



## Whānau Pānui

**30 August 2021**

Kiā ora e te whānau

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### Introduction

We hope that you and your bubble are well, balancing the challenge of working and learning from home with ways of staying well.

[Previous pānui](#) have contained important information about staying well, links to get more support, whether that is for financial assistance, food, getting support for managing anxiety. There has also been advice about staying safe online and using the [Switch on Safety Filter](#).

#### [Getting help with food or financial help](#)

Last week we provided hardcopy packs and devices for those who needed these resources. We really appreciate you contacting us to tell us your situation and how we can help. **Please advise rōpu or whānau kaiiaki or subject Kaiako/teachers if there is a need for a device, or hardcopy resources.**

Staff contact details are on our website: <https://www.thameshigh.school.nz/staff/>

We will endeavour to get more of these these out from Tuesday 31 August 2021.

Today (Monday 30 August) the emphasis for the Kaiako / teachers and kaimahi is a well-being check, while taiohi can use the time to catch up, or reap the rewards for being fully up to date, and

take the time to read for pleasure, exercise or spend time supporting their siblings.

Thank you so much for advising of any issues experienced so that we can help taiohi/students get positively connected with their lessons. Whatever the reason, it is vital we know so we can help.

### Moving to Alert Level 3

Last Friday, the Government announced that we will move to **Alert Level 3** from Wednesday 1 September. Again, we have been here before, and we know what to do.

This cautious approach by the government is to eliminate Covid-19 again from our wider community (Aotearoa NZ). It is pleasing that vaccination rates are increasing so we can have more confidence that any Covid-19 infections will not lead to serious illness.

### What level 3 means for us

**For most there is no change** as at Alert Level 3 schools will effectively continue to be closed, **other than for the children of parents who need to go to work and have no alternative care options available.**

Those who do have to come in will continue to engage in distance learning, as most staff will be busy ensuring that continues. At level 3 more businesses can open for business and so more people may be required to go to work.

### The key messages are:

- Being on-site is **only** for children Year 9 – 10, i.e. those under 14 who cannot legally be at home alone, if that is required for their parent/caregiver to go to work.
- You should **only** send your child/ren to school if you **need** to, that is, **if there is no suitable supervision** for your child to **ensure** that they maintain the physical distancing
- If you **need to** send your child to school then you must advise us by **6 pm Monday 30 August** so we can make suitable arrangements.



Parents/caregivers of Years 9 or 10 taiohi/student(s) who **need** to send their child(ren) to school must advise the school [using this form](#). By **6 pm Monday 30 August**. If circumstances change after Monday then please still use this form and will get in touch.

- There will be bubbles of no more than 10 with consistent staffing.
- If we need more than one bubble, they will remain more than 2 m away from each other.
- **School Buses** - operators must be informed by the school that there are children needing to come to school, then they will put a service on.
- Students or staff that are unwell, or are required to self-isolate, **must stay at home**.
- To ensure the safety of those children and our staff who **need to** come to school, we will be operating with strict enforcement of health and safety measures, including
  - **Contact tracing** (QR code **must** be used)
  - **Register** of who is expected and who is on-site (attendance register)
  - physical distancing of at least 1 m inside
  - **Hand hygiene** – washing and use of hand sanitiser
  - Cough and sneeze etiquette
  - Regularly cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces (daily at Alert Level 3).
  - Suitable spaces will be arranged for students to engage with the **distance / online learning** planned and distributed to all students. **There is no expectation that teachers are to prepare more than what they are preparing for all students.**
- There will be no provision of a canteen, so anyone that needs to be on-site **must have their own morning tea**, lunch, and water bottle.
- There cannot be 'free' breaks where students can run and play around outside. There will be an opportunity to walk around outside at scheduled times, in a controlled way (physical distancing).
- Any students onsite, as always, must be in full correct uniform.

[Here are the full guidelines provided for schools at level 3.](#)

## Looking ahead

It is natural that some will be anxious about returning to the classroom at level 3 (if needed) and Levels 2 and Level 1 when they come.

It's important to remember that throughout this pandemic the Government has taken a health-led, precautionary approach, so that if we move down Alert Levels, it will only be if it is safe to do so and the settings will support good health and safe practice.

As you have been doing, please keep connecting with your child's kaiako/teachers with any questions you might have.

## NCEA, Course and Careers Information

We are heading toward option selections for 2022. We need to continue this process from a distance.

Years 10 to 12 students need to choose options for 2022.

We have decided to offer the NCEA information and courses and careers information in online sessions.

Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal, Whaea M Baird will lead this presentation, along with our Careers Advisor, Mrs L Donovan.

**When:** Thursday 2 September, 6 pm – 7.00 pm

**Where:** online (using Google Meet)

**How:** We will send out a link to this meeting, you will be admitted to the meeting

### What:

1. Overview of NCEA, including how do you earn qualifications.
2. Overview of courses/options and the selection process, including:
  - a. What is available? What pathways are there? What information is available?
  - b. How do you choose a course that suits different career ideas?
3. Questions and Answers that arise.

**We also intend to offer careers / course advice on Friday at times you can book in, using the School Interviews site.** An invite will be sent specifically about this when we have this confirmed.



As shared before you may wish to explore this topic yourself as NZQA 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 – Information for Year 9s

We will hold another online information session for **Year 9 taura/students** and their parents/whānau to find out what the changes to NCEA from 2023 mean for them.

These changes to NCEA will be implemented fully in 2023 at Level 1 (Year 11).

**When:** Wednesday 8 September, 6 pm – 7.00 pm

**Where:** Online (using Google Meet)

**How:** We will send out a link to this meeting, you will be admitted to the meeting

### What:

1. Overview of NCEA from 2023, including the new literacy and numeracy requirements.
2. What the different subject areas are.
3. What NCEA from Levels 2 and 3 are looking like too.
4. Questions and Answers that arise.

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>

## Changes that have happened due Covid-19 Alert Level 4

Several events and activities have been either deferred or cancelled because of Level 4 Alert, for example:

- Careers Expo (19 Aug) – cancelled
- Northcote Sports Exchange (28 Sept) – cancelled
- Winter Sports Tournament (week 6) – cancelled
- NCEA Information Evening (26 Aug) - Year 10s and Careers/Courses Advice (Years 11-12) – postponed – moving online.
- EOTC trips – postponed at this stage, but uncertain about when or if these can be moved. e.g., OEC 101 ski trip.
- I am hope presentation (18 Aug) – cancelled
- The K.I.C.K, Pillars of Strength and Healthy Relationships programmes – deferred: these will restart at Level 2 or Level 1.
- Year 8 Transition visits to primary schools – deferred – we will advise but expect these to happen at Level 2 or Level 1.
- Sports competitions – mixture of deferred and cancelled.
- Photolife Group protos – postponed; to reschedule at Level 2 or Level 1.
- Gateway / STAR courses e.g. Health and Safety – deferred until further notice.
- The School Board is meeting online, Monday 30 August, rather than in person.

Ngā manaakitanga

Michael Hart

**Tumuaki / Principal**

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## Key Dates 2021

*Several Dates have changed.*

*Dates may be subject to change and will be advised.*

Thu 2 Sept	NCEA, Careers and courses information – online presentation (6.00pm – 7pm)
Fri 3 Sept	Careers/courses advice interviews (online) – times to be confirmed (bookings)
Mon 6 Sept Friday 10 Sept	Senior course selections for 2022
Wed 8 Sept	What's happening to NCEA 2023 for Year 9 (6.00pm – 7pm)
Thu 23 Sept to Tue 28 Sept	<b>Year 11-13 School Exams</b> (Some subjects only)
Tue 28 Sept	Te Ao Māori Rōpū (6.30 – 8.00 pm) To be confirmed. Depends on Alert level.
Fri 1 Oct	<b>End of Term 3</b>
Mon 16 Oct	<b>Term 4 starts</b>
Wed 17 Nov Fri 19 Nov	Senior Prizegiving (7 pm) Year 11-13 "End-of-year" Reports
Mon 22 Nov	NCEA Exams start (until Thu 14 Dec)
Tue 23 Nov	NCEA Accord <b>Teacher-only Day 4</b>
Mon 25 Oct	Labour Day (School closed)
Mon 13 Dec	Junior Prizegiving (1 pm)
Fri 17 Dec	Year 9-10 "End-of-year" Reports
<b>Fri 17 Dec</b>	<b>End of Term 4 / End of School Year</b> (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)
<b>Tue 1 Feb</b>	<b>Course Confirmation Day (Years 11-13)</b>
Wed 2 Feb	Powhiri for new students (Year 13 in support) School starts for Year 9 Orientation for Year 9
<b>Thu 3 Feb</b>	<b>School starts for all Years 10-13</b>
Mon 7 Feb	Waitangi Day observed.
Tue 8 Feb	School term continues...
<b>Thu 14 Apr</b>	<b>End of Term 1</b>
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

