

Enjoying and achieving education success as Māori is:

- Being able to resist the negative stereotypes about being Māori

I'm just breaking that cycle of people in my family not passing, not wanting to go to school. Breaking that cycle of being a Māori on the dole.

With our NCEA achievement rate being higher last year, in all three levels than they were in previous years, it's given Māori students the confidence to do better this year, and meet that expectation of doing as well if not better than non-Māori students.

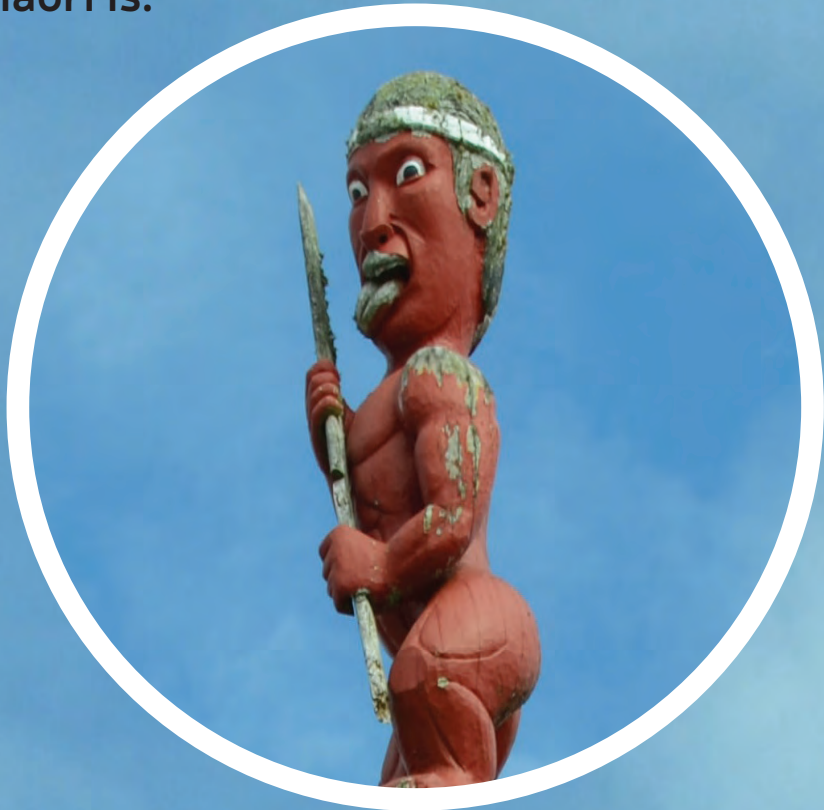
It's a bit of a challenge with stereotypes, but our mind-set now is thinking that our being Māori is not a disadvantage; we use it as an advantage within our school.

I'm Māori but I'm not that stereotypical Māori. I'm going to enjoy my education and find something that I'm passionate about.

Success for me was just making it to Year 13. I'm the first out of all my Mum's sisters, brothers - and all my first cousins - to make it this far. And just passing has been like a real big thing for me and my family. I almost got an Excellence endorsement in English.

Māori work really hard - they are really good at working at something and just keeping on and carrying on.

College for me was learning my Māori culture. I never grew up around my Māori side until I started college. I wasn't allowed to do Māori or anything when I was young.



- Knowing that you can access explicit and timely direction

People have helped me all the way through just recognising the potential that I never saw myself. If anyone had told me a year ago that I would almost have Level 3 with Excellence I wouldn't have believed them. These people have helped me to recognise what I actually am capable of achieving.



She sat down with me and looked through my grades and my NCEA and how I was achieving, and my attendance at school, and then gave me advice on how I can do further study. They helped and offered me heaps of opportunities.

I was disconnected from my culture for a long time, and it wasn't until my Year 9 Māori teacher, she just came up to me and asked me if I had any interest in it. I didn't at first, but she showed me the possibilities - where I could go with my Māori. If it wasn't for her encouraging me to learn my language, I probably wouldn't be where I am today.

- Knowing, accepting and acknowledging the strength of working together

If one of us succeeds, it's all of our success; it's a reflection of all of us Māori because everyone has helped us to do well. All the whānau has helped us do well.

I enjoy all aspects of te ao Māori - having all the opportunities to develop my te reo, to be able to immerse myself in kapa haka. My teachers sparked my interest of learning te reo, and they also helped me keep the fire going. My whānau have done so much for me. It's been overwhelming, having them involved in my education. It really did help for whānau to be involved along this journey.

My whānau, they've always pushed me along - kept me on the right track. A lot of the teachers, being in a small school, a lot of them are my uncles and cousins. They're always helping me out.

This year has been really good with teachers stepping up and being culturally responsive, and including Māori culture in what we learn in class. And so for me, that's what I think is Māori success - being able to have that connection in your subjects to really get the proper understanding that you need.

Definitely take every opportunity you're given. Push yourself out of your comfort zone and believe in yourself. Surround yourself with good people. That'll get you there.

- Being able to contribute to the success of others

Just seeing her accomplishing everything - setting her goals and smashing them - and just breaking out of our mould, has motivated me to do what she has done, and just further myself.

You're not doing it by yourself. There's so many more of you out there. Whether it's in te ao Māori or not, you find your people and then you work with them - and then you grow.

Seeing Māori do really well is cool, and that builds up all the other Māori students as well.

- Developing and maintaining emotional and spiritual strength

I know who I am and where I'm from. That's how I identify myself as successful.

Success is defined by how the individual feels. It's an emotional thing. You have to get your mind in the right place, and that in itself is a journey. But mistakes are a good thing as well. Make mistakes - it helps you learn.

It's not just about achieving the goal. It's more about having a direction, something to strive for. You learn more valuable lessons from the journey than actually getting the goal itself.

I think people can motivate you, but you can only live off other people's motivation for so long. If you really want something you have to own it.

My family, my friends, my teachers - they've been a key part of my life. With them you can strive harder in life, and become the strong person you are.

If you find your true friends, you'll find who your family is, because you need that extra support at school. Just find your true friends, cause they'll be your backbone.



- Being strong in your Māori cultural identity

Secondary school is a time to find yourself. If you have your culture - your identity - you can build off that.

It really helps to have that tikanga, that foundation to be able to apply to curricular and extra-curricular opportunities.

We have a strong sense of what it is to be Māori within our school.

It's using your culture as a tool to help you succeed. It can help you succeed in whatever you're doing. Just grab every opportunity, don't let it pass you by.

I've learnt different aspects of Māori culture and those different aspects have helped shape who I am as a person and how I identify as Māori. So that for me is my biggest success, just finding who I am.

Knowing you're Māori is having that extra pride in yourself, having that mana.







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Ko Mauao me Pūwhenua ngā maunga  
Ko Tauranga te moana  
Ko te Waikareao te kete kai  
Ko Takitimu te waka  
Ko Ranginui te iwi  
Ko Tamateapokaiwhenua te tangata  
Ko Ngāi Tamarāwaho te hapū  
Ko Huria te marae

**Nga Huatau Taiohi**  
Huatau, meaning one's thoughts, ideas, comments and opinions, comprises two words hua (bearing fruit/thinking, deciding) and tau (settling down/alternating).  
Taiohi literally means youthful, adolescent or young adult and is used in names such as Te Tari Taiohi (the Ministry of Youth Development). It comes from the term tai referring to the ebb and flow of the tide and in particular to the point when the tide turns and changes. Metaphorically adolescence is another point of change.

