

# Newsletter



**PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL**

**Issue One, 30 January 2024**

## From the Principal

Kia ora koutou

### **By way of introduction:**

Ko Rangitoto tooku maunga  
Ko Waitamata tooku moana  
Ko Ngaati Paakeha tooku iwi  
Ko Te Paina me Whangaparaoa College tooku kura  
Ko Fred & Mary tooku matua me whaea  
Ko James Thomas tooku ingoa



Teena Koutou, Teena Koutou, Teena Koutou, katoa

I am delighted to be joining the team at Pukekohe High School for the first two terms of 2024 while the Board recruit the new permanent Principal. I have been very fortunate to have had many rewarding experiences with young people, school staff and whanau during my years in education. This has included leadership opportunities such as Principal of Whangaparaoa College and Te Paina School; Commissioner at Pukekohe North School; President of the Auckland Secondary Principals Ass.; and Trustee on the PolyFest Board.

Being with whaanau is definitely my 'happy space', and Sally and I have four adult children and three grandchildren. I am still actively involved in sports and enjoy music.

While at Pukekohe I look forward to contributing to positive experiences and opportunities for our tamariki.

### **New staff**

I am delighted to welcome the following new appointments to Pukekohe High School and wish each staff member a successful and enjoyable first year.

#### **Art**

- Lisa Purda

#### **English**

- Reshmi Palackaprambil Ambika

#### **Science**

- Michael Simmonds
- Nilesh Sharma
- Jyotsna Bhalla

#### **Technology**

- Andrew Reid
- Lesley Fulford

#### **Maths**

- Moreen Lata

#### **Future Pathways**

- Gaynor Mathews

#### **Japanese**

- Peony Law

#### **Te Wahanga Whakaako**

- Te Ataakura Jones

## **Start of Year Arrangements:**

### **Thursday 1 February**

- 8.40am All Year 9 and New Students meet in the front courtyard. There will be a poowhiri at 9am (whanau welcome to attend) followed by a full day at school.
- 10am Course Confirmation in Library for Year 11-13 for students who need to finalise their timetable.
- 3.10pm End of school day.

### **Friday 2 February**

- 8:40am All students at school
- 12 noon Year 10-13 students who are not involved in Peer Support may leave school if they have confirmed their timetables and have completed their Whanau Roopu activities.
- 3.10pm End of Day of Year 9

### **Monday 5 February | School Closed**

### **Tuesday 6 February | Waitangi Day**

### **Wednesday 7 February | Full School, normal timetable (starts at 9.25am)**

## **2024 Key Focus Areas**

In addition to all the important 'business as usual' that goes on at a large, diverse school like Pukekohe High School, we will be giving particular attention to three key focus areas in 2024. These are School Culture, Quality Teaching and Learning, and Attendance. I was very impressed last week at the poowhiri for new staff to experience the passion with which students who were present sang our school waiata. Their pride in the school was evident! Over the weeks ahead I will talk more about these focus areas, why they are critical, and how we will work together to continually grow each of them.

## **Expectations**

Our expectation is that all those at Pukekohe High School are here to learn, to contribute, and to respect. And of course, this applies to me and the staff as well. This will be done as we uphold our school values of Manaakitanga, Kotahitanga, Puumautanga, and Aarahitanga. The expectation of respect is that we will respect others, respect ourselves and respect our facilities and environment. If we all do the above, we will have a smooth, successful year.

To avoid any misunderstanding, I want to be clear that all students are to be on time and attend for the full school day; wear the correct school uniform; come ready (with gear, etc) and engage in their learning; have their phones turned off and in their bags during every class; and refrain from smoking (which includes vaping) and drug use.

Let's work together to ensure we all have a positive experience and achieve success.

## **New Building**

Our wonderful new building will be ready mid-March.



## Important Dates for your Diary

- 01 February | Year 9 & New Students
- 02 February | All Year Levels
- 05 February | School Closed
- 06 February | Waitangi Day | School Closed
- 09 February | Year 9 Maahoe Camp
- 13 February | Year 9 Whānau Evening
- 16 February | Year 9 Maanuka Camp
- 19 February | Photolife – Student and Class Photos
- 23 February | Year 9 Mataii Camp
- 01 March | Year 9 Puuriri Camp
- 07 March | Pasifika Whaanau Fono
- 08 March | Year 9 Tiitoki Camp
- 14 & 15 March | Academic Conferences
- 18 – 22 March | Summer Tournament
- 20-22 March | ASB Polyfest
- 29 March | Good Friday
- 01 April | Easter Monday
- 02 April | Easter Tuesday
- 12 April | Last day of term & Teacher Accord Day

Ngaa mihi nui

**James Thomas**  
**Tumuaki – Principal**

## Bell Times 2024

In 2024 the structure of the school day has been changed. Please note that the day now begins with period 1 classes starting at 8:45am. Whaanau Roopuu classes will now take place following period 2.

