

# Shaping Futures Together with Papakura High

As 2024 draws to a close, the Hynds Foundation Business Academy is proud to share the progress made in shaping futures together with Papakura High. This year, we've empowered students through innovative projects, celebrated their achievements, and strengthened our connection with whānau and industry partners.

## Outcomes

At Papakura High School, the Business Academy and its supporters have enabled 600 young people to access opportunities and social capital that otherwise would not have been available to them. Our final report demonstrates successful outcomes for a community that is one of the most deserving of support in our country:

- A school with one of the highest equity indices in New Zealand, meaning high levels of material and social hardship that flow into challenges for educational achievement
- A community where 15% of 15-24 year olds are not in education, employment or training which can lead to a persistent challenge for healthy participation in society

Our focus is on creating the social capital and inspiration that can enable young people to smash barriers to good pathways in employment, further education and business ownership. Evidence of our success includes:

- Excellence award in Young Enterprise.
- Growing partnership ecosystem around Papakura High School providing diverse opportunities for young people to develop their creativity and entrepreneurial skills, and to access employment and further-education experiences relevant for their CVs.
- Positive “voice” of impact from students and staff supported through learning experiences provided.
- Access to new funding and partnership support for the school's STEM-focused strategic plan.

## Outputs

Customer	Processes	Partnerships	Learning and Sharing
600 unique student learning experiences in Business, Further Education, Personal Development and Pathways to Employment	Makerspace design, set up and activations  23 Professional Learning opportunities to inspire teachers	20 new business and alumni partners introduced to support the school's charter objectives. Over 50 partners involved in supporting students	10 community events 10 LinkedIn and Facebook stories shared 3 progress reports for key stakeholders

## Stories

### Hoodarchy Wins South Auckland Social Enterprise of the Year

We are proud to celebrate the incredible success of Hoodarchy, a student-led business that was awarded Young Enterprise *South Auckland Social Enterprise of the Year*, recognising its innovative approach to addressing community needs through enterprise. Hoodarchy created custom-designed hoodies with a social purpose of creating opportunities for young people to learn about the entrepreneurial process through workshops. During a pitch, they gained the confidence of a community project leader in search of a group that could conduct youth research for Auckland Council. The resulting workshops and surveys involved more than 500 youth in a problem-solving process that would inform design of improved community amenities in Papakura. *(There's more about this programme later in our report!)*



This award is a testament to the hard work, creativity, and dedication of the Hoodarchy team, which exemplified the spirit of social entrepreneurship. Their journey through the Young Enterprise Scheme has not only built valuable business skills but also highlighted the importance of creating solutions that make a positive impact on the local community.

The recognition was made even more special with the presence of whaanau and the Principal at the University of Auckland Business School where the students received their award. Their encouragement reflects the strong sense of community at Papakura High and the shared commitment to nurturing student potential. The school is immensely proud of their achievement and looks forward to seeing what's next for this dynamic group of young leaders, as they step out into the world. Destinations of these students are: Australia / MIT / Canterbury for further education in Sports / Local employment.

The recognition at the regional finals will also inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs at Papakura High.

#### Student Voice

*"The awards ceremony was a great experience for our business. Seeing and hearing about some of the top Young Enterprise Teams in Auckland was incredibly valuable, giving us insights and motivation to grow further. We are very happy with our result and it was great to be recognised for our mahi. We hope that we can inspire next year's Young Entrepreneurs in Papakura to achieve similar if not better results."*

## Guitar-Making Workshop Inspires Creativity and Culture



The guitar-making workshops in Makerspace were a resounding success, combining creativity, culture, and cutting-edge technology. Students designed and crafted their guitars using AI to create personalised designs based on myths and legends from their cultures. These designs were laser-etched onto their guitars, making each piece a unique work of art. The students then showcased their creations at a two-night sold-out café event, attended by around 200 people each evening. They shared their process with the audience and even had the opportunity to use it as a sales pitch for those wanting to sell their guitars.

The workshop was expertly led by a passionate and dedicated music teacher. While it's bittersweet to say goodbye as he moves on to a new role at Epsom Girls, his leadership has laid a foundation that others can build on to ensure the programme's continuity.

