

Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga



Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata / We grow together to achieve one's true potential.

Whānau Pānui – 6 April 2023

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Tumuaki / principal's message

It's been a busy term with many highlights, including our full school pōwhiri, Swimming Sports, the House Sports Day, participation in Thames Valley sporting activities (basketball, touch, tennis, rugby sevens, athletics, show jumping, softball), Year 13 Camp, Year 9 Teen Esteem, and several vocational courses, and much more.

The Year 13 – staff volleyball match on Friday 24 March, was a hard-fought game where the staff team won. That balances the swimming relay where the Year 13s were victorious.

We had more than the normal interruptions to regular learning and teaching, with the weather events earlier this term and industrial action (strikes). Meanwhile learning and teaching has been focused on making good progress and preparing for assessments in the senior school.

The recent reports have shown most ākonga (learners) are making good progress with the right attitudes to succeed. There are many that need additional encouragement and support too. We look forward to working with whānau to achieve this.

The end of the term sees many students finishing assessments, doing their best to achieve their personal excellence. Many thanks to Kaiako for preparing great lessons during the term, supporting ākonga (learners) and helping them with assessments. Thanks to ākonga for being active learners, keeping up with classwork and assignments, and asking for help – teachers are always willing to help.

We are fortunate to have some great facilities and it is vital that we look after them, Thanks to everyone doing their part to keep our environment clean and tidy, minimising waste and putting rubbish into bins, and picking up rubbish that hasn't quite made it to the bins. If we all do our part then it's not a big job for one or two.

We have had several new students join us this term, and we have also seen some of our seniors transition to further

vocational training and employment. We wish them all the best in their future pathways,

It has been a pleasure to walk around the school, with smiles and greetings. It's great to hear people asking, "how are you?" and caring for each other. We have great young people who thank their teachers for lessons and help, and also thanking other staff who help, such as in the Student Support Office. It's those little but important words, 'please' and 'thank you' that make this place a great place to be.

Have a safe and enjoyable term break, and we look forward to being refreshed and ready for the upcoming winter terms, as we restart on Wednesday 26 April, following the staff only day and Anzac Day.

Michael Hart

Tumuaki / Principal

Staff only days

We have two staff only days for professional learning and development in the first two weeks of next term. On these days school is closed for instruction.

The first of these days is **Monday 24 April** where departments will be updating their understanding of the [NCEA changes](#) that are due to come into effect in 2024 at level one (Year 11). This day was approved by the board recognising there is a lot of work for teaching staff to be ready for these changes.

Because Anzac Day is on Tuesday 25 April, the **first day back to school will be Wednesday 26 April**.

The second day is on **Friday 5 May**, which is one of two days in 2023 that the Ministry of Education has allowed for schools to understand the changes to our national curriculum. [Te Mātaiaho](#) is the refreshed Aotearoa / New Zealand Curriculum framework. On this day we will have several 'big picture' conversations about our curriculum for the years ahead and continue the work we have begun to refresh our school curriculum to be more culturally responsive.

Te Mātaiaho weaves in [Understand, Know, Do: our progression-focused model](#) – which develops the big ideas, contexts, and practices across the learning areas, and enables increasingly rigorous and complex learning.

[From the curriculum refresh website](#)

With the NCEA changes and the refreshed curriculum changes, alongside the everyday mahi (work) of learning, teaching and assessments, there is much to do, and these days will help us make more progress.

We will have more to say about the changes in Term Two and look forward to having some information sessions for parents to understand the changes.



Parents Forum

Kia ora, my name is Amy Rakete. I feel honoured as a parent that I will represent parents / caregivers in the role of the Parent Forum Facilitator.

This is a space where we need to be heard, as parents and be understood where we move towards solutions working together with the school.

We want this time to be of real value for us all. I will send a questionnaire via email to parents / caregivers to get an idea of what topics could be top priority for us. Please feel free to email me anytime with questions and solution ideas to inkwell.ltd@gmail.com

Our second hui for 2023 will be held on **Monday 22 May** at **6.00 pm** in our staffroom; enter via the main entrance. Please join us over yummy kai & a cuppa. I look forward to meeting you at the next hui in Term 2.

