



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Whānau Pānui

12 May 2020

Kia ora e te whānau

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Alert Level 2 – School is open to all students

Yesterday, the Prime Minister confirmed that we are moving to Alert Level 2. At Alert Level 2 schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff and that additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing.

As always, we are following Public Health guidelines, as I am sure you are. You can be assured that in Alert Level 2 we will know who is at school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe.

This means we will maintain accurate attendance rolls (as always), a contact register for visitors, practise good hygiene and regular cleaning. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

In addition, seating plans will be required – namely taiohi / students must sit in the same places in a given room.

Under Alert Level 2, any students and staff must stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms. For students this will be by asking students to go to the health centre, contact home made and caregivers/parents asked to pick their child up from school.

Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. Schools, because of the very low risk to young people, and because we know exactly who is onsite will operate with the guidelines of no contact in class, controlled movement around the school, maintaining appropriate physical distancing outside and inside. Please remind taiohi /

students that while they will be understandably excited about meeting their friends again, they are not to hug each other, as this makes contact tracing virtually impossible.

For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

If you have any questions about our health and safety plan, or have a child who might be vulnerable to serious illness and would like to discuss a plan for them, please contact the Thames High Office at office@thameshigh.school.nz or phone (07) 868 8688.

Please advise of sickness or other reasons for absence by email at attend@thameshigh.school.nz We will record the absence in the normal way as either justified (e.g. sickness) or unjustified (e.g. taiohi / student prefers not to go to school today).

Remember school is a very safe place for young people, and that is exactly as it should be. If you wish to ask any questions to reassure you about how safe school is, then please call the school on (07) 868 8688.

School will resume normal hours

On Monday 18 May school will begin with an extended Rōpu or Whānau class where taiohi / students will be welcomed and time will be spent catching up, and ensuring that we are ready to learn at the right time and right place, all the time. The focus is to return to routines and learning, and that is an important part of wellbeing. We are doing everything we can to make up for any lost learning, and appreciate that this may take time. We are still in this together and we are all here to help.

Generally:

- Taiohi/students must arrive at school to be on time and ready for class starting at 9.00 am.
- They must be in full correct uniform.
- Students that arrive at **school must remain at school for the entire day**, as we must be assured who has been contacted. This means current lunch or study passes are not in use. The use of these passes will be reviewed as we continue in Alert Level 2 and beyond.
- Students, as always, should come to school with their own device and earphones for use if required by the teacher. Earphones are needed as some learning may continue online while other activities take place.
- The canteen will operate, but with Level 2 distancing required.



- Water fountains will not be in operation so taiohi should bring a water bottle for personal use.
- Food is not to be shared.
- Should the winter weather set in and we have wet break times, we will ensure that taiohi are indoors to eat lunch. This will be in the hall and other suitable spaces that allow physical distancing.
- **Office hours will be 8.00 am to 4.00 pm**
Visitors must sign in and out at reception (contact register) even if here briefly. Please minimise such visits. Generally, we require you to make an appointment to see any staff.

Buses

Buses will operate on normal schedules from next week. We must keep an up-to-date register of students off and on the bus. The bus will have a seating plan that keeps passengers away from the driver (not each other). Passengers should sit near to the same people each trip, for example siblings should sit together. Hand sanitizer will be provided and buses must be cleaned between trips.

Sport and PE classes

At Level 2, sports and physical activities, for instance in PE classes, that require contact are allowed. These will be managed carefully. This means equipment, such as rugby balls, used will be disinfected before and after activities, and good hygiene must be followed. Failure to adhere to guidelines will mean such activities will be cancelled. We will send more guidelines out about **sports practices** when these are confirmed for different codes. It can be expected that competitions will be either reduced or delayed as organisation for teams has not happened in many cases.

Preparing for Level 2 - Thursday 14 May and Friday 15 May

Teachers and kaimahi require time at school to get ready for onsite learning and making changes to programmes to support all taiohi. Taiohi and whanau also need time to get ready for school, for instance to get uniform items, or other items.

There will be no new online / distance learning set these two days. This means that work that is not yet complete by Wednesday may be completed.

Students attending on Wednesday 13 May under the 'bubble' arrangement for Level 3 will be supervised on Thursday and Friday also.

Junior Classes Kete and HIP classes

Reminder that Year 9 and 10 Kete, HIP (High Interest Projects), classes will change from

Monday 18 May. HIP option selections were completed last week.

Bringing back school devices

A large number of school devices have been borrowed to support distance online learning. These must be returned on Monday 18 May. These will be collected at the Rōpu or Whānau class and will be thoroughly cleaned before being made available again for classes.