Secondary schools giving life to Ka Hikita and addressing the aspirations of Maori communities by supporting Maori students to pursue their potential



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Enjoying and achieving education success as Māori is:

- Being able to resist the negative stereotypes about being Māori

The lies that we get told - that we can't do it. But we are strong people. When you go back to the wars that were fought, the battles that were fought, that doesn't just stay in the past. Those battles were fought for us to be here, to move forward.

My biggest success would be overcoming the barriers, the doubts, the stereotypes about me being Māori - and also the limitations of my school.

It feels good to prove other people wrong when they're stuck thinking that because we're Māori we can't achieve in an academic world, and we can only achieve in Visual Arts and nothing related to English and careers and Science and Technology. Everyone is capable of anything we set our mind to.

I'm the first. I'm the first one to make it to this point. To make it to Level 1 in my family is like: "Wow!"

Times have changed. In our school we now see our Māori students succeeding at the same level as the Pākehā students.

Just because I'm 'smart' doesn't mean that I'm not Māori. Success is being able to hold on to who we really are as Māori.

It's not so much where you come from. For me it's who you make yourself to be.

- Being strong in your Māori cultural identity

It's achieving academically, in sports, and in a range of different areas - but still holding on to your culture and who you are as Māori, and what it means to be Māori.

Culture's important going through education. Culture just brings it all back home.

We have a culture to be proud of. Kapa haka is amazing. It makes your blood boil. It makes your eyes open. It's just amazing.

What makes me proud to be Māori is that I can connect myself to the land and to the environment around me. That spiritual connection helps me push forward in my education and embrace it.

The learning of kapa haka, of environment, of nature; connect it to Māori and release it to the generations. That's the bigger picture that I see for the future in my life and that's what makes me proud.

There's a huge drive on excellence, but there's also a huge drive on keeping your culture alive - making it known to you and to everybody else, that you are Māori and you're proud to be Māori.

I'm a white boy. People don't expect me to be Māori, but I consider myself Māori. It's not the colour of my skin, it's my ancestors. So that's who I follow and who I want to make happy.

- Developing and maintaining emotional and spiritual strength

Because of my whakapapa, my tipuna, I can believe in who I am.

It's surrounding yourself in the environment that you need to be surrounded in. You don't want to be put, or you don't want to put yourself, in a negative area that's not going to help you, not going to support you, take you in the wrong direction and lead you the wrong way, when you know where to go. So you need to put yourself in that position, te haere tika (the right path).



Every time I feel down, I go and talk to my Nan. She gives me some advice.

Make yourself able to grow. Don't limit your thinking. Allow it to expand, and allow people to speak into your life. Listen to it and filter it, 'cause what you listen to grows in you, and you speak it. Just allow people to speak into your life so you can grow and create new paths.

A lot of young Māori have this thing in them, this whakamā. I'd like to break that shame.

- Knowing, accepting and acknowledging the strength of working together

Knowing that you've got somebody in your corner who wants you to succeed, makes you want to succeed.

It's mostly my whānau who tell me never to give up.

When we want to succeed, we don't only want to succeed for us. We want to succeed for our families and everyone who has been there for us. We want to make a better future.

Our whole community is behind everyone. They just want you to get out and explore the world, get an education, and then once you've reached that point, come back and just give back. That's how we've been raised to be successful - not just for yourself, but for everyone else. They want what we want, and I think that's what drives us.

- Being able to contribute to the success of others

As Māori, you want everyone to be there with you to help you along the way, and to help them along the way. You don't just want to succeed for yourself, but you're taking everyone with you.

I am doing it because I want to give back to my community. I think that's what our goal in life is - just to give back.

It's not the achievement itself. It's what happens afterwards - being able to provide and give back to the people who have helped and supported you along the way.

I think being there as a role model was one of the biggest things that really made me feel like I was making a difference, when they felt like they had someone to

come and talk to, they could relate to. I felt really special.

Doing the best that you can do academically, still holding on to who you are as a Māori person. Not just thinking of yourself and your immediate whānau; thinking of your whole iwi, your whole rohe, all your people. Wanting to help others, but holding on to who you are.



- Understanding that success is part of who we are

I saw a lot of Māori beginning to want Excellences in their classes.

This year our top academic students were both Māori, and I think that it just drove us all.

I'd like for a new stereotype to be that there are Māori students achieving, and that's just what they do.

It showed everyone that it doesn't matter where you come from, you can achieve if you put the hard yards in.

As both Māori and Cook Island, in a Europeanised education system, I can confidently say that I can pass between the three worlds, and not be a stranger.

I mean, all three of us can stand on a stage and dance the hula, and be confident with ourselves. And then stand in a pōwhiri and be confident there too. I know how to do Level 1 Algebra, or write a creative writing piece that'll give me an Excellence. Those are successes that we are setting for ourselves today so that in 10 years time, maybe even sooner, that'll be normal for Māori students when they're our age.

- Being able to build on your own experiences and the experiences of others

Not only do our teachers help us, but our kaumātua help us learn - we should also embrace our connection with our kaumātua.

Being the only one of my family to actually make it to high school, using my siblings' failures to drive my success - that's really helped me through high school.

My grandparents always pushed my brother and me to try our hardest. They don't want us to be like them and not finish high school. My brother - he always wanted me to be better cause he didn't finish high school either. He's always wanted me to try my hardest and believe in myself - to go on to bigger things.

You really have to turn everything into a positive note. Like, you have to use your past experiences as motivation to get to where you want to be, to make your ancestors proud.

- A success of mine

A success of mine would have to be when I was given the opportunity to stand as a speaker at the Manu Kōrero competition for my region. I was able to stand on behalf of my family, of my school, of my region, of my iwi, of all of my ancestors. I was able to stand there proudly and say: "You know, I deserve to be here. I'm Māori!" And that's a huge success - setting that example, and being a role model for younger brothers and sisters or cousins - or anyone who wants to do those things. You know, showing them that they can do it if they just have the confidence to try.







Ko Tauhara te maunga  
Ko Taupo te moana  
Ko Waikato te awa  
Ko Ngāti Rauhoto rāua ko Ngāti Te Urunga ngā hapū  
Ko Nukuhau te marae

The journey to these Huatau Taiohi began when the Kia Eke Panuku Expert Advisory Group developed a discussion chart to exemplify what they understood by *enjoying and achieving education success as Māori*.

This discussion chart was then tested with students at nine Hui Whakaako, from Whitiōra Marae in the Far North to Te Rau Aroha Marae at the Bluff.

Under the mantle of protection afforded by these marae, the thoughts (ngā huatau) of these young people (taiohi) ebbed and flowed. These thoughts were captured on tape, transcribed and common themes across the Hui Whakaako began to emerge.

Taiohi from 58 Kia Eke Panuku schools shared what they had experienced and understood by *enjoying and achieving education success as Māori*. The consistency of their commentary from one marae to the next, attests to the legitimacy of these messages. In reading them we are challenged to consider our own response to their voices and how we might ensure all Māori students are able to enjoy and achieve education success as Māori.

Further analysis of Ngā Huatau Taiohi is available at [www.kep.org.nz](http://www.kep.org.nz)

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Enjoying and achieving education success as Māori is:

• Being able to resist the negative stereotypes about being Māori

A lot of people think being Māori is trying to work against something. But if you're Māori, you're working with your whole culture. You have your ancestors, your family, they're all behind you. Being Māori is something that will support you, not something that you have to fight against.