Looking ahead, there's exciting potential to run the workshop again, possibly for a Young Enterprise team. This would allow students not only to design and craft guitars but also to explore the business side by marketing and selling their creations. The success of this year's workshop highlights the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of Papakura High students and sets the stage for even greater achievements in the future.

### Student Voice

*"Guitar building was fun, there was some cool laser work and the teachers helped a lot."*

*"Emma is a positive person who gives us the best advice when it comes to this topic. Considering I messed up things, Emma was there to correct me with the more specific stuff to ensure that I got the best result. It was also very good how you left the problems for me entirely so I had to think of the solutions needed myself. So overall you're an AMAZING teacher who lets students think for their own answers so thank you miss!"*

### Teacher Voice

*“Emma has done an exceptional job establishing and running the Makerspace, which has become a hub for creativity and tino rangatiratanga, empowering students to take ownership of their learning. The guitar-building project, supported by tools like the X-tool and lasercutter, enabled students to design and etch traditional patterns inspired by Mātauranga Māori, fostering their connection to cultural knowledge while exploring pathways in creative industries and business through this lens. Emma’s mana-enhancing leadership has engaged students who are typically hard to manage in other classes and encouraged equity by providing opportunities for all learners to succeed.” James*

## **Voices in Action - Skills and Knowledge for Community Problem-Solving**

The Papakura Voices in Action project has been successfully completed with collaboration from the Young Enterprise Team Hoodarchy and the Rugby First XV boys of Papakura High. After many sessions collecting the youth voice of Papakura across Papakura High School, Rosehill College, ACG Strathallan and People’s Potential, the students presented their findings at a recent Papakura Local Board meeting, impressing the board with their smart presentation and confident delivery.



The local board was particularly pleased with the report, noting synergies between the project's findings and the goals of the Papakura Youth Council. Additionally, the council has allocated \$15,000 for future initiatives based on the report's findings, providing a positive outcome for the students and the community. We look forward to seeing what they can do next year with those funds.

### **Student Voice**

*“I’m glad I got to do that. It was a pretty mean experience...cause as soon as I went into that boardroom, the way it was structured, it was like I was in the movies, I started shaking but as soon as we started I got my confidence back.”*

## **Students Shine at the Girls in Business Event**

Papakura High is proud to have taken four talented young women to the prestigious *Girls in Business* event, an inspiring initiative designed to empower and connect young women with the world of business and entrepreneurship. Held in an energising and collaborative environment, the event provided an invaluable

opportunity for the students to learn from successful female leaders, network with like-minded peers, and explore pathways to future careers in business.

The girls were particularly inspired by hearing from young women entrepreneurs who have made their mark in industries they are passionate about, such as fashion, social media, and beauty. These relatable role models shared their journeys, offering practical advice and proving that age is no barrier to success. This made the event not only aspirational but also highly relevant to their interests and dreams.



### Student Voice

*"The event was an amazing and wonderful opportunity and I'm so grateful that I was able to attend and the opportunity was given to me and hopefully next year this will still be an opportunity for us because it was truly an amazing and eye opening event.*

*"It depicts the highs and lows of corporate life, with a special emphasis on the unique challenges that women face in male-dominated industries. Each of the women had their own unique characteristics, strengths, and weaknesses. The diversity of their personalities and backgrounds creates a rich dynamic, as does the evolution of their relationship - both with one another and with themselves. The Girls in Business event explores matters of empowerment, collaboration, and the value of work-life balance. It does not gloss over the real struggles that come with career pressure, but it does emphasise the power of solidarity and friendship in overcoming obstacles."*

### Authentic Business Learning for food entrepreneurs

A group of Young Enterprise students had the opportunity to attend a Foodstuffs event hosted at its headquarters through the Young Enterprise Scheme. This event was tailored for students interested in creating food products, offering them an invaluable behind-the-scenes look at the process of getting products from concept to the shelves of stores like New World and Four Square.

Students learned about the step-by-step journey of starting in a local branch and scaling up to being stocked in national stores. Key insights included the importance of having products thoroughly tested and shelf-ready,



understanding the costs associated with getting products into stores, and developing strategies for strong shelf presence to stand out in a competitive market.

They also gained a practical understanding of what stores like New World and Four Square pay suppliers and the critical factors that influence these decisions. This hands-on learning experience provided a deeper appreciation for the complexities of the food industry and inspired students to think creatively about their own potential food product ideas.

