

## Whānau Pānui – 11 February 2022

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### Tumuaki/Principal's Message

Naumai haere mai! Naumai hoki mai! Welcome and welcome back.

We are now at the end of Week two of 11 in Term One, and it's been a busy time getting started.

I have been impressed that most students are wearing their masks as required and being careful outside and as they move about. I thank you for supporting this requirement, and I am really sure it's a great way of supporting our school and community to slow the spread of COVID-19.

At our pōwhiri on Wednesday 2 February we welcomed almost 100 new students to our kura (school), including 90 Year 9 students. We were

fortunate to have whānau join us as we had two events to keep the numbers below 100 and ensure distancing and mask wearing. While disappointing, under Red, that we could not hongi and harirū (shake hands) it was still a wonderful start to our learning journey together.



Thanks to Ngāti Maru for conducting pōwhiri for two ope (groups who move together). We welcomed several new staff also at the first pōwhiri.

We continue to have new enrolments as new families have moved into our community.

After pōwhiri, our Year 9s enjoyed a day in the school almost to themselves with the support of our student leaders. Many thanks to our leaders for doing such a great job running the activities in the afternoon.





*Mr Hart (Tumuaki / Principal) with the Head Student Team: Graeme Hodgson, Izzy Fox, Nicole Reid, Luke Steward (left to right)*

## New Kaimahi / Staff

Naumai haere mai, (welcome) to Kaimahi hou (new staff).

- **Mr Luke Devery**, our new Head of Drama, who brings a vast experience of teaching from Waihi College and as a performer.
- **Whaea Rahera Allen**, our new Kaiako / Teacher of English. Whaea Rahera has extensive experience at James Cook High School.
- **Carolina Tornero Martos** joins the mathematics department, having been a relieving teacher here and at Thames South
- **Mr Tezhar Paymani** is covering for **Ms Yorke** in English who is on parental leave for Term One. It is always exciting to have a first-year teacher join us.
- **Mr Joshua Dix** been a regular relieving teacher, has now joined us as a teacher of mathematics. As a former student of Thames High, he knows us well.
- **Mrs Kim To'angutu** is our new School Counsellor, following the retirement of Mrs Thomas. Mrs To'angutu has formerly worked at CAPS Hauraki, and it is fortunate that we have someone with her experience join us.
- **Ms Gabe Davis** joins us in Chemistry and Science to cover for Mrs Scoggins who is on leave for the first half of the year. She most recently taught at Upper Hutt College and was a longstanding teacher of chemistry and science at Forest View High School in Tokoroa.
- **Mrs Denise Grant** is supporting our science department as technician and the technology department as a food technician.
- **Mrs Tess Watts** joined us last year as Sports Coordinator and has added the role of Gateway and Trades Coordinator and Careers Assistant.

- **Mrs Stephanie Hinson** will join our Student Support team later this month as Kaimahi Tautoko (Student Support Officer).
- In our Itinerant Music team, **Mr Shade Smith** brings a wealth of guitar and bass experience to support our music students.

## Other staff updates

- **Mr Grant-Mackie** will be Acting Head of Science, while Mrs Scoggins is away on leave for Term One and Two.
- **Mrs Curnow** will cover for Mr Grant-Mackie as the Assistant Head of Science.
- **Mr Zhao**, takes up a position of responsibility in the Mathematics department, and support Mr Neufeld as Head of Mathematics.
- **Mrs Penny Keet**, is Head of English for 2022.

## Kaiāwhina / Pastoral Leaders

A reminder that we have four Kaiāwhina to support the pastoral care team. While the first point of contact is your child's Rōpū or Whānau Kaitiaki, the Kaiāwhina are an additional layer of support. They will be looking for opportunities to recognise positives and working with taiohi and whānau to get things back on track should issues arise.

**Ms Madelaine Barrett** and **Mrs Carolyn Green** are the **Years 9 and 10 Kaiāwhina**

**Mrs Penny Keet** along with being **Year 11 Kaiāwhina**, will support the junior team.

**Mrs Jen Fletcher** will support the senior school, with a specific oversight as **Year 12 Kaiāwhina**.

Our tumuaki tuarua (deputy principals) are there also to support the Kaiāwhina and Kaitiaki.

**Mrs Natalie O'Neil** continues to be responsible for the junior school and **Whaea Maria Baird**, the senior school. Whaea Maria has specific oversight of Year 13 taiohi, along with support from Ms Donovan who supports the pathways planning for Year 13 taiohi, and **Careers Advisor** for all levels.