To be successful is not to conform to the negative stereotype that we all know is there with being a Māori student. Being successful, it's not just academically or physically but it's also the respect you get from the teachers and friends.

My older brother he sort of slacked off with school, and he knows it. He talks to me and he always says, "Don't be like me". He always pushes me to make sure I know where I am going. And like, I'm not trying to sound sad, but I don't want to do what he did.

A lot of Māori do have talent, I can see it in my cousins and all my family, but they just don't bring it out to the table. You need to put your results on the table. Don't be shy. You need to be proud of who you are as a Māori - show your talents to the people.

I think it's more about pride - showing the way for the rest of the family and for the rest of us as Māori. We just make the path bigger, not longer. And I reckon, being the oldest, I have to show my brothers and my cousins and my extended family that they can be more than what they are.

The Māori pass rate for NCEA has lifted in our school. It is lifting every year and I think the word that's been thrown around is pride, and I do carry a lot of pride in seeing that I was part of that stat.

Breaking that stereotype and those assumptions that are put on us as Māori. I don't think success for us is just academic. It's finding who we are and being happy with our wellbeing, and being able to confidently walk with te ao Māori and te ao Pākehā. (the Māori and Pākehā worlds). And showing them that we can do just as good as they can, and better.

When all of us Māori kids can walk into our school and be proud to wear our uniform, I think that's a good success. Not just walking in, but when you walk out of our school and we're not rushed to take our uniform off because we're proud to wear it. I reckon that's a pretty big thing.

I saw this Māori fella on the fifty-dollar note, and I asked my dad: "Who's this fella, Dad?" And he said: "Oh, that's Api (Apirana Ngata). He was the first Māori to graduate from a university." I know Api is a big inspiration for Māori, and I respect that. I want to be like that fella.

We have to push past the expectations that the world has on Māori. We have so much talent and intelligence, but it's these statistics and the kind of image that everybody else has placed on us that hold us back. There is resilience amongst us, and it's slowly coming through. And that's what success means to me as a Māori.

I was first in my family to pass Level 1 in school, and so for me I was happy as. I don't want to tell my mum yet. I want her to find out next year so she can be happy too.

• Being strong in your Māori cultural identity

Receiving the award this year was a big thing. It was emotional having friends and family members standing up, doing the haka tautoko (performance in support) because that was unheard of in our school until the past two years. Just having that made me feel proud and not so shy. It was so good.

When we have pride in being Māori and are not whakamā, you can show that you can succeed. Still have the tikanga to be humble, but you can say, "I'm proud to stand here as a Māori and receive this."

I used to be pretty bad in Year 9 and 10, but then when I joined kapa haka in Year 11, that changed me - changed who I am. I'm a better person now. Matua kind of dropped me in the deep end, made me step up and change. He just gave me a lot of opportunities and he's taught me a lot.

I wasn't really raised in a Māori way, so joining kapa haka was finding out more about my culture and learning about myself. That's success for me.

For me, just passing was a big thing, I was on top of the world. Maybe next year I can endorse with Merit or Excellence.

It's knowing who you are and being able to introduce yourself, your Māori heritage. Being proud of being Māori, being OK with yourself. You can be Māori and be an achiever. Being Māori is just amazing.

Success all comes from just being who you are. Everything all comes together, and if you are proud to be who you are, then everything else comes flowing through. So embracing being Māori is very important for me personally, and it helps a lot to know that you've got everyone behind you - your iwi, your friends, everyone like that.

People never thought that I was Māori. They just thought I was a typical white boy, and I was like: "No, it's just I'm a white Māori." And it was like: "Oh that's not a real Māori." Well it is to me.

• Being able to contribute to the success of others

Success for me is being able to support the students of our school. It's just an amazing feeling when you are able to help other people and make them want to do good.

Our school has the funding for a wharenuī. It's going to go up in front of the school. I think that will be a big contributor to student success. It's something close to us, and something we as Māori students and the rest of the school will have.

I haven't really had a role model to look up to in my family, because there's nobody really that's academically successful. So, really, I want to be the first person in my family to succeed at school.

I was selected for peer support. That was fun. I enjoyed that, and that helped me with leadership skills. Then being part of the PPP (Pause Prompt Praise) programme - that was good! It also made me feel happy, because you were helping younger Māori students along the way.

Like, if you see one of us pass, that means that we can all pass. We can actually beat the stereotypes.



• Developing discipline and maintaining emotional strength

I didn't carry kapa haka on because I thought it was a bit too much. I wanted to focus on my schoolwork. But then I realised, sticking with kapa haka, it's what really pushed me to do everything really.

I didn't have to give up anything to do what I wanted. I just did everything.

Through kapa haka I learnt a lot of discipline, and that's paid off with my schoolwork, because you've got to be disciplined when it comes to your studies.

My dad, he always expects us to do the best that we can in everything we do: "Don't do anything half-pai." He always talks to me and makes sure I do the best I can. So that's why I was sort of annoyed last year that I only got Merit endorsement and missed out by four credits for Excellence. Being able to say that you've succeeded means that you've tried doing everything, you haven't given up, you've tried your hardest.

I used to come to school just to see my friends. I was bored. Now, I've really changed my mind-set. I come to school and I work hard so I can get somewhere in life.

Just reading The Word when you're troubled and just finding the meaning that you need. It's really helpful.

Being happy and making sure your wellbeing is okay - your physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing. You can feel good inside and outside.

• Experiencing the power of whanaungatanga

When you're doing kapa haka you have a lot of connections and relationships. It means I have friends and family around me, helping me along the way to university, helping with curriculum stuff.

We're working closely with the community, with the local marae who are hosting NCEA information evenings.

To me, my biggest success in school is finding a family. Having a family within the school and finding my place within that.

It's the massive support network that I have. There's my family and then my whānau class at school.

They're just always pushing me to do better and to strive for the best. They always have your back through everything.

My dad, he's probably my biggest critic, but he's like my biggest fan at the same time. He's always there for me, always telling me what I can do, and he's just always supporting me. Same as my mum. When it comes to school, she's the one that's making sure I do my homework and have everything done on time.

My number one supporter is my mum. She has been there since day one. She knows what I want to do, and how she can help me. My two older sisters, they're there when I need advice and when I just need anything. Whaea at school, she's helped me with everything. When I need anything, she's always there. Our principal, she's like my mentor. She's somebody I can talk to and she's really good friends with my mum.

If you've got great support around you, it's all going to happen.

• Knowing that you can access explicit and timely direction

We have a special initiative in our school. It not only helps with your leadership skills, but it keeps track of your academic records, your attendance and everything. They really crack the whip and help you to stay on track. Teachers help us to understand what we need for university and what we need to gain scholarships or anything like that.

It's made me more confident - there's so much support. We're just like a big family, we've got support everywhere, so that's awesome.

My tutor teacher, he makes sure that if my grades aren't up to standard, that I re-submit and get them up. Just teachers in general - they've pushed me this year to do my best.

The teachers in school are so helpful. They give us more than they had and they also act like our parents. They form that relationship with us so we can bond with them easily, and that contributes to our success.









Enjoying and achieving education success as Māori is:

- Being able to resist the negative stereotypes about being Māori

You're not going to look at a Pākehā person and be like: "Oh, he can do this. I bet a Māori can't."

You really want to make something of yourself and make your family and iwi proud - and you want to beat the stats. You want to just be you and succeed.

It's about trying to change the stereotype that they've put on all of us as Māori. We can all actually achieve - sometimes even better than others.

