



Whānau Pānui

9 July 2021

Kiā ora e te whānau

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Thanks

Thanks to all students and staff for maintaining learning as we have had issues with heating and electricity. After a delay in getting the pump off the wharf, it has now been installed. So, the boiler will now have its heat sent around the school. Our electrical issue has been located and the fix will be completed early next week. We have coped with the colder weather with a combination of room changes to areas heated by heat pump and by being more relaxed about extra layers needed.

Thanks to the many people who have sent messages of support for all the great work being done by staff and students to not tolerate any harassment. That we need to always show respect for others, learning, environment, and self.

Thanks for supporting and reminding each other to respect our values and use appropriate language and manners at all times.

Thanks for attending the recent subject report conferences. The partnership between home and school to support learning is essential for success. If you have not been able to make the conferences, please contact teachers by email or phone, or arrange a time to meet.

For us to reach our true potential we all must have high expectations of ourselves and get the best support we can. It is okay to ask for help, in fact it is what we all expect. If the person you ask cannot help, they will always look for ways others can help and suggest ways you can help yourself.

Thanks to those who represent Thames High School, and those many volunteers who support those individuals and teams. It takes a lot of effort to get prepared and to play every week. It is worth it as we learn so many life skills each win, loss or draw. - Brilliant to have seen many representing us with pride on the sports field.

All the best for the school holidays, have a safe and refreshing break, ready for a big term ahead for all, especially our seniors completing their NCEA qualifications.

Start of Term 3

First day of Term 3 is Monday 26 July. School starts at normal time. Students should be at school by 8.35 am ready to start at 8.45 am.

Refer to other key events and dates in this pānui.

PRIDE

At a recent assembly I spoke of ways we can show that we are proud to be part of our school community.

PRIDE ...

- **Presentation** – represent THS in the best light, make a positive first impression.
- **Respect and Responsibility – ROLES**
- **Involvement** - getting involved in activities, sports, and service.
- **Dedication** - being committed - showing up.
- **Effort and Encouragement** - giving our best and lifting others up.



In sports teams, a uniform shows we are part of the same team and that we are in it together. We want to be identified as one.

Uni means 'one' and uniform is a way to show we are one.

When have you seen the All Blacks or Warriors go on the field with a mixture of uniform? That simply does not happen. Any team that has great culture has a strong sense of identity. That builds success.

School uniform can work that way too, and we show our pride by presenting ourselves in the best way we can.

We will be redoubling our efforts in this area from the very start of Term 3.

Te Ao Māori Rōpū Hui

E ngā mana, E ngā reo, E raurangatira mā. Tēnā koutou katoa.

Nei rā te mihi mahana kia koutou i haere mai ki te whakanui i tō mātou kaupapa, i tō mātou hui o Te Rōpū o Te Ao Māori.

It is with warm regards that I give thanks to all who came to participate in the meeting of Te Ao Māori group.

Mā te whakawhiti kōrero, wananga tahi tātou kā tutuki pai ai ā mātou kitenga hei poi i tō mātou tamariki, taiohi, mokopuna kia wāna ai tō rātou pito mata.

It is with meeting and discussing ideas with one another that we can achieve our hopes and dreams to help find a way, to help our children, students and mokopuna reach their potential.

I runga anō i tēnei whakaaro tēnā koutou katoa mo tō koutou manaaki ki te tautoko i tēnei hui.

It is with this in mind that we give thanks to you all who came to support this hui.

Nō reira, Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

It was awesome that we had over 20 people participate in our second Te Ao Māori Rōpū Hui for the term on Thursday 8 July.

The scheduled dates for the next hui are:

Tuesday 24 August Term 3 (week 5)

Tuesday 28 September Term 3 (week 10)

The hui will be held from 6.30 – 8.00 pm in the Wharenui at Thames High School, Te Puna o Te Pito Mata.

Naumai, haere mai – all are welcome to join us as we continue to make a positive difference for Māori.

If you are interested in joining the hui, please contact Tracey Reed email: traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz

Consultation and Developments

Thanks to those who have taken the opportunity to give us feedback about the existing junior curriculum.

Next term we expect to have further opportunities for feedback and consultation, with surveys and opportunities to share your views in focus groups.