Papakura High is thrilled to see its students engaging with such real-world business opportunities, equipping them with knowledge and skills to turn their entrepreneurial dreams into reality.

## Maker-in-Residence Programme: Sculpting Creativity

In Term 4, Papakura High welcomed Blair Simpson as a maker-in-residence, in collaboration with the school library. Blair is a talented sculptor and brought his unique skills to life, creating sculptures inspired by *Lord of the Rings* to enhance the library environment. Students had the unique opportunity to observe and interact with Blair while he worked, gaining insight into the sculpting process. The school hopes to expand this initiative next year, with Blair potentially offering a course in the Wednesday Pro-jects Programme to help students develop their creative skills. If Papakura High can secure funding, they would like Blair to run the Makerspace after school programme too.



## Discovering New Possibilities for Careers in Media

The Hoodarchy boys had an unforgettable experience visiting MediaWorks in the Auckland CBD, where they got an exclusive tour of radio studios, including the Mai FM suite. During their time at Mai FM, the boys connected with the afternoon crew, who welcomed them warmly and gave them the chance to step into the role of radio presenters.

The team at MediaWorks shared invaluable insights about careers in radio, from on-air hosting to behind-the-scenes operations, and explained how they support both established and emerging brands. The Mai FM crew

generously offered sage advice and showed genuine enthusiasm for supporting the boys' future endeavours, creating an atmosphere of encouragement and possibility.

For the boys, this visit was eye-opening. They had never considered radio or media as potential career paths, but being immersed in the creative and energetic environment sparked new ideas. They left inspired, not only to explore a future in radio but also to consider starting a podcast to showcase their voices and ideas.

This experience highlights the importance of exposing students to diverse work environments and industries, allowing them to discover untapped potential and passions. By stepping into a world they had never imagined, the Hoodarchy boys now see new possibilities for their futures. We are excited to support them as they continue to explore their talents and ambitions.

### **Student Voice**

*“Media Works provided an invaluable experience that played a key role in the growth of our business. They equipped us with essential strategies to thrive in the social media landscape and gain greater recognition. More importantly, they emphasised the significance of being a business that gives back to the community. The Mai FM team was incredibly welcoming and highly knowledgeable, sharing wisdom and insights that have helped us evolve into a community-loved business. We are truly grateful for their support and would not hesitate to return for another visit.”*



### **Opportunities to flow out of Deloitte Grow**

The Deloitte Grow Programme at Papakura High provided students with invaluable experience in entrepreneurship and business development. With guidance from Deloitte's facilitators and coaches, the two Year 10 classes developed their own products and sold them at a school market, learning firsthand about the challenges and rewards of running a business. The highlight was presenting their business ideas at Deloitte's new office in the CBD waterfront area, where they enjoyed the



impressive views and felt honoured to present to some of the members of the Pas Peau team of Pacifica staff. Looking forward, Deloitte will continue to support the students by offering the Grow programme again, career sessions about working at Deloitte, and we are exploring collaboration opportunities for Techweek, including a hackathon that could involve students from Papakura High and other participating schools. They are also interested in getting some of their team to support Business Bootcamps.

## Students discover there's more to games than gaming

Year 10 Digital Technology students visited Rocket Werkz at Auckland's PwC Tower, gaining a glimpse into their futures in New Zealand's gaming industry.

While impressive, there is so much more to Rocket Werkz than just its studio. Artists, developers, and designers from over 15 different countries work together to produce innovative games like Stationeers and ICARUS. With team members who have worked at top global studios like Bethesda and Sony PlayStation, Rocket Werkz is proof that careers in gaming can thrive right here in New Zealand.

Stephen Knightly, Chief Operating Officer, gave the students a tour of the office. The office was like a Star Wars spaceship and they loved it! Stephen talked about the communication, teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving skills that are important for success in the gaming industry. It made them think about the future of work and the pathways to get them there.



