



## Whānau Pānui (Newsletter) – 2 June 2023

### Contents

<b>Tumuaki / principal's message</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Industrial Action – Rostering Home</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Tumuaki tuarua farewell message</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Consultation and feedback</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pink Shirt &amp; Bully Free Day</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Parent Forum</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mining Trip</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Auckland Writers Festival</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sports</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Peer Support Training Camp</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Academic Tutoring</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Careers / Gateway</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Community Notices</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Key dates 2023</b>	<b>5</b>

### Tumuaki / principal's message

I am fortunate to have just returned from the annual secondary school principals' conference held in New Plymouth. It was uplifting to connect with several colleagues, share best practice, and look for ways we can continue on our journey of improvement. While schools vary greatly in their context, we - at the core - all aim to be a positive place and learning experience for all. It reminds me of how fortunate we are, with our community, to have a positive impact on young people.

It was great to share how we have made progress in "culturally responsive" learning and teaching and living our values. Introducing Te Ao Haka into the curriculum, hearing waiata and haka being practised every week, is but one example. I am proud that we as kaimahi (staff) are learning too, and I hope we will be able to show taiohi (young people) our growing confidence. Seeing examples of where we can be in future is inspiring too, as we continue to give effect to Te Titiri o Waitangi.

Nationally, we have plenty of challenges and opportunities right now and in the years ahead. My thoughts go out to communities and schools who have faced devastating damage and whānau who are showing great resilience every day, especially the East Coast / Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay / Te Matau-a-Māui, and Northland / Te Tai Tokerau.

The common themes for schools include: curriculum changes, changes to NCEA, the literacy and numeracy co-requisite, ensuring equity, the opportunities presented by AI, social media, addiction to vaping, responding to bullying, respecting gender diversity, improving engagement and attendance, are all common themes for schools. We look forward to working together in this vital mahi (work).

Please feel free to contact our team or me with suggestions, concerns or if you have something positive to share. It's great to pass messages of thanks to staff, who work tirelessly every day. Concerns can be shared anonymously, and we act on all concerns. I encourage us all to report any concerns in a timely manner, rather than let things build up. We can continue to work together to make our great place an even greater place.

Michael Hart

**Tumuaki / Principal**

[principal@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:principal@thameshigh.school.nz)

### Industrial Action – Rostering Home

#### Tuesday 6 June – YEAR 10 ROSTERED HOME

- School is normal for Years 9, 11, 12 and 13

**Year 10** students should not come to school, and we encourage the time be used to catch up on assignments and other important work.

#### Thursday 8 June – YEAR 9 ROSTERED HOME

- School is normal for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13

**Year 9** students should not come to school, and we encourage the time be used to catch up on assignments and other important work.

If there are 14 year olds where parents/caregivers do not have a suitable supervision option, then please advise our student support office. We can provide a supervised space in the library.

Email: [studentsupport@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:studentsupport@thameshigh.school.nz)

### Tumuaki tuarua farewell message

Mrs Natalie O'Neil, Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal is leaving our kura after seven years, to pursue new endeavours, at the start of next term. While sad for us, we know you will join us in wishing her well. As junior school tumuaki tuarua (deputy principal), has built strong connections with all our contributing primary schools. This means Mrs O'Neil knows our taurira (students) and whānau very well, forging great relationships. Natalie has been pivotal in leading significant changes in the kura (school) and leaves a worthy legacy. There will be an opportunity to fully acknowledge Mrs O'Neil early in Term Three.

We wish her all the very best. *Kia kaha, Kia māia, Kia manawanui!*



## Consultation and feedback

Recently we asked about reporting to parents. There are some important topics that we will be seeking your feedback on in the coming weeks, either later Term Two or Term Three. Topics will include:

1. Revised guidelines for uniform and presentation. These have not been updated for at least a decade.
2. Curriculum and timetable. We aim to regularly get feedback about what we offer, and how we structure our learning.
3. General community survey where we will get a rating of what's important, and how well we are doing.

## Pink Shirt & Bully Free Day



Thames High School was a sea of pink joining the **Pink Shirt Day** movement by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusion. We raised \$163.50 and our photo of taiohi / students and staff in the shape of a **Pink Shirt** was published in The Thames Valley Profile.

Thanks to our senior leaders who arranged fun activities like "speed-friending" where taiohi could share a conversation with taiohi they had not met before. It was wonderful to see taiohi offering their friendship to other taiohi who may not have any friends.



Thanks to Deputy Head Leader **Jess Sara** for putting together a wonderful [video](#) about what the Bully-Free Day is about.

