



#3 24th March 2023

Dargaville High School

Tēnā tātou katoa

I would like to welcome Peter Hugo to our school. He is going to be working as a mentor for a group of students from Years 9 to 11 as part of a programme called Check and Connect. This programme is for two years and is funded by the Ministry of Education, aimed at keeping students engaged at school.

The last couple of weeks have been very busy with a number of activities and events for students, including Moving on (for Year 13 students), RYDA (Year 12 students), NZQA presentations on NCEA, Volleyball and the S.T.E.A.M camps, presented by MOTAT, for Year 9 and 10 students. The week ended with the school Athletics Day. Luckily the weather mostly held off and the day's programme was able to be completed. Thank you to Logan Steed for his organisation of the day.

This week has also been a full week for a number of students. For instance there has been the first of the 2023 student leader huis, as well as a Heights Course and a First Aid Course. Additionally, the Police Academy students have been on a tramp to Peach Cove and on Thursday we hosted a Careers Roadshow. This was a great opportunity for students to consider a wide range of different careers that were here.

Looking ahead to next week, we have our Volleyball team heading off to the nationals.

A reminder, Academic Coaching will be held in Week 2 of Term 2. This is a great opportunity to meet with your child's teachers about their progress so far.

Finally, attendance continues to be a major priority; emphasising regular attendance, which works out to be an attendance rate of at least 90%. Students who are not attending regularly, miss out on learning, impacting on their progress. A sobering statistic is that learners who miss a week of school each term will have missed out on a year of schooling by the time they are 16. A new truancy provider is now in place and will be working with schools to support attendance.

We would appreciate your support with this as well as with the expectation of students being on time to school and in the correct school uniform.

Naku na

Mike Houghton
Principal / Tumuaki

Mentor Drivers Required:

DHS is seeking people to volunteer as MENTOR DRIVERS to assist our students' progress with their driving licences. Having a Driving Licence is a huge issue in employability and is even more important for youth in rural and isolated areas.

DHS will provide the vehicle and some basic Training, with the goal of developing a group of mentor drivers.

Ideally, we would like you to commit to a regular time of two to four hours per week to provide driving practice time for our students. You will also need to undergo a Police Vet procedure since you are working with children.

Please contact Ms Chiaroni at DHS for more information or to offer your help.

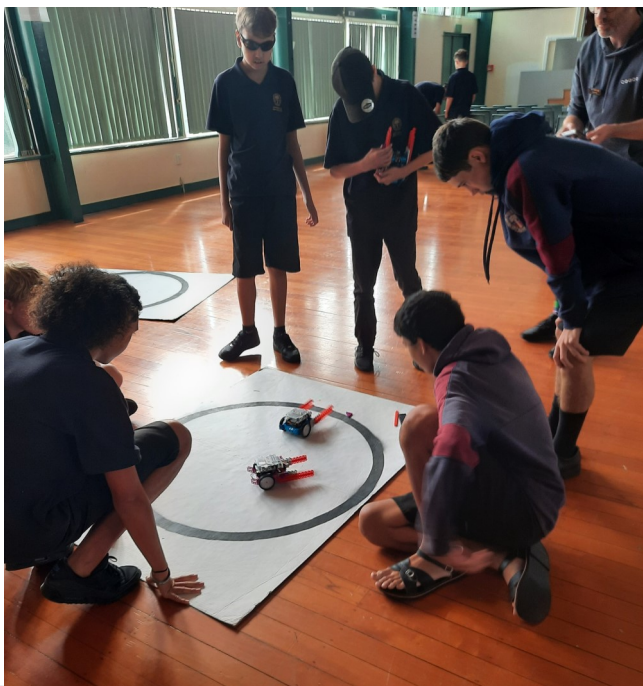
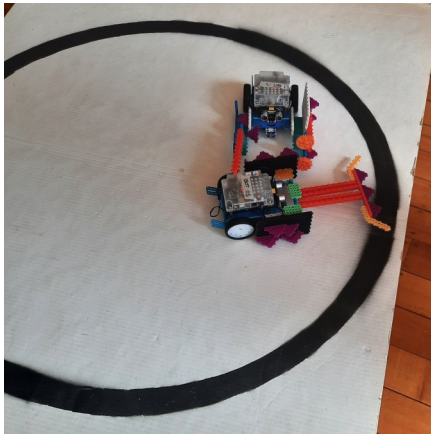


MOTAT Visit

MOTAT (Museum of Transport and Technology) has been working with our Year 9s and 10s this week.

They've been working on coding, robotics, teamwork, and challenges. Students had the opportunity to code and create a robot ready to challenge other students to a "BattleBot" competition.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to understand the importance of coding and robotics!



