

## Whaikaha - Learning Support

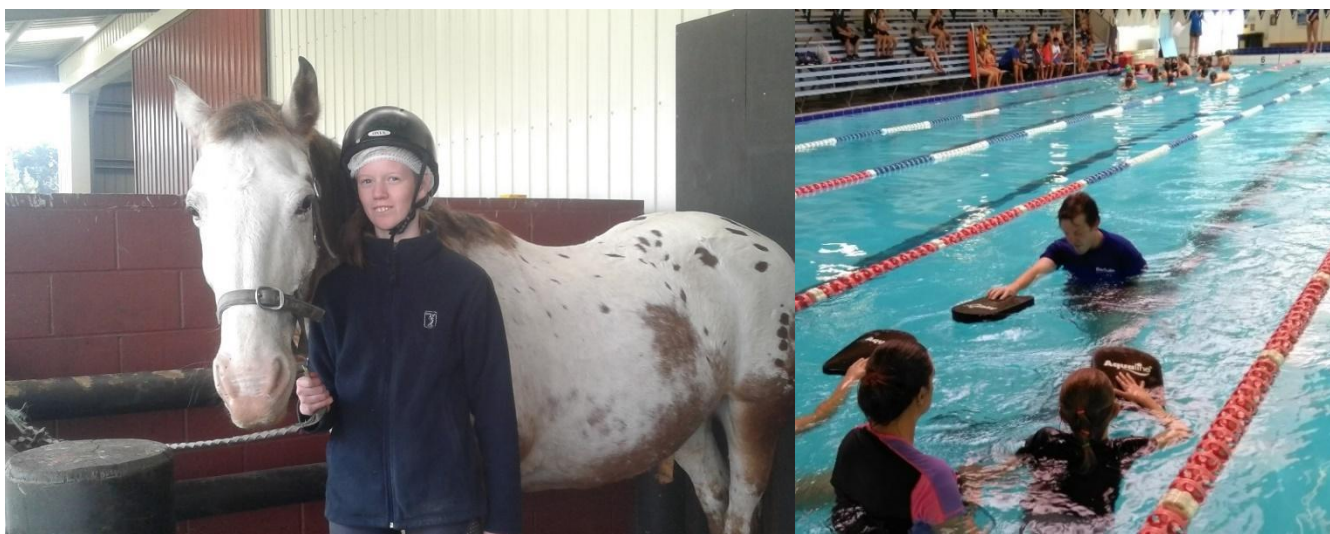
Tēnā koe,

Tauranga Girls' College provides an inclusive, mainstream educational environment for students, which means that your daughter will work in classes alongside her peers with adaptations as necessary. It is our goal that all students will have the opportunity to experience a range of academic and practical subjects, with flexible learning programmes that cater to individual student learning needs and interests.

The college has a dedicated learning space, Te Manawa, located in the centre of the school close to support services, including career guidance, school counsellors and the health centre. We work closely with a number of community-based agencies to provide a cohesive, holistic programme, including the Northern Health School (NHS); Ministry of Education (MOE) specialists; Maternal, Infant, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (MICAMHS); and Resource Teachers of Learning & Behaviour (RTLB).

We provide customised timetables to meet individual student needs, incorporating a mix of specialist programmes based in Te Manawa and elective subjects in mainstream subject areas, such as Food Technology, Art, and Materials Technology.

We encourage students to participate in the full range of school activities, while recognising the particular needs of each individual student. The Learning Support department also supports a variety of co-curricular activities, including art activities, swimming, Sailability, and Riding for the Disabled (RDA).



### **Nationally recognised qualifications**

The Year 9 & 10 programme is a broad-based programme, which enables students to experience a range of curriculum areas. The Year 11-13 programme provides greater programme specialisation, which can be tailored to student interests and strengths. Some students will achieve at their year level with minimal support, while others will need a more individualised education programme as the pace and complexity of the curriculum increases.

