

THAMES HIGH SCHOOL International Prospectus



...sharing the unique
Coromandel experience with you



Coromandel Peninsula
New Zealand



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Kia ora

Thames High School welcomes students from all parts of the world. We believe that study abroad is an enriching experience for everyone involved. Over the years, our school has built up the infrastructure and mechanisms which ensure that visitors enjoy a safe and happy stay.

“Sharing the unique Coromandel experience with you” is our slogan. We are situated in a semi-rural environment, with beautiful natural surroundings and although smaller than many other schools, our range of options in the academic, sport and cultural sectors are extensive.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this International Prospectus. We realise it is a mere snap shot of the broad range of experiences which you can enjoy here, so should you require any further information, then please access our school website www.thameshigh.school.nz or contact us directly.

Hopefully, we can look forward to welcoming you at our school in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Dave Sim – Principal



THAMES

Thames is a safe, semi-rural town of about 7,000 people. It is situated at the base of the Coromandel Peninsula and is just over one hour’s drive from Auckland.

The Coromandel, which has a rich history of gold mining and timber logging, is famous for its access to beautiful beaches and natural scenery. In summer, many New Zealanders come here for their holidays. Tramping, fishing, kayaking, boating and sailing are enjoyable past-times.

Thames is a thriving service town for the region and has a busy shopping centre, a large 24 hour hospital, a well stocked library and numerous sporting and cultural facilities and organisations.

Tourism is a growing industry in the region and the newly developed railroad cycle track (Hauraki Rail Trail), now attracts even more visitors.

The Thames Airport also includes a Flying School which offers a package to those students wanting to learn to fly small aircraft or gliders

For further information of the town and the region, see websites

www.thecoromandel.com

www.thamesinfo.co.nz





OUTDOOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS

Outdoor Education offers students mental and physical challenges. Much of the course takes place at school with lessons covering both the practical and theoretical aspects of each pursuit. Once students have adequate skills, knowledge and an awareness of the risks there will be the opportunity to be assessed in the activity in a natural setting.

The following outdoor activities are offered:

Level 1

- sea kayaking
- rock climbing
- abseiling
- tramping
- camping
- caving
- orienteering
- cycle touring
- mountain biking



Level 2

- water kayaking
- rock climbing
- abseiling
- tramping
- camping
- outdoor navigation
- mountain biking



Level 3

- snorkelling
- scuba diving
- rock climbing
- abseiling
- tramping
- bush survival.



ACADEMIC FOCUS



THS offers a full and comprehensive range of subjects at all levels. Junior secondary students study up to nine subjects during the year. YR11 and YR12 students must select six subjects from a range of options. Most YR13 students only take five, and use their free time to study.

- On arrival, all international students will be tested with a range of diagnostic tests to determine their level of English competency.
- If their English is at a basic elementary level then without incurring any extra costs, the student can participate in an Intensive English course at the EVAKONA Language School which is situated alongside the school. The student will be assessed regularly, and will only become fully mainstreamed once their English reaches the Intermediate level.
- If on arrival, the International Students pass the English assessment, which is roughly equivalent to a TEOFL score of 450 (paper based) or 133 (computer based) or Elementary Level of Oxford Placement Test, they will be placed in mainstream classes according to their academic ability, and will also join an ESOL class.
- The school reserves the right to decide the appropriate course enrolment particularly if the student is not at the requisite level.
- Thames High School does its best to place students in the subjects they choose, go to the school website www.thameshigh.school.nz to see the Curriculum Flowchart.
- Arrangements can be made for students who wish to sit the TOEFL and IELTS examinations.





CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Thames High School prides itself on a rich and vibrant cultural life.

The Music Department is strong. Music tuition is available for most musical instruments from trained teachers who visit the school each week. The school boasts a top quality choir, school orchestra as well as jazz and rock bands.



The Drama Department is also very active. Each year, it stages a major musical production, and there are many other opportunities to perform, or to get involved backstage, helping with the costumes, props, and lights.

There is also a Maori Cultural Group (Kapa haka), which practises each week and performs at important occasions for the school.

The town itself offers a rich cultural heritage and there are a number of organizations that one can become involved in. There is a very active Musical Theatre Group which stage at least two major shows each year and the Thames Concert Band plays an active life in the community and heritage and historical societies abound. Art groups are popular and there are numerous other clubs which cater for interests ranging from dancing to stamp collecting!



SPORT AT SCHOOL



Sport is probably the quickest and easiest way to make friends and integrate into the life of the school – and learn English!

Thames High School offers over 30 sporting codes, and a range of sports facilities. Students also have access to the town's facilities such as the tennis and squash courts, golf club and shooting range.

The school prides itself on its sports achievements and can boast achievements at regional, provincial and national level.