Click the Facebook [link](#) to see more photos.

## Parent Forum

There was a great support of parents at the Parent Forum held on Monday 22 May. Positive feedback and discussion on progress reports, academic support and phone use at school.

The next meeting is on Monday 19 June at 6.00 pm. The focus for this meeting will be Attendance and Truancy. An open invitation is extended to all parents / caregivers who would like to attend. A light supper will be provided in the staffroom.

Amy Rakete  
**Parent Forum Facilitator**

## Mining Trip

On Thursday 18 May, Year 13 taiohi of SC113 travelled to Waihi to investigate the socio scientific impacts of gold mining. Taiohi enjoyed themselves and had fun learning about modern mining safe for the environment.



Kiryn Curnow  
**Science Teacher**

## Auckland Writers Festival

Selected taiohi attended the Auckland Writers Festival at Aotea Square held on Thursday 18 May. Taiohi listened to literature experts and gained experience from fantastic authors and received workshop advice. They were inspired by some of their favourite writers who signed their books.



Jasmine Yorke / Mike Dwight  
**English / Literacy**

## Sports

### School Cross Country

Well done to all taiohi who participated in the school Cross Country held on Monday 8 May.

A special thank you to all volunteers who helped out with marshalling for this event and to parents who supported our runners on the day.



Congratulations

**Austin Court** Overall fastest male and **Abby Greenwood**  
Overall fastest female



Congratulations to all Thames High School Cross Country runners who recently participated in the 2023 Thames Valley Secondary Schools Cross Country event held at South Farms in Mangatarata. We had 14 students compete in this event and each participant did exceptionally well, considering the condition of

the grounds which were extremely wet. We were lucky with the weather being fine on the day and the rain managed to stay away.



## Sporting success

Congratulations to **Kyla Wilson** selected for Hamilton City U18 Representative team for Netball. **Ora Wiki** selected for U16 Thames Valley Netball. **Lexi Rohrlach** and **Lawron Waite** selected as non-travellers for U16 Thames Valley Netball. **Nova Sawyer** and **Takaimo-Riria Waite** selected for U14 Thames Valley Netball.

**Walter Wiki**, **Isayah Boyd** and **Taitan Topia** who were recently selected and represented Hauraki Māori in the first U14 Tama team to represent our Iwi and Rohe at the annual international Aotearoa NZ Māori rugby league tournament.

## Waikato Secondary schools swimming champs

Congratulations to **Nova Sawyer**, **Lewis Holmes** and **Lorenzo Yamamoto** who recently competed at the Waikato Secondary Schools Swimming championships held in Hamilton. All three swimmers did extremely well making the finals placed in the top 10.



**Nova Sawyer** placed 3rd 100m Breast FINAL and 4th in 50m Breast FINAL with time improvements in all events. Well done!

## TV Badminton -Teams event

Last week we had nine students participate at the Thames Valley teams badminton event. Each team had two male and two female participants. We entered a junior team and a senior team. Well done to our junior team who placed second overall.

Tessa Watts  
Sports Coordinator

## Peer Support Training Camp

The Peer Support Training Camp was held on the 2 & 3 May at Kauaeranga Valley Christian Youth Camp.

Peer supporters were asked to think about one thing they would like to change in the school or community. Issues identified by the team were the school being a safe place for all in an inclusive environment fostering acceptance and Manaakitanga.



A series of team-building activities led by 24/7 youth workers were designed to help peer supporters to get to know each other and build trust, including icebreakers and problem-solving.

To read more about the camp click [Peer Support Training Camp](#)

Ngaio Repia  
Counsellor

## Academic Tutoring

Academic Senior Leaders **Baromey Rous** and **Daniel Chen** are offering free tutoring sessions at lunchtime on Tuesdays and Fridays. As of yet, there hasn't been any students who have attended and Baromey wanted to inform parents about this help offered. If you think your child would benefit from some extra help with their schoolwork please encourage them to give it a go.



If you would like assistance in encouraging your child to attend tutoring with Baromey or Daniel please email [br17120@thameshigh.school.nz](mailto:br17120@thameshigh.school.nz)

Senior Leaders  
Baromey Rous / Daniel Chen

## Careers / Gateway

### Defence Force Visit

On Tuesday 30 May we were fortunate to have the Defence Force visit our school for a presentation and some fitness testing. We had a large turnout of students who were all keen to find out more about this career choice.

