

Whānau Pānui - 26 October 2022

Kiā ora e te whānau

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Tumuaki Message

Nau mai hoki mai, welcome back, to term four, which promises to be another busy term. I trust that everyone enjoyed the recent term break, and Labour Day weekend.

Getting away to visit whānau and friends was a feature for many taiohi when I asked, “what was the best thing about the break?” Other common themes were ‘fishing’, ‘camp’ and ‘nothing’, which turned out to mean ‘just chillin’, taking time to relax. For many of our taiohi, this does mean time indoors gaming, and – while that does involve online social interaction – I really hope we all take the opportunity to get out and about in green and blue spaces.



The benefits of getting out and about in nature has been known for years, and there has been a recent interest in understanding how both [green spaces](#) and [blue spaces](#) are good for us, to help alleviate anxiety, stress and depression. As [one article](#) says,

Natural settings have long been seen as a potential solution, since [many studies have shown](#) that when people are closer to nature they are less stressed, and their mood and general mental health improve



The [ABC article](#) points to evidence that young people spending time in such environments, experience better mental health outcomes as an adult, possibly because they have learned the benefits earlier in life. We are fortunate to live in a region that has great green and blue spaces close to us.

So, while we get many visitors seeking this experience, we are here and I hope we all take the opportunity to, safely, enjoy these spaces.

Michael Hart
Tumuaki / Principal



Covid-19 update

With the relative freedoms of movement and interactions, including the borders being open, you may have heard that [covid-19 cases are likely to rise](#), with new variants emerging. Although summer warmth and ventilation may help limit any rise. We have seen some recent isolated cases with some staff and students following the break. We appreciate the notice we have received from parents/caregivers advising of absences.

It is timely to remind us all to be aware of [symptoms](#) and [obtain a covid test \(RAT\)](#) as soon as possible to be sure. The precautions required under the [current guidelines](#) are that those who are **symptomatic (sick)** and **positive cases** need to stay at home and isolate for 7 days. There is no requirement for any close contact isolation. Part of the Ministry of Health plan is to ensure you have a plan to isolate away from others in your household, as much as possible. Wearing masks in this situation is also advised. Current health advice is that given the immunity levels and vaccination rates in the wider community the risks of serious illness are moderated. [To find out more about staying safe follow this link.](#)

We will continue to monitor case numbers at school and may return to the wearing of masks for larger groups or in certain situations. As always, those individuals who wish to wear face masks are both encouraged and supported.

Progress – Term 3 reporting

Term Three was another big term for our Junior taiohi / students. Assessment and progress grades have now been updated on the [Parent Web-portal](#). Please go to the [portal](#) and use your username and your caregiver login details that were sent out earlier this year by email). For any assistance, please contact our School Receptionist, Mrs Willetts on (07) 868 8688.

Reporting to Whānau (Final)

Term Four is short and sharp for most senior taiohi / students.

Their final report will be emailed out to all Year 11, 12 and 13 taiohi on **Friday 4 November**. The report will include indicator grades and an update for NCEA results. All the best for taiohi preparing for external assessments.

Junior will receive their final report **Thursday 8 December**, the last day of attendance for 2023.

“I am Hope” Walk-a-thon

You may have heard about the Rangatahi Ora Hauraki initiative to have a 24-hour walkathon from 10 am Friday 4 November to 10 am Saturday 5 November. This event is about community support for “I am Hope” who aim “ to promote positive attitudinal societal change around mental health throughout New Zealand.” Check out the poster below or find out more on [Rangatahi Ora - Hauraki Facebook](#)

They have promoted the event in school a couple of times, and it is fantastic that many of our Year 9 and 10 taiohi have expressed interest to be involved.

Due to the large number of junior students interested in attending this event we have decided to make an afternoon of it for all Year 9 and 10. This means that all students in Year 9 and 10 will get the opportunity to participate in the walk-a-thon by hitting the pavement to walk to Rhodes Park to take part in the activities there from 1:30-2:30 pm.

Muffi day to support

As part of our support for this event Friday 4 November will be a muffi day, and the normal gold coin donation will be paid directly at the walk-a-thon in the afternoon.

More information will be sent directly to Whānau with tamariki involved in the event.



**24-HOUR
WALK-A-THON
COMMUNITY
FUNDRAISER**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO
PROVIDE YOUTH FREE COUNSELLING**

**WHEN: NOVEMBER
04TH 2022
WHERE: RHODES
PARK**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO
REGISTER
EMAIL:
RANGATAHIORA.HAURAKI@GMAIL.COM**

I AM HOPE I AM HOPE I AM HOPE I AM HOPE I AM HOPE



Prizegiving

Our prizegiving ceremonies are an annual celebration of the achievement of students, where we can all recognise their success. At present there are no restrictions to attending these events, although we will advise should that change. We may require facemasks, as mentioned in the covid update of this pānui, and these will be available.

Senior Prizegiving (Years 11-13): Wednesday 2 November, 7 pm.