## Alongside this team are:

Attendance Officer **Liz Muirhead**

[attendance@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:attendance@thameshigh.school.nz)

Student Support Officer **Mrs Stephanie Hinson** (from 28 February)

[studentsupport@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:studentsupport@thameshigh.school.nz)

Counsellor - **Mrs Kim To'angutu**

[kimtoangutu@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:kimtoangutu@thameshigh.school.nz)

School Nurse - **Mrs Angela Hewlett**

[angela.hewlett@pinnacle.health.nz](mailto:angela.hewlett@pinnacle.health.nz)

Mrs Hewlett will operate the clinic three days a week, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Also supporting young people is the team from 24/7 Youth Workers (Michael Wilkes, Levi and Samanda) and the K.ICK Rōpū (Shannon Paki) with a particular focus of tauira Māori.

## Other key contacts

Principal's Personal Assistant - **Mrs Tracey Reed**, for appointments or queries with the principal.

[traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz)

Business Manager - **Mrs Sharyn Baker**, for all finance and business queries.

[sharynbaker@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:sharynbaker@thameshigh.school.nz)

For general accounts queries:

[accounts@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:accounts@thameshigh.school.nz)

## Be safe - being sun smart

We **strongly encourage** the use of a **plain (logo free) navy blue or black hat** in Terms 1 and 4 especially, when outside.

We **expect students to wear a hat** for big outside day events like swimming sports and athletics day.

As these days are not in uniform (mufti) then **any suitable sun** hat is acceptable. The best sort of sun hat is a bucket or brimmed hat. We thank parents for supporting this SunSmart message providing their students with a suitable hat and the school will support this by encouraging them to wear it.

Along with hats we encourage all aspects of the slip, slop, slap and wrap message for **outdoor** activities.



### Slip on a shirt

Slip on a shirt with long sleeves. Fabrics with a tighter weave and darker colours will give you better protection from the sun.



### Slip into the shade

Slip into the shade of an umbrella or a leafy tree. Plan your outdoor activities for early or later in the day when the sun's UV levels are lower.



### Slop on sunscreen

Slop on plenty of broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen of at least SPF 30. Apply 20 minutes before going outside and reapply every two hours and especially after being in water or sweating.



### Slap on a hat

Wear a hat with a wide brim or a cap with flaps. More people are sunburnt on the face and neck than any other part of the body.



### Wrap on sunglasses

Choose close fitting, wrap around style sunglasses. Not all sunglasses protect against UV radiation, so always check the label for the sun protection rating.

[Read the New Zealand Association of Optometrists \(NZAO\) information on sunglasses](#) .

Source: <https://www.sunsmart.org.nz/be-sunsmart>

For more information visit the [Sun Smart website](#)

## Stationery packs

As a school we have recognised that to have a great start in Year 9 having all the resources available to make this happen ensures that the learning journey can start from day one.

For 2022 we have been able to make this happen, with all our Year 9 students being offered a starting stationery pack with the essential items they need. We appreciate that some families have said they would prefer the pack is offered to someone else.

We have been able to fund these packs from our **Student Support Trust Fund**, which is a trust that our school is lucky enough to have formed some years ago. The Trust has enabled many students to participate in sports, camps and provide everyday essentials when needed, such as uniform, including correct shoes. Our priority is to make sure that we remove the barrier to access items that are required.

**The basic stationery packs are also available to all taiohi or students, particularly for Year 10 and 11, if the need arises and can be sourced through our Student Support Office. We can supply until we run out.**



This Student Support Trust Fund is available for other items such as clothing, or support contributions towards extra-curricular activities. Please contact Student Support and they will provide the request form for the Principal and Business Manager to consider on behalf of the Trustees.

## Attendance/Absences

Information about attendance, absence, lateness, and leave can be found on our [school website](#).

Under Section 36(1) of The Education and Training Act (2020) – “the Act” – all registered students at a school **must attend** when it is open for instruction, unless there is a justified reason, such as sickness, sudden and serious illness of a parent, or other equally serious situation that means a student cannot attend.

The options for notification of any absences must include a clear reason for absence. to the school are the below. If there is no reason given even though it has been reported, it will be recorded as advised but unjustified (no reason). By law we must know the reason for absences.

- **Email** [attendance@thameshigh.school](mailto:attendance@thameshigh.school)
- **Phone** the office on **07 868 8688**
- **Text message** the school on **3255**. Please include **thsc** at the beginning of the message. Ensure that your **child's full name and Year level** are included.

[For more information, check our website.](#)

## Staying on site

Taiohi / students are to remain at school **all day** so that we can assure their safety.

If parents wish to have lunch with their child, then they will need to pick up and sign the student out at that time.

We encourage secondary school students to have self-management and bring their materials and lunch to school. In the rare instance that does not happen, parents may bring the any items to the front office. This is a health and safety requirement of all schools.

Lunch passes will only be issued in very special circumstances; any requests must be directed to a deputy principal. There is information on the website about this process.

Normally the only exceptions are for Year 13 taiohi / students that may leave at lunch time (not interval) and for some study times, so long as they maintain an attendance rate of **90%** and demonstrate great values and adhere to all our expectations. This privilege is on hold during Red settings.

