

Opihi - on campus



Community - Acceptance - Respect - Excellence

Issue 7, 14 May 2015

Host a Japanese Student from Shigakukan High School in Term 3!

Do you want to learn a little about another country or another language? Why not host a student from Japan and give it a try!



We're looking for host families to provide homestays for a group of Japanese boys and girls aged 14-17 from 28 July to 18 August at the beginning of Term Three. They don't need a special room of their own, just a bed to sleep in and a little space for their luggage. You don't have to go out of your way do anything special with them; simply welcome them

into your home and include them as part of your family. Your student would attend school from Monday to Friday and then be away on Saturday or Sunday for a day-trip excursion. We realise that there will be some extra expenses involved in hosting your student, so we will provide each family with \$300 to offset those costs a little. Why we organise this hosting programme:

- It's a significant fundraiser for the school and helps our students participate in the Japanese Language Trip to Japan.
- Our Opihi College students and family members are exposed to a new language and culture. They will try new foods, play new games, and learn about music, art, and crafts.
- Our Japanese language classes at all levels 7-13 get an infusion of real language and culture learning. We learn more about the world around us firsthand.



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Please contact Eric Lindblom by email at lindblome@opihicollege.school.nz or ring him at school on 615-7442 or for more information.

Thank you!



From Across the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Kia ora tatou

The school year seems to be passing by so fast that it is hard to find the time to reflect upon what we have achieved in such a short time. Last week was a great opportunity to show off what we do here at Opihi College and what our school is about. Like all other schools in the region we look to grow Opihi College. In the last four years there have been significant gains made at Opihi College. Whilst some schools in our region have rolls which are showing signs of decline Opihi College has maintained the roll numbers. No longer do we have a large exodus of students to other schools as was the case 5 years ago. Opihi College does provide great opportunities and has its fair share of successes too.

Moving schools

Recently I was talking to a student who had left to attend a Timaru school. They complained about the early start and waiting for the bus and late return home. They also commented that in the warmer evenings they had missed out on some of the activities that their peers in Temuka were enjoying as the Opihi students had left an hour before the Timaru students had returned home. Opihi College students in our senior school have also reported that they value the smaller classes and individual attention they receive. The Education Review Office, in their January 2015 report stated,

'Teachers help students to set goals that better focus their learning priorities and promote self directed learning. They use a good range of teaching approaches and, according to students spoken with by ERO, consistently going the extra mile to encourage and support learning.'

I was talking to a teacher in town last week and they commented that they were teaching a class of 35 students. A similar class at Opihi would have 22 students. Quite a difference in the assistance and feedback students can gain.

For those families who are considering a change please do consider carefully what the benefits are and do make sure that you ask questions about the education your child will receive.

Reflection on success

With our own reflection upon our achievement as a school we are currently working with students to review their success against the goals set earlier in the year during our mentoring process. For senior students this is a good opportunity to review what has been achieved towards NCEA. Earlier this week I talked to students that gaining the 80 credits was achievable by all students. What made a significant difference was not the number of credits but the quality. For students who can gain an endorsement at Merit or Excellence, there are new opportunities open to them. Many universities offer preferential places for the following year to student who achieve NCEA Level 2 with either a Merit or Excellence endorsement. There is real value in striving for excellence.

Work day

Last week the work day provided a great income for the school. The support and feedback from the community has been tremendous. Thank you to all those people who supported this initiative. Some of the comments from the employers on the day include:

"Very polite, dedicated. Excellent help. Thank you"

"Great wee worker, followed instructions very well"

"Very good worker"

"Very helpful. Polite young man"

"Fantastic energetic young man, who just kept on going."

"Fantastic young man, great manners and very fussy worker. A perfectionist in the making"

"A real credit to his parents and himself"

One student was even offered a regular part time employment following the work day. The money raised is another step closer to funding projects within the school for the benefit of the students.

