

## Check & Connect – Working together

**Ele Griffiths (Tumuaki Tuarua | Deputy Principal Papatoetoe High School):** One of the really vital roles that the mentors play at our kura, from my experience, is keeping everybody in the loop. I quite often touch base with Georgia when she will come in, and we'll have a catch up. I might tell her things that she wouldn't necessarily know from her students' week at school, and vice versa.

**Georgia Drake (kaihoe | mentor):** It's about using all the resources that are out there – teachers, deans, senior leadership, DP's, pastoral care teams, counsellors, social workers – to fully wrap around the young person we're working with.

**Ele:** They aren't counsellors or part of our guidance team. We have a guidance team. They aren't a careers department. We have a careers department that advises on careers. That's not to say that they don't come across things that they think maybe the guidance team need to be aware of, and that's really where the partnership comes in. It's all being aware of our own roles within the school, but also being open to referring on or having conversations with people that we know can help us.

**Tania Liuagamatagi (kaiārahi | supervisor):** What's important for us as professionals to come together. We're not there to step on anyone's mana. It's not like, "You're not doing this, you're not doing this". It's literally, "This is what the young person needs, what can we do for this young person?". That's always our go to.

**Osaiasi Kupu (kaiurungi | coordinator Tāmaki College):** Working together is being professional about it, but also being humble about it. Having that talanoa, having that korero, and building our relationship as professionals. And also building that relationship with the young person to know that we will be working together and sharing that information for the betterment of that young person and their family.

**Leo Aholelei (kaihoe | mentor):** We rely on each other to sort of keep each other in check. And I know how lucky I am to have that support from the school. And it's important – we've got to have each other's back.

**Osaiasi:** Whenever Leo or Georgia call, we have time for them. And it works both ways. When we need their support, they're available. This even happens outside of school.

**Tania Liuagamatagi (kaiārahi | supervisor):** It takes a lot of going to this person, and going to this person, going to the young person. Piecing it all together, bringing it all together. Knowing how to approach this whanau so that it's not coming off as nosy or disrespectful. And the same approach of the teachers.

**Georgia:** Establishing that relationship first is really important so that if you do need to ask them something or move the planets around for a student, they'll probably going to understand more of why you're asking that when they know why you're here and the purpose of what you're trying to do.