



Whānau Pānui Update – 20 May 2024

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Kia ora koutou | Hello everyone

This pānui / newsletter update is to highlight some important dates in the coming weeks.

In addition, there are some important reminders.

Parents Forum - Monday 20 May

Our second scheduled Parents Forum for the year is on **Monday 20 May** in the **THS staffroom** from **6.00 – 7.30 pm**. Enter at the door to the right of the main reception. Tea/coffee and light refreshments will be available.

Topic: Open forum

Please email your topics to traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz or we can take your topics as they arise. We also would like to focus on deciding what topics we can cover for 2024.

We would like to form a small team of parents who will coordinate the forum for and on behalf of parents and work with the school leadership team and board.

We invite parents to attend and would love it if you put your hand up for this at the meeting, and/or email the Principal's PA traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz to express your interest.

Why? The group is an opportunity to:

- network with other parents, get support on common issues;
- to help us connect with parents to help our students in different ways, like getting volunteers for the breakfast club and other groups, or finding work experiences, etc.
- find out more about the school and what's going on, including talking with the principal or deputy principals;
- ask questions and get answers no matter how big or small;
- identify issues, and help us work on constructive solutions;
- decide on topics for presentations / discussions of interest for parents

Paid Union Meeting - Wed 22 May

There is a shortened school day on Wednesday 22 May. **Periods 1 to 3 will be normal classes.** As previously advised, the PPTA have announced that there will be a paid union meeting for teachers from 1.30 pm.

As most teaching staff are union members, we cannot hold classes periods 4 and 5 on Wednesday 22 May. Lunch will be provided from 12.10 – 12.30 pm. Taurira / students may finish school at 12.30 pm and **go home.**

Buses will leave at the normal time of **3.15 pm** therefore unless alternative arrangements have been made, taurira / students who catch the bus are to go to the library at 12.30 pm where they will be supervised.

All other students who need to remain at school can go to the library where they too will be supervised.

Please email the Student Support Office studentsupport@office.school.nz with the name of your tamariki / child who needs to remain at school.

New Zealand employment law allows for two paid union meetings each year during normal working hours. This hui is the first for 2024. This is to bring together PPTA members to give them time away from work to discuss and agree on next steps for the union on important issues. It is an opportunity for members from around the region to come together and share thoughts.

Penny Keet
Deputy Principal



Teachers' Only Day - Tuesday 4 June

The next teacher-only day provided for teachers to implement the changes to NCEA and the 'refreshed curriculum' is **Tuesday 4 June 2024**.

There is **no** school for taura / students on that day. This is following Monday 3 June (King's birthday) which is a public holiday.

You may be aware that our Kāhui Ako schools - community of learning - are all having this day off.

This is one of two days in 2024. Our second day is in Term 4 - Monday 11 November.

On **Tuesday 4 June 2024** we will be sharing learning with our primary school colleagues in the morning and continue our work on curriculum changes in the afternoon.

Pink Shirt Day

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga / Thames High School supported **Pink Shirt Day** on Friday 17 May. **Pink Shirt Day** is about working together to stop bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusiveness. It is about creating a community where all people feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, religion or cultural background.



Celebrated annually around the globe, **Pink Shirt Day** began in Canada in 2007 when two taura / students took a stand against homophobic bullying after a new taura / student was harassed for wearing **pink**.

Taura / students were encouraged to bring a gold coin donation. All money raised goes to the Mental Health Foundation to reduce bullying; through raising awareness about bullying prevention, funding education workshops, and supplying thousands of free resources that promote inclusive workplaces, schools and communities.

Penny Keet
Deputy Principal

Right time, right place, ready to learn

Attendance and punctuality to classes are crucial for taura / students to achieve success at kura / school, and we value your support in this. You will know that this is a national topic of interest and we are doing our part to improve regular attendance. Regular attendance at school is defined as 90% attendance; this means AT LEAST 9 or of 10 days. The ideal is 100% attendance, unless circumstances mean someone cannot attend school. 90% takes into account the need for sick leave, as there is in most workplaces. Current law means employees get 10 days paid sick leave per year. Over a work year that means approximately 4% absence is covered. For schools this means up to 10% built in for justified absences.

The great news is that many of our taura / students, exceed the minimum expectation of 90%.

