

Newsletter



PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL

Issue Seven, 08 November 2024

From the Tumuaki

Teena koutou e ngaa whaanau,

Schools, by design, are an extension of the community in which they serve. A place where young people, 1900 in our case, and the staff who work alongside them, come together for the purpose of further developing the skills and attributes in readiness for the world after compulsory education.

Over the course of the last four weeks it has been fantastic to sit alongside the community to recognise the achievements of so many Pukekohe High School students. The annual Poo Whakanuia Maaori Awards evening, Senior Prize Giving and Sports Awards ceremonies are occasions where success in all of its forms – academic, cultural, sporting, service, leadership – is celebrated. These events have highlighted for me once again the breadth of talent in our student body and the commitment to success and achievement. We look forward to continuing the celebrations with our junior awards ceremonies at the end of the year.



This week marks the beginning of the NCEA external examinations. In the world of NCEA, the importance of external examinations is sometimes overlooked. In order to have access to the highest levels of achievement – merit and excellence endorsement – students must reach these levels of attainment in their externals. I wish all of our senior students the best in their preparations for, and completion of, their exams and in their quest for academic excellence.

Term four is the time of the year where much work is being put in by our staff to ready courses and programmes for the following year. We have some exciting developments in terms of the offerings for our students as we look to provide an engaging curriculum across all year levels to meet the needs of the young people of the Pukekohe region. A number of new junior courses – including Money Matters, Electronics, STEM, Toi – look to be great additions. In the senior school, the advent of the Year 12 Pathways Programme with a focus on Building, Automotive, Agriculture and Electrical and Engineering aims to provide contextualised learning with work experience and off-site educational opportunities for students with interests in these areas.

In my senior prizegiving address, alongside celebrating the successes from throughout the year, I spoke of the need for us to look to the areas that need improving. I have mentioned in earlier newsletters the attendance challenges that a number of our students, and students around the country, are facing. We want students at school every day. We know that this is a hugely important factor in their overall achievement. We will continue to push the attendance message, support our students and families and follow up with those who are not attending school regularly.

The remainder of the school year for our juniors is filled with opportunities for continued learning and experiences outside the classroom. We are nearing the commencement of Year 10 camps at Tapapakanga Regional Park, starting in week 6. This is a fantastic experience for all of our students to experience the great outdoors. Our Year 9s have an action-packed end-of-year with Year 9 project days, IBM Crazy Ideas workshop and Wharefest. I look forward to seeing our juniors finish the year in a positive way by getting involved in all of the activities on offer.

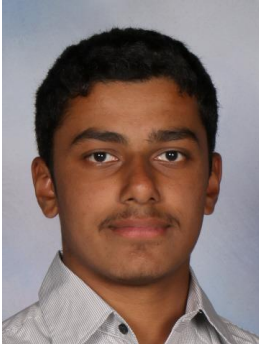
As always, I would like to thank whaanau for their support of our students and the school.

Naaku te rourou, naau te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi

With your basket and my basket the people will thrive / Acknowledging the importance of cooperation for prosperity.

Amokura

We would like to introduce and congratulate our Amokura (student leaders) for 2025. We look forward to them leading our student councils next year and continuing to build our school culture through the initiatives and events that have been developed over recent years.



Taha Basit
Amokura Akoranga



Greer Batters
Amokura Hauora



Rhen Pressnell
Amokura Hakinakina



Grace Williams
Amokura Hapori



Streme Clarke
Amokura Toi me Ahurea



Hufia Taumoefolau
Amokura Pasfika



Oceana Taaka Te Kaute
Amokura Maori

Senior Prizegiving / Poo Whakanuia / Sports Awards Recipients

Congratulations to all our prize winners.