## Year 13 Lunch and Study Passes

Year 13 students will only enjoy the privilege go to town for lunch (not interval) under Orange or Green settings. This will also only be allowed only after we are assured that they are attending all classes and have got their uniform to the standard expected.

Until that we are out of Red and they are advised they meet the criteria, they must remain onsite as for other year levels.

Once there is a pattern of meeting expectations of presentation, behaviour, attendance, and punctuality to we will also consider the issuing of off-site study passes for study periods at the start and end of days (period 1 or 4), from week 5. This is not dependent on Covid settings as they would not be coming back to school that day.

## Every day counts matters and every minute matters

On the [website](#) there is a description of the effect of absences on progress and wellbeing.

Students with attendance below **90%** may not be eligible to participate in optional school activities e.g. representing the School in co-curricular activities, the Year 13 Leavers' Dinner, the School Ball etc. or may have privileges such as Study periods or town lunch (Year 13) removed. If a student's attendance affects eligibility to participate in such activities, then appeals can be made to the Deputy Principal in charge of monitoring attendance.





## “Every Day Counts”

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem that much but...

If your child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...
1 day a fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 Years
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

The effect of absence on progress					
A whole year has 365 days; a school year has 190 days. That leaves 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.					
No Absence	10 days absence	12 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence
190 days of education	180 days of education	178 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80.00%
Very Good	Worrying		Serious Concern		

Best chance of progress and success.  
More likely to be socially happy.

Harder to make progress or experience success.  
Harder to make friend and more likely to be less happy at school.

This is **persistent absence** and Very hard to make progress and social outcomes are often poor. Referral to Attendance Services is likely.

## Right place, right time, ready to learn!

This means getting to class, on time, with the right attitude and resources - bag, pens, books, BYOD, etc. This sets you up for learning.



## Healthy Lifestyles

At school we need to promote healthy choices of food, drink and other behaviour.

This includes bans on the use or possession of tobacco/marijuana, vaping and any associated paraphernalia, and any other drugs or alcohol.

They pose a risk to wellbeing to individuals, and the school workplace, and are likely to be a harmful example to others. These behaviours are treated as 'gross misconduct' and may lead to stand down and/or suspension.

### Hydration

Thames High School encourages students to maintain healthy hydration by having a water bottle, and these can be consumed in class (except in rooms such as labs where food and drink are prohibited).

While not in the same category, bringing high sugar-content drinks (fizzy or otherwise) is **strongly discouraged**. These include the 'sports' or 'energy' drinks that contain high levels of caffeine too. Big bottles of soft drink or drinks like 'tea drinks' fall into this category too.



It is not just the high sugar and caffeine content of the drink that is an issue, but the **volume**; in many cases students are observed with large drinks of 'energy drinks' the mega cans of close to 600 mL, and in the case of soft drinks, bottles of 1.5 L or more.

It is most concerning to see taiohi arriving to school saying that a big can of such drinks is their breakfast.

The same money could provide a much better option to provide the right foundation for good learning. Some [supermarkets do not sell such drinks](#) to under 16 years-olds for good reason.

We are confident that parents do not support such habits, and we encourage you to reinforce this message.

As we are trying to discourage the consumption of these beverages, **we reserve the right to remove such a drink from students on school grounds**, and students may collect them at the end of the day (if it is healthy to do so).

#### **Takeaway foods**

Takeaway foods must not be brought into school during the school day; they typically are high-fat and often come with a sugary drink. Please do not deliver such foods to school as we may have to keep it until afterschool (again if it is safe to do so).

Your support of us to encourage healthy habits is much appreciated. If you wish to discuss further, please call the school on (07) 868 8688.

#### **Some further references:**

- [Time magazine](#)
- [Stuff Article about Energy Drinks](#)
- [Stuff Article about banning Energy Drinks to under 16 year-olds in the UK](#)

#### **Recommended reading - on our website**

[Attendance, absences, etc. including exit passes](#)

[Behaviour expectations](#)

[Stationery and BYOD \(bring your own device\)](#)

[Uniform](#) – including shoes that are allowed and not

[Our School board and meetings](#)

#### **School Policies - SchoolDocs**

Our school hosts our policies and procedures on SchoolDocs.

SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our Charter, and procedures for behaviour management, reporting to parents, etc.

**SchoolDocs** updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines, significant events, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the SchoolDocs team. Our school board views changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

We invite you to visit the site

<https://thameshigh.schooldocs.co.nz> (note that there's no "www."). Our username is "thameshigh" and password "sealey"

As always, we welcome comments.

Please email [principal@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:principal@thameshigh.school.nz) or call 07 868 8688

Ngā manaakitanga

Michael Hart  
**Tumuaki / Principal**

