



Whānau Pānui 2021 Year 9 New Entrants

17 December 2020

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Kia ora e te Whānau

As we prepare for the start of 2021 this pānui has some important information for our Year 9 taiohi/students.

With the later date for Anniversary Day, and the days to get the school ready for instruction, the first day for Year 9 taiohi is **Friday 5 February 2021, starting with a Powhiri.**

Arrive by 9 am for a 9.30 am start. Details below.

2021 Starting Programme

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Thurs 28 Jan | School Office open for new enrolments and enquiries |
| Fri 5 Feb | Powhiri for Year 9 and new taiohi / students and staff members. Orientation for Year 9 (Only Year 9 & 13 taiohi / students at school) |
| Mon 8 Feb | Waitangi Day observed (no school) |
| Tues 9 Feb | Timetabled classes begin. Arrive by 8.35 am for 8.45 am start. School day starts at 8:45 am with a special Rōpu class. |

Powhiri

We start the year with a powhiri for new taiohi / students and kaimahi / staff. Whānau are encouraged and welcome to attend.

As Manuhiri (visitors), please gather from 9:00 am for a 9:30 am start. Gather outside the waharoa (entrance to the Wharenui) on Sealey Street.

Wait for the karanga (calling) that begins the powhiri.

Tangata whenua (hosts) will be represented by all kaimahi and Year 13 taiohi.

Orientation

After the powhiri, taiohi will move to the hall, whānau are encouraged to join them. There will be tea and coffee and a biscuit (kai) to formally end the powhiri.

After kai, taiohi will be assigned and taken to their Rōpu class to begin their orientation activities.

End of day

The day ends at 3:10 pm.

School timetable 2021

We have made some changes to the school timetable for 2021.

Currently: 10-day cycle (two weeks) where there are 15 periods per week, 90 minutes per period.

2021: 5-day cycle (one week) with 20 periods a week, 75 minutes per period.

Highlights:

- School will start at 8:45 am with Period 1. This will bring us in line with most secondary schools. Currently buses arrive at 8:15 to 8:20 am and there is a long time for students to have to wait for school to start.
- Rōpu and Whānau classes will be after period 1. *This will be reviewed after Term 1.*
- School will still finish at 3:10 pm each day.
- Year 9 to 11 in-class curriculum time will be increased to 25 hours a week. This is a significant increase from the current 21-22 hours.



- Year 7 and 8 technology classes will start at 10:40 am, Monday, Thursday and Friday and 10:45 am on Tuesday. This means that they will arrive after a break and leave before lunchtime.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 8:45 Period 1 10:00 | 8:45 Period 1 10:00 | 8:45 Period 1 10:00 | 8:45 Period 1 10:00 | 8:45 Period 1 10:00 |
| WhanauRoopu 10:15 | Learning Advisory 1 10:25 | Learning Advisory 2 / or Assembly 10:25 | WhanauRoopu 10:15 | WhanauRoopu 10:15 |
| Interval 10:35 | Interval 10:40 | Interval 10:40 | Interval 10:35 | Interval 10:40 |
| 10:40 Period 2 11:15 | 10:45 Period 2 11:20 | 10:45 Period 2 11:20 | 10:40 Period 2 11:15 | 10:40 Period 2 11:15 |
| TRANSITION time 12:00 | TRANSITION time 12:00 | TRANSITION time 12:00 | TRANSITION time 12:00 | TRANSITION time 12:00 |
| Period 3 13:15 | Period 3 13:20 | Period 3 13:20 | Period 3 13:15 | Period 3 13:15 |
| Lunch 13:50 | Lunch 13:50 | Lunch 13:50 | Lunch 13:50 | Lunch 13:50 |
| Period 4 15:10 | Period 4 15:10 | Period 4 15:10 | Period 4 15:10 | Period 4 15:10 |

Year 9 Curriculum

A review of the structure of the curriculum at Years 9 has taken place.

The aim has been to keep the strengths of the existing cross-curricular Kete and High Interest Project (HIP) programmes, but also to ensure there is a more consistent (core) learning programme for all taiohi / students.

Key features:

- Three 'core' class lines. Each 'line' has three 75 minutes periods a week.
- Cross-curricular (single curriculum areas).
- Two Cross-curricular kete lines, having a semester per kete.
- Cross-curricular kete will be taught in Rōpu class groups.
- We have increased the amount of core Te Reo and Tikanga Māori at Year 9 from one term to two terms.

Year 9 in Summary:

- Three core lines**
 - Te Reo / English / Science / Maths (2 lines)** => half year course per Year 9 class.
 - Social Studies / Health / Art / Digital Technology (DTC)** => quarter-year course per Year 9 class
- Cross-curricular kete (2 lines)** => 'core class' half-year rotation – current subject combinations are:-

- Maths and PE / Social Studies and Drama
- Art and Drama / English and Science

- High Interest Project (HIP)** - Choice projects - mixed groups => quarter or half-year course depending on HIP. One HIP, 2 periods a week, one HIP, 3 periods a week. Selection for HIPs will be made by 8 February.

