

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuaeranga
Thames High School



PROSPECTUS

Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata
We grow together to achieve ones true potential



THAMES HIGH SCHOOL

Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuaeranga

Main Entrance

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Ko tō mātou pepeha

Ko te puke o Rakamaomao e tārehu
Ko Tikapa te moana e tangi horuhoru
Ko te Waiwhakarurunga e tere rā
Ko Te Puna o Te Pito Mata e tū tohunga,
i te pikinga taumata kia ikeike rawa e
Ko te Kura Tuarua o te Kauaeranga
E tū, whakakōtahi ai tātou ki a tātou

The hill of Rakamaomao stands shrouded.
Tikapa is the sea, murmuring softly.
Waiwhakarurunga is the river, flowing swiftly.
Te Puna o Te Pito Mata stands with wisdom,
as we climb to great heights, striving to reach
the highest summit.
This is Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga.
Stand tall, united as one with each other.



Nau Mai, Haere Mai

Thank you for expressing an interest in attending Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga - Thames High School.

We are proud to serve our community.

Our vision, Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata – We grow together to achieve one's true potential, reflects our belief that learning and success are strengthened when we work together as a community. We work together as a learning community to support that potential, within an inclusive environment.

We have clear and consistent expectations based on our shared values, to provide a safe and supportive environment. We encourage all taiohi (young people) to participate fully in learning, both in the classroom and beyond. Through academic study, co-curricular opportunities and leadership pathways, students are supported to develop the knowledge, skills and personal competencies they need for the future. We are particularly proud of the leadership shown by our students, culminating in service as Senior Student Leaders.

Our Graduate Profile clearly describes what success looks like for learners at Thames High School, bringing together our vision, values and Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitment into shared expectations for every graduate.

Our staff — teaching and non-teaching — are dedicated professionals who care deeply about the wellbeing and success of our young people. We are also fortunate to have strong support from parents and caregivers, whose involvement enriches learning and school life well beyond the classroom.

At the heart of our pastoral care structure, students belong to a rōpū (group) or whānau within one of our four houses. Each rōpū is supported by a Rōpū/Whānau Kaitiaki, who is a key point of connection between home and school.

As graduates, our young people leave Thames High School with a strong sense of identity and belonging, prepared for future pathways and equipped to contribute positively to their communities, whatever direction they choose.

We welcome new students and invite you to come along and learn more about Thames High School and see what we have to offer. Make sure that no question goes unanswered.

Ngā Manaakitanga

Michael Hart
Tumuaki / Principal

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About Our School

⌘ Educating our Community since 1880

We acknowledge Ngāti Maru as mana whenua, and recognise with gratitude the tuku whenua that enables our kura to stand here for the purpose of education.
E mihi ana ki a Ngāti Maru hei mana whenua, mō te tuku whenua i tū ai tēnei kura hei painga mō te mātauranga, ā, kei te kawe mātou i tēnei kawenga i runga i te ako me te mahi ngātahi.

Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, and a positive beginning lays the foundation for future success.

At Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga | Thames High School, we focus on the whole person, balancing academic learning with practical experiences, sport, culture and personal growth.

Our community is our strength, and together we help our young people thrive.
Ko tō mātou hapori tō mātou kaha.

Proudly Part of Our Community

For more than 140 years, Thames High School has been an important part of the Thames community. We value our strong partnerships with whānau, mana whenua, local organisations and businesses, all of which contribute to the opportunities and support available to our students.





Why Choose Thames High School?

People Who Care

Our school is built on strong relationships. Our dedicated teachers and support staff work hard to support every student's learning, wellbeing and growth. We are proud of our students and the positive contribution they make to our school and community.

A Strong Sense of Belonging

Every student belongs to a Rōpū class and has a Whānau Kaitiaki who is their first point of contact for guidance and support. Our wider pastoral and learner-support teams provide additional help when it is needed.

Purpose and Values

Our vision is:

Kia kōtahi ai te piki ake, kia ikeike rawa ki te taumata

We grow together to reach one's true potential.

Our values of Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga, Whakamana, Whakapono and Mātauranga shape how we learn, work and relate to one another. We support students to take responsibility, learn from mistakes and move forward positively.

As a school, we are small enough to know every student by name and cater to their individual needs, yet big and well-resourced enough to offer an extraordinary range of opportunities, academic disciplines, and co-curricular pathways.

Opportunities for Every Student

Students can choose from a wide range of academic, vocational, sporting, cultural, artistic and leadership opportunities. We encourage every young person to discover their strengths, try new experiences and find a pathway that inspires them.

