



## Whānau Pānui Update – 13 May 2022

### Contents

<b>Cross-Country</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Bully-Free New Zealand Week</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Pink Shirt Mufti Day</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mufti Day Dress Code</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Parents Forum</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Rongohia te Hau whānau survey</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Exit passes (appointments) reminder</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Key Dates</b>	<b>3</b>

### Cross-Country

Our traditional full-school Cross-Country activity is Monday 16 May starting at 10.40 am.

Our competitive runners will leave first and complete the traditional track (including bush track). The traditional track has not changed in many years and our Year 12 and 13 taiohi will be familiar with the track where taiohi leave school, head up Richmond, around to Hill Street, through the bush, down the Karaka and back to school where their times and names will be recorded.

Participation runners/joggers/walkers will leave in House groups once their name has been recorded as participating.

Taiohi / students are to bring a change of clothes, running shoes and medical needs.

*School's spirit and participation is the key to your house winning the House Shield for 2022.*

We wish all participants well in this event.

The rest of the school day is a normal school day (periods 1,3 and 4).

### Bully-Free New Zealand Week

This year's **Bullying-Free New Zealand Week** is all about focusing on the positive mahi already happening in school communities across Aotearoa to support safe, inclusive school cultures where everyone is being heard and listened to, and feels they belong.

Bullying-Free New Zealand Week will be from 16-20 May in conjunction with Pink Shirt Day, on Friday. The week follows the theme He kōtuinga mahi iti, he hua pai-ā rau: **"Small ripples create big waves"**.

### Pink Shirt Mufti Day

Join us on **Friday 20 May** as we Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora – Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!

Our school supports **Pink Shirt Day** and taiohi / students are encouraged to wear **Pink** and give a gold coin donation (\$2), where proceeds will go to the Mental Health Foundation.

If taiohi / students are not in **Pink** they are expected to be in correct school uniform.

Celebrated annually around the globe, **Pink Shirt Day** began in Canada in 2007 when two students took a stand against homophobic bullying, after a peer was bullied for wearing a **pink shirt**. In Aotearoa, **Pink Shirt Day** works to create schools, workplaces, communities and whānau where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.



## Muffi Day Dress Code

The dress code for Muffi Day is clothing, although casual, that must be appropriate for a school workplace environment. This includes, but may not be limited to:

- No slogans referring to smoking, alcohol and drugs, any sexual connotations.
- Footwear is to be smart/casual. School shoes will be issued to taiohi/students who wear inappropriate footwear. Suitable footwear i.e. enclosed shoes must be worn for practical classes (Health & PE, Science and Technology)
- The normal expectations of hair colour apply, so please do not colour your hair for this day.
- Do not bring any props or costumes, as they be inappropriate or be distraction to learning in the classroom e.g no onesies, no themed outfits, or costumes
- No bandanas are to be worn.

Should clothing that is deemed as not suited to the school workplace, the school reserves the right to ask students to change either into provided school uniform, if available, or the item(s) may be corrected with the help of caregivers / whānau. For consistency, decisions about what does and does not meet the standards above will be decided by members of the Senior Leadership Team. Parent and caregivers / whānau support is expected and appreciated.

## Parents Forum

The first of the Parents' Forum for 2022 will be on Monday 16 May at 7.00 pm in the Thames High School staffroom.

In the Pānui of 5 May, Tracey Hinton invited you to share your views and preferences in a short survey. The survey asks about the when to meet and possible presentation topics and should only take a few minutes to complete. [Link to the Survey](#)

## Rongohia te Hau whānau survey

Since late 2019 Thames High School has been involved in professional learning and a change programme to help us have better learning and teaching. This involves growing how we are 'culturally responsive'. We have been helped in this work by [Poutama Pounamu at Waikato University](#).

As part of this work a survey was carried out in 2020 and it is now time for an update.

We are surveying parents and caregivers (whānau), students and teachers to see how we are going. In addition, there are classroom observations that the team do to get a snapshot of how learning happens in our school.

**Parents/caregiver are invited and encouraged to participate in the whānau survey** to get your impressions of your child's experience at school. Like all surveys the more people that have their say the better the information we get.

The survey will remain open until **Friday 20 May**. It should take 5-10 minutes to complete. [Link to the survey](#)

## Exit passes (appointments) reminder

### Contacting students

Please continue to support us and not expect students to receive or respond to messages from home during class time. Interval is at 10.20 to 10.40 am and lunch is from 1.00 to 1.45 pm. If there is an urgent need to contact your child then please contact the school 07 868 8688

### Requesting to have students sign out

A reminder that if you wish to have your child sign out of school for an appointment or other reason then please contact the school. We must know who off site and the reason for any absence is. For some young people, they leave the school to be picked up by mum or dad, and they haven't signed out, and we then must find out where they are. That is not good practice for health and safety and our duty of care.

Exit passes are covered [on our website under general information](#).

Students are not to directly contact their parents and ask to go home, and 'get permission'. It is challenging for our staff to have a conversation about the messages students may or may not have received. Please contact our Student Support Office. If the correct process is not followed, then it is an unjustified absence (truancy).

If a student is feeling unwell then the correct process is to report to Student Support and/or the nurse to get checked, and then the office will call parents/caregivers should going home be the right option.

Any concerns about this please contact us.

Ngā manaakitanga

Michael Hart  
**Tumuaki / Principal**  
[principal@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:principal@thameshigh.school.nz)  
07 868 8688



## Key Dates

*As always, dates may be subject to change and will be advised.*

<b>Term 2:</b>	<b>Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July</b>
Mon 16 May	THS Cross Country
Mon 30 May	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Mon 6 Jun	<b>Queen’s Birthday (Public Holiday)</b>
Wed 22 Jun	Year 9 Vision and Hearing checks
Fri 24 Jun	<b>Matariki (Public Holiday)</b>
Mon 27 Jun	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
<b>Fri 8 July</b>	<b>End of Term 2</b>
<b>Term 3:</b>	<b>Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September</b>
Mon 1 Aug	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Wed 10 Aug	Sport Team photos
Mon 23 Aug	<b>Teacher Only Day</b> - NCEA Accord Day
Mon 29 Aug	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Mon 5-23 Sept	<b>Triennial school board elections</b>
Mon 26 Sept	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Fri 30 Sept	<b>End of Term 3</b>
<b>Term 4:</b>	<b>Monday 17 October to Friday 9 December 2022.</b>
Mon 24 Oct	Labour Day
Mon 31 Oct	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
<b>Wed 2 Nov</b>	<b>Senior Prize giving</b>
Mon 7 Nov-	NCEA Exams
Fri 2 Dec	
Fri 25 Nov	<b>Teacher Only Day</b> - NCEA Accord Day
Mon 28	<b>Teacher Only Day</b> - NCEA Accord Day
Fri 9 Dec	<b>Last day Term 4</b>