### Student Voice

*"Thanks for the trip, it was very eye opening and I gained a lot more knowledge from the trip to Rocket Werkz, especially around how to get into the gaming industry and the salaries. I know that you need to go to University or if not work super hard to grow skills and gain experience elsewhere first."*

## Inspiring Future Women in Design

In March, Design Assembly had its inaugural *DA Women in Design Day (Design and You) 2024* - an event dedicated to fostering community, celebration, and education among women in the design industry in Aotearoa New Zealand. Leanne had shared the event details, and once I saw the lineup I knew some of our girls had to go. I reached out to the organiser for a discounted rate which she offered but the event was so popular there was only space for two girls to attend, along with their Art teacher. Hopefully next year the organisers will be able to make space for a larger group to participate, as the impact was excellent.

The talks explored the theme *The personal is political: How has your background, life experiences and values shaped your design practice to live a life in design?* Speakers included:



- Sarah Baker | Media Design School
- Laura Cibilich | Founder/Design Director at RUN
- Zoe Ikin | Experience Design Director at ASB Bank
- Desna Whaanga-Schollum | Mātauranga Māori / SciComm / Mahi Toi

### Student Voice:

*We related the most to Desna Whaanga-Schollum who weaves her design background seamlessly with her rich Māori heritage. Her connection to whakapapa and Māori knowledge left us in awe and inspired us to embrace our own cultural roots in our design journeys.*

*Laura Cibilich, the powerhouse behind RUN, a unique Māori and wāhine-led creative agency, captivated us with her fearless approach to leading her own design business. Her story resonated deeply with us, because her approach was fun and engaging. We would like to connect with her again.*

*This event showed us the endless possibilities within the design realm, sparking connections and fuelling our passion for learning. The reflective exercise was an absolute blast! Sharing our thoughts and experiences on a collective canvas allowed us to bond with the design community and gain valuable insights from each other. It was the perfect way to wrap up an inspiring event.*



## A year in Makerspace

### From setup to implementation

From our experience of setting up and implementing Makerspace at Manurewa High, we were able to fast-track Makerspace at Papakura High this year. The school had cleared an excellent space, and the initial focus was on purchasing tools and resources. A lasercutter was already in place. We added 3D printers, vinyl cutter, heat press, badge maker, the XTool (a small lasercutter), and Micro:bits for coding skills.

To ensure students and teachers were engaged right from the start, I took a small group of interested teachers and a Makerspace student leadership group on a day out to visit existing makerspaces. I really wanted them to see what was out there and to start thinking about and visualising what their new space might look like. We :

- Manurewa High Makerspace
- Unleash space at the University of Auckland
- Innovation Station at Te Ara Poutama

All three spaces are very different in how they run and who they serve, but similar in their philosophies and willingness to share their knowledge. The students learnt something from every space, they created a wish list and shared their thoughts on all the spaces. They felt most at home at the Manurewa High Makerspace, they liked the vibe and the amount of student work they could see. At Unleash they really liked the size of the space, the quality

of the projects, the systems in place and the information readily available re health and safety and each tool. Finally at Te Ara Poutama they liked the range of tools including drones, robotics, and food printers.

## Professional Teacher Learning

With the set up completed, I offered a teacher learning programme, which became the largest professional learning group in the school, which 18 teachers. My aim was to inspire them for the transformative potential of a Makerspace. The focus was not only on the practical aspects of using the space and its tools but also on cultivating a Makerspace mindset emphasising creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration as core principles.

The sessions included:

1. Safety and Tool Mastery: Teachers learned the foundational skills for using various tools safely and effectively. They gained confidence in navigating the Makerspace environment.
2. Philosophy and Mindset: We delved into what makes a Makerspace more than just a room with tools. Discussions centered around fostering a culture of innovation, empowering students to experiment, and encouraging interdisciplinary learning.
3. Curriculum Integration: Teachers began exploring how they could embed Makerspace activities into their lessons. Whether it's incorporating design thinking in STEM subjects, creating hands-on projects in the arts, or enhancing problem-solving skills in social science, the possibilities sparked excitement and creativity.

It was a privilege to work with this group of teachers and I am happy with what we achieved together.

Looking ahead to next year, we aim to deepen this work by partnering with individual departments or subject-specific teachers. Together, we'll design tailored projects and lessons that align with curriculum objectives while leveraging the Makerspace to engage students in active, hands-on learning. This iterative process will help ensure that the Makerspace becomes an integral part of the school's educational approach, enriching the teaching and learning experience for both educators and students.