Everyone knows we have this stereotype - that we're not as high achievers as anyone else in our world today. Yesterday, this actually happened to me. Someone came into work and when I was serving them they pretty much told me that Māori can't achieve, that they're not successful people. And it really hurt me. I want to prove that stereotype wrong.

I just want to show the world that we as Māori can achieve, and we can achieve anything we want to if we put our mind to it.

Regardless of your culture, your ethnicity, anyone can achieve anything. I mean, look at our Governor-General.



- Being strong in your Māori cultural identity

For me it's being able to walk in both worlds - te ao Pākehā me te ao Māori (*the Pākehā world and the Māori world*); being able to balance them both; being able to implement them into your life; being able to recall the wisdom and tikanga (*cultural customs and practices*) of our tupuna (*ancestors*) who we should never forget. They made us. They are us, and we are them.

You have a key to both huarahi (*pathways*). You just have an advantage, like a specialty. You just embrace your culture in both worlds, and you can do everything that any other person can do. It's awesome!

Accepting the people around you, being able to welcome both worlds. It's very important, especially in a mainstream school.

Being able to walk in te ao Māori me te ao Pākehā. In essence, being able to be successful in the modern world but hold steadfast to our culture, our traditions, our tikanga. I can be successful in the modern world but also pupuri ki aku tikanga (*hold on to our cultural customs and practices*), and be humble. Above all, hold on to te reo Māori. It's what makes us unique. It's what's makes us Māori.

- Being able to contribute to the success of others

I'm a part of the tuakana-teina (*older-younger sibling*) system, where you aspire to be a good role model for our younger students, and for all cultures. There are no barriers.

As a leader for next year, one of my main goals is to bring a lot more Māori students along the journey to success with me. I like to encourage it - to tautoko (*support*) it any way I can.

We have a tuakana-teina set up. When I was little I was set up with a tuakana, and they would guide me and help me and advise me, and it was so cool. Tuakana help you through school with everything, like sports or education. They just help you. Now that I'm older, I'm a tuakana and I've got a teina, and helping them and giving them that support, it's such a cool way to promote success and whanaungatanga. It's... it's just so awesome.

When I have got my degree at the end of university, I will be generous, and care for my family and community.

Having the confidence within yourself to know that you can succeed and enjoy the journey our own Māori way as well. I really like that.

- Experiencing the power of whanaungatanga

Coming from a kura kaupapa into the Bilingual school or the English school, you feel like you don't know anything because you haven't been taught in that way. You kind of put yourself down, and you're insecure about your education. But being in the school that we are, and having the kind of people that really encourage us, we've begun to feel special again - and in our own Māori way as well. I really like that.

There was this one time where I got a Not Achieved and my mum said: "Go back to that teacher go and ask her for a re-assessment". I was like, "Oh no Mum, nah." And she was like, "If you don't, I'll go see that teacher."

She is the type of person who really pushes you to achieve excellence.

The most influence I've had would be from my kapa haka (*Māori cultural performance*) tutors. They work hard every day of their lives and they lead great lives. They showed me that I can achieve anything I want to achieve.

The teachers made me realise that I should stay at school and not drop out. Giving me belief in myself means that I stayed and I succeeded.

- Knowing, accepting and acknowledging the strength of working together

Something that helped me is the whanaungatanga (*relationship-building*) with teachers, and also friends.

They really pushed me to succeed. That's something that I think supported me, throughout my years at this school. It's hard not to do well with the support of the teachers and the people around you. They motivate you, and the motivation inspires you to do your best.







Titiro ki te marangai ki te maunga o Tokerau, ki Rakaumangamanga  
Ki te awa, te Kerei Mangonui e rere atu nei  
Ka huri taku titiro ki taku taha matau ki ngā pukepuke e rarangi mai ra  
Ko te Waha o te Riri tērā, ko Matoa tērā, ko te pa o Tareha tērā  
Ka ruku atu ahau ki te Awa o te Rangatira - e tu ake ra a Rangitane, te kaitiaki ia Kororipo  
Ka huri taku titiro ki te hau Tonga - ko te maunga Pokaka tērā, ko te awa o Waitangi e haruru mai ra  
Ka awhiowhio atu te hau ki te Hauauru, ko te maunga o Whakataha e tu mai ra,  
ko Whakataha hoki te pa, ko Hawaikinui te moana - Tihei mauri ora!

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Enjoying and achieving education success as Māori is:

- Being able to resist the negative stereotypes about being Māori

I've noticed that when people are asked if they're Māori or not, not many people admit it. But for me, I'm actually proud to be Māori, and I think everyone should be.

People saying stuff like: "Māori can't do this, can't do that" - it's just heart-breaking, because we do have a lot of Māori achievers within New Zealand. It's really good knowing when you have done something and you've done your culture proud.

People in our community say, "Oh, that person's dumb because they're Māori". Being a school leader next year, I will work against this stereotype that Māori are underachievers. It's a privilege, and I hope that other Māori students and our community can realise that. Just because you're Māori, it doesn't mean that you're dumb. And it doesn't mean that you can't achieve.

When I was receiving my awards at the assembly, there was a Māori boy who said to me: "How did you get those awards? You're a Māori boy. I don't know how you got them and why you got them. You must be paying them".

Some people see Māori as a barrier. I do believe that our people need to look straight past that, because it's not true.

Learning is fun. If I could do it for a living... well, that's me.

- Being strong in your Māori cultural identity

Māori are such outgoing, proud and confident people, and that reflects in us - in our sporting and academic and our other achievements, knowing that we have the mana and the reo of a Māori person.

Succeeding as Māori just looks like being Māori - you're not afraid to be proud to be Māori. Walking down the corridors at our school, I'll strut my stuff as Māori. I'll have the mean wiri (*trembling hands*) going down the corridors and inspire other Māori students to succeed and push to their limits - making them see themselves as more than what they think they should be.

Just be proud of who you are, and you don't need to hide that.

Succeeding as Māori is having and using Māori values and beliefs because they make up who we are - that's being Māori. You don't have to physically look Māori or do things that people say are Māori, like kapa haka or te reo, because you are Māori. It's what's inside you. I find all of those beliefs help you succeed as Māori. They can also help others. Success is a lot about what you do for other people.

- Being able to contribute to the success of others

It's not just academic success. You can succeed in sports or be a role model to the younger generation coming up.

We've been mentoring some Year 10 boys. I went to a leadership day where they were running an activity. They led it, and it was just so cool to see how they had grown over the year. Given the opportunity, they can succeed. People believed in them and they were told: "You're a leader", and it helped them a lot.



- Experiencing the power of whanaungatanga

Matua is one of my biggest helpers for my academic side of things. He's pushed me to go harder and to do Māori, and to put te reo Māori into my everyday life - instead of just using it in class.

My parents - they always push me, my brother and my sister to do what we can do and to always do our best.

My parents, they didn't get the chance to go to uni and all that stuff, so they want me to succeed as much as I can, and they support me every step of the way. I know that everyone is supporting me, I know everyone's behind me. It's a really good feeling to know I can succeed and people are always looking out for you. That's pretty cool.

- Knowing that you can access explicit and timely direction

Our teachers - they're like our pou (*support pole*) at school. They relate to us. Like, if we're being haututu (*mischievous*) they'll be haututu back. Their teaching skills are fun. They make it like not so boring - they don't teach down to you. They just expect you to do well, help you when you're down, teach us to get back up.

