

# Thames High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga



*Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata / We grow together to achieve one's true potential.*

## Whānau Pānui (Newsletter) Update – 11 August 2023

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#### Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal Appointed



Te Kura Tuarua o te Kauaeranga / Thames High School Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Christopher Ashforth as Tumuaki / Tuarua Deputy Principal, beginning mid-way through Term 4, 2023.

There was great interest in the position, and the board was very appreciative of the quality

and breadth of experiences from which to first shortlist and then make an appointment. The appointment process included a student-led panel with our Student Council, visits to the school, and a board interview and presentation.

The board is confident Mr Ashforth has the curriculum and pastoral leadership experience, personal qualities, and competencies to contribute strongly to our kura/school and community, as we strive to ensure equity and excellence for all. He establishes great professional relationships with students, staff and parents. He is committed to monitoring and supporting the wellbeing, attendance and achievement of every student, so they have the best possible chance of success.

Christopher has been the Head of Learning of Visual Art for 7 years and Year 9 Dean at Tangaroa College in the heart of South Auckland, a multicultural school of over 800 students. He has been a dean of every year level and has been an avid promoter of the Visual Arts during his career. He has taught Photography, Digital Art, Visual Art and Junior Digital Technology at St Kentigern College (2007-2016), Selwyn College (2006-2007) and Mount Albert

Grammar School (2005-2006). Christopher has taught students who have achieved the NCEA New Zealand Scholarship in Photography. He is completing his Masters of Secondary School Leadership at Victoria University and was awarded the Joyce Fisher Charitable Trust Scholarship in 2022. Recently he secured the Gerrard and Marti Friedlander Charitable Trust Grant for Tangaroa College, reflecting his leadership, vision and excellence in photography.

Outside the classroom, Christopher has interests in basketball, swimming, and the arts and enjoys spending time with his family. Christopher is married to Elizabeth. Together, they have two children and a golden retriever. They look forward to spending more time with their whānau in Thames.

Christopher says, "Our family is thrilled at the opportunity to join the lovely community of Thames. I look forward to making a positive impact and contributing to the ongoing achievements of Thames High School."

We are sure you will join us in congratulating Christopher on his appointment, and we look forward to him joining our whānau.

#### NetSafe and Police Education

**Monday 21 August 2023 at 5.30 pm**  
**(Evening restricted to adults only)**



- We are working with police (Senior Constable Brian Connors and [NetSafe](#)) to run an information / education session for parents / caregivers / whānau.
- We will invite parents / caregivers from all local schools.



### **Whānau and Community Presentation (60-90 minutes)**

In this presentation, Netsafe Education and Schools Team cover key online safety messages for parents and whānau. We provide information and tools to support tamariki in navigating online environments and safely managing the challenges and risks.

We will explore:

- Quick starter tips for parents, whānau and young people.
- Information to enhance your digital parenting knowledge.
- Details about the online risks and challenges your child may face.
- Advice about how you can help your child if something goes wrong online.

We will also run a session for staff at school that covers important information for safety.

### **Staying Safe Online in Learning Environments (60 minutes)**

In this session, we unpack what a digital citizen is, how this relates to school values and culture, and the resources available to support learning opportunities for ākonga. We also explore how the learning can involve whānau, caregivers, and members of your school community.

We will explore:

- Agreements to foster safe and effective classroom and home learning.
- Developing a learner profile on digital devices to support effective active use online.
- Strategies for ākonga to reduce, minimise, and respond to online harm.
- Leadership opportunities to develop and promote online safety for your ākonga.

Click the Social Media, Cyber-Bullying & Digital Safety poster [link](#)

Michael Hart

**Tumuaki / Principal**

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### **Key dates 2023**

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

**Term 3: Monday 17 July to Friday 22 Sept**

Mon 14 Aug	Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
Mon 21 Aug	Parents Forum 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm - Netsafe/Police presentation
Fri 25 Aug	Daffodil Day
Sun 27 Aug - Sat 2 Sept	UNISS Netball Tournament / Tournament Week Football Senior
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	Parents Forum Mental Health week
Fri 22 Sept	<b>Last day of Term 3</b>
Sat 23 Sept – Sun 8 Oct	<b>School holidays</b>

**Term 4: Monday 9 October to Friday 8 December 2023**

Mon 9 Oct	<b>Term 3</b> – Day 1 starts
Mon 16 Oct	Te Ao Māori Strategic Ohu (TAMSO)
Tues 17 Oct	Sports Awards
Thurs 19 Oct	Senior Leavers Dinner
Mon 23 Oct	<b>Labour Day (holiday)</b>
Mon 30 Oct	Board hui 5.30 – 7.30 pm <i>Te Puna O Te Pito Mata (Wharenui)</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 (Wharenui)</i>
Mon 4 Dec	<b>Junior Prizegiving</b>
Tue 5 Dec – Thu 7 Dec	End-of-year activities for Years 9 and Years 10
<b>Fri 8 Dec</b>	<b>Last day of Term 4</b> School Summer Holidays Begin