Special acknowledgement to the following taura / students who have **100%** attendance for 2024 to date.

Year 9

Fynn Tyson
Max White
Oscar Zhang
Chloe Bergersen
Hunter Patterson
Exodus Kanara

Year 10

Raelin Alvi
Dimple Martin
Keagan McRae

Year 11

Aria Burns
Liam Corbett
Lexi Dinneen
Joe Hayward

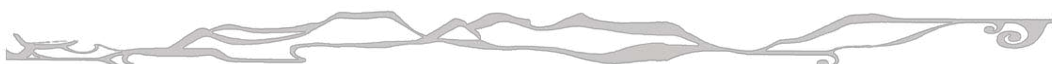
Brooklyn Jiang
Milla Sawyer
Shannara Smook
Jess Rendall

Year 12

Harris Elliot-Hogg
Tamihana Timothy
Pavelyn Rous

Year 13

Dylan Stout



Regular emails about attendance are being sent on the first day of each week to allow for whānau to discuss any concerns or congratulate their taiohi / young person(s) on their attendance. If you are not receiving these emails please check your junk / spam folder or email attendance@thameshigh.school.nz to update your details.

Tauira / students are expected to attend all classes at Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga / Thames High School and adhere to our values.

For several years we have encouraged attendance and doing one's best, by saying that to participate in optional activities (non-curriculum) activities such as sport, the ball, enrichment trips, etc. depend on having good attendance and behaviour.

We have formalised these requirements this year, by asking all students and parents to sign our commitment form where the requirements are explained. This has been emailed home and we need to have all these forms handed into the Student Support Office by Friday 25 May. Following this we will need to give notice to students and parents that those who have not acknowledged this requirement will not be able to participate. Please make sure the forms are handed in.

Some tauira / students choose to arrive late or miss classes, which does not align with our values. Following our learning approach, staff will have a conversation with them, explaining the issues and expect corrections. However, if students continue to arrive late or miss classes, the consequences will include a **hui / meeting** with their Year Level Kaiāwhina and parents, a Daily Progress Report, community service, or other formal school processes.

Chris Ashforth
Deputy Principal

Uniform

The weather is getting colder, and we encourage all parents to make sure tauira / students have warm uniform clothing. We want to work together to make this happen. Some reminders as we see more non-uniform items in winter.

If there are barriers to getting the right uniform items, please make contact with the Student Support Office, and we can explain how we can help. This could be a request to the Student Support Trust who are here to help students participate at school - this includes uniform items, support for sport costs and trips (depending on needs).

studentsupport@thameshigh.school.nz

We also have school equity funds administered by the Support Office.

Contact Cheryl Jordan, Student Support Officer or any other staff member about the support we can offer.

Wearing the correct uniform at Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga / Thames High School creates a positive and inclusive learning environment and promotes a sense of unity and pride among tauira / students. Tauira wearing the correct uniform signifies readiness to learn and shows support for our vision and values of **Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga, Mātauranga, Whakamana and Whakapono.**

We understand that sometimes circumstances mean a uniform item is not available. Please send a note or email Student Support to explain and a uniform pass or loan item will be arranged. Without a uniform pass, the tauira / student may face disciplinary action.

Tauira / students can wear:

- School jersey (woolen) or school crewneck sweatshirt (polyester); and/or
- School jacket; and/or
- School scarf or, if NZ Uniforms are out of stock, a plain black scarf.
- Undershirts (thermal) in **navy blue** for Years 9-11 or **white** for Years 12-13; i.e. the same colour as the uniform polo. These items are available from NZ Uniforms or other suppliers.
- Plain black crew socks or stockings.
- Raincoats are also permitted to protect tauira / students from the rain on wet days.
- Tauira / students should wear a school cap or hat or plain black hat with no symbols or patterns.

We need to have consequences, with support, for tauira / students that do not wear the correct uniform. Consequences range from informing parents and the removal of the item (for 5 days, or pick up by parents). We will lend or provide uniform items to tauira / students, as appropriate.

For tauira / students who persist in not wearing correct uniform, after the offer and provision of uniform support, then this becomes a matter of disobedience.

NZ uniforms are experiencing some delay in stock due to supply chain issues. We are aware of delays in some sizes of Sweatshirts, Jackets, Senior Polos, Junior Polos. They expect these to arrive in late May.