Normally I'm like REALLY bad when it comes to English and writing. I don't usually give an end result, but this year she's been pushing me and I've actually been getting Excellences in English, which I've never done before.

She's helped me become a prefect, actually pushing me, saying, "The Māori students are always underestimated, I believe in you". Her belief in me really helped me this year.



- Knowing, accepting and acknowledging the strength of working together

Being proud to be Māori, using your culture to drive yourself, to try and benefit yourself and others.

Inspiring other students to become role models, getting others to step up and having others help you step up.

Having a Māori group in your school is great because you get to know one another, and know more about yourself. They're like a supportive group for everyone in there. They don't laugh at you. Like, they laugh with you. You're being educated about yourself, about your pepeha, your ancestors. You're able to take that back to your family - spread that knowledge out to friends as well as the wider community.







Ko Pukeatua te marae  
Ko Te Awakairangi te awa  
Ko Te Atiawa te iwi  
Ko Waiwhetu te marae  
Ko Arohanui ki te Tangata te whare  
Ko Te Atiawa no runga i te Rangi

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Enjoying and achieving education success as Māori is:

- Being able to resist the negative stereotypes about being Māori

I'm one of a few Māori students in a prefect leadership role at our school. I think my success as a Māori student is I don't have to put away any part of my Māori identity. I'm allowed to walk in that identity and speak te reo Māori.

- Having Māori culture and values celebrated at school

We have teachers who have come from England and from other countries who have no te reo Māori. They learn te reo Māori and try to understand it. I can help them. That's important for me because it shows that they have motivation, they have a passion to understand students at a deeper level. It shows me that they take into consideration my culture and who I am as a person, as a Māori person. It shows that they appreciate that as well.

One of the good things that the teachers at school do is - there's a teachers' kapa haka group, and that really shows in class work. Teachers are doing karakia; they're able to pronounce Māori names properly. Because, not being able to have a teacher pronounce your name properly is quite irritating. A lot of the teachers do try and are working hard to interact with Māori students.

She does karakia in the morning and when we leave, so that she can impact Māori on all other students in our class. She was from South Africa.



All the teachers, instead of just saying: "Stand up!", they'll say: "E tu!". And instead of saying: "Sit down!", they'll say: "E noho!". And they're using those small Māori sentences and scenarios to be able to make the classroom a friendlier environment for Māori students.

He's Pākehā. He took Māori right from the junior years to senior year, and he's near to a fluent level of speaking Māori. He's been one of the only Head Boys since I've been there, that will get up on stage at the appropriate times and speak in Māori.

I guess being a New Zealander means you've got the best of both worlds.

- Experiencing the power of whanaungatanga

All of the boys that take Māori have been a huge support for me. When we went down to Porirua for Manu Kōrero, we took all of the senior Māori boys and a few of the junior Māori boys. They did a haka tautoko for me up on stage, and they were the people that calmed my nerves at my most nervous point, and really made me relaxed and calm.

- Developing and maintaining emotional and spiritual strength

We have a teacher from England who's gone over to the kura next door to learn te reo Māori. That shows me that he appreciates my whakapapa; he appreciates where I come from; who I am as a person, and my culture. That helps me understand where they're coming from as a teacher, and what they're trying to teach me. I understand that they want to know who I am, so I want to know what they have to teach me. It brings them to a level where you're able to respect them as a teacher and as a person as well. You understand that they value who you are and what you do in your life, so you value them and you want to learn from them.

- Knowing that you can access explicit and timely direction

He helps us with anything we need, anything at all. If I have problems at home or at school, if you're not really studying that well, he'll take the time to help you with that. Whenever I'm lacking in schoolwork - anything at all - he just helps us out.

She focuses on everybody, but if you're a Māori student in her class, she really helps you out and tries to impact you as much as she can.

He helps out with anything we need for schoolwork. We can just go see him, because we know that we can talk to him about anything.

- Knowing, accepting and acknowledging the strength of working together

Our headmaster, the Māori department, and our teachers - they have all been strong supporters of Māori students, our work and our culture. They want to see us prosper and thrive into the successful young people that we can be. One teacher helped me to develop leadership skills; he's been a strong supporter in my personal life and where I want to go in the future.



- Being strong in your Māori cultural identity

For me, I guess it's important having an understanding of tikanga Māori, having an understanding of te reo Māori, and knowing yourself through your identity as Māori. I think that's very important - being able to express to others and portray that you are succeeding, but you are succeeding as a Māori student.

We were asked to do a haka to show all the other countries some of our culture. It was an honour being able to show people who had never seen a haka. Doing it for them and giving them a real New Zealand Māori feel of what haka is about.

- Being able to contribute to the success of others

Last year in our Māori class, we had a few Pākehā boys who hardly knew any Māori at all. We kind of thought that they weren't enjoying it, but then you see them the next year coming back. It's really cool to see that they're actually enjoying it and learning it, like actually liking te reo Māori.

We hang down at our gym and there's these Pākehā boys, and they start speaking te reo. It's a cool thing to see. And then we can just go and speak it with them, just for fun, and they're actually having fun doing it.







Ko Taranaki te maunga  
Ko Ōākura Matapu te awa  
Ngāti Tairi me Ngā Māhanga a Tairi ngā hapū  
Ko Taranaki te iwi  
Ko Okorotua te marae atea  
Ko Ōākura Matapu te pa  
Ko Moana Kaurai te wharenui

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Enjoying and achieving education success as Māori is:

- Being able to resist the negative stereotypes about being Māori

If you're a Māori, you're probably already put in those classes where they're not pushing you to succeed as much, so automatically you do not achieve well. That's the overall stereotype of Māori achievement. People aren't expecting as much of you.

Back in the day, you never used to find very many successful Māori people out there doing things - and these days you do. We're kind of changing that. I want to do managing and marketing and go into Māori business, and get more of that kind of thing rolling.

Success as a Māori student, for me, is breaking the stereotypes of not succeeding and not doing as well in school. For me, Māori is my strongest subject. But it doesn't get acknowledged as much as if you got endorsed with Excellence in English. So to break the stereotypes for a Māori student, is to succeed well and be acknowledged, just as much as succeeding in a non-Māori based subject.

This year, being Head Girl has been pretty cool. That breaks the stereotype. Māori can be leaders and they don't just sit around and do nothing. We're passing NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3, and now getting UE and going off to University.

There's been a lot more interest in Māori things. Māori successes have really been acknowledged, like a lot, a lot more. And it makes you feel really good.



- Experiencing the power of whanaungatanga

It doesn't matter what skin colour you are, or where you're from. There are different protocols and things you have to follow, but it's still the same - you still belong to one big family.

No matter where you go, you have whānau. No matter if you're related to them or not, you've always got people there. Other Māori people are always going to support you and help you out if you need it. And yeah, it's just a really good feeling of, like, having family just everywhere.

If you're struggling with anything at all, even if it is social or anything to do with school, teachers always have your back. They're not afraid to step out of the box for inspiration; they're always there. I've heard of Māori students coming back to our school and asking for help.

- Knowing, accepting and acknowledging the strength of working together

I'd have to say the biggest help in school is probably my mates. Because if the teacher explains it to me and I don't understand it, my mates will have my back and explain it to me in a way they know I'll understand - and that's always good.

You can approach most people - pretty much all the teachers at our school. And they're willing to drop everything and help you out. They're always willing to help anyone, even if you are Māori. If you're not Māori, it doesn't matter.

I've succeeded because I've had the help of others. Doing it on your own is just not easy, so having those others there, helping you, is essential.