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

DUX 2024



Anyi Liu

Proxime Accessit



Shaurya Pokhriyal

NZ CERTIFICATE IN FOUNDATION SKILLS LEVEL 1

Latoya Howard

RUTH KINGSTON MEMORIAL AWARD

Jacob Collier and Mackenzie Seymour: Service to Library

GIRDHAR TROPHY

Jayden Tanenui: Student Representative on BOT

TE KANAWA CUP

Daniel Potter: Contribution to Music

FRANCIS ALLINGHAM CUP

Marina Vujanic

ROSENBERG TROPHY: BEST PERFORMANCE BRASS

Willow Thomson

PEACOCK AWARD

Vadim Smith: Best Solo Performance Music

NIELS LEFFELAAR CUP

Willow Thompson: Contribution to co-curricular Music

LEE TROPHY

Ayla Stichbury: Best Debater

SENIOR SPEECH TROPHY

Ayla Stichbury

PHOTOLIFE AWARD

Rhen Pressnell: Visual Arts or Digital Media

ART DEPARTMENT SPECIAL AWARD

Streme Clark: Top Maori Art Student

ALICE ARTS AWARD

Rhen Pressnell: All round Senior Excellence in Multiple Arts

PHS TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE IN DANCE

Keiran McGuire

PHS CHOREOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE IN DANCE

Maija McHugh

PHS OVERALL EXCELLENCE IN DANCE

Tana Grieg

TE ARA O TAWHAKI: LEADERSHIP IN TIKANGA MAAORI

Rongonuiarangi Mclean

TE MOEMOEA A TE PUEA: LEADERSHIP IN TIKANGA MAAROI

Louise Kiri

HE KAI RANGATIRA AWARD FOR MATATU TE REO MAAORI

Oceana Taaka Te Kaute: Excellence in Te Reo Maaori

TE KOHA A MATUA TIPENE: TE TOA O NGA PUUMAU KI NGAA KAUPAPA KATOA

Leonardo De Theirry: Top All-Round Maaori Student

THE FRANKLIN MASONIC LODGE

Tyler Devich-Aitken

PRINCIPALS' CENTENARY SHIELD

Abby Thomas: School Values

TONGAN COMMITTEE TROPHY

Takaua Taumoefolou: Top Tongan Student

RAMBHAI MEMORIAL TROPHY

Shaurya Pokhriyal: Top Indian Student

NGAA HAU E WHAA MAAORI COMMITTEE AWARD

Jessica Nepia: Top Maaori Student

YEAR 13**FRANKLIN ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY CUP**

Logan Hooper: Art

DK LILLEY TROPHY

Bryn Giddons: Outstanding achievement in visual arts

ALLEN-LAMONT CUP

Lauren Hitchmough: Top English Student

MERILYN WILLIAMS CUP

Hershey Comia: Excellence in English for Speakers of Other Languages

H ASPINALL CUP

Matthew Moffitt: Calculus

PUUMAU KI TE KAUPAPA HAUORA

Simran Singh: Perseverance and commitment to Health Education

SLEE FAMILY CUP

Lewis Robson: Physical Education

ALEXANDER CUP

Kees van der Gulik: Outdoor Education

BRADLEIGH BENTON CUP

Henry Stallworthy & Jing Ning Chua: Physics

SCIENCE FACULTY CUP

Matthew Moffitt: Biology

SCIENCE FACULTY CUP

Jing Ning Chua: Biology

ALLEN CUP

Jing Ning Chua: Top Year 13 Science Student

DAVE YOUNG MEMORIAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Caitlin Hickford

