WEBSITE:** [www.taupocollege.ac.nz](http://www.taupocollege.ac.nz)