

THAMES HIGH SCHOOL

TE KURA TUARUA O HOTERINI

"TO INSPIRE LIFE-LONG LEARNERS WHO ACTIVELY BUILD A DIVERSE, JUST AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY"

Principal/Tumuaki Message

On Wednesday 22nd May, our teaching staff will be attending a presentation by Dr Ann Milne about culturally responsive practice. This presentation is part of the Kāhui Akō (Community of Learning) teacher professional learning and development programme. Our teachers will join with teachers from the other schools who are part of the Kāhui Akō: Parawai, Thames South, Moanataiari, Puriri, Matatoki, St Francis and Tapu Schools for the presentation and subsequent workshops.

All buses will be running and leaving at 12.40pm on this day.

Accordingly, school will end for students on that day at 12.30pm.

You can find out more about Dr Ann Milne, and what teachers in our community will be learning about by visiting her website www.annmilne.co.nz

Teacher Only Day 4th June

Teacher Only Day, Tuesday 4th June 2019

This is advance notice that on Tuesday 4th June (the day after the Queen's Birthday public holiday) teaching staff will be involved in a Teacher Only Day and normal classes will not take place.

During that day, teachers will be involved in Professional Learning and Development (PLD) activities.

COMING UP.....



May 13 – 17 – Book Week and Anti Bullying Week



May 16 – THS Amazing Race during Period 1



May 17 – Pink Shirt Day, Gold Coin donation please on the day



May 18 – THS Senior Ball at the Thames Civic Centre



May 22 – School closes at 12.30pm for all students for Kāhui Ako PLD

The school calendar is now available online through the parent portal and THS App.

Principals/Tumuaki Message continued

NCEA Results 2018

An article in the NZ Herald recently pointed out that nationally, senior school exam pass rates have dropped slightly. At Thames High School we have seen the reverse of this trend in 2018, with student achievement at NCEA Level 1 increasing to 84.6% (compared with the national rate of 71.8%), and student achievement of NCEA Level 2 increasing to 88.9% (compared with the national rate of 77.4%). What was also pleasing was the number of our students who achieved excellence endorsements, and who also achieved excellence grades in their external assessments. It is because of their strong performance in NCEA, particularly at Level 2, that our students have been so successful in recent years in attracting scholarships from universities and polytechnics. In 2018, our year 13 students were offered 17 scholarships ranging from \$3000 - \$30,000 in value.

Deputy Principal/Tuarua Tumuaki Message

Kia Ora Whānau,

Just to let you know that we have Rōpū/Whānau Kaitiaki (teacher) Interviews coming up during Term 2. Here are the dates:

Rōpū Interviews (Year 9 & 10) - Week 5, Thursday 30th May from 1.45pm. **School will run as normal, finishing at 3:10pm.**

Whānau Interviews (Year 11, 12, 13) - Week 9, Monday 24th June from 1.45pm. **School will finish at the end of period 2 for all Senior students. Junior students will remain at school until 3:10pm.**

Buses will run as normal on this day.

A letter will be sent home shortly with more information.

Board of Trustees Election 2019

Tena koutou,

Nominations are now open for the election of 6 parent representatives to the school Board of Trustees.

Nomination forms have been posted out and should be arriving in your letterboxes soon.

Additional forms can be obtained from the school office during school hours, or email lizmuirhead@thameshigh.school.nz.

You can nominate another person to stand as a candidate, or you can nominate yourself. Both parts of the form must be signed.

Nominations close at noon on 24th May 2019 and may be accompanied by a signed candidate statement and a photograph.

The voting roll is open for inspection at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

There will also be a list of candidate names as they come to hand, for inspection at the school.

Voting will close at noon on 7th June 2019.

You can get more information here: <https://www.trustee-election.co.nz/becoming-a-trustee/>

Kia ora rawa atu,

Liz Muirhead

Returning Officer

Student Support

Can I please ask all parents/caregivers to check on the parent portal your child/ren's medical details and update where needed. Otherwise you can contact the school with any updated information on 07 868 8688 or send a note with your child. With measles now in the North Island it is a concern, especially with our students that have not been immunized.