Amy Rakete
Parent Forum Facilitator

KickStart Breakfast Club

Our KickStart Breakfast Club needs some fantastic helpers to lend a hand in the morning! Every school day from 8.00 to 8:45 am, our Breakfast Club is up and running in the Thames High School Hall.

We could really use some help with the setting up and the clean-up. If you have a half hour to spare in the morning to help support our morning kai, please contact Ann Hoover ann@thamescol.nz or 027 315 4838.

Ann Hoover
Learning Support Coordinator

Sports

Tennis

Thames High School Tennis players attended the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Tennis tournament held Week 8 at Waihi Beach.

Well done to all our players for a fantastic day with great results, placed 2nd overall.

Congratulations to **Jodie Loudon** who played up a grade and won the Intermediate female grade and **Jimmy Jamieson** who won the senior male grade.

Our school was acknowledged for excellent sportsmanship. Well done team!

Thames Valley Show Jumping

Congratulations to **Amber Hunt, Bella Hunt, Neka Woolf** and **Charlotte New**, our Equestrian team of four who competed and won first place at the Thames Valley Secondary Schools Show Jumping event held at Ngatea Pony Club in March. Well done to you all!



Thames Valley Rugby 7s

Well done to our three teams, consisting of 34 students, who participated at the Thames Valley Rugby 7s festival held Week 9 at Whangamata.



All three teams had trained hard over the past weeks and produced some awesome results. Junior males winning all three games and senior males had two awesome wins! Our female 7s side scored some awesome tries and made some hard tackles.

This is the first time our school has had a female 7s side and it is great to see the progression in female rugby. We are pleased to provide the opportunity for our female taiohi interested in rugby.

A special thanks to Mr Harrison, Walter, Wiki and James from Thames Valley Rugby Union who provided coaching and training sessions. Special thanks also to Ms Fletcher for being an awesome TIC for Rugby and continuously supporting our players on and off the field.

Waikato / BOP Athletic Champs

Outstanding results from Thames Valley Athletic Champs where nine students qualified to represent Thames High School and Thames Valley held at Porritt Park in Hamilton on Tuesday 14 March.

Congratulations to the following students. Well done to you all!

Athlete	Event	Placing
Torin Young (Snr male)	Javelin	2 nd
	Shot Put	8 th
Wetere Kingi (Int male)	Javelin	4 th
Austin Court (Int male)	800m	6 th
Ellie Johnston (Int female)	Triple Jump	4 th
	Long Jump	8 th
Isayah Boyd	Triple Jump	2 nd
	Long Jump	10 th
	200m	12 th
Blaze Houghton (Jnr male)	3000m	9 th

Tessa Watts
Sports Coordinator

Careers / Gateway

Upcoming Career events

- Waikato University student ambassador visit – Computer Design on 2 May at 12 noon and Computer Science on 5 May at 10.45 am for Year 12 & 13 students in the Careers Centre.
- Rural Health Careers on 8 May at 2.00 pm for Year 10 – Year 13 students in the Careers Centre.
- Otago University open day on 7 & 8 May for Year 12 & 13 students at Otago University.
- Lincoln University visit on 15 May at 2.00 pm for Year 12 & 13 students in the Careers Centre.
- AUT visit on 16 May at 12 noon for Year 12 & 13 students in the Careers Centre.
- Waikato University open day on 26 May 8.45 am – 3.10 pm for Year 12 & 13 students at Waikato University.
- Learner Driver Course on 29 & 30 May 8.45 am – 3.10 pm for students over 16 years in the THS Library fiction side.
- Defence Force visit on 30 May at 12 noon for Year 12 & 13 in the Careers Centre.

Students are working on the following in careers this year:

- **Year 9:** Knowing yourself and your skills and exploring your options.
- **Year 10:** Knowing yourself, exploring opportunities, and understanding the nature of work.
- **Year 11:** Keeping options open and exploring pathways.
- **Year 12:** Developing a pathway action plan.
- **Year 13:** Making career decisions and putting a plan into action.