School Roll

As in 2014 the school roll has grown since the 1st March roll return. This reflects the strength of the school. Despite the slight increase we have managed to retain the advantage that we have in small class sizes. This is in part due to the Board enabling the employment of additional teachers above that which is funded by the Ministry of Education.

Next week we have our annual school ball. This is the highlight of the school social calendar. The arrival of guests is a great spectacle and I encourage parents and whanau to come along and watch the start of the ball. (Doors open at 8.00pm and last admittance by 8.30pm)

With the colder weather upon us now is the time that students start with coughs and colds. Please make sure that you child has a handkerchief or tissues to cover their nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing. We encourage all students to wash their hands regularly. Please encourage your children to stay healthy this winter.



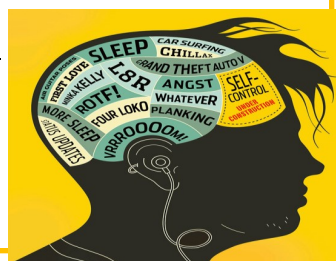
Opihi College

C.A.R.E.
 COMMUNITY | ACCEPTANCE | RESPECT | EXCELLENCE



Dyasta Barnes ~ received his Bronze E badge
Abigail Blay ~ received his Bronze C badge
Vinnie Cornelius ~ received their Bronze E badge
Megan Frew ~ received her Bronze C badge
Hayley McLean ~ received their Bronze C badge
Sophie Nolan ~ received their Bronze C badge
John Reyes ~ received their Bronze E badge
Lucy Roberts ~ received their Bronze E badge
Megan Talbot ~ received their Bronze E badge
Megan Talbot ~ received their Bronze C badge
Brooke Thomas ~ received their Bronze E badge
Jayden Kellas-Taylor ~ received his Bronze C badge
Liam Mulligan ~ received his Silver E badge
Meghan Mulligan ~ received her Bronze C badge
Meghan Mulligan ~ received her Bronze A badge
Meghan Mulligan ~ received her Bronze R badge

Roncalli College Hall
Thursday 21st May 6.30 p.m.



May	15	Opihi College Cross Country & Mufti Day Racing starts 2.00pm
	19	Attitude presentation
	21	Aoraki Secondary Schools Girls Soccer Tournament -Ashburton
	22	Interschool sports tournament—Geraldine
	22	Opihi College Ball 8.00pm
June	1	Queens Birthday SCHOOL CLOSED
	11	Japanese NCEA trip

Students have the opportunity to participate in the 40 hour famine event in May this year. The national date for this event is the weekend of May 22nd - 24th, however it doesn't matter which weekend you do it, as long as you inform your sponsors. The 2015 event is fundraising for the fight against malnutrition in **Bangladesh**. Students who have expressed interest in participating have been issued with a fundraising booklet. It is encouraged that students (safely) seek sponsors in the community (try not to rely upon your immediate family for all of your sponsorship!) There are several competitions running for students who gain high levels of sponsorship, but don't forget that every dollar goes a long way in impoverished communities. Some students will also be bringing home a newsletter relating to a 'sleepover at school' event on Saturday 30th May, supporting 40 Hour Famine.

All inquiries regarding the 40 Hour Famine to
Mrs. Heidi Lovatt



OPIHI COLLEGE HOODIES FOR SALE \$50

WINTER UNIFORM

The winter uniform will become compulsory after the Queens Birthday holiday weekend. During May, students may choose to wear the summer or the winter uniform.

WANTED FOR SCHOOL BALL

The ball committee would like to borrow fairy lights and "Paris themed decorations" for the school ball to be held on Saturday 22nd May. If you have anything suitable you are able to loan, could you please leave named decorations at the school office.



OPIHI COLLEGE UNIFORM

AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Opihi Ties \$20

Opihi College

Beanies \$10

Navy blue polar fleece

PE Tops \$60

We have tops available for immediate purchase in most sizes, or we can order in for you.

Winter Sports Socks \$10

These long socks are Black with a white top, as worn by Temuka Hockey, Soccer and Rugby teams. (Wool foot with nylon leg.)

