



Whānau Pānui – 3 June 2022

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Tumuaki / Principal's message

Reading and Writing are still important.

Our young people (taiohi) are incredibly resilient and adaptable. It is uplifting every day to see and speak with young people who are doing their best to reach their potential. They are kind, considerate and understand the importance of seeking help.

Recently I wrote to highlight the changes to the literacy and numeracy requirements from 2023. Our adolescents entering the working world are faced with navigating more information than any time in history. They need to access and understand it, demonstrating excellent information literacy. They need to read accurately for meaning and write clearly to communicate effectively. Information has to be evaluated for reliability, using critical literacy skills.

Reading, writing and speaking with confidence and independence remain important skills in our information age.

Whether a young person enters an apprenticeship, tertiary education or employment, these skills are essential.

Literacy is essential to wellbeing and success. Making sure your children are encouraged to read more, write more and express themselves with clarity and confidence, are the ways we can support both wellbeing and success.

Michael Hart
Tumuaki / Principal

Board chair's message

We are grateful that the school can continue to operate at a time when many other schools are either running on skeleton staff or have had to close due to illness or staff having to isolate. The board would like to acknowledge taiohi, kaimahi and kaiako for the efforts they have made to manage through the very difficult challenges of the past few months. We know that the single most important factor in taiohi achieving their highest potential is attendance at school so these efforts to try to operate somewhat "normally" are very appreciated.

The board is also very grateful to the whānau and other volunteers who have made it possible for so many taiohi to participate in winter sport. Not being able to play winter sports has been a big gap for many taiohi over the past two years.

Mary Hamilton
Board Chair

Head students' message

We are now week five Term Two and our senior school is planning for our big upcoming events. Some of our other leaders have started planning our Spirit Week that we are expecting to have at the beginning of Term Three. More information will come in the following weeks.

As head students, our main objective has been to have meetings with our ball committee where we have looked at themes, and potential venues, depending on numbers, and we have looked into sub-committees for different venues. We have also invited some Year 12's to be part of our committee so they know how it works for the ball in 2023. Our leadership team is very excited about these events and look forward to hosting them for the rest of our school to enjoy.

Luke Stewart and Nicole Reid
Head Students



Covid-19 update

Thanks for continuing to follow the rules about staying at home if sick, getting tested, and reporting to the school. It is essential to keep up to date with how much COVID is in our community so we can respond appropriately, so we really appreciate being told about positive cases and household close contacts.

As advised earlier the school will do our best to keep everyone safe, and that includes strongly encouraging mask use. Inside both by staff and students. We will continue to monitor cases in our area to decide if we need to insist on mask use, as it is an effective way to reduce transmission, along with great hygiene practices, ventilation and, of course, staying at home when sick or a household close contact.

You may have seen news articles in the last few days that suggest that staff in schools may be getting infected at a higher rate than the general population. We will monitor the situation in our school and this may require us to insist that masks are worn. In some circumstances we will insist in some classes as we may have staff or students that are immunocompromised. Please advise the school if your child is particularly at risk of infections.

Mask use is still compulsory on school transport, including school vans and we would appreciate parents ensuring their children have appropriate masks. We have provided lots of masks. It is a condition of transport to follow all guidelines and we do not want to be put into a position to deny transport.

Lets continue to work together to make sure face-to-face learning continues. We are so fortunate that we haven't had to roster home or close the school as many schools have had to.

Michael Hart
Tumukai / Principal

Sports events

Winter sports

Many thanks to Carolyn Green, Teacher in charge of Sport and Tessa Watts, Sports Coordinator, for the promotion, organisation and ongoing support of the winter sport programme for 2022. It's great that we are enjoying more normality in this vital area. Sport helps support wellbeing and school culture. Thanks to the many parents and students who help in the management and coaching and support of our teams.

Thanks to all our wonderful supporters who cheer, help with transport, or help their children get organised.

Senior female rugby

Our senior female rugby team has made a comeback to Thames High School for the first time since 2012. We have entered our first junior female rugby team in the Thames Valley Youth competition.

Most of the junior players had played with little experience and no game time on the field but with help from Marcus Howie, Thames Valley Rugby Union and the skills and expertise from Coach, Vita Dryden. The weekly training sessions came alive in a four-week competition playing Waihi and HPC and in the final week a round robin mini tournament at Rhodes Park.

Our female players competed in the very first Thames Valley Ripa Rugby tournament held at Ngatea on 25 May. We played 4 games – 1 win, 2 draws and 2 losses, finishing 4th overall.

The players were able to have a photo with the Women's Rugby World Cup.



A huge thank you to our awesome Manager, Jen Fletcher for your imperative role of organising our team, transportation, game day preparation and ensuring we had everything needed from boots, to mouth guards, to socks.

