

Daunte Tamaki

Class of 2019

Senior Nurse



Daunte's Story

Daunte came to St John's College from St Columba's Catholic School as a Year 9. This was perhaps an easier transition than for many others - 15 to 20 boys transferred from the same school that year; the largest cohort in Y9.

Plus, his brother Tyrell was already a Johnnies Boy, so the first term at high school presented fewer changes and new challenges than for some of the other students.

Asked what he remembers from his time at St John's, Daunte immediately mentions a close group of friends throughout high school (the common ground a focus on the social side of things).

Music and drama were his favourite subjects, alongside biology as a senior. That focus on music and drama saw him involved in two school productions, one at Sacred Heart and one at St John's in the gym. Another highlight was the 2016 music trip to France, with stops in St Etienne, Lyon, Paris, London and two nights in Bangkok.



Believe in yourself - be that changemaker!

Daunte Tamaki

continued...

Deciding on a career pathway after St John's proved to be tricky. Was it going to be learning a trade, or was a university degree the better option?

It had to be something hands-on and practical, a profession that made a difference. Ideally, it should be something with a science and psychology component.

Daunte started the recruitment process for the NZ Police and got as far as entry into the Police College. At the same time, he'd scrolled through all the degrees offered at Wintec and landed on nursing. It was the Bachelor of Nursing he decided on in the end - it ticked all the boxes.

The start to his studies at Wintec was dominated by COVID-19, its restrictions and long lockdown periods. In his first year, he spent only one and a half months in class, online lectures made up the majority of teaching and learning.



The best moments in my work are the ones where you can see an improvement in someone's wellbeing - even the smallest change is a win.

One of his personal favourites was a 5-week placement in Whakatane, taking part in the rural health and interprofessional programme. This placement is usually offered to multiple North Island unis and polytechnics. All participants lived together and became a close knit group not only working and learning, but also exploring the region and its beaches together.

After his degree, Daunte became an academic staff member at Wintec, teaching indigenous and community health to the next generation of nurses in the Tihei Mauri Ora stream. He was also a practice nurse at Te Kohao Health, specialising in diabetes. This organisation offers multiple services, such as primary mental health, rongoa and mirimi; a wrap-around service that supports a healthy community in a holistic way.

And it doesn't stop there. When we finally catch up again some months later, Daunte is messaging from Australia's Gold Coast where he's now employed as a Senior Nurse and is working towards his Nurse Practitioner's licence.