Kilts

We are awaiting the arrival of the new kilts from our supplier for those who have ordered them.

Second Hand Uniform

If you have items your children have outgrown, we can sell these on your behalf for a small commission. We have had a lot of enquiries for second hand kilts and jerseys.



Megan Talbot and Kaia McPherson from BG2 display their ANZAC presentations.. Year 7 and 8 students have been completing an ANZAC study with the key concepts of Remembrance and Sacrifice. Other students presented power point slide shows, posters and a movie.



HPV vaccination survey – participants wanted.

Parents and caregivers of children and young people aged 9 – 23 years are

Invited to participate in a survey investigating knowledge and attitudes around HPV vaccination. The survey is anonymous and should take 5-10 minutes. Please access the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9K657Z7parentscaregivers> or request a hard copy by calling 04 979 3106.

The researcher is a PhD candidate at the Centre of Public Health Research, Massey University. For further information please go to <http://publichealth.massey.ac.nz/home/research/recruiting-projects/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccination-study/> or contact k.page@massey.ac.nz.

SPORT NEWS

NETBALL

The college has 6 netball teams this season.
A senior A team, Yr 9 & 10 A & B teams,
Yr 7 & 8 A (black), B (blue) and C (white) teams.



BASKETBALL

The college has 5 basketball teams this season.
A senior girls, senior boys,
junior (yr 9 & 10) girls,
yr 7 & 8 boys and yr 7 & 8 girls.



ARCHERY

Currently we have 12 students taking part in an archery programme afterschool on Thursdays.



LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES in the gym

Monday and Thursday lunchtimes Basketball team practices.

Tuesday— Boys Badminton (open to all students)

Wednesday—Girls Badminton (open to all students)

Friday—Table tennis (open to all students)



WINTER SPORTS FOR CLUBS

We also have students playing hockey, soccer and rugby for local clubs.

KIWI SPORT

Tara the kiwisport co-ordinator is currently running a soccer programme during Tuesday lunchtimes and a golf programme during period 5 for yr 7 & 8s.

CHESS COMPETITION

We are currently running a chess competition in the library to find our school chess champion.



CLAYBIRD SHOOTING

Mr Callow and a group of students are just beginning claybird shooting on Monday afternoons.



ATTITUDE

On Tuesday 19th May, ATTITUDE is making its annual visit to Opihi College.

Attitude is a Youth Health presentation covering many different aspects of health that affect young people today. The presentation on Tuesday will be made to all the schools year groups and will cover the following:

Year 7 and 8	Friendship and Relationships
Year 9	Online Safety and Citizenship
Year 10	Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
Year 11	Sex and Relationships
Year 12 and 13	Mental Health

As Year 11's presentation covers Sex and Relationships, parents have the option to withdraw their student from the presentation. If you wish for this to happen please write them a note and ask them to give it to the office who will ensure they are able to undertake alternative study during this time.

To cover the cost of the presentation we would like to ask for a gold coin donation on Tuesday morning, to be collected by the students tutor teacher.

Thank you for your support of these presentations.
Stuart Grace, HoF Health and Physical Education

MUFTI DAY

Thank you to all the families who generously supported our recent mufti day which raised funds to support those affected by the recent earthquakes in Nepal. The proceeds of this day were divided between two charitable organisations - UNICEF and Shelterbox NZ. Each received \$243.75. Shelterbox NZ provides disaster relief emergency housing and supplies, as detailed below. Each of these kits is provided at a cost of \$1,500, and our local Rotary group is assisting to fundraise for several of these boxes to be sent to Nepal.



DISASTER
RELIEF

WHAT'S IN A SHELTERBOX?