SCHOOL ORGANISED SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Thames High School offers over 30 sports codes. These include rugby, basketball, netball, soccer, outdoor adventures, cricket, bowls, hockey, badminton, tennis and golf. Sport facilities include playing fields, a swimming pool, tennis and netball courts as well as a brand new, state of the art sporting complex. The rock climbing wall, school kayaks and hockey training turf are well used.

Thames High School has a vibrant cultural and performing arts sector. Anyone with musical talent can join a high-quality school orchestra, choir or a rock band and opportunities are there for participation in impressive drama productions.

Thames/Coromandel commercially- organised activities

Fishing charters from Thames, Tapu, Coromandel and Tairua Diving at Tairua, Kayaking ventures on east and west side of Coromandel Peninsula, Surfing lessons at Tairua and Pauanui Flying and sky diving from Thames Airfield. (Also see Learn-to-fly programme) Horse Trekking in the Kauranga Valley, Sleeping Gods Canyon, Kaueranga Valley (includes abseiling & kayacking) Thames High students travel to school each day from these places.

Also Outdoor Pursuits Centre – Great Barrier Island (up to 5 nights) and Miranda Thermal Hot Springs (near Thames).



WHAT TO DO IN THAMES

Some 'good-value' activities for International Students

- Thames Sailing Club (\$35 annual membership for unlimited use of boats and even training)
- Thames Golf Club (\$135 annual membership for daily use of greens and coaching)
- Thames Aerobics Club (\$3 per session) Zumba (\$6.00 per session)
- Thames Tennis Club (\$100 annual membership to participate in an active programme)
- Thames Squash Club (annual membership of \$70)
- Thames Clay Target Shooting Club (annual membership of \$15)
- Thames Citizen Band – a concert band – (annual membership of \$25)
- Thames Musical Theatre Society (\$12 for student's annual membership)
- Hauraki Rail Trail - 80 km of cycling tracks starting in Thames (no cost)
- Thames Kiaido Ryu Martial Arts (\$45 fee per month – two sessions per week)
- Thames Amateur Swimming Club (\$100 for summer season training – 3 sessions a week)

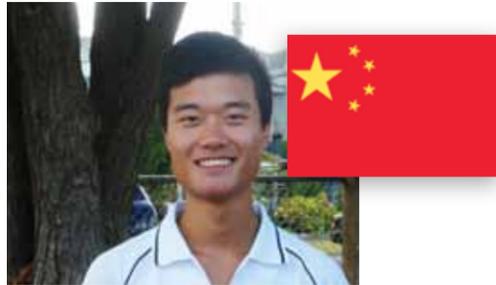
More Thames activities

- Thames Triathlon & Cycling Club
- Thames Harriers Club
- Thames Badminton Club
- Thames Cricket Club
- Thames Valley Hockey Association
- Tae Kwon Do United Martial Arts
- Thames Tai Chi and Yoga Groups
- Thames Netball Association
- Thames Rugby and Sports Club
- Hauraki Aero Club
- Thames Soccer Club
- Thames Indoor Basketball
- Thames Camera Club
- Fishing
- Kayaking
- Thames Cinema
- Touch Rugby Social League
- A number of church youth groups
- Voluntary work for organisations such as the SPCA
- Kauaeranga Tramping Club
- Modern Dance, Jazz and Classical Ballet
- Aerobics and Hip Hop groups





STUDENT STORIES



Weiwei Zhang (China)

Thames is a good place to live. It's really different from where I come from but I enjoy studying here. The people are really friendly and I have found it easy to make friends here. Because I love playing basketball, I joined the school basketball team, where I made new friends and had a lot of fun.



Rithy Khly (Cambodia)

Studying at Thames High School is very different from studying in Cambodia. In class and out of class we have fun while we are learning, and my English has improved a lot. All the teachers and the students are very friendly to International students. I enjoyed the sporting opportunities at Thames High School, as well as going on camp with my year group.



Leopold Sommerer (Germany)

Thames High School is an awesome school with nice students and nice teachers. I enjoyed the sport and outdoor activities such as soccer and the Adventure Racing Team. Thames High has a wide range of fun subjects like Outdoor Education and Fitness. I joined many sports teams to make new friends and I tried to get involved into many activities. I love to run up the Pinnacles because you have an incredible view from the top.



Isidora Villacura (Chile)

In Thames I got to know different types of people through sport, such as tennis and football. Thames is super cosy as it is a small town, and I can walk to school and to the shops! I only stayed for six months, not long enough to know everything, but long enough to enjoy the friendliness of everyone.

I can say with firmness and enthusiasm... I love Thames!



Kira Hoover (United States)

I came to Thames High to experience something totally different than what I was used to in the U.S. Being able to take Outdoor Ed. and go for my advanced scuba license, as well as take classes that I never had the opportunity to take, has been an awesome opportunity. But, I think the best part about coming to study in New Zealand was the chance to meet people from all around the world and learning to look at life from a different perspective has been something I am truly grateful for.



Suthasinee Oupetch (Thailand)

Being in Thames High School I've improved my English and made many friends. I'm impressed that everyone is willing to help me whenever I'm lost or don't understand the lesson.



