



23 September 2020

Kia ora e te whānau

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Normal school day Friday 25 September

All taiohi/students have a regular full school day on the last day of term Friday 25 September.

We have not planned a Catch Up Day in Term 3. It has not been in the Key Dates that we have updated each Pānui. With all the uncertainty around Covid-19 and possible disruptions to learning, if we had to move to level 3, it was a prudent decision to maximise learning time for all.

We advised all Years 11-13 **two weeks ago** that there is no catch up day for Term 3. However, it was an oversight not to ensure there was a broader communication about this decision, given that this may well have been an expectation based on previous years.

There are many reasons for the decision, balancing the benefits of the day with the costs.

Some of the reasons are:

- Year 9 and 10 taiohi were required to remain at home for the day. They need to have more time in learning not less.
- On average, attendance levels in Term Three have been lower than normal for all year levels and having another day for most taiohi/students not school is makes attendance levels worse.

I am confident taiohi/students can get plenty of support in other ways too. This includes tutorials and one-on-one in-class support.

As NCEA exams have been delayed (starting 16 November) by almost two weeks, there is more time in Term 4 before the external exams. This allows more time to complete internal assessment.

We are also finding that many of our priority taiohi are currently on track to achieve NCEA, and we have intervention plans for those that are currently not on track.

COVID-19 Update – Alert Level 1

As announced by the Prime Minister on Monday the school is now are Alert Level 1. This means:

- 1. Schools are open and must operate safely.**
- 2. There are no restrictions on personal movement at Alert Level 1 – all children and staff should be at school.**

The only people who will need to stay away are:

- those required to self-isolate
- individuals who health authorities have asked to stay away while waiting for a test result (most people will be able to go back to school/work while waiting for a result)
- children, students, and staff who are unwell.

- 3. Testing remains a crucial component in preventing an outbreak.**

If a child or staff member is sick, they should stay home. If they have cold or flu symptoms they should call their doctor or Healthline



on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) for advice about getting tested. If recommended to get tested, they should do so.

5. Schools will close for cleaning and contact tracing if there is a confirmed case who was infectious when at school.

6. The school must continue to support contact tracing through the display of QR Code posters and your visitor register, attendance register and timetable

7. There are no restrictions on numbers at gatherings.

Schools, like workplaces are not considered to be gatherings. Physical activities including cultural and sporting activities, practices and events can go ahead.

8. Fundamental public health measures continue to apply:

- Hand hygiene
- Cough and sneeze etiquette
- Regularly cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces.

9. There are no restrictions on domestic travel.

People should avoid using mass transport if sick, awaiting a result from a COVID-19 test or required/recommended to self-isolate. Individuals travelling to, through and from Auckland by plane are required to wear a face covering.

10. Face coverings continue not to be required when in school.

This includes school transport and charter buses hired by the school to transport students and staff to and from school. Anyone who chooses to wear a face covering in any setting should be supported to do so.

School Ball

We are looking forward to the Annual School Ball on Saturday 17 October. At COVID Alert Level 1 this event is possible.. We are really thankful for that, as the student leaders have planned an amazing night.

If circumstances change and the Alert level is increased again, then the ball is a social activity and would not be permitted.

Student Trustee Election



We have three strong candidates for the Student Trustee Election; Tyler Groenewald, Helena Mayer and Claire Smith.

Voting occurred at Learning Advisory time Wednesday 23 September during LA time and Student Trustee announced Friday, 25 September. Student Trustee takes office Monday 12 October (Term 4).

You are welcome to view the candidate statements and video outlining their vision for the trustee role on our [website](#).

Enrolments 2021 - update

We are excited that we have had lots of interest in enrolling at Thames High School for 2021. We are on track to have a very strong Year 9 cohort joining our whānau. If you have Year 8 children, please enrol them as soon as possible as it means we can plan for the number of classes that we need. Please encourage others you know who have Year 8 children. Much of our staff planning needs to be done by early in Term 4, so it is always best to get confirmation of our numbers.

Please contact the office or call 868 8688 for an enrolment pack.

Year 9 Enrolment interviews for 2021 were held on Tuesday 8 September and Tuesday 15 September.

Whānau of Year 8 taiohi / students have taken the opportunity to visit our kura for a tour of some classes and an information session. The first open afternoon was on Tuesday 22 September and the next one is on Thursday 24 September.

A **Year 8 Information Evening** will be held on Wednesday 14 October at 6 pm. This is another opportunity to get more information about the school. Please come to this with an enrolment form completed or drop this off at the front office, and we will book an enrolment interview with you and your child.

Spirit Week



Spirit Week was an explosion of fun, creativity, sport, and culture with activities ranging from a Wearable Arts festival, to a Tapuwae tournament and all concluding with a full school Amazing Race event on Friday afternoon, with house colours proudly on display.



Our junior Rōpū were joined with our senior Whānau groups, and they spent the week mixing, mingling and forming relationships between each other that they might've previously not have before. The groups were challenged to get to know each other, grow from each other, and create some chants together throughout the week.

In what has otherwise been a really tough year for our students, this Spirit Week has served as a great reminder of how amazing it is that we get to attend Thames High School, and has helped us build the pride we have in our school.