TEMUKA WOMEN'S HOCKEY QUIZ NIGHT



**\$10 PER PERSON
TEAMS OF 2-4**

WHEN
Friday, 29th May,
Registration from
6:00pm
Starting at 7:00pm

WHERE
Royal Hotel
King Street,
Temuka

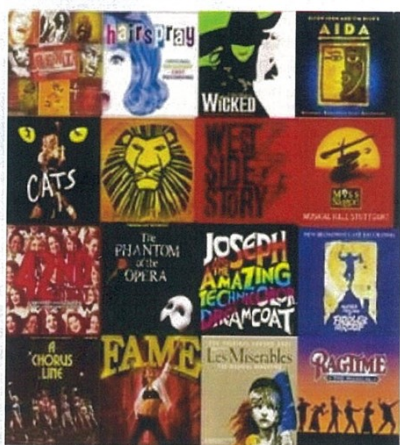
BENEFITING
Temuka Women's
Hockey Team

CONTACT
Nicole
(03) 615 6006

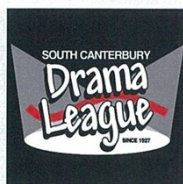
WINTER PERFORMANCE SCHOOL 2015

July 13 - 18, 2015

The Playhouse, Timaru



Step into the spotlight and come shine on stage! If you've been "bitten by the acting bug," come join us for an exciting adventure in theatre!



WINTER PERFORMANCE SCHOOL works in partnership with the SOUTH CANTERBURY DRAMA LEAGUE and would like to thank the League for its support and for making The Playhouse available for our theatre workshops. We hope that all of our students and parents will take the opportunity to become members of the SCDL and get involved in the many and varied activities available; from performing on stage, helping backstage or to taking on a production role.

If you would like more information about the South Canterbury Drama League please visit

www.dramaleague.org.nz

E: manager@dramaleague.org.nz

Contact Us

Alice Sollis
Mob: 027 470 5095
E: alicesollis@actrix.co.nz

Rob Martin
Mob: 022 670 6858
E: rob@robmartinproductions.com.au

TIMARU CAREERS EXPO

2015

THE SOUTHERN TRUST CENTRE, MORGANS RD

SUNDAY 17 MAY 1-4PM
MONDAY 18 MAY 9AM-3.30PM, 5-7PM

FREE ENTRY

All sessions open to the public.

Exhibitors from around New Zealand.

BEACONSFIELD SCHOOL TRAILRIDE

SUNDAY 24TH MAY 2015
BURNETTS ROAD, CAVE

ENQUIRIES
PH. LEANNE ROGERS



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST AN OVERSEAS STUDENT?

Experience another culture, make new friends and improve your language studies at home

Hosting – An Experience for Life

Student Exchange is looking for host families across New Zealand to welcome overseas students into their home
www.studentexchange.org.nz
0800 440 079 (cost of local call)



QUALITY SLEEP IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR EFFECTIVE STUDY - BY KAREN BOYES

Getting a great night sleep is essential for brain health and especially important the most when learning function and studying. Researcher Chris Evans believes consider the new things that have been learned is to allow your brain to new learnings are filed and consolidated in the memory suggests during

Teenagers usually need more sleep than adults as their brains and bodies are going through significant growth and change. It is recommend that teenagers get around 9 ¼ hours of sleep including mood, concentration, memory Lack of sleep affects brain function ability. their best.

To get a great nights sleep here are four tips:

1. Make your bedroom a haven for sleeping
It is essential to make your bedroom space calming and comfortable. The brain loves neat and tidy. Sleeping in an over-busy and messy room can often stimulate the brain making it harder to relax, so tidy up unfinished work and clear the floor. Another tip is to turn your digital clock around so you cannot see the time. This is for two reasons; Firstly, the light shining in your room can stop the natural sleep process and secondly, you do not want to be continually checking the time and cause you stress because you are not sleeping. Ensure your room is cool side rather than hot. Studies show rooms with 5--10 degrees lower than the average daytime temperature helps with sleep.

2. Avoid TV or screens before bed
The effects of screens on the brain, before bed is well documented. While checking your phone, or reading on a device just before bed might seem natural enough, it is not for your brain. A stream of phonons from the screen tells your brain it is not time to go to sleep. In turn, this prevents the secretion of Melatonin, the chemical responsible for sleep timing and blood pressure regulation. Even the small glow of the phone screen when you check the time at night can be enough to interrupt sleep patterns. The suggestion is from the experts is to shut all electronic devices off at 9pm or an hour before you go to bed.

