

Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga



Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata /We grow together to achieve one's true potential.

Whānau Pānui

19 April 2021

Kia ora e te whanau

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Term 2 first day – Tuesday 4 May

Reminder that we have a professional development session for all kaimahi / staff about Te Tiriti o Waitangi to further support our culturally responsiveness. The session will involve mana whenua and our senior leaders.

That means that students are not required at school until Tuesday 4 May.

Further important dates in Term 2 are outlined later in this Pānui.

Uniform – Survey

We want to hear your views as we review the consistency, quality, supply and expectations of our uniform and our community's expectations.

The survey will close on **Friday 7 May** (the end of the first week of term 2). The survey should take around 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

We appreciate you taking the time to have your say.

[Please take the time to complete this survey.](#)

Support for uniform and other needs

We appreciate that you may be experiencing difficulties in obtaining correct school uniform items and other requirements for school (such as stationery and devices).

We are here to help, so please contact Student Support Officer / Kaimahi Tautoko Whaea Roanne Mitchell-Te Teira at studentsupport@thameshigh.school.nz or please contact your child's Rōpu or Whānau kaitiaki.

We can advise you about items of uniform that we have or that we may be able to obtain for you, using our Student Equity Trust Fund.

Student Equity Trust Fund

Another reminder that we have funds for us to support families experiencing financial difficulties.

If we can help, please contact our Student Support Officer / Kaimahi Tautoko, your child's Rōpu or Whānau kaitiaki, our Business Manager or one of the senior leadership team (deputy principals or principal).

Other sources of help

There are other **sources of support for school uniform** and **other requirements** for school (such as stationery and devices), for instance the [Ministry of Social Development \(MSD\) - Work and Income.](#)



ERO update

Many thanks to all kaimahi (staff), taura (students), whānau (parents and caregivers) that participated in the ERO evaluation at school after Easter.

A preliminary report will be presented to the board at the end of May, and we can expect a public report thereafter. ERO commented that they saw much progress since 2018 on how the school was addressing how we were ensuring equity and excellence for all, making use of information to identify and prioritise students who are currently below expectations.

We are committed to continuing to improve all that we do, and we are excited by the opportunity to continue to work with ERO in [their new 'evaluation partner' model of engagement with schools](#).

Charter, Annual Plan and Annual Reports

You may have missed the publication of our updated Charter and Annual Plan for 2021.

The Charter is an important document that all schools must have that describes the board's priorities, and submitted to the Ministry of Education in March each year.

In addition, our 'analysis of variance' that includes the account of how well we achieve last year's goals and the progress we made in meeting our annual plan, has also been submitted to the Ministry of Education and is available on our website.

Both the **charter** and **analysis of variance** are available [on our website](#).

The 2019 Financial Reports have been signed off by the auditors after significant delays due to Covid-19. [This is also available on our website](#). Our 2020 accounts are about to be audited early next term in line with government requirements – a process that should be completed by 31 May each year.

School "Strike for Climate"

Approximately 40 of our taura / students took part in the School Strike for Climate on Friday 9 April, joining an estimated 170,000 across the country. We are proud that the organisers of the Thames event are our very Lillian Balfour and Helena Meyer (Year 13), assisted by Oliver O'Neill (Year 13), Tyler Groenewald and Emma Fogg (Year 12).

We are all hoping that this is a sign that our Enviroschools group is supported by many students this year and can strengthen our commitment to sustainable environments and practices at the school.

Many thanks to all parents / caregivers who provided permission slips as expected.

If you have missed the news as reported, here are some links:

[Stuff.co.nz](#)

[The Hauraki Herald](#)

[The Valley Profile](#)

If you have a concern

We always wish to address any concerns you have as soon as possible. In most cases it is about asking for clarification or an explanation – we are only too happy to help.

We have a full concerns and complaints process available on [School Docs](#). The general principle is to resolve any issue directly with the person and as informally as possible.

In most cases a discussion and/or meeting will resolve most concerns, but if not, you can always seek further advice.

Any concern(s) raised with board members or the board chair will be referred to the principal to resolve, so please reserve communicating with the board chair to matters regarding the principal and/or other board members.

For convenience we outline the process below.



Raising Concerns

Our primary goal is to create the best learning environment for the students at our school.

We encourage open communication and prefer that you come to us to talk through any concerns rather than discussing them in the community.

1. Discuss the issue with the right person.

If you have a general concern about the school or its programmes, discuss it with the person involved or with a member of the senior leadership team or the principal.

For instance, if it is about a class/course, please contact the class teacher or relevant head of department.

If you have a particular concern about a staff member or a school activity, contact the person involved to discuss the matter privately.