I would like to update my list so your support would be greatly appreciated.

Also, any changes that you have made i.e. new phone number of an emergency contact person, new address or home/cellphone number. This ensures we can contact you in a timely manner if your child is unwell or requires urgent medical attention.

Donated uniform items: I still have a large number of items left, mainly polo shirts and some small to medium sized jerseys, and some school skirts size 10's and 12's. Students can come to the Student Support Office if they would like any of the items.

Thankyou

Hinu – Student Support Officer

2018 Haurakian

There are still copies of the 2018 Haurakian available to be purchased from the Accounts office. Copies are free for students who paid their school donation for 2018; otherwise they can be purchased for \$7 each.

Student and Sibling Photos

These are now available for students to collect from the Main Office.

Student Driving Passes/Permanent Lunch Passes/Taonga Passes

Application forms for all these passes are available from the main office, for students and parents/caregivers to complete. Student drivers especially need to renew this each year and ensure a copy of your licence is sighted by the school office.

Anti-Bullying Week 2019

Bullying Free NZ Week starts 13th May and ends with Pink Shirt Day on Friday 17th. The theme this year is 'Whakanuia Tōu Āhua Ake! Celebrating Being Us!'

The week provides a great opportunity for our students and staff to embrace what makes them unique – such as talents, interests, appearance, disability, culture, beliefs, race, gender or sexuality in a school environment where everyone is welcome, safe and free from bullying.

There will be activities throughout the week and on Pink Shirt Day all students and staff are encouraged to wear pink and bring a gold coin donation that will be donated to the Mental Health Foundation.

Here is a link to some information for parents.

<https://www.bullyingfree.nz/assets/Uploads/Tackling-Bullying-A-guide-for-parents-and-whanau.pdf>

Careers Department

Tertiary planning will start again in week two (before school) on Tuesdays. This is a chance for **Yr 13** students who are interested in tertiary study in 2020, to look at and start researching possibilities. Some scholarship applications start opening at the end of May so there is information to learn about and processes to think about. Some students took the opportunity to visit the Wintec Open Day on Friday 10 May to look at courses that may be of interest to them. Waikato University are holding an Open Day on Friday May 17th. As this is the day before the school ball, there is no planned trip. Students can attend independent of the school. However, an alternative will occur later in the term.

University Scholarships for Year 13 Students

MoneyHub, a consumer finance website, has published a guide to hundreds of scholarships for any student planning to start university in 2020. The comprehensive list includes scholarships offered by every university as well as those specifically available to local students. A list of privately funded, Maori, Pacific and International university scholarships completes the list. Applications close throughout the year, with tens of millions of dollars available. MoneyHub has also published a list of tips for scholarship success.

For more details and to find suitable scholarships, visit the MoneyHub Scholarship page at:

<https://www.moneyhub.co.nz/scholarships-nz.html>

Our whanau careers programme will begin in Learning Advisory time in week 5. This is a chance for senior students to start looking at their interest areas and possible options for their future beyond Thames High School.

Past Student Success

Past student, Izzy Joe has been interviewed for her work in the world of coding. It is well worth a read! Check it out here: <https://www.shecancode.nz/stories/2019/izzy-joe>

