



14 October 2020

Kia ora e te whānau

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Tumuaki / Principal's Message

Naumai hoki mai (welcome back) and Naumai haere mai, welcome to our new taiohi and whānau to the final term of 2020. We have done so well as a community and a country to get to get to this stage of the year with school fully open and everyone attending.

Term Four is a very important term for all taiohi, but especially our seniors, who are completing internal assessments and preparing for the NZQA external examinations (starting on Monday 16 November) to complete their qualifications. Kaiako (teachers), kaitiaki (whānau teachers) and Kaihautu (deans) are all working hard also to make sure that we have the right plans in place to have the best success possible.

It is great to hear that many taiohi who know that they need to complete extra assessments have arranged to complete these during the external examination, as they do not have any or many exams.

Meanwhile in the junior school the last cycle of Kete and HIP (high interest project) classes have begun. Years 9 and 10 taiohi will have several

assessments between now and the end of the year also, ranging from assignments to written tests. Their work habits and competencies in this last term are setting them up for the senior school, where perseverance and effort are always needed.

PINK SHIRT DAY

On Friday 16 October, the school will join Aotearoa in supporting Pink Shirt day, an anti-bullying campaign.

What this means for our kura is Kaiako/Teachers and Taiohi/Students are encouraged to come dressed in PINK. There will be various activities running on the day that our Welfare Student Leaders have organised from:

The best Pink Rōpū/Whānau photo.

At interval there will a poster sheet set up for anyone to do a pink hand paint on and sign.

At lunchtime we are fortunate to have Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki provide a free sausage sizzle and activities.

Lastly our favourite part is when the school comes together out on the field to have an overview photo of taiohi/kaimahi and whānau in the shape of a heart to finish off the campaign.

Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu,

Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora

Speak Up, Stand Together,

Stop Bullying!

New Kaimahi / Staff and Taiohi / Students

Congratulations to Mrs Natalie O'Neil appointed as position as Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal. Mrs O'Neil was Head of Health & Physical Education prior to her role as Acting Deputy Principal.

Naumai haere mai, (welcome) to three new staff members. Mrs Barbara Thomas joins us as Guidance Counsellor, replacing Mrs Susan McInnes. Whaea Roanne Mitchell-Te Teira joins us as Student Support Officer, replacing Mrs Hinu Abraham. And Mrs Naomi Harsant joins us as Assistant Librarian for Term four.



Also joining us is Tracey Hilt is our Nurse from Pinnacle Health who is here for 3 days a week to support our taiohi / students with their health needs. If taiohi / students would like to see Tracey they can book an appointment at our Student Support Office for a time that suits them.

Our nurse will also proactively be offering health assessments, starting with Year 9 Taiohi/Students. More information will be sent to parents/caregivers of Year 9.

We also welcome several new students to our school. We certainly make a big effort to help new students find their way around and get to know how we do things. There is no such thing as a silly question, so make sure that you ask whenever you are unsure.

Student Board Member Election

Welcome and congratulations to Claire Smith who was elected as Student Board Member on 25 September 2020. Claire attended her first board meeting on Monday 28 September. The next full board hui is one Tuesday 27 October.

Teacher-only day

Coming up this term is a teacher-only day on **Wednesday 25 November**. Examinations are still being held on this day. Those Year 9 and 10 taiohi that need supervision may attend at the library from 9 to 3 pm that day.

This is a teacher-only day that was agreed by the PPTA and Ministry of Education to help plan for the curriculum and NCEA changes.

Eva Hammond Scholarship Trust Award

Reminder that applications for this Award close 4 pm, Friday 16 October.

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.

For further information please [refer to the previous pānui](#).

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

NCEA Exams 2021

NCEA external exams commence on Monday 16 November (week 6) and run through until Wednesday 9 December (week 9). Taiohi are currently finishing off internal assessments and preparing for the external exams. You can click on the link to the [NZQA website that will take you directly to the NCEA external exam timetable](#)

Senior Prizegiving

This is a very special occasion where we come together as whānau, and community to celebrate our senior school. For some this will be their last school event before the next chapter of their lives begin. We invite you all to be a part of the celebrations.
Nau Mai Haere Mai.

Day: Wednesday 11 November 2020
Time: 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm approximately
Venue: THS Hall

More details to follow.

Exit Passes (again)

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. That means we always need to know where all taiohi/students are.

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

An Exit Pass must be issued at the Student Support Office – this can be done before school or during a break. A student may present a legitimate appointment letter or slip, or present a note signed by parents, or parents can send an email to studentsupport@thameshigh.school.nz.

Ngā mihi

Matua Michael Hart
Tumuaki/Principal
principal@thameshigh.school.nz



Key dates 2020

Dates are subject to change and will be advised.

Mon 12 Oct	Term 4 begins
Fri 16 Oct	Pink Shirt Day
Fri 16 Oct & Sat 17 Oct	General Elections – voting centre in THS Hall
Sat 17 Oct	THS Senior School Ball
Mon 20 Oct	Senior Speech Competition
Thu 22 Oct	Year 13 Leaver's Dinner
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 (observed)
Tue 9 Feb	Whole school / timetable starts