3. Be mindful about what you eat or drink before bed.
Certain food can stimulate or diminish your ability to sleep. Foods to avoid before bed include spicy foods, caffeine and high fat foods. Instead choose foods that contain tryptophan, such as turkey, eggs and milk which can help promote sleep. Nutritionist, Jessica Redmond, suggests it is best to avoid eating large meals in the hours leading up to bedtime. If you have to eat, eat a small meal or pre-portioned snack.

4. Start a bedtime routine
Dim the lights while you get ready for bed, or turn off the lamps and switch to sleep to a soft, bedside lamp. Attempt to go to bed when you are normally bright overhead grammed the same time every night. Choose a time to feel pro-at tired, so that you don't toss and turn. Try to stay up late. If routine on weekends want to change your daily bedtime, increments, help your body as 15 minutes earlier or you the later each day.

It can be tempting if you get burn the candle at both ends while studying learning you do while you are studying.

Understanding NCEA Financial Assistance – for parents of students in Years 11-13

Before September NCEA students will be asked to pay their NCEA processing fee for 2015. This fee is \$76.70 plus \$30 for each scholarship subject, but some students will be eligible for financial assistance to reduce this cost to \$20.

The purpose of NCEA financial assistance is to ensure that fees are not a barrier to participation in qualifications for students in low-to-middle income families. Each year the government provides limited funding for eligible students enrolled in New Zealand secondary schools who are entering for assessment against standards on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) and for New Zealand Scholarship. International fee paying students are not eligible for financial assistance.

To be eligible for financial assistance, the applicant (normally the parent or guardian of the candidate) must be the fee-payer and must apply under one of the following application types:

Benefit applications – this includes those receiving a Work and Income or Study Link benefit, or those with a current Community Services Card.

Income-based applications – this includes those that have a joint family² income that would entitle the applicant to receive a Community Services Card, but do not already have one.

Multiple candidate applications – this includes fee-payers with two or more children who are candidates, where the total fees to pay would otherwise be more than the \$200 multiple candidate maximum.

Financial Assistance fees schedule 2015

Number of children who are candidates fee-payer is paying for:	Fee-payer is eligible for beneficiary or income-based assistance	Fee-payer is not eligible for beneficiary or income-based assistance
One candidate	\$20.00	Full fees (\$76.70)
Two or more candidates	A maximum of \$30.00 per family/fee-payer	A maximum of \$200.00 per family/fee-payer

1 "Fee-Payer" is normally the parent or guardian of the candidate, and must be the person paying the NZQA fees.

2 "Family" is defined as parents, including sole parents or legal guardians, and their children living together.

Application form

The application form for financial assistance and information regarding financial assistance is available on the NZQA website

(<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/entry-into-ncea/fees-for-ncea/financial-assistance/>). The community services card income thresholds are available on the Work and Income website. Fee payers should fill out the application form and return it to the school to meet the NZQA deadline of 1 September 2015.

NZQA
NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MATAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Section B: CANDIDATE DETAILS

Complete this section for all members of your family¹ for whom you are applying for financial assistance. **Note: Financial assistance is not available for international foreign fee paying students.**

First Name	Surname	School	Date of Birth	NSN ²

Section C: BENEFIT BASED APPLICATION

Complete this section if you are applying for financial assistance on the basis that you receive a Work and Income or StudyLink benefit as your main source of income, or you have a Community Services Card³. Note that an administration fee of \$20.00 per candidate or \$30.00 per family is still payable.

Write your benefit number or Community Services Card³ number here ⇒

Section D: INCOME BASED APPLICATION

Complete this section if you are not receiving a benefit, or you do not currently have a Community Services Card³, but you are applying for financial assistance on the basis that your family income is within the levels set for receiving the Community Services Card³. Note that an administration fee of \$20.00 per candidate or \$30.00 per family is still payable.