YEAR 12

LIMESTONE DOWNS TROPHY

Josh Given: Top in practical Agricultural Science

LIMESTONE DOWNS TROPHY

Sophie Kempton: Academic Achievement in Agricultural and Horticultural Science

JOHN SMITH MEMORIAL CUP

Amy Pirret: Design and Visual Communications/Graphics

PUUMAU KI NGAA KAUPAPA KATO

Gracie Dunn-Moon: Top All-Round Maaori Student

CA NEATE TROPHY

Kyra Sheldon: Outstanding All-Round Student

BUN BARNABY TROPHY

Alysha Daya: Outstanding Academic Achievement

YEAR 11

NORWOOD FARM MACHINERY TROPHY

Grace Montgomery: Agriculture

WHITMORE CHALLENGE CUP

Isabel Dean: Design Technology Wood

WHARFE BROS TROPHY

Akanksha Singh: Most improved in Design and Visual Communication

YOULDEN PRIZE

Prableen: Technology

PUUMAU KI NGAA KAUPAPA KATO

Gracie Dunn-Moon: Top All-Round Maaori Student

DR PAUL HUTCHISON TROPHY

Megan Smith & Jing Zhao Chua: Academic Excellence

Sports

6A 1959 CUP

Nathaniel Short: Sportsman of the Year

C PRITCHARD CUP

Jess Nepia: Sportswoman of the Year

LIONS CLUB TROPHY

Vahn Waitai: Most Outstanding Performance by a Girl

WELANDER SHIELD

Jimmy Steenson and Cohen Robinson: Most Outstanding Performance by a Boy

Attendance

Please find below the attendance statistics for Pukekohe High School for Term 3 of this year. You will see the attendance bands, as specified by the Ministry of Education, in the pie graph below.

Regular = 90+% attendance (5 days or less absence per term)

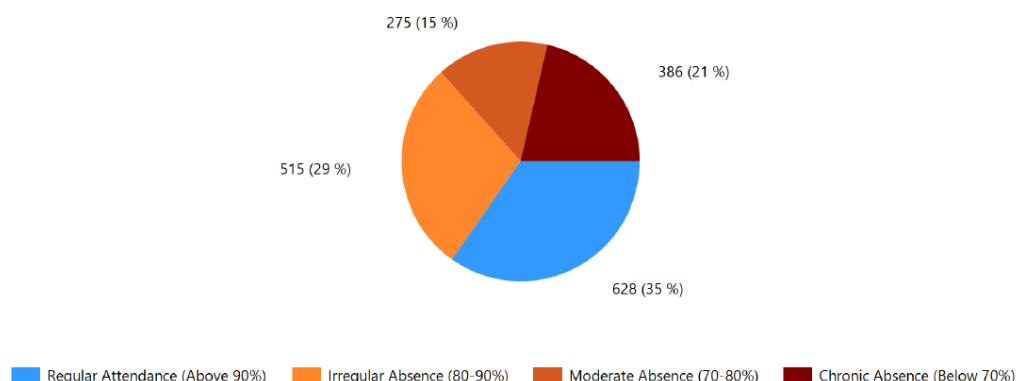
Irregular = 80-90% attendance (5-9 days absence per term)

Moderate attendance = 70-80% attendance (10-14 days absence per term)

Chronic attendance = less than 70% attendance (15 or more days absence per term)

You can see which attendance category your child fits in to by checking their attendance level on the Kamar portal or by viewing their latest engagement report.

Pukekohe High School Attendance Statistics for Term 3, 2024



School Policy Changes for 2025

In our review of 2024 and planning for 2025 the following changes have been made. These will be implemented at the beginning of next year. We will begin communicating these changes to students through assemblies and Teams pages.

- 1. Cell phone policy:** We have been grateful for the huge reduction in the use of phones in class following the change in school rules around cell phone use last year. Engagement and behaviour has improved as a result. In order to meet the government's policy guidelines from the start of 2025 Pukekohe High School will extend the ban on phones to include the whole school campus. That is, phones will need to be away and out of sight during break times as well as during class times. As with our policy during class times, should a phone be sighted teachers will have the right to confiscate these and take them to the reception. Phone can then be collected at the end of the school day by students.
- 2. Year 13 students on site:** To help with our drive to improve attendance, Year 13 students will be required to remain on the school campus throughout the school day (unless they are signing out for a permitted reason). A designated Year 13 common room and a separate study space will be provided and furnished over the summer break ready to accommodate Year 13 students who are on their study period.

