

Newsletter



PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL

Issue Six, 27 September 2024

From the Tumuaki

He waka eke noa

A canoe in which we are all in (the importance of Kotahitanga/unity)

Teena koutou katoa

This newsletter reaches you as we come to the end of the third term here at Pukekohe High School. In a school of nearly 1900 students there are a number of moving parts that must come together to provide a positive educational experience for students. There are many opportunities for our students and reasons to celebrate their successes, a number of which you will see later in this newsletter. At the same time, there are challenges for us to overcome and much for us to continue to work towards. I am grateful for the efforts of our students, staff and members of the community who are on board the waka and committed to this improvement process.



As we approach the end of the school year for our senior students, with study leave approaching and upcoming NCEA examinations from week four of term four, I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on some of the areas of focus that we are prioritising this year.

As reported in earlier newsletters, our annual plan for 2025 outlines the following key areas:

- Increased student attendance and engagement
- Improved teaching and learning practices
- Building of school culture

1. Increased student attendance and engagement: Studies show a clear correlation between regular attendance at school and better academic and social outcomes for young people. We want as many of our students as possible with us at school and in class as often as possible. This is a government focus as well as school focus. I would like to acknowledge those students who have maintained a level of regular attendance - 90% or above - throughout the year.

To support the ongoing focus on improving attendance, from the beginning of term four and into 2025 we will be focussing on the issue of intermittent truancy within the school day. That is, those students who are missing periods of the day, thereby impacting their learning and overall level of attendance. Students are not permitted to leave the school site without a sign out pass. Staff on the gates will be asking to sight these throughout the school day.

2. Improved teaching and learning practices: Just as students are learners, so too are our staff. Our professional development programme that occurs weekly across the whole school on Wednesday mornings has focussed on deliberate and effective strategies for delivering meaningful lessons. We have also looked at the importance of continuing to form positive relationships with students in our care. This is an ongoing piece of work for all of us here at Pukekohe High School. I would like to thank staff for their engagement and perseverance with this kaupapa.

3. Building of school culture: Pukekohe is a proud community made up of a proud and diverse population. As a school, our aim is to continue to emulate this sense of pride by providing opportunities for our students to participate, contribute and belong. Whether this be by connecting with their peers through in-school events, by showcasing their talents, energy and

spirit through co-curricular pursuits, or by contributing service to community events, the school is working hard to continue to provide opportunities to celebrate and grow our school culture.

Another aspect of school culture that is as important as the opportunities and activities on offer is the way that our students live our school values. Manaakitanga (respect), Kotahitanga (unity), Puumautanga (resilience) and Aarahitanga (leadership) are all worthy values that contribute to the building of successful people and organisations. Work has begun on further bringing these values to life in the school and making them more visible throughout the campus. We look forward to future developments here.

Further to school culture, an exciting development that is currently being worked on is the rejuvenation of the Pukekohe High School alumni/past pupils association. Please see the note later in this newsletter with further information around this.

I would like to wish everybody an enjoyable holiday period. For students busy completing internal assessments and preparing for upcoming external examinations, keep up the hard work. You are nearly there! We look forward to celebrating your successes in the various awards ceremonies that are taking place at the beginning of term 4.

Naaku noa

Murray Saunders
Principal/Tumuaki

Student Highlights

Top 10 Year Level Values Recognition (Weeks 4-10, term 3)

Year 9

Karma Adams
Nicholas Howes
Samuel Taylor
Matthew Thompson
Nathan Boshoff
Johnson Kohai-Lawson
Alexander MacDonald
Jayden Smith
Aaliah Tupaea
Charlotte Waters

Year 10

Rikki-Lee MacKay
Daniel Baber
Angus Fruean
Jordon Hollard
Leo Miller
Memphis Phillips
Luke Soppet
Violet Spring
Taisha Taelima
Alexander Simm

Year 11

Isabel Dean
Meika Gillies
Izaiah Saksi
Inaki Garcia
Tyson Ali
Ryan Jenkins
Rachel Vehikite
Losaline Kami
Keese Turwhenua
Drew Murphy

Year 12

Tegan Aaron
Neika Chitty
Hugo Raven
Noor Moussa
Kayla Moana
Ana Tupou
Landon Le Fleur
Lilin Deng
Keira Wilson
Simran Johal
Sylvie Conroy

Year 13

Yong Huang
Bryn Giddens
Abby Thomas
Mieke Robertson
Henry Stallworthy
Leah Morgan
Jenna Fletcher
Aimi Okada
Dakota BATTERY Moe
Willow Thomson
Shaurya Pokhriyal

Sports update:

Winter Tournament Results

- Boy's football - 7th place
- Girls football - 11th place
- Girls hockey - 16th place
- Boys hockey - 21st place
- Rugby boys - 6th place
- Rugby girls - 5th place
- Equestrian - 2nd place in Arena eventing and 16th overall
- Basketball junior Girls - 5th place A grade
- Basketball senior girl - 7th northern cup
- Basketball junior boys - 15th place prems
- Basketball senior boys - 4th place prems (qualified for Nationals)
- Netball premier - B grade champions (qualified for A grade)



Careers/Gateway Update

Kai Franklin - Eat Street

9 of our amazing students wrapped over 600 dumplings in preparation for the Eat Street event on Monday 23 September. This was part of the Kai Franklin Kitchen initiative that saw local cuisine being showcased and enjoyed by those that attended the successful event.



MIT Trades Academy Prizegiving 2024: Awardee List

Pukekohe High School currently has approximately 90 students participating in MIT courses as part of their timetabled learning programme.

The following students from school have been nominated for an award in their Trades Academy course.

