



Whānau Pānui – 9 February 2023

Contents

Tumuaki/Principal's Message	1
Important dates to diary	1
Mufti Day Dress Code	2
Be safe - be sun smart.	2
New Kaimahi / Staff	3
Farewells (left at the end of 2022)	3
Kaiāwhina / Pastoral Leaders	3
Rōpū or Whānau Kaitiaki or Kaiako	3
Other pastoral care contacts	3
More key contacts	4
Senior leadership team	4
Our School Nurse	4
Youth Workers	4
Stationery packs	4
Attendance/Absences	5
Staying on site	5
Year 13 Lunch and Study Passes	5
Library	5
School Policies - SchoolDocs	6
Key dates 2023	6

Tumuaki/Principal's Message

Naumai haere mai! Naumai hoki mai! Welcome and welcome back to 2023.

While we were hoping for a disruption free start to the year, the weather of course hasn't made this possible. Thanks for all the support and understanding of the changes to the start of year.

So far this year we have had:

- a successful course confirmation day (Tuesday 31 January), where most issues with timetable were sorted out. Other issues

are being solved as students continue to return to school.

- Our Year 9s enjoyed their first day of high school on Thursday 2 February. Many thanks to the senior leaders and Year 13 students for their support and running activities in the afternoon.
- The whole school returned on Friday 3 February, including practice for our waiata for the pōwhiri.
- Our full school pōwhiri on Tuesday 7 February was a great event, where we welcomed over 117 new students to our kura (school), including 97 at Year 9, 20 at Year 10 to 13. We have had 12 new international students start with us, seven from Japan, four from Germany and one from France.

Thanks to Ngāti Maru for supporting our pōwhiri. We welcomed several new staff also at the first pōwhiri.

Important dates to diary

- **Friday 10 February** is Swimming Sports / Carnival at the Thames Centennial Pools. All taiohi / students are involved in this day, with a range of fun House activities to go with the competitive events. Taiohi are encouraged to wear mufti with their house colours. Bring food for the day, a water bottle, a hat, sun screen and a great attitude to enjoy the day.
- **Wednesday 15 February:** Year 9 Rōpū connections evening from 5.30 – 6.30 pm. Whānau are encouraged to meet kaimahi / staff, other Year 9 taiohi / students and the Rōpū kaitiaki / teacher. We will meet on the field, weather permitting, otherwise this event will be postponed to Wednesday 22 February.
- **Wednesday 1 March** is House Sports Day for all taiohi / students. Many activities, including athletics events will be held at school, on the field. Whānau are welcome to support us.

Looking further ahead (term 2):

- **Monday 24 April**, the school will be closed for instruction.
- **Tuesday 25 April** is ANZAC Day. No school for taiohi / students.



Teacher Only Days 2023

There are two Teacher Only Days in 2023 that have been allocated by the Ministry of Education to support local curriculum design, and NCEA changes.

The first teacher-only day in 2023 will be held on **Friday 5 May**.

The second one has yet to be scheduled by the Ministry and there will be another couple of days in 2024.

A summary of key dates are available at the end of the Pānui.

Muffi Day Dress Code

The dress code for Muffi Day is clothing, although casual, that must be appropriate for a school workplace environment. This includes, but may not be limited to:

- No slogans referring to smoking, alcohol and drugs, any sexual connotations.
- Footwear is to be smart/casual. School shoes will be issued to taiohi/students who wear inappropriate footwear. Suitable footwear i.e. enclosed shoes must be worn for practical classes (Health & PE, Science and Technology)
- The normal expectations of hair colour apply, so please do not colour your hair for this day.
- Do not bring any props or costumes, as they may be inappropriate or be a distraction to learning in the classroom e.g no onesies, no themed outfits, or costumes.
- No bandanas are to be worn.

Should clothing that is deemed as not suited to the school workplace, the school reserves the right to ask students to change either into provided school uniform, if available, or the item(s) may be corrected with the help of caregivers / whānau. For consistency, decisions about what does and does not meet the standards above will be decided by members of the Senior Leadership Team. Parent and caregivers / whānau support is expected and appreciated.

Be safe - be 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. This could be a bucket / brimmed hat or many prefer a cap.

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

It is expected tikanga that hats are not worn inside.

As swimming and days are not in uniform (muffi), **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](#)



New Kaimahi / Staff

Naumai haere mai, (welcome) to Kaimahi hou (new staff). We are so please we have such wonderful people join our team.