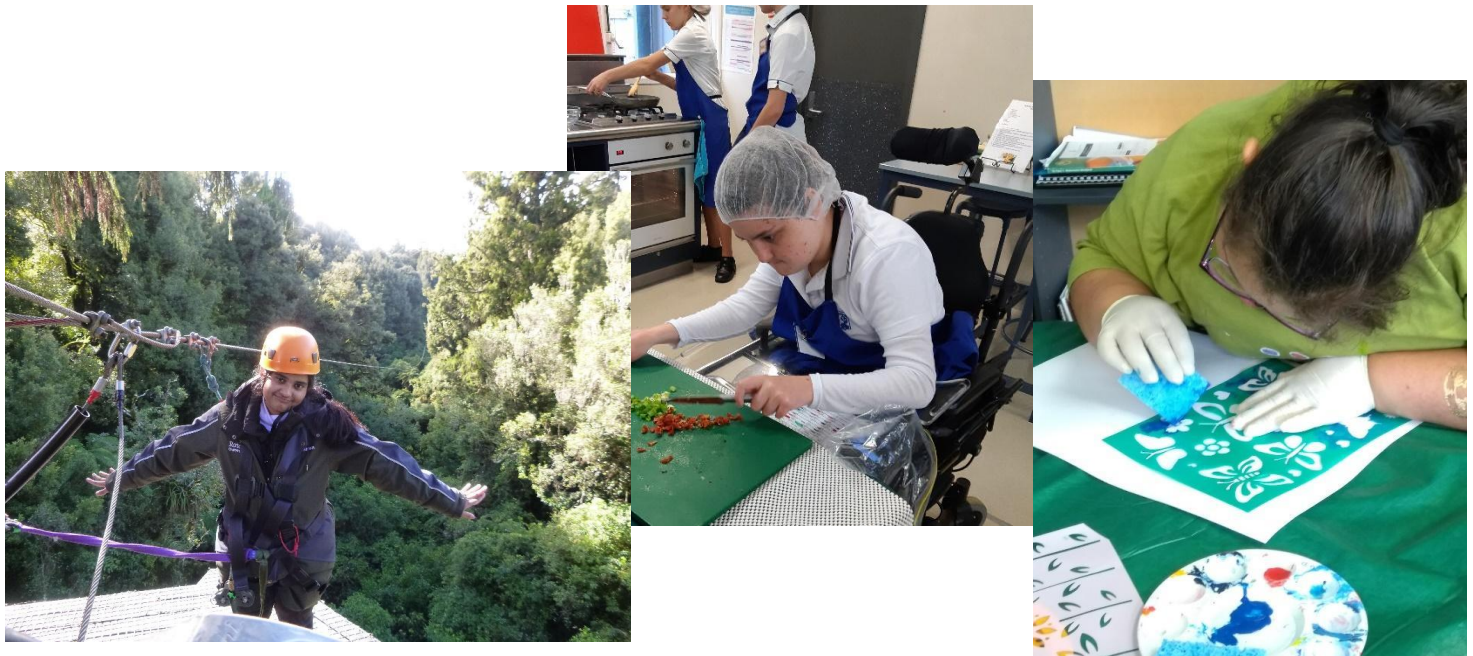
All students work towards nationally recognised qualifications, i.e. the National Certificate in Educational Achievement (NCEA), industry-focused National Certificates, or the New Zealand Certificate in Skills for Living - Supported Learners.

The Learning Support department is actively involved in testing and assessment of students, who may qualify for Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) for NCEA assessments. Initial screening takes place in school-based subjects in Years 9-10, with more specialised assessments available, as necessary, testing can be arranged via your daughter's year level dean. Further information is available on the NZQA website:

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/assessment-and-moderation-of-standards/managing-national-assessment-in-schools/special-assessment-conditions/>.

### **South Pacific Educational Courses (SPEC)**

Students who are working at New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) Levels 1-3 can participate in the South Pacific Educational Courses (SPEC) programme, which offers a future-focused, personalised learning programme for supported learners through an alternative approach to learning. The programme develops key competencies such as self-management skills, communicating & relating with others, thinking & problem-solving skills – along with functional literacy and numeracy skills required for day-to-day living.



### **Literacy Support**

Students who require additional literacy support and/or have dyslexia are supported by the Year 9 & Year 10 'English Support' programme (9ENS/10ENS). Students can also have access to 'StepsWeb' - an on-line remedial programme that is now in common use by private tutors for reading recovery and dyslexia programmes.

### **Numeracy Support**

Students who find numeracy challenging can opt to take Year 9 & Year 10 'Fast-Track Mathematics' (9FTC / 10FTC), which runs alongside the normal year-level Mathematics class but provides additional opportunities to consolidate and master mathematical concepts. These subjects pathway through to a portfolio-based numeracy programme at NCEA Level 1 (L1 MAP).

### **Digital skills and information technology**

Tauranga Girls' College actively promotes the development of digital skills through the 'Bring Your Own Chromebook (BYOC)' policy. Digital technology allows students to access on-line resources and apps to support learning and independence. Students requiring specialist technology and equipment can access assistive technology through the Ministry of Education with the support of the college.

### **Transport & SESTA Mobility taxi**

Students who need physical assistance to travel to & from school can use the A-Block mobility parking area & loading zone, which is only a short distance from 'Te Manawa'. Students who qualify for MOE-funded transport will be able to access the SESTA Mobility taxi service.

### **Health needs**

If your daughter has specific health needs, we ask that you provide information on the enrolment form so that we can arrange for the appropriate staff to contact you and ensure that we have full and comprehensive information on file. If necessary, students can arrange to store specialist medication in our health centre.

### **Uniform exemptions**

If your daughter has a specific physical or medical condition that requires an adapted uniform, Learning Support can also arrange a uniform exemption that accommodates her needs.



### **The next step...**

Please complete your daughter's online enrolment form as soon as possible to enable our college to support a smooth transition. Additional visits to the college to support transition can be arranged in Term 4 of the preceding year.

Whānau / parents are invited to share specific needs or concerns that they have about their daughter's learning or development and copies of any previous medical reports or developmental/educational assessments would be appreciated.

If you have further questions, please contact the Leader of Inclusive Learning, Mrs. Karen Gilby, via email ([kgilby@tgc.school.nz](mailto:kgilby@tgc.school.nz)), or text (020) 4090 3763.

**Ngā mihi nui**