What is FYE to you?

“Family.” Julia
“A support system.” Jyothi
“It’s given me a place in the faculty.” Julia
“It’s given me a sense of belonging. Acceptance in what I’m studying, people doing the same thing.” Shiprah
“It’s given me confidence to talk to new people, make friends.” Katie

“It’s definitely why I stayed. The family side of things. The kind of culture we have is the main reason why I’m still around.” Julia

“It’s been a way for you to realise what your own strengths and skills are, and be able to develop them. Discover skills you might not have know you had. There’s a lot of opportunities, but it’s not really forced on you. It’s like if you want to develop these skills it’s something you can step up and do yourself, and everyone’s going to support you to do that.” Jyothi
Training and developing first year experience mentors and building a community

Nina Riikonen
360 International Officer, International Office
– former Student Experience Adviser, Faculty of Arts
nina.riikonen@auckland.ac.nz

6 December 2017
Arts First Year Experience Programme (FYE)

• Started in 2010
• All first year Arts students assigned a mentor
• 1400-1500 students per year
• 40 mentors, incl. 4 team leaders
• 2 staff – one full time, one part time
• Pastoral and academic
The mentors

• 40 mentors (volunteers)
• 4 team leaders (paid)
• → 4 mentor teams

• Full year commitment

• 2015 to 2016 – 33% mentor retention
• 2016 to 2017 – 50% mentor retention
What we did

2015-2017 - focus on increasing mentor engagement

• Regular contact, face to face meetings and training
• Clear expectations
• Requirements to report back
• Community building
Regular contact, face to face meetings and training

• Email
• Facebook group for all mentors
  – Team Facebook groups
• One-on-one meeting twice per year
• Four training days per year
Clear Expectations

• Recruitment/Interviews
• February training
• Weekly email (from Nina)
• Doodle Poll sign ups
Requirements to report back

- Reports x 4
- Mentor spreadsheets
  - Weekly
- One-on-ones
- BCC team leader
- Leadership & Service Award
  - optional
Community building

• Team Leader teams
  – Event (1 per team, per year)
  – Meetings

• Training days
  – 4 per year
Some final thoughts

• Students want to engage
• They can meet high expectations
  – But always be transparent
• They need regular contact to stay engaged
• They are students and life happens
  – Set yourself up to notice when they fall off the radar
Questions?