We expect all recipients to attend to receive their cups and certificates. Parents/caregivers and whānau of recipients are all invited to attend; an email invitation has been sent.

We are pleased to announce our guest speaker is past student, **Caitlyn Ruddock**, who you may have seen as a presenter on Fair Go.

Juniors (Years 9-10): Monday 5 December, 1 pm.

All Year 9 and 10 will attend. Parents/caregivers and whānau of recipients are all invited to attend; an email invitation will be sent.

NCEA Examinations and study leave

NCEA examinations start on **Monday 7 November**, beginning with Level 1 Te Reo Rangatira, Level 2 Physics and Level 3 Business Studies in the morning and Chinese, Media Studies, and Dance in the afternoon.

The examinations continue until **Friday 2 December**. The Links to the full timetable are here:

[2022 Examination Timetable \(download.pdf\)](#)

Exams start at **9.30 am** in the morning session and **2 pm** in the afternoon session, and last for up to three hours. Candidates must make sure they are here well before the start time. Advice from NZQA:

Arrive at least 20 minutes before the exam starts ...Late entries to the exam room are very limited, and there is no entry under any circumstances after 30 minutes.

Candidates will be issued an individual timetable, instructions, and admission slips from NZQA.

[Guidelines for the examinations](#)

Examinations are managed by the NZQA Exam Centre Manager, Mr C Nixon who is employed by NZQA and manages the running and supervision of the exams. He is helped by our **NZQA Principal's Nominee**, Mrs Sawyer, and our SENCO, Mrs M Coles (helping with special assessment conditions). Mr Nixon and Mrs Sawyer will hold an examination briefing for candidates on Thursday 27 October to make sure they understand the requirements of

examinations. The procedures for any unexpected event, on an examination day that prevents sitting an examination must be strictly followed. This includes "temporary illness, injury, trauma or serious event" This includes advising the school as soon as possible and working with Mrs Sawyer for any derived grade application. It is vital that any such event has evidence for the day(s) affected, and this often includes a medical certificate. Please contact Mrs Sawyer for advice, calling the school 07 868 8688

[Information from NZQA about derived grades process](#)

Study Leave arrangements

Students who are on track for achieve NCEA and have external assessments or who have completed their NCEA qualification, **study leave will start from Thursday 3 November**, i.e. the day after senior prizegiving. Students allowed study leave will only need to attend when they have an examination. It is important to consider any transport arrangements needed. For those who need to bus into school, there will be suitable space in the library for on-site quiet study before an examination.

Students that are not on track to achieve NCEA and who need to complete internal assessments will not be on study leave. They typically may have few external exams and a custom programme of extra support will be put in place with Mrs Donovan and the learner support team, including Mrs S Brown.

Option selections for 2023

Year 9 2022 for Year 10 2023

Year 9 taiohi are currently completing their option selections for Year 10 2023 via [School Point](#). Year 9 parents / caregivers have been sent information about this process and we encourage full involvement. While the options may change to get a timetable to fit, we appreciate getting options **completed by Friday 28 October**.

Years 10-12 for Years 11-13 2023

Option selections were completed late Term 3, and rōpū and whānau kaitiaki are currently checking these and making sure that any issues have been sorted.

Healthy Relationships

After several interruptions this year we are pleased that we have been able to offer the [Mates and Dates programme](#). This is a well-regarded programme that is supported by ACC, and it focuses on how to have positive, respectful, and lawful relationships. The programme is running for three 90 minutes sessions, on Tuesdays for the first three weeks of Term Four.

While healthy relationships are topics in our Years 9-11 health curriculum, we have recognised the need to have more guidance.

The three sessions cover:

1. Healthy Relationships & Consent
2. Communication & When things go wrong
3. Gender/Identity/Sexuality & Keeping safe together

We are aiming to ensure this education is available in future years from Year 12 to Year 13, to complement our compulsory health programme.

Junior School Exams

Junior (Year 9 and 10) exams for Years 9 and 10 are on Monday 21 November and Tuesday 22 November.

Examinations are a type of assessment that remains a feature of NCEA, and it is important that we build confidence and the skills for examinations, such as preparing ('studying') and working to a time limit. We will operate a modified timetable to fit the examinations, as they run for 90 minutes.

There will be exams for **Science, Maths and English**. Also, on these days one of the other classes normally on these days will run as normal.

Parents' forum

Our forum is an opportunity to hear from you and discuss topics that are relevant.

Our next forum is planned for **Monday 21 November starting at 6.30 pm in the THS Staffroom**. Place put that in your calendar.

Topic: Looking ahead with the principal, Mr Hart.

We would like to hear your thoughts about what went well in 2022 and what we could do to improve as we update our annual plan for next year. Aside from an opportunity to discuss the current [strategic plan](#) this will be an open forum to give feedback, suggestions and ask questions. If you would like to include a particular topic to be discussed, then please contact us at office@thameshigh.school.nz

End-of-year Activities – Year 9 and 10

From Tuesday 6 December to Thursday 8 December, Year 9 and Year 10 taiohi will be involved in a range of alternative activities. These activities will allow them to explore a range of interests, build confidence and creativity.