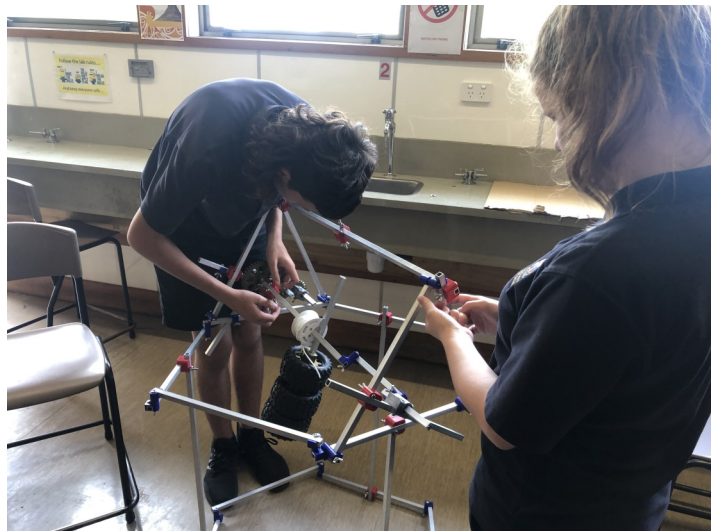
EPRO8

Paul Barnes—HOD Science

Around 60 Year 10 students enjoyed the challenge of building a variety of machines during the EPRO8 Engineering Challenge last week.

A lot of fun was had, brains were exercised and several groups managed to complete an entire challenge unaided.

Winning groups will be acknowledged in our next school assembly



Diary Dates

Sunday 26th March To Wednesday 29th March	Volleyball Nationals
Thursday 30th March	Fencing Course Stand Up Paddleboarding
Friday 31st March	Northtec Future Trade Day
Monday 3rd April To Wednesday 4th April	Rugby Coaching Course
Monday 3rd April	Senior Art Trip
Tuesday 4th April	Equestrian Combined
Wednesday 5th April	Year 9 Science Waipoua Trip
Wednesday 5th April To Thursday 6th April	Peach Cove Police Trip Group 2



Our Head Leaders met with the leaders from our surrounding secondary schools recently. This is a great way to network with the other schools and discuss ideas to improve student experience at school.

Deans Report

Sarah Martin—Year 10 Dean

Well, just when we thought the beginning of 2023 was going to be a "normal" start to the school year Cyclone Gabrielle obviously had other ideas. It's been pleasing to see that the Year 10s have handled the disruptions fairly well and are now well into their studies. Options are finalised now for the first semester, and students will be able to choose new ones before the start of the second semester. Please ask your child how their subjects are going and what homework they have. If a child gets into good work habits this year, it will help them in the coming NCEA years.

Just a reminder with the mornings getting a little colder, please make sure your child is in the correct uniform. The school hoodie or jacket is the only acceptable uniform option and these can be ordered through Becky at Matich Surf Shop or let myself or the school know if you need help securing one. Shoes must be black and polishable and must have low backs. If shoes have laces, they must be black. For Technology and Food classes shoes are required to be black, hard leather lace up shoes to comply with Health and Safety regulations.

Black Roman sandals are allowed but please remember no sneakers, jandals or slides are allowed.

If for any reason your child is not in the correct uniform, please send a note with the date, contact phone number, reason for the incorrect item and when your child will be back in correct uniform. If your child is in an incorrect uniform without a note they will be given a lunchtime detention.

School starts at 8.50, Form Time/registration at the start of the day is the time when your child's teacher gives out lots of important information. Please make sure that your child is at registration as detentions may result if they are not.

Year 10 is often a difficult year for everyone, parents, pupils and teachers, but respect and open conversations can make it somewhat easier for all of us involved. I appreciate all communication with regards to the well being of your children and will always do what I can to accommodate parent/caregiver requests. I can be contacted via email, shorner@darghigh.school.nz or on my cell phone 027 208 1789. Alternatively, you can contact the school office and leave a message for me to call you back.

School Transport Eligibility

The Ministry provides school transport assistance to help students overcome barriers to education and to help caregivers meet their responsibility to get their children to school. The Ministry may provide assistance where distance or a lack of suitable public transport present a barrier for students attending the closest school where they can enrol.

To qualify for School Transport Assistance, your child must meet the following criteria:

1. They are attending their closest school (State or State-integrated)
2. They live more than a certain distance from school: • 3.2km for Years 1 – 8 • 4.8km for Years 9 – 13
3. There is no suitable public transport available. Check out the School Transport Assistance video on the Ministry of Education's website for more information.

Applications for a conveyance allowance for eligible students should be completed by the caregiver and the school. Forms can be downloaded on the Ministry of Education website or can be collected from the school office.

From the Board

From time to time, you may have an issue that needs to be discussed further in order to resolve it. Therefore I have outlined the complaints process, should you require this.

The process will vary depending on the issue. For problems with subjects or options, the subject teacher is your first point of call. The year dean is also able help with this. Alternatively you could approach Mrs Chiaroni, the Careers Adviser.

For other problems such as bullying, you can approach your form teacher, dean, Assistant or Deputy Principal. Other problems can be taken up with senior management, Head of Departments, the Assistant Principals or Deputy Principal. If you are unsure who to approach, the office staff will direct you to the appropriate person.

For more serious complaints they must be made in writing and signed by complainant (assistance will be provided if needed). This is to be addressed to the Principal.

If you feel that you have not had satisfaction from the above process, then you will need to write a letter to the Board. It is important to remember that all staff are approachable and happy to assist or redirect you to the person who can best help you.



Tarra Smith (Year 12) and Hope Pulham-Davis (Year 12) were part of a group of students selected to assist the Dargaville Museum with the 2023 Aotearoa Annual National Visitor Survey.