



Whānau Pānui: 2021 Years 11-13

22 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 Years 11 to 13 taiohi/students. Our last full panui had these dates but here is some more specific information.

Please make a note of these dates.

2021 Timetable/Hōtaka

In a **separate email** the provisional subjects in taiohi/students' timetable/hōtaka are listed.

This is based on the draft 2021 timetable and must be reviewed to see if there are gaps or clashes. Some subjects may be listed but may be subject to getting good results in the external examinations.

This is a draft only and taiohi will need to confirm their courses on course confirmation day.

While the timetable team has done its best to make a timetable that fits most student choices, there are limits on how well that works.

There are always clashes where subjects are on at the same time. When there are clashes students need to choose another subject that will fit the timetable.

Sometimes other arrangements can be made but this must be discussed.

Senior Course Confirmation (Years 11-13)

Senior Course Confirmation is held on Wednesday 3 February 2021.

Please note that if taiohi/students do not attend course confirmation they may not get the subjects that they want as subject sizes must be managed.

11:00 am – 1:00 pm: Years 12 and 13

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm: Year 11

All **Year 12 & 13** are required to confirm their timetable.

They must go to the School Hall at 11am to be welcomed back and to get information about the process to confirm their timetable.

Year 11 only attend course confirmation if there are gaps, clashes or changes requested.

They must go to the School Hall at 1.30 pm to be welcomed back and to get information about the process to confirm their timetable.

Year 11 taiohi will need to attend the afternoon session to confirm course selections for 2021.

They will need to go to the school hall at 1.30pm.

School uniform is required

As for any day the school is open for instruction, taiohi/students are expected to attend school in **full school uniform**.

Please review uniform requirements below.



Powhiri – Friday 5 February

All Year 13 taiohi/students along with kaimahi/staff as Tangata Whenua (hosts) are expected to be at school on this day **at 9 am** for a 9.30 am start with powhiri for Year 9 taiohi and any new kaimahi/staff members and taiohi. Whānau are encouraged and welcome to attend.

At the conclusion of the powhiri, Year 13 taiohi will be assigned to a Year 9 rōpū class to tautoko/support the day. The day finishes at 3:10 pm.

Year 13 Camp

As mentioned in my previous email about year 13 Camp, this is proposed to occur in early Term 1.

A tentative date has been set for **Monday 1 March to Wednesday 3 March 2021**. More details to be confirmed once staffing and programme have been confirmed.

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.

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.

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)



Girls styles of shoes (examples only)



Examples of casual shoes that are not expected.



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 Whaea Maria Baird also mariabaird@thameshighh.school.nz. Although she will be supported by Mrs Natalie O'Neil Mrs Natalie O'Neil natalieoneil@thameshigh.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)

