



Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga

Whānau Pānui

1 May 2020

Kia ora e te whānau

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Alert Level 3 continues

We have had taiohi/students at school in the last few days, and I am pleased that we are able to support whānau as they return to work. The [health and safety guidelines](#) that we put in place have been adhered to and it is good to see taiohi/students working on the excellent lessons set by kaiako/teachers.

If you find that circumstances change and there is a need to send your child to school, please make contact with Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal, Whaea Maria Baird, at mariabaird@thameshigh.school.nz

We must know the number expected every day as we have to have plans in place for the number expected. If we need to increase the number of 'bubbles' we need to increase the supervision required. Therefore we must have advance notice of the intention to attend. Taiohi/students that we expect to attend will have attendance recorded and absence followed up in the normal way. 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 prefers not to go to school today).

We expect to hear about a review to Level 3 on Monday 11 May, and we will advise you as soon as we know what that will mean for any return to school.

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.

Online learning continues

Most taiohi/students are continuing with their online learning or booklet-based programme at home, with good routines and making sure they make the most of the opportunities. We really appreciate that many parents and taiohi have thanked teachers for adapting to this situation and doing a great job setting lessons. We have been told that some taiohi have told their parents that they have no work. This is not true, and we are happy to support you to get any issues sorted. Please contact us and ask. Our Kaiako/teachers, and teacher aides are here to help. Remember to schedule breaks and exercise, along with other ways of maintaining wellbeing.

Junior Classes changing to "Term 2" classes

For Years 9 and 10, while we are in Term 2 (as the holiday was put forward) taiohi/students are still doing Term 1 classes. It is time that we make the shift to Term 2 for our classes as well. We have delayed this to reflect the disruption to Term 1 classes, but we need to move on. The change over dates are as follows:

- Monday 11 May - Only the following core classes for Year 9 and 10 will change to the Term 2 option - Health, Maori, Social Studies and English. Detailed information will be sent to students and whānau regarding this change.
- For the Kete, HIP (High Interest Projects) and Science and Math Core classes, these will stay as the Term 1 classes until Monday 18 May. If this changes due to anything unexpected by the government (on Monday 11 May). An option selection form for the HIP (High Interest Projects)



will be sent to students and whānau early next week so students are able to make a choice on these classes.

Students who require hardcopy resources

During level 3, the main office is staffed from 8.30 am to 12.00 pm. If students/parents have been advised they may pick up materials then please do so in that timeframe. If pick up is not possible please contact the school. The pick up is contactless and requires a one in / one out protocol to ensure physical distancing. Hand sanitiser is available at reception. Picking up the named resources acts as a contact register.

Senior students – reassurance about assessments and qualifications

We can understand anxiety about the impact on assessments and qualifications that taiohi/students and whanau may have. We have previously shared that NCEA is a very flexible qualification system that allows teachers to assess in a number of ways, and that is what is happening. Heads of Department and teachers have discussed what changes to assessments are needed, whether that is a change to the sequence of topics, or if the format of an assessment is changed for online assessment =, or another assessment can be used instead of the originally planned one.

Please reassure Years 11 to 13 students that it will all work out and that they are fully supported by NZQA. There is a clear purpose in continuing to prepare and continue to strive for their best to get the very best outcomes from this year. All students in New Zealand (and around the world) are experiencing this challenge and, like us all, are doing their very best. We are all in this together and we will support all taiohi/students to reach their goals.

I refer you to a very helpful **[Guide for Parents, Caregivers or Whānau to help students manage NCEA assessment remotely during COVID-19 Alert Levels 3-4](#)**. [\(LINK\)](#)

From the library

This week the library website is focussed on feeling good! As well as a list of inspirational fiction to uplift, we are looking at mindfulness, gratitude, healthy eating and rise and shine yoga.

[Please follow the link to the library page.](#)

The library has heaps of resources that support every interest. Please explore!

Thanks – and my ‘door is open’ (virtually)

Thanks to parents, whanau and students who have reached out to greet 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

Some valuable links:

- [A Guide to NCEA - for secondary school students and parents \(PDF, 662KB\)](#)
- [Advice from the Ministry about supporting learning at home](#)
- Learning from home: <https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/>
- Learning from home **wellbeing** guide: <https://learningfromhome.govt.nz/wellbeing>
- For those with younger children may find this guide useful: <https://sparklers.org.nz/parenting/>
- [Advice from Netsafe about staying safe online](#)
- <https://www.allright.org.nz>
- [25 Mental Health Wellness Tips during Quarantine from Eileen M Feliciano, Psy.D.](#) is a good list and highlights some things particularly important for children