Stationery and BYOD

Stationery lists and the requirements for devices have been updated and [can be found on our website](#).

Being prepared for class is a great start to making progress. Taiohi/students are expected to be organised and bring what they need to support their learning.

The basics include a school bag, stationery (books, paper, pens, etc.) and a learning device is highly recommended.

Uniform

Please be sure to review the [uniform expectations on the website](#).

Be sure to start school as we mean to continue – in complete and correct school uniform. Please take the opportunity during the break to get uniform items that fit correctly.

This includes shoes – please be sure to review the shoe styles that are expected.

Shoe styles

Shoes are meant to be tidy, **not** "casual" shoes.

See below for some examples (these show the 'look' and are not meant to be an exhaustive).

We welcome inquiries to check that shoes are suitable, rather than the disappointment of being asked to provide new shoes.

Not: canvas and or rubber-toe flat skater shoes or sneakers or sports styled trainers/shoes or basketball boots, etc. **Not** the shoes marketed as "school sneakers".



Boys styles of shoes (examples only)



Examples of casual shoes that are NOT expected.



Girls styles of shoes (examples only)



Pastoral Care in 2021

The main point of contact for parents / caregivers and the school is the Rōpu or Whānau Kaitiaki. It is a hallmark of Thames High School that this relationship between the school and Whānau is strong as there is a relatively small number of taiohi / students and whānau the Kaitiaki connects with.

Unfortunately, despite repeated internal advertisements there were no applicants for year level **deans** at Thames High School.

This was not what was expected or wanted, but we have had to make plans in the latter part of 2020 about how we will operate without deans.

Inevitably there will be more direct responsibility for the deputy principals, especially when it comes to the guidance of the Rōpu or Whānau Kaitiaki and if there are concerns with progress or behaviour. Consequently, the Deputy Principals have been released from their teaching in 2021.

For Years 9 and 10 taiohi/students and their whānau the key deputy principal is Mrs Natalie O'Neil natalieoneil@thameshigh.school.nz Although she will be supported by Whaea Maria Baird also mariabaird@thameshighh.school.nz

The school will also put in place a professional development plan for teachers who may consider the Deans/Pastoral Leaders roles for 2022.

In addition to the Rōpu or Whānau and Deputy Principals, we are very fortunate to have our school guidance counsellor, Mrs Barbara Thomas and our Whare Hauroa Nurse, Mrs Tracey Hilt (four days a week).

We are also fortunate that we will have two Youth Workers for 10 hours per week as part of the 24/7 Network. Our lead contact is Mr Michael Wilkes and we thank the Living Well Trust for their support in allowing this to happen in 2021.

We always welcome comments, queries or suggestions.

Please email office@thameshigh.school.nz (for general inquiries) or principal@thameshigh.school.nz (for the principal or call 07 868 8688

Ngā mihi o te Meri Kirimete me te Tau Hou – Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Michael Hart
Tumuaki/Principal

2021 Key dates for reference

Dates may be subject to change and will be advised.

| | |
|--|--|
| Mon 1 Feb | Anniversary Day |
| Tue 2 Feb | Term 1 begins: Staff only day |
| Wed 3 Feb | All Year 12 & 13 11:00am – 1:00pm Year 11 1:30pm – 3:00pm (course clashes and subject changes only) |
| Thu 4 Feb | Kahui Ako Connection Day (staff only) |
| Fri 5 Feb | Powhiri for Year 9 and new taiohi / students and staff members. Year 9 & 13 taiohi / students at school) |
| Mon 8 Feb | Orientation for Year 9 (Only Waitangi Day (School Closed) |
| Tue 9 Feb | Whole school - Timetable classes begin (Years 9 – 13) Arrive by 8.35 am for a 8.45 am start 8.45 am: Special Rōpu / Whānau Class followed by School Assembly |
| Fri 19 Feb | Swimming Sports |
| Fri 26 Feb | Athletics Sports |
| Friday 2 Apr | Good Friday (School closed) |
| Mon 5 Apr | Easter Monday (School closed) |
| Tue 6 Apr | Easter Tuesday (School closed) |
| Other term dates for 2021 for your diary (Dates are subject to change) | |
| Fri 16 Apr | End of Term 1 |
| Mon 3 May | Term 2 starts |
| Mon 3 May | Staff Only Day (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) |
| Tues 4 May | All classes begin |
| Wed 18 May | NCEA Accord Teacher-only Day 2 |
| Mon 7 Jun | Queen's Birthday (School closed) |
| Fri 9 July | End of Term 2 |
| Mon 26 July | Term 3 starts |
| Thu 12 Aug | NCEA Accord Teacher-only Day 3 |
| Fri 1 Oct | End of Term 3 |
| Mon 16 Oct | Term 4 starts |
| Tue 23 Nov | NCEA Accord Teacher-only Day 4 |
| Mon 25 Oct | Labour Day (School closed) |
| Wed 15 Dec | End of Term 4 / End of School Year (subject to change) |