- **Mr Yunju Cho**, our new teacher of mathematics, from South Korea. He completed his Master of Education in Mathematics Education at the University of Waikato in March 2022.
- **Mr Shane Major** was a relieving teacher in 2022 and has now joined us as a teacher of social studies and history.
- **Mrs Christine Sutton** is our new School Receptionist / Administration Support. Christine has 18 years' experience at Booms Care (Bupa). As a former student of Thames High, and whose children also attended, she knows our school and community well.

Other staff updates

- **Mr Tezhar Paymani** is covering for **Mr Sitnikoff** in Outdoor and Physical Education and Health, who is on parental leave for 2023.
- **Whaea Rachel Allen** is Head of English.
- **Ms Jasmine Yorke** is Assistant Head of English.
- **Mr Josh Dix** is Assistant Head of Mathematics.

Farewells (left at the end of 2022)

- **Mr Zhao** accepted a position at Westlake Girls High teaching mathematics, as it is much closer to home and his whānau. He will be missed by staff and taiohi.
- **Miss Barrett**, teacher of history accepted a position at Rangitoto College. We wish her well and she will be very much missed by staff and taiohi.
- **Mrs Willetts** School Secretary leaves our kura after 23 years. A wealth of knowledge and experience and she will be missed by many.

We wish Mr Zhao, Miss Barrett and Mrs Willetts all the very best in their future endeavours.

Kaiāwhina / Pastoral Leaders

We have four Kaiāwhina to lead the pastoral care teams at each year level. The first point of contact is your child's Rōpū or Whānau Kaitiaki, the Kaiāwhina are available for additional 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.

Year 9	Ms Carolyn Green carolyngreen@thameshigh.school.nz
Year 10	Ms Jasmine Yorke jasmineyorke@thameshigh.school.nz
Year 11	Mrs Nichola Voice nicholavoice@thameshigh.school.nz
Year 12 and 13	Ms Jen Fletcher jenfletcher@thameshigh.school.nz

Rōpū or Whānau Kaitiaki or Kaiako

To contact Rōpū or Whānau Kaitiaki or subject teachers, please email using the staff directory on the website.

[Other staff contacts are on our website.](#)

Information about the right person to contact is on the timetable available through our web portal. If you haven't received (or have misplaced) the email with login information please contact the office.

Other pastoral care contacts

Attendance Officer / SMS Administrator

Ms Sharen Stevenson
attendance@thameshigh.school.nz

Student Support & Enrolment Officer

Mrs Cheryl Jordan
studentsupport@thameshigh.school.nz

Counsellor

Mrs Ngaio Repia
ngaiorepia@thameshigh.school.nz

School Nurse

Mrs Angela Hewlett
angela.hewlett@thameshigh.school.nz
angela.hewlett@pinnacle.health.nz

SENCO (Special Needs Coordinator)

Ms Miriam Coles
miriamcoles@thameshigh.school.nz



Careers Advisor / Pathways Manager

Ms Leanne Donovan

leannedonovan@thameshigh.school.nz

Sport Coordinator

Mrs Tessa Watts

sport@thameshigh.school.nz

More key contacts

Front Office Reception - **Mrs Christine Sutton**

Phone contact or more urgent enquiries. Leaving a message. Not sure who to speak to? Please call:

07 868 8688

christinesutton@thameshigh.school.nz

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

traceyreed@thameshigh.school.nz

General email enquiries

office@thameshigh.school.nz

Senior leadership team

Business Manager - **Mrs Sharyn Baker**,

for all finance and business queries.

sharynbaker@thameshigh.school.nz

For general accounts queries:

accounts@thameshigh.school.nz

Principal - Mr Michael Hart

principal@thameshigh.school.nz

Deputy Principal – Mrs Penny Keet

Senior school matters (Years 11-13)

pennykeet@thameshigh.school.nz

Deputy Principal – Mrs Natalie O'Neil

Junior school matters (Years 9-10)

natalieoneil@thameshigh.school.nz

Our School Nurse

Mrs Hewlett will operate the health clinic three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.15 am to 2.10 pm.

The services that are provided are:

- Screening all Year 9 students using the HEADDSSS assessment.
- Referring students for treatment, investigation, and follow-up.
- Sexual and contraceptive health.
- Sore throat management (reducing rheumatic fever).
- General medical care, advice, and support with:
 - mental health (including referrals to primary mental health services)
 - drug and alcohol support – referrals to specialist services
 - nutrition and exercise
 - positive youth development programmes
 - smoking/vaping cessation.

Mrs Hewlett can be contacted on 027 234 8690 or leave a confidential message in the box at the Student Support Office and I will be in contact.