- Being strong in your Māori cultural identity

You sort of have that pride. You know, that mana, that you carry with you, because you know you're bigger than something other than yourself.

With the Māori culture, there's something that you can just own. You don't have to be afraid to be yourself. Even though some Māori don't do kapa haka, some don't do certain things, you still are Māori. You carry pride, you carry mana, and you're still part of something that is really cool.

It was pretty incredible. We went around Nelson and Marlborough to learn about our culture and our history. I think that was really successful for every single one of us. We learnt all about the area where we're living and all about our own whānau. We made some awesome friends and met a lot of Māori people who will tell you everything about the history to help you along your journey.

Our system has changed quite a bit. For assemblies, at the beginning, the Māori Prefect goes up and does a karakia to begin the assembly. That's happened within the last three years, and there was more interest in Māori culture after the Manu Kōrero was held at our school. It was like, look at all these successful people. That opened our school up a lot more to the Māori side of it, I guess. We can acknowledge them as well.

- Being able to contribute to the success of others

It's been cool being able to teach the younger students what I learnt as a younger student. It's all about the family, the whānau and sharing our knowledge. I learn things from the junior students every day, as well as they learn things from me.

My biggest success was probably getting Māori Prefect. There were other people going for it, but for me it felt really right, because I was connected with

all the teina. I've grown with them through school. They've been my biggest support and I've been theirs. So it's pretty cool for me to get a role that goes higher up into the school, so I can bring it back, if that makes sense?

Everyone who puts themselves out as Māori, we're really close. We have a classroom and we just hang out in there. We support each other and we share our successes together and we grow together. We are just this huge whānau. We're a little bit separate from everyone else, but it brings us a lot closer. We know that we can be ourselves, we feel good to be ourselves. We're proud to be Māori.

- Developing and maintaining emotional and spiritual strength

I think it's always good keeping your cultural values with you - as in who you are - with everything that you do, so you can always go back to them. If you're going to succeed, you're going to succeed as yourself, not as someone else. As Māori people, you hold that mana. I'm proud to be a Māori person.

Kapa haka is like a big family, a second family. You can go there upset, confused, frustrated, and by the end of it, you're fine again. It's that place that you can go and put all of those emotions into something like a haka. It helps a lot, for sure.

It gives you that little mana boost. You feel good after a period of kapa haka. It makes you more focused.

It's about not comparing yourself with others and doing the best that you can, and having fun doing it - just enjoying learning.

- Knowing that you can access explicit and timely direction

One teacher, he's followed me right through school and he's made sure I've kept out of trouble, more so this year because I wasn't the best student up until Year 10. He's pushed me to do my best and shown me what I can do, rather than just me, doing what I think I can do. He's shown me that I can do more than I think.

Often you don't think that teachers are there to help you, but they really are. They are so open to helping you, helping you succeed.







Ko Kurahaupo te waka  
Ko Tapuae o Uenuku te maunga  
Ko Wairau te awa  
Ko Ngāti Apa ki te Ra To me Rangitane o Wairau ngā iwi  
Ko Te Aroha o Te Waipounamu te whare  
Ko te Waioara te wharekai  
Ko Omake te marae

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Enjoying and achieving education success as Māori is:

- Being able to resist the negative stereotypes about being Māori

It felt so good passing, because every time you walk past a teacher that taught you, they'd always be like: "So good to see that you guys passed and that you decided to come back to school." It just feels great hearing them say that.

I feel proud as a Māori when success comes through and you hear: "Oh, it's the Māori students. They're the ones passing." Māori students are excelling at our school.

It means there's hope for Māori to become something more than everyone's stereotypes. It brings hope just to see that we can actually make a difference.

Not a lot of Māori kids have actually made it to the senior levels in our school. I think people are scared of failure, because they'd feel ashamed. But failure, you can learn from it. It's nothing bad. Just push yourself. Who cares if you only get Achieved? At least it's something. So be proud of yourself, and have the mana. Actually, be the Māori kid that gets to the senior level and passes. It makes you feel really good about yourself.

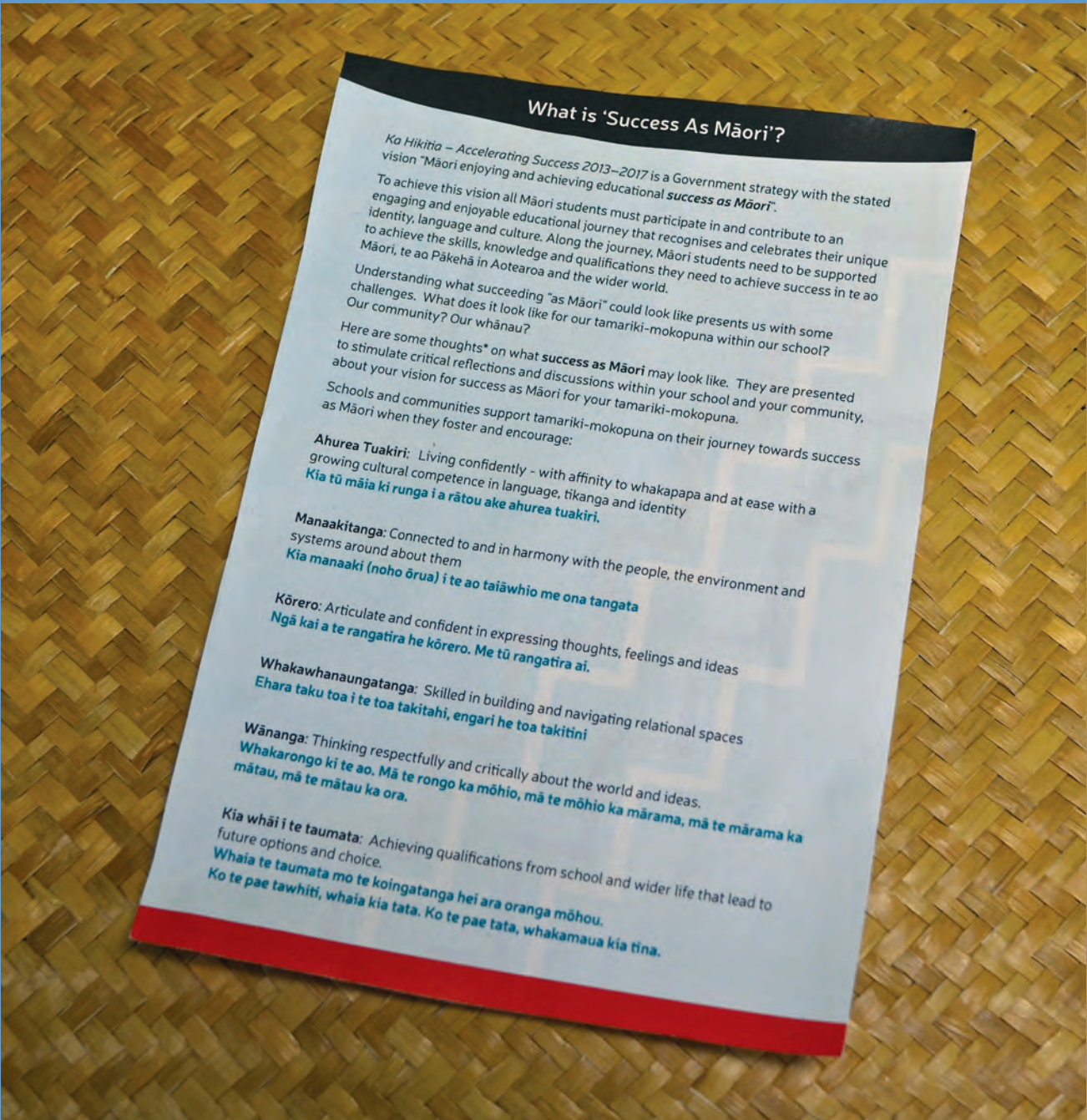
When you're a Māori and you achieve, it's amazing because quite a lot of Māori get underestimated. For Māori to show people our capabilities, what we can do, it's quite an amazing feeling. When other Māori see our achievements, they want to be just like us, so they push for it as well.