|                       | MON                                       | TUES                                      | WED  | THURS                                     | FRI                                       |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
|                       | <b>Staff Brief</b><br>8.30                |   | <b>Staff Professional Learning</b><br><b>8.30 – 9.25</b> |   | <b>Staff Brief</b><br>8.30                |
| <b>Period 1</b>       | Bell at <b>8.40</b><br>8.45 – <b>9.45</b> | Bell at <b>8.40</b><br>8.45 – <b>9.45</b> | Bell at <b>9.25</b><br>9.30 – <b>10.25</b>               | Bell at <b>8.40</b><br>8.45 – <b>9.45</b> | Bell at <b>8.40</b><br>8.45 – <b>9.45</b> |
| <b>Period 2</b>       | 9.50 – <b>10.50</b>                       | 9.50 – <b>10.50</b>                       | 10.30 – <b>11.25</b>                                     | 9.50 – <b>10.50</b>                       | 9.50 – <b>10.50</b>                       |
| <b>Whaanau Roopuu</b> | 10.55 – <b>11.10</b>                      | 10.55 – <b>11.10</b>                      | N/A  | 10.55 – <b>11.10</b>                      | 10.55 – <b>11.10</b>                      |
| <b>Interval</b>       | 11.10 – <b>11.30</b>                      | 11.10 – <b>11.30</b>                      | 11.25 – <b>11.45</b>                                     | 11.10 – <b>11.30</b>                      | 11.10 – <b>11.30</b>                      |
| <b>Period 3</b>       | 11.35 – <b>12.35</b>                      | 11.35 – <b>12.35</b>                      | 11.50 – <b>12.45</b>                                     | 11.35 – <b>12.35</b>                      | 11.35 – <b>12.35</b>                      |
| <b>Period 4</b>       | 12.40 – <b>1.40</b>                       | 12.40 – <b>1.40</b>                       | 12.45 – <b>1.45</b>                                      | 12.40 – <b>1.40</b>                       | 12.40 – <b>1.40</b>                       |
| <b>Lunch</b>          | 1.40 – <b>2.10</b>                        | 1.40 – <b>2.10</b>                        | 1.45 – <b>2.15</b>                                       | 1.40 – <b>2.10</b>                        | 1.40 – <b>2.10</b>                        |
| <b>Period 5</b>       | 2.15 – <b>3.10</b>                        | 2.15 – <b>3.10</b>                        | 2.25 – <b>3.10</b>                                       | 2.15 – <b>3.10</b>                        | 2.15 – <b>3.10</b>                        |

### Attendance:

Improving school attendance levels has been recognised as a national priority by the Ministry of Education. *‘Attendance is the first step in accessing learning and is essential for educational success, achieving qualifications and attaining wider social and economic outcomes’ (Ministry of Education, 2022).* In order to promote and support improved school attendance, Pukekohe High School is implementing the following processes from the beginning of 2024:

- Late-to-school sign ins – students who arrive to school after 8:45 will be required to sign in with a member of staff at the Harris Road gate. Families will be contacted to inform them of the lateness.
- Unexplained absence from school – where a student has been absent from school for three days the school’s truancy officer will contact home.
- Attendance reporting – as part of fortnightly engagement reporting an attendance overview will also be provided. This will show period-by-period attendance for the fortnight.

## Attendance Procedures

The attendance procedures for our school, including lateness, sickness and requests to leave early are set out below.

- Students are required to be at school prior to 8.40am each day to get to their period one class on time at 8.45am
- Students are expected to be at school all day but if required to go to an appointment they must have written approval and once again, sign in and out at the Student Support Building
- If your student is away for any reason please phone our attendance officer on 09 237 0198 to advise of the absence and also a note for the whaanau roopuu teacher on return
- An alternative to a phone call is an email to [attendance@pukekohehigh.school.nz](mailto:attendance@pukekohehigh.school.nz) or a message through the Kamar parent portal or the school app. Neither of these require a follow up note.
- Any prolonged illness will require a medical certificate
- If you choose to take your student out of school for a sporting event, holiday, family function etc a leave request for this is to be completed. This form can be collected from the student centre and must be accompanied with a note from yourself stating the reason for the leave
- If you have any queries regarding attendance, please contact the attendance officer on 09 237 0198

We look forward to working with all of our families to support students in attending school as regularly as possible. For any attendance queries, or contact around absences, please contact via the school app, school website, or phone 09 237 0198.

## BYOD Information

**All students will be using a device as part of their learning across all areas.** We ask for parental support to ensure that devices are included in school bags in readiness for learning.

