



## Whānau Pānui – 13 April 2022

### Contents

<b>COVID update</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>No changes at school until Term 2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Next term at Orange</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Orange at school</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Staff Changes</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Key Dates</b>	<b>3</b>

Tēnā koutou katoa.

As the term comes to an end, we wish to thank students, staff and whānau for their support. It has been a long term, with lots of changes and challenges.

We trust that everyone has well-deserved downtime and wish you all a safe rest and rejuvenation with your friends and whānau.

The second term starts at 8.45 am sharp on Monday 2 May. The day will start with a Rōpū/Whānau class to ensure everyone has the right timetable, is ready to learn and has the right uniform (winter uniform). Please refer to the last [Pānui \(5 April\)](#) or our [website](#) for more information.

### COVID update

You may be aware that the government has announced a move to orange settings. This is positive news as it means health advice reflects that Aotearoa / New Zealand is showing clear signs that Omicron has peaked in some areas or is soon to peak. As case numbers come down, our health system is more able to cope, so the restrictions are reducing.

### No changes at school until Term 2

The changes announced today will come into effect in schools in Term 2. The Ministry of Education has said, “**retain your current settings at school so that you have time to plan for any changes. For example, maintain the expectation that students in Years 4 and up (and staff) continue to wear masks until the end of the term.**”

At **Orange**, **masks remain an important tool** to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and public health advice strongly encourages their continued use indoors. Many health experts are supporting this view.

Wearing a mask is a key health measure that slows the spread of COVID-19 in indoor settings. For that reason, we continue to ask that visitors to the school, including parents and whānau, wear a mask whenever they are indoors in the school.

### Next term at Orange

Next term we ask that taiohi continue to bring a mask to school every day. There may be times that we'll ask them to wear a mask – for example, when we are having an assembly in the hall. If there are several cases at school or in the community, we may ask that masks are worn in classrooms also.

**Students are still required to wear a face mask on school or public transport.** This will also include school vans for activities, such as trips and sport.

We will continue to keep all the other health measures in place at school that we know slow the spread of COVID-19. These include ensuring our indoor spaces are well-ventilated, maintaining good hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette, appropriate physical distancing whenever we can and, most importantly, staying home if we are sick.

As a school and as an employer we need ensure the safest environment possible and have settings that are fit for purpose. We appreciate all the support we have had to date and the need to continue to be flexible and cooperative.



## Orange at school

- Masks are strongly encouraged to be worn when indoors and **are required for children aged 12 and over on school transport**.
- As at Red, there will be no mask requirements when outdoors.
- **All parents, caregivers, whānau, and other visitors** are asked to wear face masks on site when indoors.
- There will be no outdoor capacity limits.
- Indoor capacity limits are also removed. However, for non-curriculum related events and activities we will use allocated seating for large events (such as those with more than 500 people) or apply a maximum capacity limit based on the maximum number of people who could occupy the space if each person was one metre apart.

## Summary of all settings

Note that the need to self-isolate is someone tests positive remains the same or if you live with someone who has COVID-19.

Please refer to the last [Pānui \(5 April\)](#) for more information that explains self-isolation in more detail for those who have previously had COVID-19.

RED	ORANGE	GREEN
Face masks required in most indoor settings	Face masks required in many indoor settings	Face masks encouraged indoors
Indoor capacity limits of 200 people. No outdoor capacity limits	No indoor or outdoor capacity limits	No indoor or outdoor capacity limits
Self-isolate for 7 days if you test positive or live with someone who has COVID-19	Self-isolate for 7 days if you test positive or live with someone who has COVID-19	Self-isolate for 7 days if you test positive or live with someone who has COVID-19

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

Unite against COVID-19

## Staff Changes

Tomorrow, we bid farewell some staff and we are welcoming or have recently welcomed `new staff.

