

CONNECTIONS

talent central news

October 2022

As Covid restrictions ease, there is a feeling of relief across the region that we have a “new normal”, where we can return to many of the activities that we freely engaged in before the Covid era. We have seen an upsurge in our engagement with schools and businesses, and an increase in the number of students active in our driving lesson programme. We now provide up to 30 hours of lessons per week. More students are sitting their Restricted Licence tests; the outcomes have been very good, with 95% of students passing on their first attempt in Palmerston North.

Our industry visits have been in full swing over terms two and three, with over three hundred (300) students taking the opportunity to visit local businesses, UCOL and Massey University. These visits have increased student awareness of the opportunities that are available locally, not only for employment, but also further education. Schools have provided students from Years 11, 12, and 13 for these visits. As we move into Term 4, we are hopeful that schools will release Year 10 students for these visits, as senior students head offsite for study leave in preparation for external exams. Talent Central believes engaging with Year 10 students is a valuable step in preparing them for the world of work, and

to gain an understanding of the qualifications they may require for their future. Exposing Year 10s to businesses sets up future conversations about work experience and the school subjects required for engagement in a specific area of employment.

Tararua College has been highly active this year in engaging with Talent Central. Students have enrolled in the WorkReady Course, and this has enabled us to provide driving lessons, industry visits and work experience opportunities. The College owns its own car, and we have provided an extra instructor to utilise their vehicle for the driving lessons. This has worked very well, as students must travel the 40km to Dannevirke to sit their restricted licence. Each Monday we have students driving to Dannevirke and practicing on the routes required for their test. This also provides an opportunity for students to practice on the open road and build up their confidence for driving on rural roads. Businesses in Pahiatua and the surrounding areas have been incredibly supportive of Talent Central's engagement with the College, and have provided industry visits and opportunities for work experience. Students are being offered opportunities for work experience over the school holidays and for the Christmas break. Our thanks go to all the businesses who have engaged.



Laser cutter preparing precision parts.



Checking the product in the warehouse before shipping.



A busy morning in the hospital at the Vet Clinic.

A shout out to all Warehousing and Logistics Businesses

In Term 3 we have started an initiative to provide Work Safe forklift courses to Year 12 students. These have proved very popular, and at the time of preparing this newsletter 51 students have achieved their Forklift Licences with a further 30 yet to attend the course. This has been a significant effort from schools, and is providing students with an introduction to working with machinery and workplace requirements. The Forklift Operator Training (OSH) endorsement requires students to complete Unit Standard 10851 – ‘Operate a powered industrial lift truck (forklift)’. People accredited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of the safe operation of a forklift; perform a pre-operational inspection and start up procedure for a forklift; demonstrate practical forklift skills; and park and shut down a forklift.

Students aged sixteen and over can complete this course and gain this endorsement without holding a Class 1 learner licence. This provides a steppingstone to a world of engaging with machinery, and ensures they have received training in being a safe operator and complying with Workplace Health and Safety Regulations.

Talent Central is now contacting logistics and warehousing businesses to identify work experience and employment opportunities. We expect many of these students to gain part time work over the Christmas period. We acknowledge that these students have not had any real work experience, and it is up to businesses to induct them correctly and provide workplace training to meet their individual needs. Talent Central provides opportunities to reduce the barriers for employers to engage with young people, and enabling students to gain their Forklift Licence is the removal of one of these barriers.

We encourage employers looking for students to upskill and fill gaps in your rosters to contact us and we will identify suitable candidates for you.



Learning the theory in the classroom.



Putting it into practice in the yard.