Our Academic Results

In 2025 Thames High School achieved excellent pass rates across all three NCEA levels, comparing very favourably with regional and national results:

- 83% at NCEA Level 1 — an increase of 18 percentage points
- 92% at NCEA Level 2
- 69% at NCEA Level 3
- Level 3 Merit and Excellence endorsements more than doubled

These results demonstrate our commitment to helping every student build a successful pathway into university, trades, further training or employment.

⌘ What Sets Us Apart



01 Known, Supported and Challenged

We are small enough to know every student well. Strong relationships with teachers, Whānau Kaitiaki and pastoral staff mean students are noticed, supported and encouraged to achieve their best.



02 Opportunity and Choice

We are large and well-resourced enough to offer a broad range of academic subjects, practical learning, trades, sport, culture, leadership and co-curricular opportunities. Students are supported to discover their strengths and build a pathway that works for them.



03 Learning Connected to the Real World

Our strong relationships with mana whenua, whānau, local businesses and community organisations extend learning beyond the classroom. Through Gateway, work experience, community partnerships and local expertise, students gain meaningful experiences and connections for their future.



04 A Culture of Belonging and Growth

Our values shape a safe, inclusive and respectful school where everyone belongs. We support young people to build confidence, take responsibility, learn from mistakes and grow into capable, caring and resilient adults.



We take the trust you place in us seriously.
Creating a safe, inclusive and supportive environment where every student can belong, participate and thrive is central to our culture.

Supporting Students

Pastoral care

Every Student Known and Supported

Strong relationships are at the heart of our pastoral care. We want every student to feel they belong, are known well, and have someone they can turn to.

Our pastoral network brings together Rōpū and Whānau Kaitiaki, Kaiāwhina, teachers, learner-support staff, our Guidance Counsellor and senior leaders. Working closely with students and whānau, we identify strengths, respond early to concerns, and provide the right support at the right time.

Rōpū and Whānau Kaitiaki

Every student belongs to a Rōpū in Years 9 and 10 or a Whānau group in Years 11–13, linked to one of our school Houses.

Their Kaitiaki is a key adult in their school life and the main link between the student, their teachers, the school and their whānau. Students meet regularly with their Kaitiaki to receive information, monitor attendance and progress, and strengthen whanaungatanga.

Kaiāwhina | Pastoral Leaders

Our Kaiāwhina oversee the wellbeing, engagement and progress of students at each year level. They work alongside Kaitiaki, teachers and whānau to celebrate success, identify emerging needs and coordinate support.

Guidance Counsellor

Our Guidance Counsellor provides a professional and confidential service for students who need additional support.

Working with students, whānau, staff and outside agencies where appropriate, the counsellor helps young people manage challenges, strengthen wellbeing and engage successfully in learning.

Learner Support

Our learner-support team includes our SENCO, Learning Support Coordinators and Teacher Aides.

They work with students, teachers, whānau and specialists to understand each learner's strengths and needs, reduce barriers, and support participation, progress and independence.

He Taringa Whakarongo Mai | A Listening Ear

Peer support, student leadership and mentoring give students additional ways to connect, seek guidance and support one another. Our student leaders help strengthen belonging, encourage positive relationships and ensure student voice is heard across the school.

Facilities



Modern Learning Spaces

Modernised classrooms and a strong digital infrastructure support engaging and flexible learning. Our refurbished science laboratories provide opportunities for practical investigation across the sciences, while specialist technology spaces support digital, materials, food and design learning.

Technology and Innovation

Our specialist technology workshops provide extensive facilities for practical, creative and industry-connected learning. Students have access to significant plant and equipment for materials technology, alongside modern tools such as laser cutters, 3D printers and digital design technologies.



Library and Learning Hub

Our library is a welcoming space for reading, research, independent study and collaboration, with access to print and digital resources.

Creative and Performing Arts

Dedicated spaces for music, drama and visual arts allow students to develop their creativity, confidence and performance skills. Our well-resourced music department includes specialist teaching and practice spaces.



❖ Te Puna o Te Pito Mata

Our wharenui, Te Puna o Te Pito Mata | The Wellspring of Potential, stands at the heart of our school. It is an important place for learning, tikanga, connection, celebration and welcoming people to our kura.



❖ Spaces to Connect

Students also have comfortable shared areas where they can meet, eat, collaborate and relax during the school day.



❖ Sport and Recreation

Students have access to extensive sporting and fitness facilities, including:

- the Jack McLean Community Recreation Centre;
- our school gymnasium and fitness gym;
- a swimming pool;
- outdoor courts and playing fields; and
- nearby environments that support outdoor education and recreation.

The Jack McLean Community Recreation Centre, located alongside our gymnasium, provides exceptional sporting facilities for both the school and the wider community.



