

Whānau Pānui Update – 14 November 2022

Kiā ora e te whānau

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This pānui is a brief update on upcoming events and dates.

NCEA Exams continue

NZQA examinations continue, the last one at Thames high School is on Thursday 24 November.

[Full schedule \(NZQA Website\)](#)

Students coming onsite for exams, tutorials and other reasons are expected to be in correct uniform.

Junior (Year 9 and 10) School Exams

Exams for Years 9 and 10 are on **Monday 21 November and Tuesday 22 November**.

There are three exams over the two days for Science, English and Mathematics. Exams are 90 minutes long and will be held in the school hall for all Year 10 and in separate classrooms for Year 9 rōpū. Taiohi/students with Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) will have access to separate accommodation and a teacher aide or teacher support if eligible. Any enquiries about SAC to our SENCO, Mrs Coles.

The sequence for each day is below

	Monday 21 November	Tuesday 22 November
Period 1	Period 1 class	Exam 2 Year 9 - Math Year 10 - Science
Rōpū	All students in rōpū	All students in rōpū
Interval		
Period 2	Exam 1 Year 9 – English Year 10 – English	Exam 3 Year 9 - Science Year 10 - Math
Period 3	Period 3 class (shortened)	
Lunch		
Period 4	Period 4 class	Period 4 class

Monday will follow the regular school schedule, except for the shorter period 3 class, while Tuesday has different times.

For each exam taiohi/students will need a pen and refill paper. It is a good habit to come prepared for exams as those the senior school must.

A calculator is also needed for the Science and Math exams; however, each department has an allocation of calculators for students who do not have a calculator.

As noted in a previous pānui, the exams are to help assess progress and understanding in core areas and to build confidence in this form of assessment, so that students are better prepared for external examinations for NCEA in the future.

Teachers are helping taiohi prepare for these assessments in class, helping with revision, practice tasks and hints on how to work to a time limit.

Some [basic tips](#) for exams are:

- Plan to have revision time, well ahead of time. Don't cram. Do your study in a place where you won't get distracted.
- Take regular breaks and stay hydrated.
- Focus on what is going to be covered, know your topics.
- Make your own summaries, use tools like mind maps and flip cards to help.



- You may find studying as a group very helpful; either way get help from your friends who are also preparing.
- Practice answering questions, and check and correct answers.
- Get help and feedback from your teacher.
- Make sure you are well rested for an exam and feed the machine – make sure you have good food and drink plenty of water.
- In the examination, do your best topics first, then make sure you attempt all the parts, keeping to the suggested time limits.

Parents' forum

The next parents' forum is on **Monday 21 November** starting at 6.30 pm in the THS Staffroom.

We would like to hear your thoughts about what has gone well in 2022 and what we could do better as we update our annual plan for next year.

Along with the opportunity to have ideas for the 2023 annual plan, this will be an **open forum** to give feedback, suggestions and ask questions on any topic. If you would like to include a particular topic to be discussed, then please contact us at office@thameshigh.school.nz

Staff only days

The final two [NCEA Accord days](#) that have been provided by the Ministry of Education are approaching. These have been advertised from the beginning of the year: **Friday 25 November and Monday 28 November.**

These days are for staff to prepare for the [changes to NCEA](#) and the [curriculum refresh programme](#).

Topics will include more about how to prepare for the [changes to literacy and numeracy requirements](#). While these have been delayed again, the changes are still coming, along with all the new standards for subjects – full implementation by 2024.

These days will give our departments time to ensure we have the foundations in place at Year 9 and 10, and to get ready for the implementation in 2024.

Paid Union Meeting

The PPTA have announced that there will be a paid union meeting in our area on **Wednesday 30 November** (1.30 – 3.30 pm). This is to consider the offer from the Ministry of Education and to decide the next steps in their collective agreement negotiations.

New Zealand employment law allows every union to have two paid union meetings each year during normal working hours. This is the second.

As most teaching staff are union members, we cannot hold classes period 4. Periods 1 to 3 will be as normal (at slightly different times). Students may finish school at 12.45 pm and **go home**. Buses have been arranged to come earlier and will leave soon after 12.45 pm.

Those who are unable to be at home will be supervised at school. We will have a lunch break followed by supervision in the library until the normal end of school.

Year 9 and 10 Prizegiving

Monday 5 December is our Junior Prizegiving in the School Hall, starting at 1.00 pm in the School Hall. This event is to acknowledge the diligence and achievement of taiohi / students.

All Year 9 and 10 taiohi / students will attend this event to support those who have achieved great results and to have an aspirational event to help set goals for next year.

Invitations parents / caregivers of those who are receiving awards will be sent separately but please make sure this is in your calendar just in case. We really appreciate having friends and whānau support at this wonderful occasion.

School will finish at the normal time, and the next day we start our end-of-year activities.

End-of-year Activities – Year 9 and 10

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

Year 10 taiohi have selected their activities. While limited numbers meant not everyone was able to get their first preference, fortunately the second preference has typically been available.

Year 9 taiohi, and those Year 10 taiohi who are not doing a camp or other out-of-school day activities will follow a programme of activities that promises to be an interesting way to send the year on a high.

The last day of school this year is Thursday 8 December, after which final reports for Year 9 and 10 will be published.

Please be sure to put the dates for 2023 (on page 3) into your calendar



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 at THS
Thu 24 Nov

Mon 21 Nov & **Junior School Exams (Y9-10)**
Tue 22 Nov

Fri 25 Nov **Staff Only Day**
- NCEA Accord Day

Mon 28 **Staff 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 **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
Induction for any other new students

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

Term 2: Monday 24 April to Friday 30 June

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

Term 3: Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September

Sat 23 Sept – Sun 8 Oct School holidays

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

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