As a school we don't believe that mandating a particular device is necessary, and because individual student needs differ, this can be a complex question to answer. We do, however, suggest you consider carefully the following minimum specifications for a suitable digital device at Pukekohe High School:

- Wireless networking capability using 802.11g or n
- 5 hours of use from one battery charge
- Large screen (7.9 inches minimum) enough to work with documents in order to create and edit content
- The ability to run a web browser (e.g. Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer) that will allow it to access Internet and other learning resources
- The school will provide an account for Office 365 for all students. This can be installed on up to five devices and will give access to all MS Office 365 in a web browser or on their device.
- Touch screen and stylus capability (desirable but not necessary)
- Is lightweight, but robust enough to handle daily use
- Is in a protective carrying case

Given the above guidelines we suggest you seriously consider using a full function Windows laptop. Local and online suppliers are aware of our recommendations and will help you choose the right device for your student, its use at school and your budget. Important Note: Although not ideal, Chromebooks are compatible with our network.

**We do have some Ministry of Education devices that we are able to loan out to students, however, we are prioritising our senior year 12 and 13 students for the distribution of these devices.**

## Kaitiaki Aakonga (Year Level Deans)

| Year Level |                                      | Kaitiaki Aakonga (Year Level Deans)   |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Year 9     | He Kaakano<br>The Seed               | Ms Jody Harnor<br>Mrs Sukhjit Kaur<br>Email: <a href="mailto:9kaitiaki@pukekohehigh.school.nz">9kaitiaki@pukekohehigh.school.nz</a>                   |
| Year 10    | Kia Tupu<br>To Grow                  | Mr Aisea Taliai<br>Ms Sarah Caughley<br>Email: <a href="mailto:10kaitiaki@pukekohehigh.school.nz">10kaitiaki@pukekohehigh.school.nz</a>               |
| Year 11    | Kia Hua<br>To Prosper                | Ms Chantal Krybolder<br>Mrs Jacalyn (Jackie) Green<br>Email: <a href="mailto:11kaitiaki@pukekohehigh.school.nz">11kaitiaki@pukekohehigh.school.nz</a> |
| Year 12    | Kia Puawai<br>To Sustain             | Ms Jude Webber<br>Mr David Faitala<br>Email: <a href="mailto:12kaitiaki@pukekohehigh.school.nz">12kaitiaki@pukekohehigh.school.nz</a>                 |
| Year 13    | Tuu Rangatira<br>To Stand as Leaders | Ms Joa Van Zyl<br>Mrs Chrismari Dickinson<br>Email: <a href="mailto:13kaitiaki@pukekohehigh.school.nz">13kaitiaki@pukekohehigh.school.nz</a>          |

## Stationery Lists 2024

We encourage students to have the required stationery as early as possible, to get the best start on their learning journey at Pukekohe High School. Timetables are now available to be viewed on KAMAR. Please be aware that there may be minor changes to the timetables during the course confirmation process.

For more information on stationery including where to purchase, please visit our website [www.pukekohehigh.school.nz/stationery-lists/](http://www.pukekohehigh.school.nz/stationery-lists/)

**All students will be using a device as part of their learning across all areas.** We ask for whānau support to ensure that devices are included in all school bags in readiness for learning. Please discuss with your Kaiāwhina or Kaitiaki Aakonga if there is a concern about having the required stationery or devices.

## Amokura 2024



From left to right:

**Kalatiola Tai:** Kaunihera Pasifika, Pasifika Council

**Jazz Chhatwal:** Kaunihera Akoranga, Learning Council

**Daniel Rice:** Kaunihera Maaori, Maaori Council

**Aldena-May Tukarangatai:** Kaunihera Maaori, Maaori Council

**Marina Vujanic:** Kaunihera Toi me Ahurea, Arts & Culture Council

**Kimi Perenara:** Kaunihera Hākinaina, Sports Council

**Ashley Pryor:** Kaunihera Hauora Well

## 2024 Term Dates

- Term 1:** 01 Feb (Y9, other new students & Peer Support)  
02 Feb (All Year Levels) – 12 April  
Public Holidays
- Tuesday 6 February Waitangi Day
  - Friday 29 March Good Friday
  - Monday 01 April Easter Monday
  - Tuesday 02 April Easter Tuesday
- Term 2:** 29 April – 05 July  
Public Holidays
- Monday 03 June King’s Birthday
  - Friday 28 June Matariki
- Term 3:** 22 July – 27 September
- Term 4:** 14 October – 16 December  
Public Holidays
- Monday 28 October Labour Day

## Uniform

Students are expected to wear **correct school uniform** at school, when travelling to and from school, at official school events and on official school trips as appropriate. All uniform items should be clean and tidy and worn correctly at all times. All uniform items must be clearly named. If, for a valid reason, a student is unable to wear correct uniform they need a note from home.

The Uniform Shoppe, Pukekohe stocks our school uniform. Please see their website for details. [www.theuniformshoppe.co.nz](http://www.theuniformshoppe.co.nz). 7a Glasgow Road, Pukekohe.

For more information about our uniforms, please visit our website [www.pukekohehigh.school.nz/school-uniform/](http://www.pukekohehigh.school.nz/school-uniform/)

