

CONNECTIONS

talent central news

June 2024

It has been a busy first half of the year for Talent Central, which includes seeing an increased uptake of enrolments in our WorkReady Course (WRC). This online learning programme is all about developing and capturing young people's employability skills. Teachers are recognising that the WRC is an effective tool for student pathway planning and development for their futures, and are using the WRC as both core learning and supplementary material in classes.

Talent Central welcomes Longburn Adventist College, Whakatipuria (Freyberg Teen Parent Unit), and William Colenso College (Hawkes Bay) who have all recently started students working in the WRC.

The desire of schools outside the region to utilise the WRC has been a positive step, which has come about through word-of-mouth discussion amongst teachers. Central Hawkes Bay College has actively engaged with the WRC for the last two and a half years and have commented on its value:

"The WorkReady Course is an invaluable tool in my classroom. The material is easy to follow, is comprehensive but broken down into units of work that are not too overwhelming. The variety of tools embedded into the programme allows students to interact with the material in a nonthreatening manner, that maintains a high level of interest, thus leading to success".

Talent Central is happy to discuss enrolments in our WRC. If interested, please contact Caroline on caroline@talentcentral.ac.nz

WorkReady Course Modules

Employability Skills	Life & Workplace Skills	Career Planning & Preparation	Job Application
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Employers Want - 7 Employability Skills • Positive Attitude • Self-Management • Willingness to Learn • Teamwork • Thinking Skills • Communication • Resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to a Positive Workplace Environment • Workers' Rights & Responsibilities • Health & Safety • Drug Free • Personal Wellbeing • Managing Your Money • Driver Licencing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievements & Awards • Work & Volunteering • CVs - Basics • Further Learning Opportunities • Future Pathways • Work Experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media & the Jobseeker • Finding Suitable Employment • Applying for a Chosen Vacancy - Targeted CV & Cover Letter • Interviews

Industry Visit to Te Ahu A Turanga

(Manawatū Tararua Highway)

We recently had the great opportunity to take two student visits to get a close-up look at the local Manawatū Tararua Highway project. This work has been happening for the last 3 years, with a planned completion date of mid-2025.

Students with an interest in Engineering and Infrastructure were welcomed by project leaders on site to start by getting an overview of the scale of the project.



Students then had a chance to drive and walk through parts of the site, getting an idea of not only the scale of the work, but also the wide variety of roles involved in such a large project. This included a chance to get hands on, under supervision, with some of the machinery being used.



Industry visits provide a great opportunity for young people to see what an industry/business is all about, ask questions, and be inspired about their pathway from school into the world of work. The value to schools is outlined in a recent comment from Queen Elizabeth College:

"These visits give our students a taste of these industries through the guidance of local experts. The trips encourage and support our students to picture their future beyond college. In many cases, students come away realising how many more opportunities there are on offer to them. This helps them set long-term vocational goals, which helps to make their college years more valuable and purpose driven".

Driver Licencing

Talent Central, through AllTrain, is continuing to deliver driving lessons to students, with a focus on achieving a Restricted Driver's Licence. This key employability skill is popular with students, who see it as important for both their future employment, and their independence. The challenge this year has been the increasingly long wait time to book Restricted tests. This wait is occurring due to the 'free resit policy' that was introduced towards the end of 2023. The problem this has created has now compounded over the last few months, with many often not being able to book a test for two or more months. An issue with this length of wait to sit a test is young people maintaining their test-ready level, when they might have to wait many weeks to be able to actually take their test.

Another result of this issue is young people booking tests wherever they can get them, often outside the region, if availability is sooner than local offerings. Our students are being proactive by returning to the test-booking site regularly to see if more recent test dates become available, but this is a time-consuming task.

All of this has impacted the number of students we have been able to support to achieve their Restricted Licences. The government is working to improve matters, but it is not a quick fix due to the need for law changes to address the issues.

Talent Central and the Central Energy Trust



In 2023 Talent Central partnered with the Central Energy Trust to provide vocational bursaries to young people starting their careers. In October the first group of five completed the application and interview process and were successful in receiving bursaries. You can follow their stories at www.centralenergytrust.org.nz/bursaries by scrolling to the bottom of the page.

Applications will open this year in July and close on the 30th of September 2024. Talent Central would encourage all schools to advise students of this opportunity and the available funding. The link to the Central Energy Trust website will take you to the application process and if you have any questions, please contact Mark at mark@talentcentral.ac.nz