### Upcoming Career events

- Otago University visit on 6 June at 12 noon in the Careers Centre
- Learner Driver course 8 & 9 June at 8.45 am to 3.10 pm in the Library (fiction side)
- Massey University Experience Day 9 June at Toi Rauwharangi College of Creative Arts
- NZ Careers Expo 11 & 12 June at Claudelands showgrounds Hamilton
- Tertiary planning 13 June at 12 noon in the Careers Centre
- ORC (Queenstown Resort College) 19 June at 12 noon in the Careers Centre
- Waikato University scholarship and accommodation visit 20 June at 12 noon in the Careers Centre
- Tertiary planning 27 June at 12 noon in the Careers Centre

Leanne Donovan  
Careers Advisor

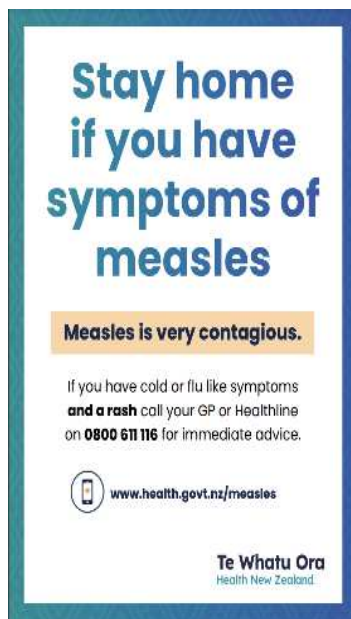




## Community Notices

### Measles

With the recent report of measles in Tāmaki Makaurau, it is important that Thames High School shares all relevant information with our community to keep everyone well informed. We are all aware of how infectious measles is from the last outbreak in Auckland and Northland in 2019. The most important thing people can do to protect themselves is to ensure they are immunised and their tamariki. Vaccination is the best protection against measles.



Measles is a very serious illness that can spread easily among those that are not immune. It is much more contagious than COVID-19, particularly among people who aren't immune.

The best protection against measles is to be vaccinated with two doses of the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine. It is safe to have an extra MMR vaccination if you can't prove you have had two doses.

#### Where can people get vaccinated?

You can get your free Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine at your General Practice, hauora Māori or Pacific provider and at many pharmacies.

### Join Safer Spaces Hauraki

Our LGBTQIA+ support group meets every Thursday lunchtime at the Jack McClean Community Recreation Centre.

Led by Becky Armstrong from Family Safety Services, this inclusive space offers students a chance to connect, share experiences and support one another. Celebrating diversity and fostering respect, we invite all students, LGBTQIA+ or allies, to freely express themselves in a supportive environment. Engage in open conversations, gain Knowledge and be a part of a positive change. For more information, contact Beky on 0272363438 or at [becky.familyandsafetyservices@gmail.com](mailto:becky.familyandsafetyservices@gmail.com)



## Key dates 2023

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

### Term 2: Wednesday 26 April to Friday 30 June

Mon 5 Jun	<b>King's Birthday (holiday)</b>
Tues 6 Jun	Rostering Home for Year 10
Thurs 8 Jun	Rostering Home for Year 9
Mon 12 Jun	Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
Mon 19 Jun	Parents Forum
Mon 26 Jun	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenuī)</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	<b>Term 3 – Day 1 starts</b> Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
Mon 24 July	Parents Forum 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
Mon 24 Jul	Spirit Week (TBC)
Mon 31 Jul	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenuī)</i>
Mon 14 Aug	Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
Mon 21 Aug	Parents Forum 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
Fri 25 Aug	Daffodil Day
Sun 27 Aug -	UNISS Netball Tournament /
Sat 2 Sept	Tournament Week Football Senior
Mon 28 Aug	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenuī)</i>
Tue 29 Aug	School Photos
Mon 11 Sep	Te Wiki o te reo Māori Haka Challenges
Mon 18 Sep	Mental Health week Parents Forum 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm

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	<b>Term 3 – Day 1 starts</b>
Mon 16 Oct	Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
Tues 17 Oct	Sports Awards
Thurs 19 Oct	Leavers Dinner
Mon 23 Oct	<b>Labour Day (holiday)</b>
Tues 24 Oct	Parents Forum

Mon 30 Oct	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenuī)</i>
Tues 7 Nov	<b>Senior Prizegiving 7.00 pm</b>
Mon 13 Nov	Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
Mon 27 Nov	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenuī)</i>
Mon 4 Dec	<b>Junior Prizegiving</b>
Tue 5 Dec –	End-of-year activities for Year 9 and
Thu 7 Dec	Year 10
<b>Fri 8 Dec</b>	<b>Last day of Term 4</b> <i>School Summer Holidays Begin</i>

