

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

17 August 2021

Kiā ora e te whānau

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'I am hope' talk - Wednesday 18 August

We have accepted, at short notice, the opportunity for the one of the ambassadors of the Key to Life Charitable Trust, Tai Tupou, to present the "I Am Hope" school programme (founded by Mike King).

Years 9 and 10 at 9.00 am and Years 11 to 13 at 10.30 am. The talks are expected to take about 45 minutes.

To make this fit in, we have changed the timetable of the day slightly by having an earlier morning tea.

The presentation is about "normalising the inner critic in mental health, encouraging young people to reach out for help, and giving examples of tools to keep themselves well and see hope through sharing our own journeys."

Parents are welcome listen to these talks, held in the hall. Please sign in at reception.

Covid-19 Readiness

While we have enjoyed a long period of being at Covid alert level 1, we need to be mindful that this could change. With the highly contagious delta strain spreading overseas, if it emerges here, we need to be ready to act fast.

As this is being written, there is an announcement due at 6 pm regarding a case in Auckland.

We have an online learning plan that we have been reviewing, and we are mindful that we need to be ready to move into higher alert levels at short notice.

We have asked teachers to have a discussion with students about the possibility and what the expectations would be. Being prepared mentally should help us with any transition to a higher level.

We encourage you to also talk to your children about the possibility and reassure them that we have been there before and there are plans in place to make sure that the effect on learning is limited and that qualifications (credits for NCEA) will be protected, as they were last year.

In the meantime, we continue to have contact tracing and promote good hygiene and physical distancing.

We will follow all advice from the Ministry of Health and Education, including any situations where we are instructed to close (if there is a case connected to the school).

NCEA, Course and Careers Evening

Change of date: Thursday 26 August 2021, in the THS Hall and THS Library between 6 pm – 7.30 pm. Tumuaiki Tuarua / Deputy Principal, Whaea M Baird will lead this presentation.

This is an opportunity for parents/whānau of Year 10 tauira/students or others who are new to NCEA to find out how NCEA works, as they will be our Year 11 next year.

In addition to the information about NCEA this is also a opportunity for parents/whānau of our Year 12/13 taiohi for 2022 to discuss what course and career pathways are available. This will be facilitated by our Careers Advisor, Mrs L Donovan, along with other senior staff.

If you wish to explore this topic yourself then NZQA also has some really good resources about NCEA, including videos.

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-ncea/how-ncea-works/>

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-ncea/ncea-and-the-whanau/>



NCEA 2023 – changes happening

We will hold another information session for **Year 9 tauira/students** and their parents/whanau who will be first cohort to experience the new changes that teachers have been learning about on our teachers only days. These changes to NCEA will be implemented in 2023 at Level 1 (Year 11).

This is another change to what was published last term, to ensure we can accommodate all those that may come for the different audiences.

Here are some useful links so you explore these changes:

[Fact Sheet: Changes to strengthen NCEA \[PDF, 1.2 MB\]](#) – this explains the seven changes that we are implementing as part of the NCEA Change Programme.

[Whānau Pocket Guide \[PDF, 1.4 MB\]](#) – this seeks to help whānau understand the NCEA Change Package and consider ways of supporting their tamaiti to succeed.

<https://ncea.education.govt.nz/what-ncea-change-programme>

Te Ao Māori Rōpū Hui

The first Te Ao Māori Rōpū hui, to be held in Term 3 is on Thursday 19 August.

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

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

You are also invited to join us by arriving at the right time. *Naumai, haere mai!*

Parents Forum

We held our first Parents Forum on Monday 16 August, and we look forward to more people attending next time. The leading group of parents agreed that we have an opportunity to make sure we have a great way to keep parents informed and consult about important topics. The group also is an opportunity to network with other parents and get support on common issues.

We have agreed that the meetings will be monthly. The next hui will be Monday 13 September, starting at 6 pm and ending at 7.30 pm.

All are welcome.

Our school is smokefree and vapefree

We have updated our signage at the entries to the school. It has been mentioned before that vaping, as well as smoking, is not only banned from the school, it is illegal. Therefore, it is treated very seriously when someone vapes at school.



This is about ensuring we have a healthy environment and healthy people, as the effects of vaping on lungs is serious. We have previously shared information about the effects of vaping. [Here is one reliable source of information to find out more.](#)

Ngā manaakitanga

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Key Dates 2021

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

Dates may be subject to change and will be advised.

Tue 24 Aug	Co-curricular photos
Tue 24 Aug	Te Ao Māori Rōpū (6.30 – 8.00 pm)
Thu 26 Aug	NCEA/Career's evening (6.00pm – 7pm)
Mon 30 Aug Friday 10 Sept	Senior course selections for 2022
Thu 16 Sept to Tue 21 Sept	Year 11-13 School Exams
Tue 28 Sept	Northcote Sports Exchange (TBC)
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 Fri 5 Nov	Senior Prizegiving (7 pm) 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