## Teacher Voice

*“Emma’s hands-on, engaging professional development sessions for staff have been well-attended and have further built a reconstructed tikanga between teachers, students, and external providers, ensuring a collaborative and culturally responsive approach to learning. Emma’s contributions have created a positive buzz across the school and significantly enriched the learning environment.”*

*“Being part of the Makerspace PLC has been an incredible experience from the very start of 2024. It offered an exciting opportunity to develop a wide range of hands-on, creative skills that I now regularly apply in my own teaching. Highlights of mine have been vinyl cutting, using the heat press, badge making, and an introduction to laser-cutting software. Additionally, I stand behind the ethos of student-led learning that the Makerspace fosters. By incorporating reciprocal learning, or ako,*



*into my class, I demonstrate a skill to one student, who then teaches it to their peers, creating a continuous cycle of shared knowledge. This approach has proven highly effective. Looking ahead to 2025, I am eager to continue learning and to see how the Makerspace evolves and grows at Papakura High School. There is so much potential and I'm very happy to be part of this PLC group. This is all thanks to Emma who has been an absolute star leading this space."*

## **Bastion Shine Joins Papakura High as a New Business Partner**

Papakura High is excited to welcome Bastion Shine as a new business partner in 2025. Known for its creative expertise and strong commitment to youth development, Bastion Shine is collaborating with the school's Head of English to explore meaningful ways to support NCEA Level 2 English students. This partnership holds great promise. Inspired by the successful relationship Bastion Shine established with Manurewa High in the past, its involvement made a significant impact.

Papakura High is eager to see how this partnership will unfold and create new opportunities for its students, continuing the school's mission of building strong connections with industry leaders to enhance educational outcomes.

## **Early days, big potential in STEM**

Papakura High has a strategic focus on lifting achievement in Science, Maths and Technology (STEM). The first step is a new curriculum at Year 9 which will be piloted with one class in 2025. Based on results, the programme will be rolled out to all Year 9s in 2026. The Business Academy is supporting the strategy through partnership development and programmes, such as helping students to develop skills in Makerspace and outside-the-classroom. Here's a sample of how we have supported:

- Dr Ron McDowall, a distinguished fellow of Engineering New Zealand, helped future engineers understand the impact of the profession on society. Dr McDowall believes that in the past, engineering has helped to create problems, such as high levels of embodied carbon in product design. In the future, he encouraged students to see that their hearts and minds will be needed to create solutions for environmental problems. The experience of being in the classroom with Year 9s stimulated Dr McDowall to develop a model for STEM learning, based on connecting students widely with experiential learning opportunities. Sadly, Dr McDowall passed away in August. We aim to champion his thinking, which aligns well with the Business Academy.
- Another enjoyable learning experience was provided through the eVolocity workshop at the University of Waikato, where students acquired essential skills for carrying out technology projects, including the use and coding of Arduinos. The workshop was well-received by the students, who enjoyed the opportunity to engage with cutting-edge technology and gain practical skills. They learned the fundamentals of Arduino programming and were introduced to the processes involved in successful project execution. Unfortunately, due to the unexpected departure of our Technology teacher, we were unable to undertake

an eVelocity project this year. However, the students are committed to participating in the project next year, and we are eager to support their continued engagement with eVelocity and similar initiatives.

- With the support of the Tindall Foundation, a roaming teacher is working hard to create employment experiences in IT and Tech for students across Manurewa High and Papakura High. We were fortunate to have Hynds IT as an employer partner to provide a fantastic experience for two students. The opportunity of paid work experience for 10 weeks has connected them with friendly, helpful people in the workplace, informed their understanding of roles in IT and qualifications they need to realise their goals for their futures.
- Papakura High and Comet's STEM Alliance Aotearoa have had initial meetings with the Head of Projects as well as the Heads of Science and Maths. They agree there's work to be done together in the near future to enhance curriculum working with industry. STEM Alliance advocates for STEM learning and supports schools to connect with partners to create lasting change in communities and help prepare our country for the future of work.



The strength of focus at Papakura High on STEM learning is beginning to have an impact and it will grow. We are delighted to support by adding to the range of opportunities and helping students to synthesise these learnings in terms of “where to next”.

***Report compiled by Emma O’Riordan, Director of the Hynds Foundation Business Academy***