Gateway

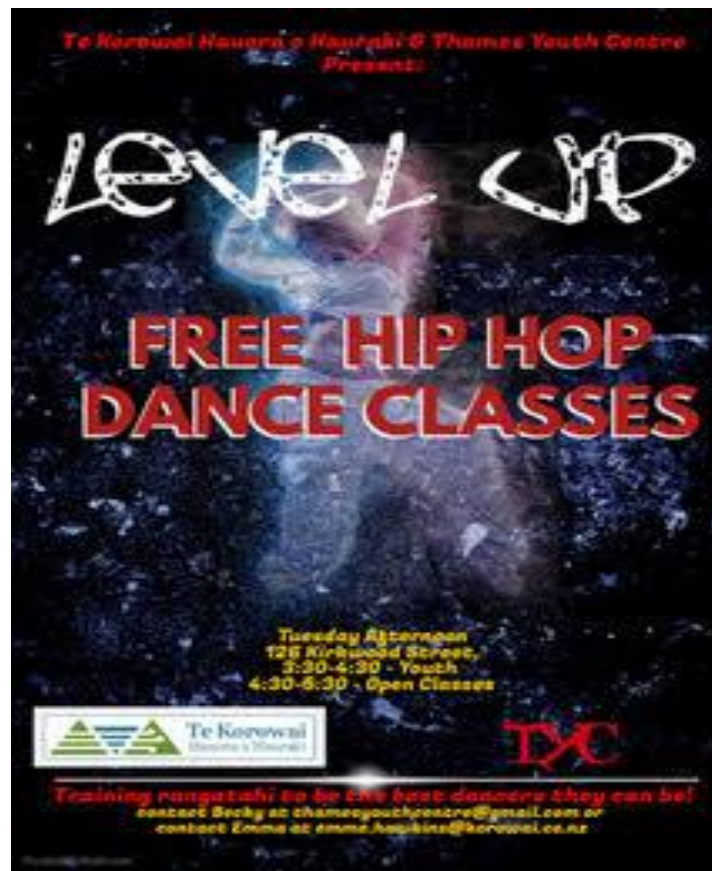
Gateway is a work-based learning programme and we would like to thank the following who are currently involved in having students in their workplace. This is a valuable programme where senior students get to experience a workplace area that they are interested in pursuing. It could not run without the involvement of our local businesses and we thank you for your on-going support;

Peninsula Flooring Ltd
Scotts Cleaning Company
Rynos Concreting
Jolly Bikes Ltd
TC Builders
Coco Coffee Shop
Matthew Donaldson
Pak'nSave
Thames I-Site
Dave Aitken Builder
CMB Motorcycles
Kauaeranga Plumbing

Adams Electrical
Out of the Box Cafe
Waiomu Beach Cafe
Four Square Coromandel
Matt Baines
Shaun Bentley
Snipz Hair Design
Fun Place to Be
DNK Tiny Homes
Green Grocer
Valley Toyota Thames

TYC Hip Hop Classes 2019

Hip Hop will be restarting on Tuesday the 7th of May at the Thames Youth Centre. Emma Hawkins will be running two programmes, one from 3:30-4:30 for Rangatahi and an open class from 4:30-5:30. The classes are both free. For any queries, please email: thamesyouthcentre@gmail.com



International Department

Mr Elder's Recruitment Trip to China

Overview - this was a marketing opportunity to attract students from the largest international student market in the world. It was facilitated through Study Waikato (formerly WEI - Waikato Education International) which our school is a member of. Representatives from Evakona Education, Wintec, Cambridge High and myself were hosted by EIC Education in their offices in 5 main cities; Beijing, Zhengzhou, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Shenzhen. EIC Education is the largest provider of overseas educational counselling services in China, with a market share of 16% of the overseas educational counselling market. They provide services under the "EIC" brand, which is the most recognised and trusted brand in the overseas educational services market in China.

The trip was a great learning experience for me. It highlighted that understanding, practising and embracing local culture and protocol, is essential if you want to establish long standing and fruitful relationships. We look forward to enhancing this relationship and to seeing some more students from China in future years.



The **School Ball** is happening on Saturday 18 May. A number of our international students are gearing up for this prestigious event. We look forward to hearing all about it and admiring the photos!!



What's happening in Term 2:

Our 2 new arrivals

Tim Gigele (Germany) and Thames Suaysa-ard (Thailand)



Tim



Thames

School Badminton is now on Monday nights from 5:30-7:30pm. Thursday lunchtime badminton has been replaced by Wednesday lunchtime table tennis in the hall. A big thanks to Xinqi for organising this.