A special thanks to our sock sponsor, Megan Tuhoro for providing all the players with a pair of Adidas socks for game day.

A huge thanks to Vita Dryden for being our coach for 2022. Your expertise, knowledge and time spent is greatly appreciated. We are excited about what this means for female rugby at Thames High School and we look forward to 2023.

Special mention also to Kartiana Lee who due to an injury was unable to complete the season but has taken on the opportunity to be a Thames Valley rugby referee. Well done to Kartiana.

Tess Watts
Sports Coordinator



Cross Country activity

Our traditional full-school Cross-Country activity was held Monday 16 May the first full school event since 2019 (due to covid interruptions and restrictions).

There was great participation for non-competitive runners and 45 taiohi that ran competitively. Results are as follows:

Overall

1 st	Austin Court (1st Intermediate)
2 nd	Harry Oxford (1st Senior)
3 rd	Millar Morton
4 th	Hunter Rodgers
5 th	Abby Greenwood (1st Intermediate)
6 th	Hannah Laurence (1st Junior)
9 th	Lorenzo Yamamoto (1 st Junior)
9 th	Lincoln Rodgers (1st Junior)
20 th	Sienna Hall & Kyla Wilson (1st Senior)

Austin Court has the fastest time of 21.17 followed by Harry Oxford of 21.26

Well done to all who participated.

Cross Country Champs

Well done to our Year 9 students who represented Thames High School on Tuesday 31st May at the Thames Valley Cross Country Champs held at South Farms, Mangatarata.

All students ran exceptionally well over the tough course.

A special mention to Abby Greenwood and Hunter Rodgers who ran in the Senior U20s age group.

Placings:

Abby Greenwood	3 rd Overall Senior U20's
Hunter Rodgers	7 th Overall Senior U20's
Austin Court	1 st Overall Junior males
Lorenzo Yamamoto	3 rd Year 9 males
Lincoln Rodgers	4 th Year 9 males
Jess Rendall	3 rd Year 9 females
Hannah Laurence	3 rd Junior females
Ellie Johnston	5 th Junior females
Ella Tyrrell-Baxter	12 th Junior females



Tess Watts
Sports Coordinator

Spirit of Adventure Trip

Ten Year 10 taiohi enjoyed the Spirit of Adventure 5 DAY SPIRIT TROPHY, from Friday 20 May to Tuesday 24 May.

Activities in the programme included ship-handling, teamwork, problem-solving, debating, and water sports (in and on the water). Teams also went ashore and completed tasks against each other and enjoyed competitive games that involved ingenuity, leadership, and fun.

Many thanks to Ms Slee for getting this organised, including getting significant subsidies and helping whānau to see the benefit of this activity and supporting taiohi. Thanks to Ms Barrett for attending with taiohi.

While the weather wasn't the best for the entire time, our young people had an amazing time, and they were absolutely buzzing about this trip.



International students

Homestay families wanted

Thames High School is looking forward to welcoming back international students in 2023! We are now on the lookout for [homestay families](#).

Host family urgently required from Term 3, 2022 for two terms, for a 16 year old German female student.

If you wish to find out more or to register interest please contact: Pauline Managh, International Student Support on (07) 868 8688 ext: 810 or text 027 536 1001 or email internationalsupport@thameshigh.school.nz

Hosting a student from another country can be a hugely rewarding experience for your family. Homestay families provide a warm and comfortable bedroom with study facilities and three meals a day. In return, you will receive \$270 per week.

Pauline Managh
International Student Support

Careers / Gateway

University 101 session

We invite taiohi / students parents / caregivers (whānau) of Year 13 taiohi who intend on, or want to find out more about going to University in 2023, to come along to a question and answer session. We will talk about the tertiary planning we have been doing, accommodation and scholarship applications and study link. We will have a special guest speaker, Sarah Ulrich from the University of Waikato.

Bring along your questions on:
Tuesday 7 June at 5.30 pm in THS staffroom.

Mrs Donovan
Careers Advisor

Learners Driving Course

The Thames Community Centre is running a Learners Driving course at our Kura for taiohi who are 16 years of age and over, and who would like to sit their licence.

Dates:
Tuesday 21 June
Wednesday 22 June
Thursday 23 June

This is an amazing opportunity and there is **no** cost involved. You will need to do some voluntary work in the community. If you do not have a birth certificate they will help you obtain one, at **no cost**.

RSVP to Mrs Donovan, Careers Advisor
email: leannedonovan@thameshigh.school.nz

NZ Careers Expo in Hamilton

- Ready for the future of work

- Do you know where you are headed, but need to work out the finer details?
- Do you have an idea, but need further guidance?
- Are you going straight into the workforce?
- Make sure you are 'work ready' and get the best start.