If your family income would qualify you to receive a Community Services Card³ then indicate here ⇒ ☐ (✓)

Section E: MULTIPLE CANDIDATE/FAMILY BASED APPLICATION

Complete this section if you do not qualify for benefit or income based financial assistance but you are applying on the basis that you have more than one candidate undertaking senior secondary school qualifications, and would otherwise be paying more than \$200 in fees.

Indicate here if you wish to apply for multiple candidate assistance ⇒ ☐ (✓)

DECLARATION:

I declare that the information provided above is correct and that I am eligible to apply for financial assistance. I further agree to provide NZQA evidence of my income if requested and agree to advise NZQA in writing of any change in circumstance that would make this application invalid.

Signed		Date	
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³ For information regarding Community Service Card entitlements and income thresholds visit Work and Income's website www.workandincome.govt.nz or go directly to community services card brochure.

Youth Pathway

NEWSLETTER MAY 2015 - VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS



V Path students study at school four days a week and with Aoraki Polytechnic in our Timaru, Ashburton or Oamaru campuses one day a week. Gaining NCEA credits while following their chosen vocational pathway.

Programmes being offered include business, hair and beauty, early childhood, hospitality, horticulture, agriculture, carpentry and automotive.

Manufacturing and Technology

Construction and Infrastructure

Creative

Primary Industries

Service Industries

TIMARU

69 V Path Students in 2015



Mt Hutt College Automotive V Path students at work in the new Ashburton Learning Hub in Hepburns Road.

ASHBURTON

31 V Path Students in 2015

L to R: Samuel Rodgers, Jayden Sinclair-Thickett, Caleb Burgess, Declan O'Neill, Callum Stocker (kneeling), Shiunil Kumar.



Automotive V Path student Mikayla Woodmore from Ashburton College at work in the new Ashburton Learning Hub in Hepburns Rd.

OAMARU

30 V Path Students in 2015



Waitaki Girls High Beauty Therapy V Path student Olivia Campbell received a make-over by an Aoraki level 4 beauty student.



Fun day at the end of term one, additional students and some V Path students mothers came in for a mini manicure and a hair style. Ashburton College Hairdressing V Path student Jessica McIlroy at work.

Parents recognise V Path success

An Aoraki Polytechnic programme that sees education break out of the classroom and into the real world has given Heath Fulton his first chance at academic success. Last year the 17-year-old Mt Hutt College student took part in the polytechnic's Vocational Pathways, or V Path, programme.

The programme is a partnership between the polytechnic and secondary schools which offers students, many who are at risk of dropping out of school, the chance to pass NCEA through industry training. It helps students see how their strengths, interests and achievements relate to future study options and job opportunities.

This year Heath is studying Heavy Automotive. He spends three days a week at the polytechnic campus, and two days in hands-on training an Ashburton based company.

His mum Cynthia said Heath has a learning disability which meant he struggled at school. V Path had re-engaged Heath in education and he was hoping to secure an apprenticeship at the end of the course, she said.

"Heath was struggling to find suitable subjects at school. Having a learning disability is a huge mountain for him to climb. School really wasn't his thing and it was really, really hard for him.

"We were ready to pull him out of school when he was offered a place on the V Path programme.

"Heath is loving it. Working with his hands is really his thing. To see him go from strength to strength and not have to struggle is really fantastic."

Last year Heath studied Automotive on the V Path programme, spending every Friday at the polytechnic's Big Machines workshop.

"The V Path has given Heath an insight into the industry and what it entails. It's given him a foot in the door," Cynthia said.

Vocational Pathways has been so successful that the polytechnic has expanded the programme this year.

15 Aoraki secondary schools had come on board – a huge tribute to the programme's popularity and success.



Heath Fulton is enjoying success with his learning as part of the Aoraki V Path programme.

Social and Community Services

from
learning to
earning

THINKING FORWARD >



Welcome to our 2015 students



Timaru



Oamaru

V Path students were welcomed onto our Timaru, Oamaru and Ashburton campuses with a Mihi.