Key Staff Members



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Vision & Tikanga

❖ Vision

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

❖ Mission

Kia mahana o neherā Acknowledge our past
Kia aratakina āianeī Inspire our present
Hei waihanga ā mua Transform our future world

❖ Our Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Te Tiriti o Waitangi and te ao Māori are foundational to who we are as a kura, shaping our values, relationships and responsibilities.

We are committed to strengthening our relationship with Ngāti Maru as mana whenua and working in partnership with whānau, hapū, iwi and our wider community.

Through this commitment, we seek to promote equity, belonging and educational success, particularly for Māori learners, while ensuring all students develop an understanding of te ao Māori, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the diverse cultures and identities of Aotearoa New Zealand.





From academic and creative subjects to technology, trades, languages and distance learning, our broad curriculum gives students genuine choice and multiple pathways for the future.

Curriculum Overview

Learning Areas

Thames High School offers a broad and diverse curriculum, with increasing choice as students progress through the school. Our programmes span all eight learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum, with strong foundations in literacy and numeracy developed across the curriculum.



English

Developing confident readers, writers, speakers and critical thinkers through language, literature and communication.



Health and Physical Education

Building hauora, movement skills, teamwork, resilience and the knowledge needed to make healthy choices.



Learning Languages

Developing language and cultural understanding through te reo Māori and additional languages available through online and distance learning.



Mathematics and Statistics

Building numeracy, logical thinking, problem-solving and the ability to understand and use mathematical and statistical information.



Science

Investigating the natural and physical world through practical inquiry, observation, evidence and scientific thinking.



Social Sciences

Understanding people, places, histories, societies and the wider world, with a strong foundation in Aotearoa New Zealand histories.



Technology

Designing, creating and solving practical problems through digital technology, food, textiles, materials, engineering and other specialist areas.



Visual and Performing Arts

Exploring creativity and expression through visual art, music, drama, performance and other creative opportunities.



Year 9 Curriculum Overview

Strong foundations in literacy and numeracy are developed through English, Mathematics and learning across the curriculum, alongside core study in Science, Social Studies, and Health and Physical Education.

Students also experience a broad range of rotations in Music, Drama, Visual Arts, Materials Technology, Food Technology, Fabric and Design, Te Reo Māori, and Active As.

These practical, creative, cultural and physical learning opportunities help students discover their strengths, build confidence and prepare for the greater subject choice available in Year 10.



Senior School Pathways (Years 11-13)

Whether preparing for university, an apprenticeship, further training or employment, students build personalised programmes around their strengths, interests and future goals.

Year 11: English, Mathematics and Science or Horticulture, plus three elective subjects, and Hauora | Physical Education.

Year 12: Six subjects combining NCEA and University Entrance requirements with academic, creative and vocational options.

Year 13: Five subjects with dedicated study periods to support transition into tertiary study, training or employment. Senior students may also access Gateway, Trades Academy, vocational learning, distance education and specialist pathways.



Year 10 Curriculum Overview

Strong foundations in literacy and numeracy continue through English, Mathematics and learning across the curriculum. Students also study Science, Social Studies, and Health and Physical Education, alongside core rotations in Digital Technology or Financial Literacy, Te Reo Māori, Tikanga Māori | Te Ao Haka, and project-based learning.

Year 10 students also choose four semester options from areas such as the arts, technology, sport, enterprise, languages, music, kapa haka and food technology, allowing them to explore their interests and prepare for senior pathways.



Pathways, Careers and Opportunities

University and Tertiary Preparation

Students receive guidance with subject selection, University Entrance requirements, tertiary options, applications, scholarships and the transition beyond school.

Careers and Vocational Pathways

Our Careers team helps students identify their strengths, interests and future goals. Support includes individual guidance, Gateway placements, Trades Academy programmes, employment preparation, tertiary information and connections with local employers.

Raymond Nutter French Exchange

Selected senior French students may take part in an extended language and cultural exchange with Lycée Augustin Thierry in Blois, France. Supported by the Raymond Nutter Exchange Trust.



Events That Reflect Our Culture

★ Annual Cultural Food Festival

🏆 Sports Exchange

🎖 Leadership Camps

Opportunities

Opportunities at a Glance

- Outdoor Education trips include kayaking, overnight tramps and rock climbing
- Cultural groups include Kapa Haka and Thames High Troupe (street performance group)
- Instrumental music classes, and a singing group.
- Over 25 sporting codes
- Sports Exchanges
- Opportunities to travel overseas with sports teams
- Debating
- Tough Guy & Gal Challenge
- Duke of Edinburgh

Leadership and Public Speaking

01 Debating

Debating helps students build confidence, think critically and communicate persuasively. Students explore current and global issues, learn to respond to different viewpoints, and develop teamwork and public-speaking skills. Our debaters have achieved success in regional and national competitions.