We will have a community survey of parents, students and staff that will ask how we are doing and how we can get better.

Along with Te Ao Māori Rōpū Hui, the Parents Forum (proposed) will be asked to give some ideas and direction for our planning.

Our consultation is to inform the development of our next three-year plan which is being undertaken by the school board and management.

We will spend more time communicating to our community about significant changes that are underway, nationally and locally. There is a major [curriculum refresh programme](#) (2021-2025) happening, [changes to NCEA](#) (2023-2025), and our ongoing journey to ensure that we ensure equity and excellence for Māori and all our students, as required by the [Education and Training Act \(2020\) including Section 127](#). These requirements were incorporated into [Our Charter](#), and is one of the driving forces behind some of the developments that have happened and are happening.

Section 127 says that one of the primary objectives for Boards is to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi by:

- working to ensure their plans, policies and local curriculum reflect local tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori
- taking all reasonable steps to make instruction available in tikanga Māori and te reo Māori and
- achieving equitable outcomes for Māori students.

The changes to the the education system that are underway cannot be underestimated as part of an all-of-government commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We are excited by the opportunities ahead and will do our best to keep you informed along the way.



Junior Timetable - Term 3

As part of the junior curriculum our Year 9 and 10 students will have a new timetable from the start of Term 3. This can be accessed through the parent portal on our Thames High School website. Students and parents can use their school username and login to view this information. A paper copy of timetables will be printed and available on the first day back in Term 3.

Year 8 Open Evening

On **Wednesday 4 August** we will be holding our [Year 8 Open Evening](#), 5:30pm - 8:30 pm. This is an opportunity for prospective Year 9 Students (current Year 8 students) to visit the school to hear about all the great things that happen, see the facilities, and talk to kaimahi/staff.

Spirit Week

Spirit Week 26–30 July (first week Term 3) is an explosion of fun, creativity, sport, and culture and promotes House spirit. Whānau will compete together in a range of activities. For instance each Whānau will be making a flag to take around and fly high as they compete in a round-robin of activities on the afternoon of Friday 30 July. Lots of house points will be up for grabs and House colours proudly on display.

Our junior Rōpū will join our senior Whānau groups, and they will spend the week mixing together and forming relationships between the older and younger members of each House (tuakana teina). The groups will be challenged to get to know each other, grow from each other, and create some chants together throughout the week help us build the pride we have in our school.

NCEA/Careers Evening

This will be held in week 4, Thursday 19 August 2021, in the THS Hall and THS Library between 6 pm – 7 pm. More information to come.

This is an opportunity for parents/whānau of Year 9 and 10 taiohi/students and any other whānau who are interested on how NCEA works, and having an understanding of the changes to NCEA that will be implemented in 2023 at Level 1 (Year 11). These changes mean that this year's Year 9 students are the first cohort to experience the new changes.

In addition to the information about NCEA there will be a chance for our year 12/13 taiohi for 2022 to see what course and career pathways are available.

2022 Senior Course selections

The process for 2022 Course selections will begin in week 6 and week 7, Monday 30 August – Friday 10 September 2021. More information will be sent out to whānau in due course.

Parents Forum

Would you be keen to join a parent group / forum?

The forum will be parent-led, and we appreciate that we have had some keen people, but we are looking for more to be involved.

Why? The group is an opportunity to:

- network with other parents, get support on common issues;
- find out more about the school and what's going on;
- have a say in the changes that are proposed or needed, such as to the curriculum, uniform or environment;
- decide on topics for presentations / discussions of interest;
- hear what the senior student leaders and school council are doing;
- hear from and interact with the Principal, this includes the opportunity to ask questions, identify issues, and help with getting constructive solutions
- improve our engagement and connection with our community to improve the opportunities for our taiohi / students.

If you are interested in being involved, please email Tracey Reed (Principal's PA) traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz

Kaimahi / Staff Updates

Naumai harae mai (welcome) to two new staff members. Mrs Penny Keet joins the English department, starting second week of Term 3 and replacing Mrs Rebecca McArdle, who is off to pursue further studies.