Special shout out to our senior student leaders, and our Year 13 Deans Mrs K Curnow and Mr K Taylor, who put this fantastic week together, and without whom none of this could have happened!

Eva Hammond Scholarship Trust Award

Eligibility: Any past student or student who is about to commence a course of tertiary education, who is within 6 months of leaving the school.

Purpose of Award: To give financial assistance to eligible current or past students of the school (as above) to pursue any recognised course of tertiary education but with priority given to university education. The assistance should benefit students in financial need and such other deserving qualities as the Trustees may elect.

Application form available from Principal's PA email: office@thameshigh.school.nz

- Closing date for applications is 16 October 2020 at 4.00 pm.
- Written applications only are acceptable.
- All information is confidential to the selection committee.

Former Students Graduating from Victoria University

Thames High School and Victoria University are very proud of the achievements of former Thames High School students. We demonstrate this pride by listing Graduates' names and qualifications.

- Ashley Taaka - BAS (Bachelor of Arch Studies) Major 1 Interior Architec
- Catherine Mercer – BA (Bachelor or Arts) Major 1 Film
- Emma Le Lievre – PGDCNR (PGDip in Clinical Research)
- Michael Collinson – MSS (Master of Strategic Studies – Institutional Honours – Passed with Merit

Exit passes

If your son/daughter has an appointment then please ensure this is requested in advance, so an Exit Pass can be issued. This could be a legitimate appointment letter or lip, or present a note signed by parents, or parents can send an email to studentsupport@thameshigh.school.nz.

Taiohi/students must sign out and back in, as we all must when leaving the kura / school site.

Please do not arrange to pick up your child from school without informing us, as we have a duty of care that we take very seriously.

Taiohi/students may not leave class at the right time without an Exit Pass.

Current Vacancies

Food Technician

5 hours per week – Term time only

For a Role Description and Non Teaching Position Application form please contact the Principal's PA, Mrs Tracey Reed at office@thameshigh.school.nz

Applications close: Friday 2 October 2020



Jobseekers Training

New website for employment, education and training services

[Connected](#) is a new online one-stop-shop that helps workers and businesses deal with the impact of COVID-19. It is an all-of-government portal for jobseekers, people interested in training or retraining and employers to find out more about what's available.

Ngārimu Video Competition

To honour the legacy of Victoria Cross winner Second Lieutenant Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa Ngārimu and other members of the 28th (Māori) Battalion, by promoting study and encouraging the learning of te reo Māori history, tradition, and culture as it relates to the Māori Battalion.

All students and ākonga from Years 7-13 can submit a short 3-5 minute video and be in to win \$2,200, as well as \$950 for your school or kura.

The competition closes on **Monday 12 October**. Competition information, its purpose and entry requirements are available.

<https://www.education.govt.nz/.../ngarimu-video-competition>

Mental Health Supports for young people

This information has been provided by the Ministry of Education.

Helping children and young people while they are learning at home or coping with changing alert levels

Helping children and young people cope with the changes caused by COVID-19 means providing accurate information, discussing facts without causing undue alarm, and re-establishing routines. More guidance for parents, caregivers and whānau is available [here](#) and online at [Te Rito Toi](#).

There is advice for parents on looking after their wellbeing, and the wellbeing of others, on the learning from home website. There are also [three COVID-19 Wellbeing Guides](#) available providing further advice to parents and teachers.

There are a large range of self-help tools and other supports available for young people who may feel they are not coping.

Helplines

- **Youthline**-0800 376 633, text 234, email or webchat (7-11pm daily) for young people and their parents, whānau and friends
- **Rainbow Youth**-(09) 376 4155 (11am-5pm weekdays), or webchat (3-5 weekdays) for peer support for youth in the rainbow community, their friends and whānau.
- **What's Up**-0800 942 8787, text 234, email or webchat to talk about anything with trained counsellors.
- **Kidsline**-0800 543 754 for young people up to 18 years old.
- **The Lowdown**-0800 111 757, text 5626, email or webchat to get for support for young people experiencing depression or anxiety.

As always, I welcome comments.

Please email principal@thameshigh.school.nz or call 07 868 8688

Ngā mihi

Matua Michael Hart
Tumuaki/Principal

Key dates 2020

Dates are subject to change and will be advised.

Fri 25 Sept	Last Day of Term 3
Mon 12 Oct	Term 4 begins
Fri 16 Oct	Pink Shirt Day
Sat 17 Oct	General Elections - voting centre in THS Hall
Sat 17 Oct	THS Senior School Ball
Wed 11 Nov	Senior Prizegiving
Mon 16 Nov	NCEA external exams start
Wed 25 Nov	Teacher Only Day - no classes for junior students
Fri 11 Dec	Junior Prizegiving and Last Day of Term 4

2021 Start dates

Mon 1 Feb	Anniversary Day
Tue 2 Feb	Staff only day
Wed 3 Feb	Term 1 begins: Year 11-13 course confirmation
Thu 4 Feb	Kahui Ako Connection Day (staff only)
Fri 5 Feb	Powhiri for Year 9 Orientation for Year 9 Year 10 start (TBC)
Mon 8 Feb	Waitangi Day (obs)
Tue 9 Feb	Whole school / timetable starts