The Thames Squash Club runs a Juniors evening on Friday nights. Joseph Hao has already made an impression on the court and hopefully more of our international students will take up the opportunity to play this great game.



Mystery Creek Agricultural Field Days Trip is happening again this year for international students on Wednesday June 12th. This is a great opportunity for international students to get amongst New Zealand's agricultural innovations and enjoy local foods/produce as well.



The International Food Festival has been shifted from Term 1 to Week 8 of Term 2 (Thursday June 20). We are looking at inviting some of our contributing primary school students who will be attending 'manual' on the day, so they can enjoy our international culinary delights. Preparation for this event will be starting in late May and if you would like to help in some way please let us know.



Music Challenge

Two of our German students have taken up the challenge to prepare, practise and perform a musical piece in an assembly or public forum this term. We look forward to Lilli and Hannah's performance!

Buddies will be needed

We have 3 different short-term groups coming in Term 3, plus 6 new Europeans, so we will be offering our local students another opportunity to be buddies. As stated in our last newsletter we are lucky to have so many volunteer students who do a fantastic job helping our overseas students feel welcome, safe and happy in our school.

Homestay Parents

Again, we thank our Homestay parents who are doing such a great job of welcoming, feeding, housing and entertaining our visiting international students.

We have quite a few groups coming in Terms 2 & 3 so if you are keen to do some short term (1-2 weeks) hosting contact Pauline Carter our Homestay Coordinator/Administrator at the school by phone 07 868 8688 Ext 810 or email internationalsupport@thameshigh.school.nz. We are always looking for long term hosts as well so don't be shy!

Check out our **Facebook Page** for more updates;

<https://www.facebook.com/ThamesHighSchoolInternational/>

Cheers

James Elder III

Director of International Education

Long term and Short-term Homestays for Term 3

Have you ever thought about having an international student stay in your home? Hosting a student from another country can be a hugely rewarding experience for your family. You will be able to share your own culture and learn about a new one as well as create lifetime connections with people from other countries.

The international student will be part of your family during their stay so you will care them as you would your own children. Homestay families provide a warm and comfortable bedroom with study facilities and three meals a day. In return, you will receive \$260 per week.

We are currently looking for families who are interested in hosting students from the following countries...

Germany – Term 3 & 4

Korea – 8 weeks (from start of Term 3)

China – 4 weeks 30 July-23 August

Japan (Misaki exchange) – 1-week 28 July-5 August

Taiwan – 1-week 21-26 July & 3-9 September

If you'd like to know more, please contact Pauline by phoning school on 868 8688, texting 027 536 1001 or emailing internationalsupport@thameshigh.school.nz