Mrs Kim To'angatu, our counsellor, is leaving us to take up a new opportunity at the Manaaki Centre. While Kim has not been with us for very long, she has had a positive impact on the lives of many young people. *We are activity seeking a new counsellor.*

We also farewell Mrs Rita McNeil who has served in our invaluable cleaning team for 24 years. Rita is highly respected for her positive outlook and professionalism. We wish her all the very best in her well-earned retirement.

Whaea Selina Eagle, our Canteen Manager, leaves us after eight years in multiple roles including as a teacher aide, cleaner and canteen manager. Whaea Selina is currently the staff member on the school board and is a highly respected member of staff who has contributed to our manaakitanga in so many ways. *Noho ora mai!*

Whaea Maria Baird, Tumuaki Tuarua, Deputy Principal, is leaving our kura after five years, to pursue new endeavours. Whaea Maria has been pivotal in advocating for and implementing changes to the strategic direction of the kura and leaves a legacy that we must continue to honour. We wish her all the very best. *Kia kaha, Kia māia, Kia manawanui!*

Ms Penny Keet (currently Head of English and Year 11 Kaiaawhina) will be Acting Deputy Principal until the board completes a recruitment process later this year.

Whaea Rahera Allen will be Head of English (Acting).

Tomorrow, our head students will lead a senior assembly in the afternoon as an opportunity for taiohi to acknowledge Whaea Maria, Whaea Selina and Mrs To'angatu and their impact on taiohi, kaimahi and whānau.

We have had some other staff changes recently.

Whaea Liz Muirhead has joined Thames South School, after over four years as Attendance Officer and Systems Administrator. Whaea Liz was always committed to the wellbeing of taiohi and a great contributor to the wider life of the school. Whaea Liz is maintaining an association with the school in basketball and as a parent, which is awesome.

Ms Erin Cooksley has joined us in the role of Attendance Office and Systems Administrator. She is getting to know everyone and is sure to make a great contribution to student wellbeing.

Next term, we see the return, from parental leave, of Ms Jasmine Yorke to the English Department.

Mr Tezhar Paymani will continue in his role as English Kaiako/teacher as well as taking a Year 9 Health and PE class.

Once again, I hope everyone has a safe and refreshing break and look forward to your return in Term Two.

Ngā manaakitanga

Michael Hart  
**Tumuaki / Principal**  
[principal@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:principal@thameshigh.school.nz)  
07 868 8688

## Key Dates

As always, dates may be subject to change and will be advised.

<b>Thu 14 Apr</b>	<b>End of Term 1</b>
Fri 15 Apr	Good Friday
Mon 18 Apr	Easter Monday
Mon 25 Apr	ANZAC Day
<b>Term 2:</b>	Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July
<b>Mon 9 May</b>	<b>Teacher Only Day</b> – NCEA Accord Day
Tues 10 May	THS Cross Country
Mon 30 May	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Mon 6 Jun	Queen's Birthday
Wed 22 Jun	Year 9 Vision and Hearing checks
Mon 27 Jun	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
	<b>Fri 8 July End of Term 2</b>
<b>Term 3:</b>	Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September
Mon 1 Aug	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Wed 10 Aug	Sport Team photos
Mon 23 Aug (changed)	<b>Teacher Only Day</b> - NCEA Accord Day
Mon 29 Aug	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Mon 5-23 Sept	<b>Triennial school board elections</b>
Mon 26 Sept	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Fri 30 Sept	<b>End of Term 3</b>
<b>Term 4:</b>	Monday 17 October to <b>Friday 9 December 2022.</b>
Mon 24 Oct	Labour Day
Mon 31 Oct	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
<b>Wed 2 Nov</b>	<b>Senior Prize giving</b>
Mon 7 Nov-	NCEA Exams
Fri 2 Dec	
Fri 25 Nov	<b>Teacher Only Day</b> - NCEA Accord Day
Mon 28	<b>Teacher Only Day</b> - NCEA Accord Day
Fri 9 Dec	<b>Last day Term 4</b>