MITTA Course	Student
L1 Life Skills 1 (Inclusive Ed)	Logan Simons
L2 Building FY 2	Sarahiah Fatai
L2 Building FY 4	Quinn Dowdall
L2 Carp 1 (Half year - Sem 1)	Shivneel Singh
L2 Engineering (Half Year - Sem 2)	Therese Avila
L3 AUTO 1	Ben Jansen van Vuuren
L3 BCATS 3	Abhinav Ahuja

L3 Nursing, Health & Counselling	Bavleenjot Kaur
L2 Building FY 3	Lily Badger
L2 Carp 2 (Half year - Sem 2)	Jaedyn Blakelock-Nair
L3 Building & Landscape	Mackenzie Seymour
L2 ECE	Libby Robson
L2 Elec 4 (Half year - Sem 2)	Leon Kotze
L2 Hairdressing	Oceana Taaka Te Kaute
L2 Building FY 2	Annabella Vaka
L2 Carp 1 (Half year - Sem 1)	Nate Moloney
L2 Engineering (Half Year - Sem 2)	Christofell Greyling
L3 BCATS 3	Amiri Ramsay
L3 Building & Landscape	Sovite Uliefu
L2 Building & Landscape 1	Oliver Reeves
L2 Elec 2 (Half year - Sem 2)	Tyler Mitchell
L3 Electrical (Semester 1)	Nooroa Tonorio
L2 Automotive 2	Bjorn Russouw

Art Update

Ringa Toi

Ringa Toi is an annual exhibition that showcases the artwork of secondary school students with a focus on Toi Māori and Pacific Arts at Excellence level.

Each year over 80 artworks are submitted from ākonga around Aotearoa. We had 14 students selected to have their work displayed at this prestigious exhibition. Five students were presented with awards for their entries - Daniel Rice, Junior Rhind-Singh, Te Tiale Tulafono, Streme Clarke and Ava Rule.



Mei i te po, ki te whāio, ki te ao meremā
From darkness into light - Daniel Rice
 (Uenukukoopako)
 Level 3 Photography

There is a bigger picture to be seen. There's more than meets the eye. People will make assumptions about the boy in this photo based on what they see as well as what they cannot see. Maybe he is misunderstood, afraid. You don't see his face because part of him is hiding. He doesn't feel special. He only shows the world a part of himself. He wants to emerge from the darkness but needs the confidence to do so.
 His story is my story ... a boy afraid of not being enough in his identity as Māori.

Our students also participated in a visual storytelling workshop with acclaimed New Zealand Māori artist, Mr G Hoete.



Raquel Sheldon

Raquel has recently won two additional arts awards, a testament to her hard work and dedication to her craft over the past few months. Her perseverance and commitment to her creations have truly paid off. We commend her tenacity and are thrilled to celebrate her well-deserved success. Well done, Raquel!



Business Studies Update

BalmBuddi Wins YES Challenge 3 on Promotion and Sales!

We are proud to announce that BalmBuddi, our Year 13 YES Company, has secured first place in the YES Challenge 3 on Promotion and Sales for the South Auckland Region, triumphing over 117 competing companies. BalmBuddi impressed the judges with their exceptional promotional efforts, including effective social media campaigns and collaborations with local businesses such as Franklin Vets. Their sales channels spanned local markets and retail outlets, leading to outstanding sales results.

This achievement is a testament to the dedication, creativity, and business acumen of our students at Pukekohe High School. The Business Studies programme continues to inspire future business leaders by providing real-world opportunities to develop essential skills in marketing, sales, and entrepreneurship.

Congratulations, BalmBuddi, on this well-deserved recognition!

#YESChallenge #BalmBuddi #StudentSuccess #PukekoheHighSchool #Entrepreneurship #BusinessInnovation #Sustainability



Spirit Week – Week 10, Term 4

Our Amokura, student councils and staff did a wonderful job in week 10 providing a series of opportunities for students to showcase and celebrate their talents, culture and entrepreneurial spirit.

Cultural Celebrations

During Friday lunchtime in the last week of term, a concert was held with six groups performing. This demonstrated the diversity in the PHS student body and was enjoyed by staff and students alike.



Dance Showcase

On Thursday evening, more than twenty dance items were performed for friends, whānau and students by our Year 10-13 dance students.





Market Day

On Tuesday at lunchtime, our Year 10 Social Studies students hosted a market day. Dozens of stalls were put in selling a variety of products. The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well at Pukekohe High School!



Important Dates

Week 1:

- Monday: First day of term 4
- Thursday: Pō Whakanuia / Maaori awards evening
- Saturday: TBC Pūhoro Graduation

Week 2:

- Tuesday:
 - Y11 Merit Prizegiving, Period 2 (School Hall)
 - Y12 Merit Prizegiving, Period 3 (School Hall)
 - Y13 Merit Prizegiving, Period 4 (School Hall)
- Wednesday: Senior Prizegiving practice Period 1 (School Hall)
- Thursday: Senior Prizegiving | Pukekohe Indian Association Hall, students to arrive in school uniform at 5.30pm for a 6pm start
- Friday: Final day for Year 12 and Year 13 students. Information for the Year 13 final day will be shared with students at the beginning of term 4

Week 3:

- Monday: Labour Day | School CLOSED
- Tuesday – Friday: Study Hub. Years 12-13 students can attend their timetabled classes to seek support for their external exams
- Wednesday: Sports Awards | School Hall
- Thursday: Foundation Certificate Prizegiving | Staffroom 6.30pm start
- Friday: Final day for Year 11 students

Other important dates:

- NZQA Exams | 05 November – 29 November <https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/>
- Teacher Only Day | 15 November
- TBC Year 13 Graduation Evening | 28 November
- Junior Prizegiving | 12 December
- Final School Day to return borrowed laptops, library books etc | 12 December