Ms Annette Lanigan joins the Social Sciences department as a long-term reliever (LTR) Geography / Social Studies, for Ms Jen Fletcher who will be on Study Leave for Term 3 and 4.

Earlier this term, Mrs Leanne Donovan, took on the awesome role of Careers Advisor (acting).

Sadly, Whaea Roanne Mitchell-Te Teira will be leaving her position as Student Support Officer. Whaea Roanne has accepted a position at CAPS Hauraki as a Youth Coach. Whaea Ro will be sadly missed, and we wish her all the very best.



Vacancy: Student Support Officer (Kaimahi Tautoko)

We seek an enthusiastic team member to join our busy collaborative pastoral care team. Our Student Support Officer is the main student contact point for accessing support services and managing enrolments. A current first aid certificate is required (training provided), Monday to Friday, 32.5 hours per week, 8.30 am to 3.30 pm term time only.

Experience in a secondary school or similar youth-oriented setting is an advantage. The successful applicant will like working with young people, able to work independently and build trusting relationships with both students and staff to support student wellbeing.

Applications close: Friday 23 July – 4.00 pm

Enquiries about the position and applications (letter, CV, application form) to: Tracey Reed, Principal's PA
[Email: traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz)

Uniform Survey and next steps

Many thanks to the 223 people (119 parents, 88 students, 14 staff, 2 others) that responded to our uniform survey in May. Apologies for not reporting back the next steps u

A summary was presented to the School Board on 28 June. The broad conclusions are presented below.

The board has indicated that it is open to reviewing some of the standards, so it has formed a committee to help lead the consultation.

The next steps will be to seek further student and parent voice of ideas, and look at whether a minor adjustment or a more significant change is needed.

This will take time, so the uniform will remain mostly the same for 2022, and any – more significant – changes would be looked at from 2023. Any change will be staged, so that from Year 9 in 2023. Changes would then be staged from that year. There would not be the need to replace existing correct uniform items.

Summary of findings

The survey explored what was the most important aspects of the uniform and how that compared with the satisfaction about these aspects.

The most important aspects that are important is the uniform is good value, good quality and

comfortable. This was consistent for all three groups.

Next in importance is that the uniform is smart looking (except for students), consistent, and worn correctly (except for students).

That the uniform is worn correctly, and expectations enforced, is of least importance. Particularly for students.

Overall, the degree of satisfaction was less than the level of importance, so there is room to improve. There is more variation in satisfaction than importance between the three groups of stakeholders (parents, students, staff).

- The least satisfactory aspects for staff are the uniform is smart looking, it is worn correctly, good value, and is consistent in style.
- For parents, the least satisfied is that the uniform is good value, comfortable and worn correctly.
- For students, the least satisfied aspects are that the uniform is good value, comfortable and that uniform should be enforced and is worn correctly.

The areas of greatest relative dissatisfaction are that the uniform is good value, comfortable, followed by good quality.

- For students the areas of smart looking, consistent and the uniform being correct and enforced were in line with their expectations.
- For parents and staff these were of higher dissatisfaction, although staff were more dissatisfied than parents in these areas.

Standards

The survey asked about how much agreement there was about the current uniform expectations, that have been the same for over 10 years.

Key findings:

- Retention of the existing colours (blue and gold) is broadly supported.
- There were mixed views about shoe styles, although the trend was to more support a casual shoe style.
- Just over 50% of people had looked at the styles of shoe expected or not expected.
- Over 80% clearly understand that correct uniform is an expectation of attending / enrolling at Thames High School.
- Just over 50% of people were clear that the written uniform policy and standards have not changed in over five years.
- Almost 75% say they have read the guidelines / expectations.



- Broadly students were the least in favour of the current guidelines. Possibly not a surprise.
- Parents were on average more in support of the expectations about earrings, piercings, skirt style / length and the process of exemptions. They were less supportive (on average) of the other guidelines, such as hair colour, hair style, nails, and visible taonga.
- Staff were typically between the parents and the students' views, but the broad trend is they do not strongly support the expectations, with the exception of facial hair, exemptions, skirt length and, to some extent, earrings and piercings.

Quality

The quality of the house T-shirt was the overall the most agreed item as being of concern.