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to step forward**

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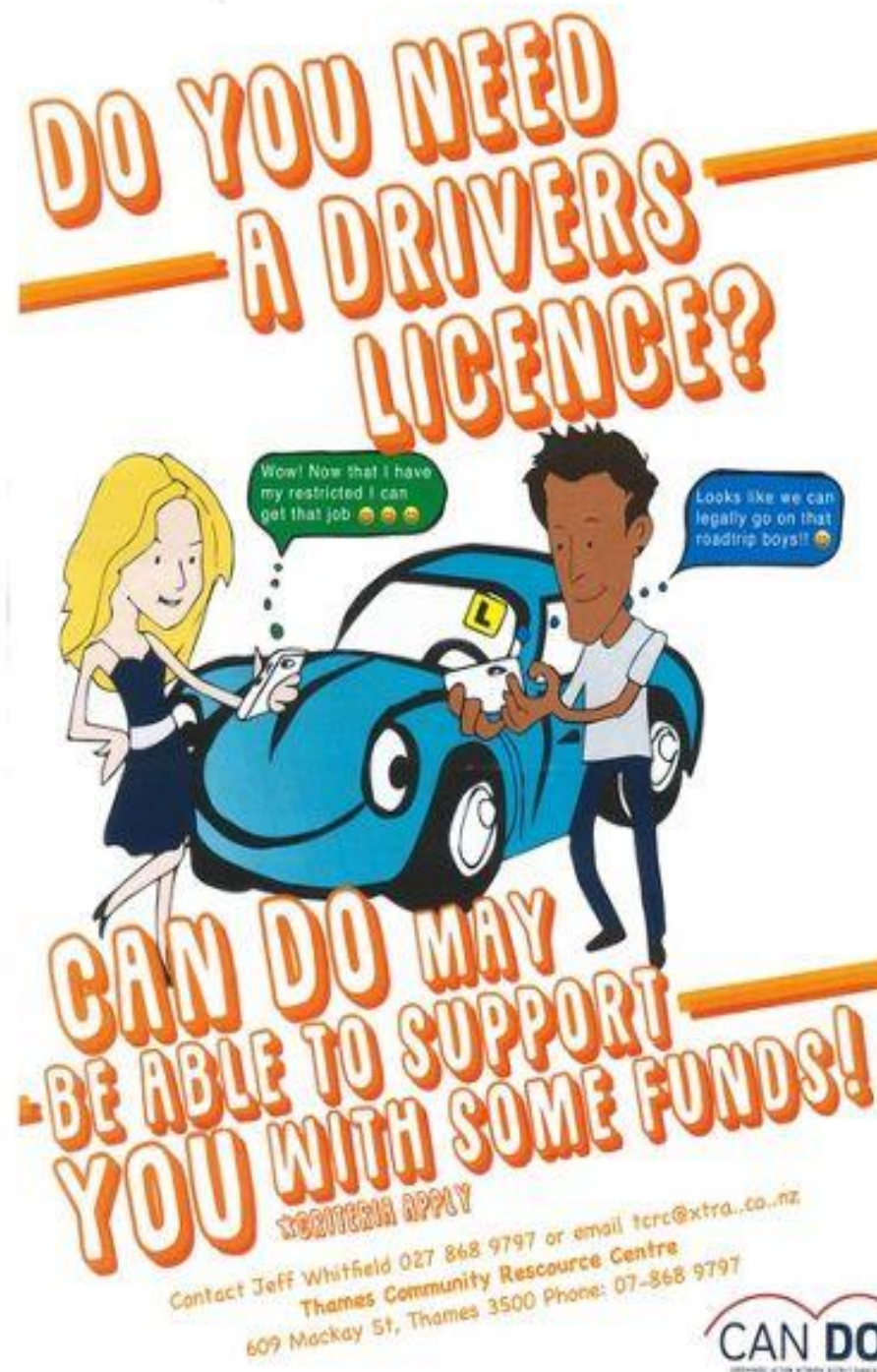
Step forward
for our schools

Do you need a Drivers License?

Can-do is a community organisation that may be able to help you secure some funds to assist you in getting your license.

Conditions apply, contact Jeff Whitfield on [07 8689797](tel:078689797) or tcrc@xtra.co.nz

Thames Community Centre, 609 Mackay St, Thames.



Girls Rugby 'Have a Go Day'



When: Wednesday 5th June

Where: Paeroa Domain

Time: 10am – 2pm

The Thames Valley Rugby Union would like to invite **all** School Girls from year 6 and up to attend a “Rugby Skills” day that will be held during the week.

In recent years there have been a number of NZ representative women’s players that have originated from Thames Valley - and with Women’s 7’s rugby now an Olympic sport - we want to find the next NZ rep(s) from the province.

**Come along and learn a range of rugby specific skills
with top class coaches**

Registration is free.

Register now by returning the registration form to your school or the Thames Valley Rugby Development Officer Marcus Howie or Women’s RDO Mathew Abraham by

e-mail: marcus.howie@tvrfu.co.nz

e-mail: Mathew.abraham@tvrfu.co.nz

drop into the office: 140A Normanby Road, Paeroa