Carolina Tellez Yepes (Colombia)

Being at Thames High has been one of the best experiences in my life. If I had the opportunity of doing everything again I would do it exactly as it happened. Obviously I missed my family and friends, but I made new friends and now I consider them my other family. So if you have the opportunity of living this wonderful experience, don't think twice! I promise you, you won't regret it.



Alan Terada (Japan)

Studying at the Thames High School helped me to improve my English a lot.

All the students at this high school are really friendly and I had no trouble with making friends. I personally think that chatting with friends is the easiest way to improve your English. Thames High School is a really good school and I want to thank all the people who helped me to improve my English and made my school life unforgettable.





A RANGE OF FRIENDLY HOMESTAYS

All international students are placed in a home-stay whose family has been vetted and approved by the International Education Department. Careful consideration is taken before placing a student and every endeavour is made to make the most suitable match.

The international student is welcomed into that family as a fully functioning member and he or she is guaranteed a single private bedroom, with a comfortable bed, storage and a desk.

Homestays can be chosen from town, outlying areas, beach or farm locations, depending on your interests and needs. Most home-stays are located in the township of Thames, so school and amenities are within easy walking distance. If placed on a farm or along the coast, there will be a free school bus each day to transport the student to and from Thames.

Throughout the stay, all aspects of accommodation are closely monitored and support staff and procedures are in place should the student need assistance.



APPLICATION PROCEDURE



Step one:

After reading the International Policies and Guidelines Document, the student downloads the International Student Application and Tuition Agreement Form and the International Student Profile Form.

The completed forms are then sent to the school.

Step two:

Thames High School reviews the application, and if acceptable sends a Conditional Offer of Place/Invoice.

If Thames High School declines the application, the student will be advised in writing.

Step three:

Once Thames High School has received the invoiced fees, a Confirmed Offer of Place is sent, which is also the applicant's receipt .

Step four:

The student applies for a Student Visa, and then advises Thames High School of the details of the flight he or she will arrive on.

A member of the International department of Thames High School will meet the student at the airport and take him or her to the homestay. A compulsory Orientation programme will be conducted on arrival at school before the student is integrated into the classes.





POLICIES

Below is a summary of the International Education Policies of Thames High School. Please see the school website www.thameshigh.school.nz for the full wording.

Orientation

On arrival at Thames High School you must attend an Orientation Programme with the staff of the International Department. This is usually during the week before you start classes, and you will be advised of the date when your application has been processed.

Support at school

The International Dean is always available to meet with you to discuss any issues which might concern you. You will also be given the phone numbers of the International Department staff so that you can contact them at any time.

Confidential medical advice and support can be arranged through the services of the school's Guidance Counsellor and nurse. Visits to the doctor can be arranged through these services, the homestay parent, the International Dean or Homestay Manager.



School uniform

Students at Thames High School must wear the correct school uniform. During your Orientation the International staff will assist you to purchase the appropriate items of uniform.

Driving a vehicle

1. Any international student at Thames High School **may not own or drive any type of motor vehicle**, unless the student is learning to drive with a registered driving instructor, having first obtained permission from their parents and the Dean.

2. Students may not travel in any vehicle driven by any other student unless having received permission from either the parents or agent, and the school.

Independent travel

Students under the age of 18 are not permitted to travel independently during their period of study in New Zealand. However, those who are keen to travel can join organised tours which cater specifically for international students. Any tours with other families or adults must be fully approved by the school.

Withdrawal from school

International students who wish to withdraw from Thames High School must:

1. Provide written approval from their parents or agent
2. Complete the school's leaving form
3. Give their homestay parents two weeks' notice if this involves terminating their homestay agreement.

Please refer to the website www.thameshigh.school.nz for our Refund Policy.

Complaint Procedures

If you think the school has failed to adhere to the Code of Practice:

Internal procedures:

Step 1: Contact the Homestay Manager if it is a homestay issue. Contact the Director of International Education for anything else.

Step 2: If the complaint is not dealt with to your satisfaction, arrange an appointment to talk to the Principal of the school.

Step 3: If you are still not satisfied with the matter, you may talk to the Board of Trustees. Ask the Principal's Personal Assistant to contact them for you.

International Education Appeal Authority (IEAA):

If you believe the school has breached the Code of Practice, and you have not been able to settle the matter by following the school's internal procedures, you can raise the matter online via the iStudent Complaints website (www.istudent.org.nz/contact-us):

By email: complaints@istudent.org.nz

By phone: 0800 00 66 75

By Post: iStudents Complaints
PO Box 2272
Wellington 6140



CONTACT DETAILS

International Director: James Elder

+64 7 868 8688 ext 827

+64 7 868 6240

international@thameshigh.school.nz

Enquiries of a general nature:
office@thameshigh.school.nz

For further information about the school, see our website:
www.thameshigh.school.nz



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