We ask that you make this direct approach as soon as possible. Be prepared to make a time to discuss your concern if the person involved is unable to talk with you straight away. Be open to listening to the other side of the story to avoid communication breakdowns.

If you do not wish to approach the person involved, contact a member of the management team (head of department or senior leadership team) or the principal to discuss your concern. The principal or management team member may communicate with the person involved to clarify the situation.

If you have a concern about your own child or another student, contact the student's class teacher or the principal to discuss the matter.

If your concern relates to another student, you must not approach that student or their family directly.

If you have a concern about another parent, caregiver, or member of the school community on a school related matter, raise this with the principal.

If the matter concerns the principal and you have not first resolved it by discussion, or you feel uncomfortable directly approaching the principal, contact the board chair.

If the matter concerns a board member, contact the board chair, or deputy chair if it concerns the board chair.

If you approach a board member with your concerns you will be asked to follow the guidelines above, and the board member will inform the principal and board chair.

2. Work towards a resolution.

In most cases, constructive discussion will resolve your concerns.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of your initial meeting, contact the principal, a member of the senior leadership team, or the board chair (if it concerns the principal or other board members) to discuss further resolution.

If this process does not resolve your concern, you can make a formal complaint.

As always, I welcome comments and que

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

Ngā mihi

Michael Hart
Tumuaki/Principal



Looking ahead – Term 2

Most winter sports are beginning, so keep an eye out for where our teams are playing and go along and support them where you can. They will appreciate seeing you on the side-line.

Keep an on our website where our sports team will keep us updated on the results each Monday following the games.

Teacher Only Days

- Monday 3 May – Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Professional development
- Wednesday 19 May – NCEA Day 2 (the whole Waikato region). This is the second day (the first was last year).
- There are another two dates scheduled in 2021 – see the key dates below.

Cross County - Wednesday 12 May -

The whole school will be involved in this annual event and competitive students will have the opportunity to go to the Thames Valley Cross Country on Tuesday 1 June.

International Food Festival - Wednesday 23 & Friday 25 June

Come along and support our International Students on this day, where we celebrate the different cultures of our school. Watch out for more to come from our Cultural Leaders who are planning this.

Senior School Ball - Saturday 22 May

Year 12 and Year 13 students are invited to attend one of the most anticipated events on the senior calendar.

Taiohi/Whānau/Kaiako Hui – Wednesday 23 June and Thursday 1 July

Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences to follow up on the 'mid-year' reports (Wednesday 16 June). Bookings will be made online closer to the date. published. School will finish earlier at 1.00 pm on these days.

2021 Key dates for reference

[See the school website for all dates](#)

Dates may be subject to change and will be advised.

Fri 16 Apr	End of Term 1
Mon 3 May	Staff Only Day (Te Tiriti o Waitangi)
Tues 4 May	Term 2 - all classes begin
Wed 12 May	Cross Country
Wed 19 May Mon 31 May	NCEA Accord Teacher-only Day 2 Board Hui (5.30 pm)
Mon 7 Jun Wed 16 Jun Wed 23 Jun	Queen's Birthday (School closed) "Mid-year" Reports Term 2 Conferences (1.30 – 7 pm) Student-parent-subject teacher Board Hui (5.30 pm)
Mon 28 Jun Thu 1 Jul	Conferences (1.30 – 7 pm) Student-parent-subject teacher End of Term 2
Fri 9 July Mon 26 July Mon 26 Jul Wed 4 Aug Thu 12 Aug Tue 24 Aug Mon 30 Aug Thu 12 Sept to Tue 21 Sep	Term 3 starts Board Hui (5.30 pm) Year 9 Open Evening (6 pm) NCEA Accord Teacher-only Day 3 Co-curricular photos Board Hui (5.30 pm) Year 11-13 School Exams
Mon 27 Sep Fri 1 Oct Mon 16 Oct Mon 25 Oct Tue 26 Oct Wed 3 Nov Fri 5 Nov Mon 8 Nov	Board Hui (5.30 pm) End of Term 3 Term 4 starts Labour Day (School closed) Board Hui (5.30 pm) Senior Prizegiving (7 pm) Year 11-13 "End-of-year" Reports NCEA Exams start (until Thu 2 Dec)
Tue 23 Nov Mon 13 Dec Fri 17 Dec Fri 17 Dec	NCEA Accord Teacher-only Day 4 Junior Prizegiving (1 pm) Year 9-10 "End-of-year" Reports End of Term 4 / End of School Year (subject to change)

Start-up dates 2022 (subject to change)

Thu 27 Jan 2022	Teacher only day
Fri 28 Jan 2022	Senior course confirmation
Mon 2 Feb	Powhiri (Year 9 and 13) School starts for Year 9
Tue 3 Feb	School starts for Years 10-13
Mon 7 Feb	Waitangi Day observed