- Being strong in your Māori cultural identity

The first day we did introductions, it felt great to stand up and say my mihimihi in Māori, especially knowing that I was the only one there from my school. I felt a bit nervous, but I still had the guts to do it, and I felt great saying it. It was just something I won't forget. My parents were so proud of me.

I don't think it should be any different achieving success as Māori as it is for other cultures, but it is. Because you have to be able to achieve - but still be able to stay true to being Māori.

You get those Māori out there that are top of the top and they can go anywhere in life.



- Being able to contribute to the success of others

We do get support from our parents and stuff. But it's getting encouraged by your own peers, and giving encouragement to people your own age. It shows that we're not just young teenagers who just like to muck around.

Sometimes the people that help you succeed are the people that don't really realise that they're doing it. Like people that you look up to as role models so that you want to emulate what they're doing. It gives you courage to be better than what is expected of you.

- Developing and maintaining emotional and spiritual strength

It's perseverance. Māori students don't show off in the school, like, "Oh, I'm the greatest person. I'm the man at doing whatever I do." They're just real. They do a lot of background work. Behind everything they're doing a lot of hard work, but they never show that when they get awarded for it. They never show off, or they never show that they're struggling. Quiet, working hard, doing all those little things so that they can get something big out of it.

If you're getting put down all the time, you have to look on the bright side and know that you're better than those people. If you're not happy with yourself, then how are you going to get anywhere in life? There's a lot of achievement coming from our school now.

- Knowing that you can access explicit and timely direction

It's pretty easy talking to all the teachers and they're all really helpful. They just push you and they tell you when you're not doing what you should be. They've really helped me a lot. You realise that you actually do need these credits if you want to go far in school. This year has been a really good year, and I'm looking forward to next year.

At the start of the year I didn't really feel confident because I wasn't getting credits or anything. In class I was always the quiet one and my science teacher recognised it. He helped me. He just pushed me to get extra credits, and that was big.







Ko Maungatere te maunga  
Ko Rakahuri te awa  
Ko Takitimu te waka  
Ko Ngāi Tahu te iwi  
Ko Ngāi Tūāhuriri te hapū  
Ko Maahunui II te whare  
Ko Tuahiwi te marae

The journey to these Huatau Taiohi began when the Kia Eke Panuku Expert Advisory Group developed a discussion chart to exemplify what they understood by *enjoying and achieving education success as Māori*.

This discussion chart was then tested with students at nine Hui Whakaako, from Whitiōra Marae in the Far North to Te Rau Aroha Marae at the Bluff.

Under the mantle of protection afforded by these marae, the thoughts (ngā huatau) of these young people (taiohi) ebbed and flowed. These thoughts were captured on tape, transcribed and common themes across the Hui Whakaako began to emerge.

Taiohi from 58 Kia Eke Panuku schools shared what they had experienced and understood by *enjoying and achieving education success as Māori*. The consistency of their commentary from one marae to the next, attests to the legitimacy of these messages. In reading them we are challenged to consider our own response to their voices and how we might ensure all Māori students are able to enjoy and achieve education success as Māori.

Further analysis of Ngā Huatau Taiohi is available at [www.kep.org.nz](http://www.kep.org.nz)

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Ngā Huatau Taiohi  
Huatau, meaning one's thoughts, ideas, comments and opinions, comprises two words hua (bearing fruit/thinking, deciding) and tau (settling down/alternating).  
Taiohi literally means youthful, adolescent or young adult and is used in names such as Te Tari Taiohi (the Ministry of Youth Development). It comes from the term tai referring to the ebb and flow of the tide and in particular to the point when the tide turns and changes. Metaphorically adolescence is another point of change.  
Secondary schools giving life to Ka Hikita and addressing the aspirations of Māori communities by supporting Māori students to pursue their potential





Enjoying and achieving education success as Māori is:

- Being able to resist the negative stereotypes about being Māori

We can embrace our Māori culture, especially with our successes. If we do well, we know that we have some influence. We can gain Excellence in any subjects we want. Being Māori doesn't stop us at anything. It isn't a boundary, and we can steer past those stereotypes - especially with our school. It allows us to grasp hold of our excellences and success and just fly.

Our success shows, and it leads down to future generations. When we achieve, it proves that more and more of us can achieve to get out of the thing of being, oh, being *troublemakers*, because our success will go down the line to our next generations.

Every year, apart from Year 7, I've had an academic prize, so I've excelled in some of my subjects. I'm pretty good at Science. It's one of my favourite subjects. And one day I hope to be a scientist. Which would be pretty cool, because do you know a Māori scientist? I have done well in competitions like Te Manu Kōrero, and I also do speeches in Japanese as well.



- Being strong in your Māori cultural identity

It's realising who you are and where you came from, and just carrying that through your schooling.

Being in touch with your culture, but in a way that means you're enjoying it, and that success is you doing what you love, and being encouraged to do what you're passionate about.

I'm really interested in history, but when I look back and think of the inter-generational hardship our grandparents and our ancestors who are Māori have had to deal with since the Treaty and the New Zealand wars, that inter-generational cycle of hardship that they've had to overcome and endure, I think how lucky I am and how lucky we are. We have the opportunity to take on different experiences and can go to school where there are teachers who are supporting us. That we can be proud to experience our culture, rather than being punished for it like our grandparents were so long ago. I think how lucky we are to enjoy success as Māori, and for that success not only to be for ourselves, but for the collective, for our whānau, for our village.

Being down south, achieving as Māori is empowering, as there are not as many Māori as up north. Achieving down here as Māori in sports, culture and whatever we do, it gives us more empowerment to be Māori, when we are not as exposed to our Māori culture as other regions of Aotearoa.

One particular teacher, he was quite a big influence on me. He made me feel proud to be Māori, he encouraged it. He just made people express themselves more in that area. You're expressing your Māori culture, and you're being proud of your culture. When you have that success and you show that you're enjoying yourself and enjoying your successes, that reflects back on to your culture.

Being Māori, it's a way people see you. When I've travelled internationally to compete no one knows who I am, no one knows my culture. It's really cool to compete and show them where I come from. I come from a place that's little. I don't have your big cities or multiple coaches around me. I can work off the little things and still make big things out of it, especially by being Māori - just being able to show that my culture has defined who I am and where I'm going in life.



- Being able to contribute to the success of others

My dad's a shearer in the summer and I'm a rousey. So, being in the sheds and working hard is a big reason for what I'm doing. I want to be successful for my parents. Another big reason for why I want to be successful is for my school. We have a bit of a reputation for being the underdog that continues to succeed. Despite public perception, we always have students that thrive, and we always have students that love to succeed. So despite all of this, being a role model for them and eventually being able to give back to my parents is why I want to be successful.