02 Student Leadership

Leadership opportunities span the school. Senior and junior leaders work with the Student Council to represent student voice, strengthen school spirit and shape school life. They organise events, lead initiatives, support other students and build confidence, responsibility and service.



STEM and Innovation



01 Robotics and EPro8

Students apply science, technology, engineering and mathematics to real-world challenges through robotics and EPro8. They design, build, test and refine solutions, developing creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills. In 2026, our team reached the EPro8 semi-finals.



02 Digital Technology

Students develop skills in programming, app and game design, digital problem-solving and creative technologies, preparing them to participate confidently in an increasingly digital world.

❖ Creative Arts

01



Drama and Performance

Students develop acting, directing and stage-management skills through productions and performance opportunities. The Troupe Street performance group also regularly represents the school at community events.

02



Music Ensembles and Workshops

Students participate in vocal and instrumental groups and perform at school and regional events.

Workshops with New Zealand artists, including Julia Deans and Mazbou Q, provide further inspiration and industry insight.

03



Art and Design

Students explore painting, photography and digital design, developing creativity, technical skill and individual expression.

We are proud of the high-quality work our students create and submit.





Sport

01



More Than 25 Sporting Codes

Students can take part in a wide range of sports, including athletics, badminton, basketball, bowls, football, gymsports, hockey, motocross, multisport, netball, rugby, swimming, tennis, touch, triathlon and e-sport.

02



Competition and Coaching

Many teams compete in local, regional and national events, as well as interschool exchanges. Coaching is provided by staff, senior students and members of the wider community.

03



Sport and Fitness Facilities

Students have access to two well-equipped gymnasiums, a full-size basketball court, fitness and weights facilities, a swimming pool, outdoor courts and playing fields.

Outdoor Education



Discover, Challenge, and Belong

Outdoor Education gives students opportunities to build confidence, resilience, teamwork and practical skills through challenge and adventure.

Making the most of our outstanding local environment, students learn to manage risk, work with others and develop a strong connection with the outdoors. Activities are carefully planned and supervised, with whānau and community volunteers helping to support these memorable experiences.





Kapa Haka

Culture, Identity, and Pride

At Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kauaeranga/ Thames High School, **Te Rōpū Kapahaka o Te Puna o Te Pito Mata** embodies the heartbeat of our school's cultural identity and pride.

Named in honour of our wharenui — **The Wellspring of Potential** — our rōpū offers taiohi a vibrant, supportive space to connect deeply with Te Ao Māori, express their identity, and grow as confident cultural leaders.

From leading school pōwhiri and community celebrations to achieving standout success on regional competitive stages like the Hauraki Kapa Haka Festival across Mōteatea, Waiata-ā-Ringa, Poi, and Whakaeke, our performers bring passion, discipline, and unity to every stand. Supported by dedicated tutors, whānau, and whānaungatanga, Te Puna o Te Pito Mata inspires our entire kura to stand tall, celebrate heritage, and realize their full potential.



Student Volunteer Army

Community Service



Student Volunteer Army

Students take practical action to support their school and wider community through projects such as environmental clean-ups, collections, community events and other service initiatives. These experiences develop leadership, teamwork and a strong sense of social responsibility.



Duke of Edinburgh

Through the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award, students build confidence, resilience and independence through voluntary service, skill development, physical activity and adventurous journeys.

Student Voices



"I like how the school is small because it feels like a family. Everyone is appreciated in their own way"

Abbygail Patterson
Head Student
Leader 2026



"I have been given so many opportunities at school that have helped me to grow in confidence & knowledge"

Brooklyn Jiang
Head Student
Leader 2026



"I moved from another school this year. Everyone here is so nice and I've made some nice connections"

Alexa Jordan
Year 11 2026



"I enjoy the range of people we have. Since we have transfer students from around the world we get to make new friends and learn about one another's culture."

Cleo Challis
Year 11 2026

Contact Information



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Follow Us



Thames High School Celebrations & Events



thameshighschoolnz

We are here to answer your questions and support you through the enrolment process. Prospective students and whānau are warmly invited to visit during the school day, meet our people and experience Thames High School in action. Please get in touch to arrange a time.



Enrol Online

**Scan
Here**



**Our
People**





Ā Tātou
Tāngata





Te Kura Tuarua o Te Kāuaeranga
Thames High School

Ko te hāpori, ko mātau Our community, our strength!

Thank you for exploring Thames High School.
We look forward to welcoming you to our vibrant kura.

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