Career/pathways coaching

Mrs Donovan is available for one-on-one career coaching sessions for students, to help to guide them through their options for study and to prepare them for the next step in their career. Please encourage your child to make an appointment. **Parents** are also invited to contact Mrs Donovan for ideas and support.

Leanne Donovan
Careers Advisor

Community notices

Ngākau o te Rākau Ōki

Ngākau o te Rākau Ōki The heart of the Oak 2023 Carving Symposium [invitation](#). This special event will be held from 17 – 23 April at Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga (Thames South School) for our wider community. Talented carvers from Hauraki and across Aotearoa will be showcasing their skills as they carve the hug trunk and limbs of the 100+ year old oak that once stood at Te Kura o Te Kauaeranga.

Pōwhiri is on Monday 17 April at 9.00 am.

Tes Rae

Email: tes.rae@gmail.com

Fighter fighting Sky Tower Challenge

Nau mai, haere mai and welcome to the [Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge](#) where two of our volunteer firefighting Thames High School students; **Millar Morton** and **Daniel Palmer** will be participating in the challenge on Saturday 20 May.

This massive annual fundraising event is the ultimate challenge for firefighters from all over Aotearoa to give it their all for Kiwis living with blood cancer by climbing Auckland's Sky Tower.

Every day, 8 Kiwis are diagnosed with blood cancer or a related blood condition. It can affect anyone, at any age and any time in life. The cancer journey is overwhelmingly difficult for patients and their families / whānau, but, you can help make a difference. To donate visit our website www.firefighterschallenge.org.nz



Key dates 2023

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

Term 1: **Wednesday 1 February to Thursday 6 April**

Thu 6 Apr **Last day of Term 1**
 Fri 7 Apr – **School holidays**
 Sun 23 Apr **(Includes Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Easter Tuesday)**

Term 2: **Wednesday 26 April to Friday 30 June**

Mon 24 Apr Staff only day (NCEA Changes)
School closed for instruction.
 Tues 25 Apr **ANZAC Day (holiday)**
 Wed 26 Apr **Term 2 – Day 1 starts**
 Mon 1 May Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm
Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)
 Wed 3 May THS Cross Country
 Fri 5 May Staff only day (NZ Curriculum)
School closed for instruction.
 Sat 6 May Senior School Ball
 Mon 15 May Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
 Fri 19 May **Pink Shirt Day & Bully Free**
 Mon 22 May Parents Forum 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
 Mon 29 May Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm
Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)
 Mon 5 Jun **King's Birthday (holiday)**
 Mon 12 Jun Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
 Mon 19 Jun Parents Forum
 Mon 26 Jun Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm
Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)
 Fri 30 Jun **Last day of Term 2**
 Sat 1 July – **School holidays**
 Sun 16 July **(includes Matariki 14 July)**

Term 3: **Monday 17 July to Friday 22 Sept**

Mon 17 Jul **Term 3 – Day 1 starts**
 Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
 Mon 24 July Parents Forum 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
 Mon 24 Jul Spirit Week (TBC)
 Mon 31 Jul Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm
Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)
 Mon 14 Aug Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
 Mon 21 Aug Parents Forum 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
 Fri 25 Aug Daffodil Day

Mon 28 Aug Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm
Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)

Tue 29 Aug School Photos

Mon 11 Sep Te Wiki o te reo
 Māori Haka Challenges

Mon 18 Sep Mental Health week
 Parents Forum 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm

Fri 22 Sept **Last day of Term 3**
 Sat 23 Sept – **School holidays**
 Sun 8 Oct

Term 4: **Monday 9 October to Friday 8 December 2023**

Mon 9 Oct **Term 3 – Day 1 starts**
 Mon 16 Oct Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
 Tues 17 Oct Sports Awards
 Thurs 19 Oct Leavers Dinner

Mon 23 Oct **Labour Day (holiday)**
 Tues 24 Oct Parents Forum
 Mon 30 Oct Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm
Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)

Tues 7 Nov **Senior Prizegiving 7.00 pm**

Mon 13 Nov Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
 Mon 27 Nov Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm
Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)

Mon 4 Dec **Junior Prizegiving**
 Tue 5 Dec – End-of-year activities for Year 9 and
 Thu 7 Dec Year 10

Fri 8 Dec Last day of Term 4
School Summer Holidays Begin