An assessment I had this year involved the idea of researching a sustainable action. The action that I chose was cultural sustainability at our school. A part of this was interviewing students at our school, especially senior Māori students. I asked them for reasons why they think Māori were not achieving at our school. Forty percent of our school are of Māori descent, yet less than 5% are attending Māori subjects or have Māori activities in their lives, and I asked them why. The two reasons were that being Māori wasn't important in a Euro-centric society, and the second was that they were not brought up with Māori being as important in their households.

Next year I'm attending Otago University. I'm going to be studying sociology, Māori studies and indigenous development. I want to study these subjects with the intention of working for the Ministry of Education. I want to bridge the gap for Māori in education. I want to increase Māori success rates overall, and I want to be the figure for all Māori students - to prove that we can be successful, we can be inspirational, and we will succeed despite everything that comes at us.

- Knowing that you can access explicit and timely direction

I've got a lot of teachers that I look up to; they're actually helpful with my subjects like Maths, but also my stepping up and partaking in cultural competitions. Like one, well you'd think the dude who's literally come from the UK wouldn't really be into our cultural activities. He's actually always there up the front, singing in his accent. And he's always saying, "Oh, good on you, stepping up there, and actually up the front, leading." You know, it's pretty good.



- Developing and maintaining emotional and spiritual strength

I think it means someone that is being themselves, using their passion to get them where they want to be. Also using the support of their family around them as motivation and to make them proud, so then everyone's proud.

Being a successful Māori means a real strengthening of identity. The more we succeed, the more we identify with who we are, which resonates with where we're from, and obviously, we're Māori. By succeeding we give more power to our people, to our culture. It just means being able to grow, become bigger and spread our wings to other people, other Māori. And it's just really, really cool.

Doors are opening, the doors to our dreams are opening. We are journeying to the wider world, to our dreams. The big things on our journey are te reo and our customs, and the support of our families.

- Experiencing the power of whanaungatanga

My parents have been there for me, my sister, my whole family. They push me, tell me: "Go out do something with your life" - something that they couldn't do when they were younger. Financially, it's taken a toll - Mum and Dad having to work non-stop. They've been there for me and also with my grandparents and uncle and aunties who've also supported me. They've sacrificed a lot for me to achieve. There are teachers at the school who are quite good at helping us as well. Definitely exposed me more to Māori culture, so I can put that towards my work. They have high expectations for me.

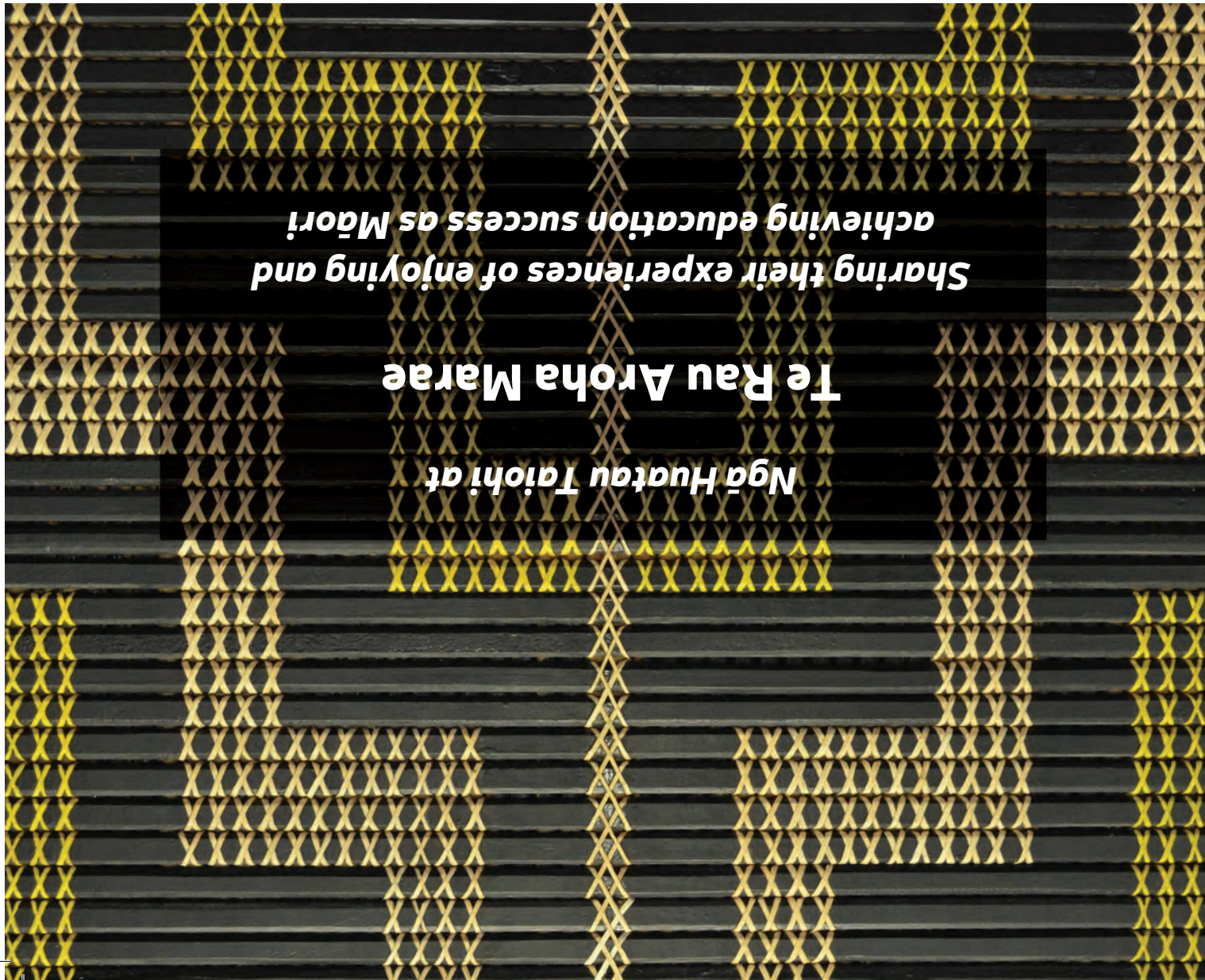
It means getting rid of the idea that Māori, Māori youth in particular, aren't really worth much. By achieving, succeeding, and enjoying, we're a lot better than people think. We might even be better than everyone else because we can actually relate to each other. We have this whānau culture that supports us. It's not about the individual. It's katoa (all). Everyone's there.

- Knowing, accepting and acknowledging the strength of working together

Teachers are a huge help, especially at our school. If you need anything, to talk to anyone, just to help you get to where you need to go, to do what you need to do - say sporting, academic, cultural, arts, anything like that - they'll help you out in any way. My school have helped me to get to where I am, giving me that encouragement to be able to push past and be the best I can be.





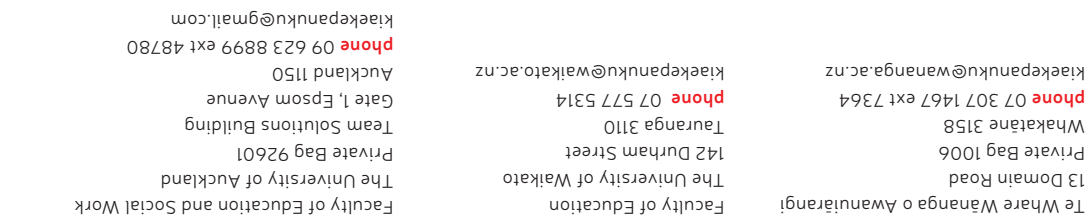


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