Expectations: Values and Uniform

At Thames High School there is a commitment to **Our Values:** Manaakitanga (belonging and welcoming) and, Whanāungatanga (positive relationships) and Mātauranga (understanding / knowledge) and **Our Tikanga:** T.H.S. **ROLES.** Respect - Ngākau Whakaute for Others – Manaaki, Learning – Akonga, Environment – Taiao and Self - Whai Ora.

More details about R.O.L.E.S is available on the [website](#).

Many thanks for supporting the school to maintain the highest possible expectations.

Uniform – Winter Uniform (Terms 2-3)

Respect for self and others, including the school, means taking pride in all that we do. This includes presenting ourselves in accordance with our [uniform expectations](#). We value the support of caregivers/parents and taiohi to ensure the expectations are followed.

The School (and therefore our taiohi) is judged in public by the [uniform guidelines](#) shown by students. We all have a vested interest to ensure that we appear at our best at all times. Correct uniform is expected from the time of leaving home to the time of returning home. The overall standard is that taiohi/students appear "neat, tidy and clean".

This means that **any thermals or undergarments may not be visible** whilst wearing the uniform.

For clarity:

- Darker thermal vests (navy blue or black) may be worn under the Years 9-12 uniform tops (as they are navy blue tops).
- A white singlet or thermal vest may be worn under the white polo short for Year 13.
- If a long-sleeved thermal is worn it must be under the school jersey.
- **No hoodies** are allowed, either above or below uniform items.



We certainly want taiohi to be warm, but the uniform must also be tidy. Visible thermals are informal and untidy. Only the school jacket is allowed with the school uniform, unless it is raining and a full rain coat is being worn.

We appreciate that, after eight weeks of not being at school, there will be a need to remind taiohi of the requirements and there may well be the need to book an appointment for a haircut and to update items of uniform.

Uniform is available from [Don Snowden's Menswear, Pollen St, Thames.](#)

- Wednesday 13 May – please call to make a time to get items.
Phone: 07- 868 7056
- From Thursday 14 May, regular hours resume: 9 am to 5 pm.

Students who are temporarily unable to wear correct uniform items must bring a **signed note** from their parent/caregiver or please send a verifiable email to Rōpu or Whānau kaitiaki/teachers. The note or email must give a reasonable explanation, which includes an expectation about when the issues will be corrected. The school will contact parents/caregivers for clarification if needed.

Support for uniform and other needs

If there are difficulties in obtaining correct school uniform items and other requirements for school (such as stationery and devices) please notify Rōpu or Whānau kaitiaki and/or the Year level Kaitiaki/Deans. [Contact details are on the website.](#) Where a reason is accepted taiohi may be issued with a pass to advise staff that the matter is being addressed.

Any student who experiences difficulty obtaining uniform items should discuss the matter with an appropriate member of the guidance network. In some circumstances uniform items may be borrowed or issued by our Student Support Officer / Kaimahi Tautoko. Requests for such items should be made with the Rōpu or Whānau kaitiaki or Dean or our Counsellor / Kaiāwhina who can make the appropriate arrangements.

There are other sources of support for the provision of school uniform and other requirements for school (such as stationery and devices), for instance the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) - Work and Income. Information about such support is available from the [Beneficiary Advisory Service](#) or directly from [Work and Income](#) (Ministry of Social Development). Note that you do not need to be

a beneficiary to qualify for such support, although income limits apply.

You may also consider contacting support services such as [The Salvation Army \(Thames\)](#) or contact [CAPS Hauraki](#) and they may be able help you access support.

As with all expectations of behaviour there are clear consequences for those who do not follow the guidelines. These consequences range from correcting the item immediately (e.g. removing an extra earring), being asked to correct the issue by a certain date (i.e. the next day), contact home to discuss, or arranging a conference to discuss the issue. If taiohi repeatedly wear the incorrect uniform then items may be confiscated (refer to the [guidelines](#)) or other disciplinary actions may follow. This is because the issue is likely to now be about disobedience or defiance and therefore will be treated as such.

Thanks again to everyone for supporting us in meeting these expectations. Any concerns may be referred to Deans/Kaitiaki, Deputy Principals or directly to me.

Vacancies

We are currently advertising for an Assistant Head of Mathematics or Teacher of Maths/Statistics and the PA to the Principal. Please visit or refer interested people to our website at <https://www.thameshigh.school.nz/vacancies>

Queries welcome

Thanks to parents, whanau and students who have taken the opportunity to contact me. I always welcome comments and queries so email me at michaelhart@thameshigh.school.nz or you can call the school number on (07) 868 8688 and ask for me.

Ngā mihi

Matua Michael Hart
Tumuaki/Principal