We thank students and whanau in advance for supporting these changes which we think will continue to promote a positive school environment.

Classical Studies Overseas Trip 2026

The Social Science learning area is thrilled to announce a proposed Classical Studies trip to Rome and Greece in April 2026! This 16-day odyssey is a unique opportunity for our students to explore ancient historical sites such as the Colosseum, Roman Forum, and the Acropolis, deepening their connection to Classical civilisations beyond the classroom. We aim for the trip to broaden horizons and inspire young minds.

A parental information and sign-up evening will be held early in Term 1 – keep an eye out for details about this – where we'll share more details and answer any questions about this exciting adventure. If your child is interested in this trip of a lifetime, we hope to see you there!

Community

PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL

LEVEL 2 PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
(AGRICULTURE) PATHWAY 2025

We are looking for local farms that are willing to accommodate small group visits and individual work experience, one day a week (April – October).

We also run a fencing and riparian planting programme – if you need any fencing or planting, please get in touch. You supply the materials, and we will do the work (references available).



For more information please contact Dave Matthews:
0212619670
mv@pukekohehigh.school.nz



Reconnect & Rediscover:

Save the Date for our
Alumni Reunion
Thursday 21 November

Calling all Pukekohe High School past students!

We are hosting an Alumni event to reconnect with our incredible past students in our newly opened building on Harris Street. Hear our guest speakers, take a tour of the campus, view the exceptional student artwork recently returned from a Te Papa exhibition and hear our talented student musicians play.

Scan the QR code here to complete the Expression of Interest form to attend or head to our PHS Facebook page for the link



The Hill Magazine will be available for collection from Tuesday 10 December.

Congratulations Abby Thomas

Year 13 student Abby Thomas won PAK'nSAVE Pukekohe's Scholarship of \$12,000 to fund towards studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences at Massey University in Palmerston North next year.

The other impressive finalists were Nazanin Allahyar, Jing Ning Chua and Takaua Taumoefolau from Pukekohe High School, and Robert Davies from Tuakau College.

The recipient is selected by the Scholarship Committee made up of: PAK'nSAVE Pukekohe Owner Nigel Ollett; Former Franklin Mayor, Mark Ball; local icon Surinder Edwards and Scholarship Manager Kylie Devlin Sousa.

The PAK'nSAVE Pukekohe financial hardship Scholarship programme is open to Year 13 Students that have attended Onewhero Area School, Tuakau College, Pukekohe High School, Pukekohe Christian School, Waiuku College, Wesley College and ACG Strathallan College for five years, to study any course they wish to. Further details on the 2025 Scholarship will be available on the PAK' n SAVE facebook page in September with applications available in store at the same time.



Photo Caption: PAK'nSAVE Scholarship winner Abby Thomas from Pukekohe with PAK' n SAVE Pukekohe owner Nigel Ollett, Kylie Sousa, Surinder E

Important Dates

Week 5:

- Papua New Guinea Language
- Wednesday: Pasifika Fono
- Friday: Teacher Only Day – School CLOSED

Week 6:

- Monday – Wednesday: Year 10 Tiitoki Camp
- Monday: Board Meeting
- Wednesday – Friday: Year 10 Maahoe Camp
- Thursday: Alumni Evening

Week 7:

- Monday – Wednesday: Year 10 Maanuka Camp
- Monday: Sport Coaches and Managers Hui 6pm
- Wednesday – Friday: Year 10 Mataii Camp
- Thursday: Year 13 Graduation

Week 8:

- Monday – Wednesday: Year 10 Puuriri Camp
- Tuesday – Thursday: Year 9 Project
- Friday: Whare Fest

Week 9:

- Monday: Year 10 Merit Assembly
- Tuesday: Year 9 Merit Assembly
- Thursday: Junior Prizegivings / Final day of the year for Junior Students
- Friday: Last day of the year to return borrowed laptops and library books