If you have ordered garments but have not yet received them, NZ uniforms should have contacted you to explain when they will arrive. If this has not happened either give them a ring or contact us and we will follow up with the order. The contact is Sharyn Baker, Business Manager ext 804. We have lend uniform items available from the Student Support Office.

Chris Ashforth
Deputy Principal



Literacy / Numeracy Co-requisite Assessments

The Common Assessment Activity (CAA) for the NCEA [literacy and numeracy corequisite](#) will be held on either **Tuesday 28 May, Wednesday 29 May or Thursday 30 May**. These are the first of TWO opportunities, the next one being in September. The CAA is a digital (online) assessment.

All Year 10 students will sit the numeracy CAA and some will complete the literacy CAAs (reading and writing). Year 11 and 12 students, who do not yet have their [literacy and numeracy corequisite](#) for NCEA will be completing the CAAs too.

Find out more

<https://ncea.education.govt.nz/supporting-akonga-and-whanau>

<https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/subjects/litnum/>

Penny Keet
Deputy Principal

Reporting and Parent Teacher Interviews

The "mid-year" report with subject key indicators, assessment results and a rōpū / whānau kaiitiaki / teacher comment will be published on Wednesday 19 June.

Student- parent - teacher interviews follow the reports to allow discussions about progress with subject teachers on Tuesday 25 June and Thursday 4 July from 3 pm to 7 pm. Details about how to book an interview will be sent later, but please reserve these dates in your diary.

Reporting to parents is an ongoing process where assessments and comments are published on the [web portal](#). Parents are encouraged to check and make contact with teachers with any queries throughout the year.

<https://www.thameshigh.school.nz/staff/>

Christopher Ashforth
Deputy Principal

Ngā manaakitanga



Key dates 2024

Dates are **subject to change** and will be advised.

Term 2: Monday 29 Apr to Friday 5 Jul

Mon 20 May Parents Forum – 6.00 – 7.30 pm

Wed 22 May Paid Union Meeting
(Early finish at 12.30 pm)

Fri 24 May Deadline for non-curriculum
activity form

Mon 27 May Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm

Tue 28 May to Lit/num Common Assessments

Thu 30 May

Mon 3 Jun King's Birthday (public holiday)

**Tue 4 Jun Teacher-only day
(school closed for instruction)**

Mon 10 Jun TAMSO 6.30 – 8.00 pm

Mon 17 Jun Parents Forum – 6.00 – 7.30 pm

Tue 18 Jun School Interviews Site open
to book conferences

Wed 19 Jun Mid-year reports

Mon 24 Jun Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm

Tue 25 Jun Student-Parent-Teacher
Conferences (1)

Thu 27 Jun Matariki celebration

Fri 28 Jun Matariki (public holiday)

Thu 4 Jul Student-Parent-Teacher
Conferences (2)

Fri 5 Jul Last day of Term 2

Sat 6 Jul to School holidays

Sun 21 July

Term 3: Monday 22 Jul to Friday 27 Sept

Mon 22 Jul Term 3 starts.

Mon 29 Jul Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm

Mon 12 Aug TAMSO 6.30 – 8.00 pm

Mon 19 Aug Parent Forum 5.30 – 7.30 pm

Mon 26 Aug Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm

Tue 9 Sept to Lit/num Common Assessments

Thur 11 Sept

Mon 16 Sept TAMSO 6.30 – 8.00 pm

Mon 23 Sept Parent Forum 5.30 – 7.30 pm

Fri 27 Sept Last day of Term 3

Sat 28 Sept to School holidays

Sun 13 Oct

Term 4: Monday 14 Oct to Friday 13 Dec

Mon 14 Oct Term 4 starts.

Mon 21 Oct Parent Forum 5.30 – 7.00 pm

Mon 28 Oct Labour Day (public holiday)

Tues 29 Oct Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm

Tue 5 Nov NCEA Exams Start

**Mon 11 Nov Teacher-only day
(school closed for instruction)**

Mon 11 Nov TAMSO 6.30 – 8.30 pm

Mon 18 Nov Parent Forum 5.30 – 8.00 pm

Mon 25 Nov Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm

Fri 13 Dec Last day of Term 4

Sat 14 Dec - School summer holidays begin.
(Until Mon 27 Jan 2025)