Youth Workers

Also supporting young people is the team from **24/7** Youth Workers (Michael Wilkes, Levi Dyer and Samantha Teo)

Stationery packs

We recognise that to have a great start to learning means having the right stationery.

For 2023 we are offering **all Year 9 and 10 students** being offered a stationery pack with the essential items they need.

The pack contains three 1B5 lined exercise books, one 1E8 (maths), a 200-page refill, pens, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener, and a set of coloured pencils.

If there is a need for additional items, we will do our best to supply them – please refer to the student support office.



Student Support Trust Fund

We have a **Student Support Trust Fund**. The Trust has helped many students participate in sport, camps and provide everyday essentials when needed, such as uniform, shoes and other items that are needed to participate in activities.

Our priority is removing financial barriers to access items that are required.

Please discuss with Rōpū or Whānau kaitiaki or Kaiāwhina or contact **Student Support** and they will help you.

studentsupport@thameshigh.school.nz

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 event 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.](#)

Staying on site

Taiohi / students are to remain at school **all day** so, 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**. Please do not drop off items in other locations. This is a health and safety requirement of all schools. Food should not be ordered and delivered to school. This causes a disruption and is again about knowing who is on site.

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.](#)

Year 13 Lunch and Study Passes

Year 13 taiohi / students may leave at lunch time (not interval) **by foot** (not vehicle). They must maintain an attendance rate of **90%** and demonstrate great values and adhere to all our expectations, including uniform, to keep this privilege.

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) once this is decided by the deputy principal and kaiāwhina of the senior school. This is not dependent on Covid settings as they would not be coming back to school that day.

Library

Library fun fact: Benjamin Franklin started up a lending library in 1731.

Library hours are 8.15 am until 3.15 pm. We are also open during interval and lunchtime for students to come in and use the library for reading, playing board games, socialising with others playing chess as well many other things.

Students who have library books at home from last year, could you please return them to the library. There are no library fines for overdue books, we would just like them returned.

Student librarians: if you would like to become a student librarian, please send an email to Mrs Howes ruthhowes@thameshigh.school.nz and you will be sent a form to fill in or you can collect a form from the library.

I look forward to meeting you all! – Mrs Howes



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"

Key dates 2023

Dates are **subject to change** and will be advised.

Term 1:	Wednesday 1 February to Thursday 6 April
Fri 10 Feb	THS Swimming Sports Day
Wed 15 Feb	Year 9 Whanaungatanga afternoon 5.30 – 6.30 pm
Mon 27 Feb	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Wed 1 Mar	House Sports Day (aka Athletics)
Wed 8 Mar -	Year 13 Camp
Fri 10 Mar	
Mon 27 Mar	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Fri 31 Mar	Class ID Photos
Thur 6 Apr	Last day of Term 1
Fri 7 Apr –	School holidays
Sun 23 Apr	(Includes Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Easter Tuesday)
Term 2:	Wednesday 26 April to Friday 30 June

Mon 24 Apr	School closed for instruction.
Tues 25 Apr	ANZAC Day (holiday)
Wed 26 Apr	Term 2 – Day 1 starts
Wed 3 May	THS Cross Country
Fri 19 May	Pink Shirt Day & Bully Free
Mon 29 May	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Mon 29 May	Senior School Ball
Mon 5 Jun	King's Birthday (holiday)
Mon 26 Jun	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Fri 30 Jun	Last day of Term 2
Sat 1 July –	School holidays
Sun 16 July	(includes Matariki 14 July)
Term 3:	Monday 17 July to Friday 22 Sept
Mon 17 Jul	Term 3 – Day 1 starts
Mon 24 Jul	Spirit Week (TBC)
Mon 31 Jul	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Fri 25 Aug	Daffodil Day
Mon 28 Aug	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Tue 29 Aug	School Photos
Mon 11 Sep	Te Wiki o te reo Māori Haka Wars
Mon 18 Sep	Mental Health week
Fri 22 Sept	Last day of Term 3
Sat 23 Sept –	School holidays
Sun 8 Oct	
Term 4:	Monday 9 October to Friday 8 December 2023
Mon 9 Oct	Term 3 – Day 1 starts
Tues 17 Oct	Sports Awards
Thurs 19 Oct	Senior Leavers Dinner
Mon 23 Oct	Labour Day (holiday)
Mon 30 Oct	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Tues 7 Nov	Senior Prizegiving 7.00 pm
Mon 27 Nov	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</i>
Mon 4 Dec	Junior Prizegiving
Tue 5 Dec –	End-of-year activities for Years 9 and 10
Thu 7 Dec	
Fri 8 Dec	Last day of Term 4

