



# WILLIAM PIKE *Challenge*

## William Pike Challenge 2026

The William Pike Challenge is once again running at Otamatea High School. Do you like the idea of participating in Outdoor Activities, Community Service and Passion Projects? By engaging in these three things you'll develop resilience, positive wellbeing, and strengthen 21st-century life skills.

The William Pike Challenge is a year-long programme designed to challenge and push students outside their comfort zone.



There are 3 elements to the programme;

### ***20 HOURS COMMUNITY SERVICE***

Community Service allows our students to explore, develop and strengthen empathy, humility and compassion. Characteristics many young people may not have had the opportunity to untap. Giving back to the community also provides opportunities for our students to step outside of their comfort zone, develop communication skills, connectedness with the local community, peers and whānau and embrace a greater sense of purpose.

Examples of Community Service include tree planting, rubbish pickup, charity fundraising, community food drives or helping at an organisation like the SPCA.

Many young people continue to do voluntary work well after they've completed the William Pike Challenge; those feel-good feelings are hard to shake off!

### ***20 HOURS PASSION PROJECTS***

A Passion Project is a sport or hobby that's totally new and is usually done during a students' own time. Passion Projects encourage young people to take on a challenge and develop their self belief, work ethic and commitment. Trying something new and working hard to master it develops determination, concentration and resilience.

Learning a new sport or a new language, learning how to cook, photography, horse riding, or sketching – Passion Project options are endless!

### ***OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE SCHOOL***

Outdoor Activities provide opportunities for young people to step outside of their comfort zone, take risks, build confidence and strengthen relationships with peers. Outdoor Activities not only build positive wellbeing, 21st-century skills and an explorer mindset, they also remind our youth about the beauty and accessibility of New Zealand's landscape.

Previously students at Otamate High School have done river crossing, white water rafting, surfing, high ropes & rock climbing for name a few.

Studies have shown that spending time in nature improves mental well-being by lifting your mood and decreasing feelings of depression, anxiety and stress. Investing in our youths' mental health means they're more prepared to overcome challenge and change that will inevitably come their way.

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**If you are keen to be involved in the challenge for this year, please complete the application form and return it to Mrs Antunovich by Tuesday 28th April 2026.**



## Student Application Form WPC

### Message from William

*“All of us, but particularly you, are stepping into a rapidly and dramatically changing world, like nothing we’ve ever seen before. You, will be challenged by unexpected changes and obstacles in life that we probably can’t yet imagine.*

*When big challenge and change come at you from out of the blue, succeeding or failing comes down to just one thing: whether you are already used to pushing yourself out of your comfort zone – or whether you aren’t.*

*What I believe you deserve is a future where you succeed in whatever you take on in life, no matter what obstacles come at you, especially from out of the blue. To be prepared for that, you need a bank of experiences under your belt that’s helped build a big reserve of resilience, confidence and connectedness to others, so that you’re prepared for whatever is around the corner. That’s what the WPC programme is going to help you to do so get applying!”*

**Welcome to the William Pike Challenge. This form helps your school to get to know you, your reasons for wanting to be part of the WPC and what you think you’ll learn from it. So - BE HONEST, TELL THE TRUTH and tell your school all the reasons why you should be chosen to be one of the lucky students that get to take part in the WPC.**

These are some of the values you’ll get to show and develop this year. You’re expected to display these values through the WPC, your everyday life at school, at home and in your community.

#### **COURAGE**

Some of what we do might scare you, so you need to be able to stare fear in the face and beat it.

#### **TEAMWORK**

This involves taking a share of the responsibility, working closely with others and making important decisions to help each other succeed. Never forget your friends, family and community are part of your team.

#### **RESILIENCE**

Sometimes it’s just easier to pull out, give up, and pretend it never happened. We want you to keep going no matter what you face.

#### **COMPASSION**

It’s not all about you. You will be doing this with other people, who will be relying on you to look after them when times are tough.

#### **PRIDE**

We want you to be proud of who you are, where you are from, and the great things you will achieve.

#### **ENTHUSIASM**

This is crucial for everyone’s success and enjoyment. We want you to be keen to learn, explore and have an adventure – even if that means being cold, wet, muddy and tired.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. What is the number one thing you hope to learn from being part of the WPC?**

**2. Tell us about an occasion where you have shown real commitment to something (e.g learning a new skill, on a sports team, helping others) What did you do to 'stick with it'?**

**3. Have you ever been scared of doing something? Tell us about it and what you did to overcome your fear?**

**4. As part of the WPC you will be doing Community Service and giving back to your community. What do you know about Community Service and have you donated your time for no payment before? Tell us all about it - what did you like about it? What did you learn about yourself and others?**

**If you haven't ever done Community Service what do you think you will enjoy about it?**

**5. Showing compassion is a great skill to have and one you may need this year, along with courage, teamwork and enthusiasm. How do you think you could show compassion to your fellow students this year while taking part in the WPC?**

**6. What goals do you have in mind for learning a new skill with your Passion Project (new sport or hobby) this year? How will you keep yourself motivated? What are you keen to learn?**

**7. Now it's your turn to sell yourself to us with any other information you haven't had a chance to tell us about. Are there any other great things about you we should know about?**