For Year 10 are currently selecting their activities, which run both out-of-school and in school. Options:

- Try something new – squash, bowls, and croquet

- Outdoor experiences
- Weaving in the whare
- Surf and sea
- Short and sharp – a range of in-school and local activities, such as those below.

Year 9 taiohi will follow a programme of activities such as: Geocaching, Escape Room, Sew and Go, Rock climbing wall, Community Give back, Baking, E-Sports, Paper Craft, Physics games, Breakfast Club Cooking, Xmas Wood Decorations, Chinese Cooking, Māori Bread making, ...

Sports Update

Sports Awards Prizegiving

Sports Awards Prizegiving assembly will be held on Monday 31 October at 10.00 am in the school hall.

Parents / caregivers and whānau are welcome.

Carolyn Green / Tess Watts
Teacher in Charge of Sports / Sports Coordinator

Whitianga 10 km event

During the school holidays Austin Court (Year 10) represented Thames High school in the 10 km Run event at the Whitianga Marathon.

Austin completed his run in 49 min:19 sec, placed 10th overall out of **324** runners. He was the 5th male across the line and **placed 1st in the 15-19 age group**.

Well done, Austin! Fantastic results.

Thames Valley Netball

Congratulations to **Sienna Hall** (Year 13) who was awarded the Thames Valley Netball Under 18 Most Improved Player for 2022

A well-deserved award for such a dynamic player. Certainly, a player to watch in the future.

We are so proud of you Sienna.

Congratulations also to **Pounamu Kini-Connor** (who left in 2021) who was awarded the Most Valuable Player for Thames Valley.



TV Badminton 2022

Week 7 and Week 8 we hosted the TV Badminton competition with over 75 entries for Juniors and 40 seniors we ran the event over two days, with 7 schools in attendance.

Thames High School had 20 students participate in this event, and it was great to see a high level of badminton skills from all our players. We have some very talented sports people at our school.

Special thanks to Shannon Paki and Kim Court for giving up their time and helping assist on the day.

Huge thanks to all our students who help referee the games - it was very much appreciated.

Congratulations to taiohi who won the following events:

Junior Girls PLATE doubles WINNERS
- **Milla Sawyer / Romie Dargaville Rehua** (Year 9)

Junior Boys PLATE singles RUNNER UP
- **Ollie Stove** (Year 10)

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
- 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.](#)

Key Dates 2022

Dates may be subject to change and will be advised.

Term 4: Monday 17 October to Friday 9 December 2022.

Fri 28 Oct Year 13 Leavers Dinner (7 pm – 10 pm)

Mon 31 Oct Sports Awards Prizegiving

Mon 31 Oct Full Board Hui – 5.30 pm, Wharenui
(Te Puna o Te Pito Mata)

Wed 2 Nov Senior Prize giving (7 pm)

Fri 4 Nov Year 11-13 Reports Published

Fri 4 Nov “I am Hope” walk a thon – from 1.15 pm
Muffi day to support

Mon 7 Nov- NCEA Exams start

Fri 2 Dec

Mon 21 Nov & **Junior School Exams** (Y9-10)

Tue 22 Nov

Fri 25 Nov **Teacher Only Day**

- NCEA Accord Day

Mon 28 **Teacher Only Day**

- NCEA Accord Day

Mon 5 Dec Junior Prize giving

Tue 6 Dec - Year 9 and 10 end-of-year activities.

Thu 8 Dec including Year 10 camp and day activities.

Year 9 and 10 Reports Published

Last day for students 2022

Fri 9 Dec Teacher only day

End of Term 4



Key Dates 2023

Dates may be subject to change and will be advised.

Thu 26 Jan 2023 Staff only days
Fri 27 Jan 2023

Mon 30 Jan Anniversary Day (holiday)

**Tue 31 Jan Course Confirmation Day
(Years 11-13)**

Wed 1 Feb **Powhiri for new students**
(All **Year 13** in support)
School starts for **Year 9**
Orientation for **Year 9**

Thu 2 Feb School starts for all Years 10-13
Timetable commences

Mon 6 Feb Waitangi Day (holiday)

Tue 7 Feb School term continues.

Thu 6 Apr End of Term 1

Fri 7 Apr – School holidays
Sun 23 Apr Includes Good Friday, Easter Monday, and
Easter Tuesday

Term 2: Monday 24 April to Friday 30 June

Sat 1 July – School holidays
Sun 16 July (includes Matariki 14 July)

Term 3: Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September

Sat 23 Sept – School holidays
Sun 8 Oct

**Term 4: Monday 9 October to Friday 15 December
2023*.**

** Likely to be earlier once teacher only
days are confirmed.*