A Night in a Magical Forest

An accumulation of a year's work in the kitchen ended with A Night in a Magical Forest for 2014 Vocational Pathways students studying hospitality at Aoraki Polytechnic.

The Vocational Pathways, or V Path, students graduated in style by hosting a themed lunch to showcase their skills.

The Polytechnic training restaurant was elaborately decorated to the students' chosen theme – A Night in a Magical Forest. School representatives, friends and family gathered to taste the delicious finger food the students planned and prepared.

The V Path programme is a partnership between the polytechnic and secondary schools that aims to keep students at school for longer.

Last year, senior students from five secondary schools undertook the one-day-a-week hospitality course.

Tutor Rob Hunt was very proud of their achievements.

"This is a taster programme to give students an idea of

what it would be like to work in the hospitality industry.

"The students have done really, really, well."

Student Jessica Smith loved the polytechnic course.

"We really got a taste of what it feels like to go to polytechnic," she said.

"I did not think I could achieve this. We have been planning this event for months. We planned the menu and prepared the food ourselves."

Polytechnic youth advisor Kate McKeown acts as the liaison between V Path students, schools, and tutors.

"Some students come here because they are disengaged in their school studies. The V Path programme is a way to keep them engaged in education."

As well as hospitality, the 2014 V Path programmes included courses in hair and beauty, automotive, and carpentry.

McKeown said the programmes were so successful last year the initiative has been expanded for 2015.



2014 V Path students graduated in style last year by hosting a themed lunch to showcase their skills.



Making a real difference to students' outcomes

Aoraki Polytechnic's youth advisors are having a hugely positive impact on the futures of young people studying there.

Craig Courtis and Kate McKeown, who come armed with a qualification in social work and secondary teaching respectively, work to ensure all students under age 25 receive the tools they need to achieve.

Recent statistics ranked Aoraki Polytechnic highest in the sector for qualification completions and second highest for course completions for its Government funded Youth Guarantee students.

Ninety percent of secondary students enrolled on the polytechnic's Vocational Pathways Programme – where students study at the polytechnic one day a week – are either remaining in education or moving into employment.

Polytechnic academic director Ginny Vincent attributed this success to the high levels of pastoral care and learning support provided by the youth advisors.

"This guidance and support begins prior to the students enrolling and continues throughout their study and onto further study or employment.

"The youth advisors give individualised support to each student with career and learning plans and constantly monitor the student's progress."

Vincent said the increase in the number of students under 25, the focus on the Youth Guarantee scheme, and the introduction of the Vocational Pathways programme, meant the need for dedicated youth advisors was obvious.

She said the skills and knowledge of the youth advisors was essential to the success of these roles. The combination of a secondary trained youth advisor and a social work trained youth advisor ensures students have a broad range of experiences to access.

As the polytechnic's full-time youth advisor, Courtis said it was his job to provide learning support to students and to ensure they are given the best opportunity to successfully complete their studies.

"I like seeing the achievements of these young people, some of whom haven't had a lot of academic success in the past. To see these students finish their courses and achieve apprenticeships or employment is very rewarding – especially when they say "thanks I couldn't have done it without you."



Youth advisors Kate McKeown and Craig Courtis. "The key to success is creating meaningful relationships with students and working with them to ensure they reach their goals" Courtis said.

Youth Advisors and Support Staff

Youth Advisor
 Craig Courtis
 craig.courtis@aoraki.ac.nz
 Phone 0800 426 725 ext. 937

Youth Advisor
 Kate McKeown
 kate.mckeown@aoraki.ac.nz
 Phone 0800 426 725 ext. 876

Kaiawhina & Student Well-Being Officer
 Rachel Day-Brown
 rachel.day-brown@aoraki.ac.nz
 Phone 0800 426 725 ext. 936

Student Advisor
 Annie Barker
 annie.barker@aoraki.ac.nz
 Phone 0800 426 725 ext. 915