Venue: Claudelands, Gate 4, Brooklyn Rd Hamilton
When: Sunday 12 June & Monday 13 June
Time: 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
FREE admission

Defence Force visit

The Defence Force is visiting our school to do a presentation on Friday 10 June at 10.00 am in the fiction side of the Library.

They will be doing fitness and aptitude testing for taiohi who want to do the test.

Please let Mrs Donovan, Careers Advisor know by Thursday 9 June, if you are interested in attending.

Pink Shirt Day



Our school supported **Pink Shirt Day** which was Friday 20 May Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora – Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!

Taiohi / students were encouraged to wear **Pink**. During Whānau / Rōpū we came together in the shape of a heart. We were hoping to have had this on the field though due to the weather conditions we came together in the Jack McLean Centre. All proceeds donated went to the Mental Health Foundation.

Teen Esteem Workshops

We are very grateful to the team from [Teen Esteem](#) who are running Year 9 Confidence and Connection Workshops for all our Year 9 taiohi, held at school. This programme was going to be run last term, but because of COVID restrictions were held in Term Two.

Teen Esteem "strive to empower adolescents by teaching them the tools and strategies which facilitate goal-setting, problem solving skills, and better communication skills. We increase the participants' self-esteem by dealing with issues that directly impact this group, such as Peer pressure, bullying, and how to deal positively with "success and failure."

Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)

We have invited TAMSO to the first of four hui to be held on Monday 13 June from 6.30 – 8.00 pm. The aim is to continue the korero to strengthen our ongoing partnership with mana whenua.

If you want to find out more please contact Tracey Reed
email: traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz

Parents' Forum

The first of the Parents' Forum for 2022 was on Monday 16 May at 7.00 pm in the Thames High School staffroom. It was the first to be fully managed by the coordinator, Tracey Hinton. The agenda included the survey results and made decisions based on that information. Survey result decisions were;

- Meetings will be held from 6 – 7 pm each month.
- We will pause with the proposed daytime meeting for now and focus on getting the evening ones running smoothly.
- Using a webpage to share common information was the preferred choice
- To plan only one meeting ahead regarding topic speakers so we can ensure the topic is relevant to what parents needs are at that time.

Next month's meeting: Monday 20 June, 6 - 7pm. In the THS staffroom unless large numbers attending, if so, the hall.

- 30-minute speaker on our topic - most requested in survey - NCEA changes - Changes happening to literacy and numeracy standards. A quick recap for those not at the last meeting and then presentation of the new information.
- Question & answers about the topic
- What's on Top? – with an emphasis on solution focus for any questions/suggestions/ideas, etc. This will strongly influence what topic we have a speaker in for, for the next meeting)
- Socialising – Tea & coffee, nibbles
- The evening meeting aims to be an hour long in total. The idea is people can attend the meeting, socialise or not if they must get home or away.

Matariki celebration

Matariki is a special occasion in the New Zealand calendar which marks the start of the Māori New Year.

Signified by the Matariki cluster of stars reappearing in our night sky, this is a time to reflect on the past year, celebrate the present, and plan for the year ahead.

Matariki is a star cluster that appears in the early morning sky in New Zealand during the mid-winter months.

The star cluster is well known throughout the world and at different times of the year can be seen around the globe. It is one of the brightest clusters in the sky, containing hundreds of member stars.

During Term 2 our junior school, primarily at Year 9, Learning Areas have taken a variety of approaches to make explicit connections to Matariki in the learning programme.

One example is in Year 9 English, taiohi are working on a novel study of [Charlie Tangaroa and the Creature from the Sea](#) which has connections to atua (Tāne and Tangaroa) as does Matariki.

Ngā manaakitanga



Key Dates

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

Term 2:	Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July
Mon 6 Jun	Queen's Birthday (Public Holiday)
Wed 22 Jun	Year 9 Vision and Hearing checks
Fri 24 Jun	Matariki (Public Holiday)
Mon 27 Jun	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Fri 8 July	End of Term 2
Term 3:	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	Teacher Only Day - NCEA Accord Day
Mon 29 Aug	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Mon 5-23 Sept	Triennial school board elections
Mon 26 Sept	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Fri 30 Sept	End of Term 3
Term 4:	Monday 17 October to Friday 9 December 2022.
Mon 24 Oct	Labour Day
Mon 31 Oct	Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui (Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)
Wed 2 Nov	Senior Prize giving
Mon 7 Nov-	NCEA Exams
Fri 2 Dec	
Fri 25 Nov	Teacher Only Day - NCEA Accord Day
Mon 28	Teacher Only Day - NCEA Accord Day
Fri 9 Dec	Last day Term 4