There was more variation in the opinions of the other items (on average).

- Parents were more satisfied with quality than staff and students.
- Strengths (relatively) are the socks, shorts, polo shirt and jacket. The results show many are less sure of the quality of the long trousers, skirt, Year 13 polo and jersey / jumper.
- Staff were typically less impressed than the other groups. The Jacket, both polos and long trousers were the least highly rated. The socks and shorts were the best rated (above neutral).

Proposed changes

There were several potential changes surveyed.

The results showed, there is broad support for:

- a long sleeve polo more than a long-sleeved shirt;
- a no-itch woolen jersey;
- an alternative cotton or fleece crew neck;
- boys and girls cuts for shorts and trousers
- a school scarf (optional);
- cotton socks and 'jersey' for those with allergies.

Other key findings:

- Staff and students are more in favour of a unisex uniform, than parents.
- Staff and parents are more in favour, on average, of a compulsory sun hat. But students are very clearly not in support of this.
- There is, on average, not much difference of the option for a Year 12-13 uniform as opposed to the status quo of the Year 13

only top, although the status quo is slightly preferred.

- For caps, a plain navy-blue hat (Cap or bucket hat) is more supported than navy/gold and logos are less supported.
- Parents prefer the current jacket option over a waterproof nylon option, but staff are the opposite. Students are equally in favour of both.
- House T-shirts are not broadly supported, as they are not widely expected or liked now. This could change with different designs being available as the earlier part of the survey showed how the current options are not liked.
- Changing from gold and black socks to navy blue is neutral (on average).
- The option to go to a blue (or black) sock rather than white for girls has some support.
- Of the purchasing options a blend of online and retail is preferred, followed by online and the single retailer (status quo) is third. There are other options, but the survey indicates that there is support for online options.

Ngā manaakitanga

Michael Hart

Tumuaki / Principal

principal@thameshigh.school.nz

07 868 8688



Key Dates 2021

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

Dates may be subject to change and will be advised.

Fri 9 July	End of Term 2
Mon 26 July	Term 3 starts
Wed 4 Aug	Year 8 Open Evening (5.30 pm)
Thu 12 Aug	NCEA Accord Teacher-only Day 3
Thu 19 Aug	NCEA/Career's evening (6.00pm – 7pm)
Tue 24 Aug	Co-curricular photos
Tue 24 Aug	Te Ao Māori Rōpū (6.30 – 8.00 pm)
Mon 30 Aug	Senior course selections for 2022
Friday 10 Sept	
Thu 16 Sept to	Year 11-13 School Exams
Tue 21 Sept	
Tue 28 Sept	Te Ao Māori Rōpū (6.30 – 8.00 pm)
Fri 1 Oct	End of Term 3
Mon 16 Oct	Term 4 starts
Wed 3 Nov	Senior Prizegiving (7 pm)
Fri 5 Nov	Year 11-13 "End-of-year" Reports
Mon 8 Nov	NCEA Exams start (until Thu 2 Dec)
Tue 23 Nov	NCEA Accord Teacher-only Day 4
Mon 25 Oct	Labour Day (School closed)
Mon 13 Dec	Junior Prizegiving (1 pm)
Fri 17 Dec	Year 9-10 "End-of-year" Reports
Fri 17 Dec	End of Term 4 / End of School Year (subject to change)

Key Dates 2022 (subject to change)

Thu 27 Jan 2022	Teacher only day (THS)
Fri 28 Jan 2022	Kahui Ako Whanaungatanga (Connections) Day
Mon 31 Jan 2022	Anniversary Day (holiday)
Tue 1 Feb	Course Confirmation Day (Years 11-13)
Wed 2 Feb	Powhiri for new students (Year 13 in support) School starts for Year 9 Orientation for Year 9
Thu 3 Feb	School starts for all Years 10-13
Fri 4 Feb	Waitangi Day observed.
Mon 7 Feb	Waitangi Day observed.
Tue 8 Feb	School term continues...
Thu 14 Apr	End of Term 1
Fri 15 Apr	Good Friday
	Term 2: Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July
	Term 3: Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September
	Term 4: Starts Monday 17 October, and ends no later than Tuesday 20 December

