



Newsletter

Issue One, 31 January 2025

From the Tumuaki

Teena koutou e ngaa whaanau,

A warm welcome to everybody for the beginning of the 2025 school year. I hope that students, staff and families had a restful and rewarding holiday break. To our new students, both at Year 9 and those who have joined us in Years 10-13, welcome to Pukekohe High School. It was a pleasure to welcome you to our school at our poowhiri on 29 January. We look forward to supporting you on your journey here and to witness your contributions to our school community.

We start the year with a growing sense of excitement and expectation for the possibilities for students here at Pukekohe High School. These possibilities include the opportunity to achieve academic success in a wide range of curriculum areas. The ability to participate in a co-curricular programme that is growing in size and includes cultural, sporting, performing arts, clubs and community service pursuits. Finally, possibilities for students to continue to develop and grow as positive and engaged young people by demonstrating the values that we hold dear here at school.



Much of this expectation is off the back of what was achieved in 2024. My congratulations to senior students who achieved their NCEA qualification. Special acknowledgement to our current Year 13 cohort who, as a group, significantly outperformed the national rates of achievement for NCEA Level 2 last year. 87% of the cohort achieved this significant qualification. Congratulations also to our current Year 12 students who as a group tackled the new, and at times challenging literacy and numeracy co-requisites at Year 11 and achieved at, or above, the national levels. We await the NZQA scholarship results with anticipation.

Throughout 2024, we as a school acknowledged the performances of many of our student athletes, teams, musical and performing arts groups and kapa haka and other cultural groups who represented the school on regional and national stages. More of our students participated in a growing number of activities than in recent years. This is hugely positive and demonstrates the desire for Pukekohe High School students to be active members of our school community.

2024 also saw the introduction of a student values recognition system, designed to showcase young people who embody our school values - Manaakitanga (respect, responsibility, kindness), Kotahitanga (unity, community, relationships), Aarahitanga (leadership, pride, honour), Puumautanga (resilience, commitment, perseverance). Students demonstrating these attributes are people that we want to highlight and acknowledge. We will continue to do this in an expanded fashion in 2025.

Despite the successes and progress mentioned above, there is much for us to continue to strive for in 2025. Student academic success, which equates to school-wide academic success, must be at the front-and-centre for all of our students. It is ultimately what we are all here for. Academic achievement enables opportunities later in life in whatever field a young person wishes to pursue. A focus this year will be on ensuring that our students are constantly aware of the requirements for success at all NCEA levels and that they are tracking towards success from the beginning of the year. At Level 3 and University Entrance levels in particular, we will be promoting a greater drive and urgency from students to enable them to successfully complete these qualifications.

As with the promotion of academic achievement, 2025 will continue to see a push both from within our school as well as nationally, to ensure that more students are at school more often.

It was pleasing to see fewer PHS students in the lower brackets of non-attendance last year. The challenge moving into 2025 is to shift more students into the group of regularly attending students. That is, those who are at school 90% of the time or more. We want to see all of our students at school and in class as often as possible. We appreciate whaanau support with this drive. Attendance can be viewed and tracked on the Kamar parent portal and through engagement reports that will commence in week 4.

Finally, I look forward in the next newsletter that will go out in the middle of term 1 to sharing the key aspects of the school's annual plan. This will detail the areas of focus for 2025 and the steps that the school will be taking to ensure that we are working to achieve the objectives that we have set for our kura for the year ahead.

Again, a warm welcome to all at the start of the 2025 school year. Staff and the senior leadership team look forward to working with students and whaanau to ensure that the year produces the best possible outcomes for our young people.

Ngaa mihi mahana
Murray Saunders | Tumuaki / Principal

Year 9 Poowhiri | 29 January 2025



Whole School Assembly | 31 January 2025



New Staff

A warm welcome to the Pukekohe High School community to the following members of staff:

Art

Charlotte Manga
Liam Bevin – Teacher trainee

Counsellor

Paul Hartland

English

Nancy Carrapiett
Danny Balance
Gamal Ali
Danibelle Anduyan
Hina Tabassum

Technology

Herasha Randhir
Brenda Lee

Te Waahanga Whakaako / Māori

Chassy Kani

Social Science

Micaela Thomson
Shivnita Krishna

Maths

Vikash Goorah
Adekunle Amira
Lileshni Chandra

Music

Alexander Kayser

PE

John Cook

Science

Rajal Singh
Alison Wade – Teacher trainee

Amokura and Student Council Representatives

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as Amokura (head students) for 2025



From left to right: Greer Batters | Kaunihera Hauora, Wellbeing Council, Rhen Pressnell | Kaunhera Haakinakina, Sports Council, Streme Clark | Kaunihera Toi me Ahurea, Arts & Culture Council, Oceana Taaka Te Kaute | Kaunihera Maaori, Maaori Council, Grace Williams | Kaunihera Haapori, Community Council, Taha Basit | Kaunihera Akoranga, Learning Council, Hufia Taumoefolau | Kaunihera Pacifika, Pacifika Council.

Student Council

Congratulations to the following students who have been chosen as members of student councils for 2025. We look forward to incoming Year 9 students joining these councils during term 1.

Akoranga | Learning Council

Brooke Boniface
Alexa Burger
Zara Cameron
Talia Chaney
Jing Zhao Chua
Jessica Cochran
Luka Eshuis
Aeon Hughes
Joshua Kennedy
Junis McHugh
Elizabeth Morrison
Emerson Olson
Sidney Perumal
Shreya Pokhriyal
Drishti Raj
Phoebe Sayer
Elizabeth Sharp
Ashneil Sunil Kumar
Lily Te Kare
Matthew Thompson
Ibrahim Umar

Haakinakina | Sport Council

Otis Barry
Katie Chamberlain
Kendra Eksteen
Becky Fear
Charley Fear
Casey Halliday
David Hughes
Zac Kelso
Katie Lane
Lucas Marshall
Zack Meads
Leana Miller
Grace Montgomery
Lexie Moody
Brooklyn Munns Ahu
Anna Spackman
Reuben Visser
Jemma Wright

Haapori | Community Council

Umaiza Ali
Shyna Chand
Anakah Cocker
Alysha Daya
Robyn De Beer
Kaitlyn Dickinson
Timothy Donovan
Gracious Dumburashe
Emily Hann
Maia Hayton
Poet Jackson
Sophie Kempton
Jacob Luscombe
Ashtrod Summer
Padilla
Caleb Quinlan
Miaya Sloane
Ayla Stichbury
Caitlin Stuart
Roman Timo-Perry
Erika Villejo
Teila-Jade Zandberg

Hauora | Well-being Council

Lauren Askew
Ella Bryant
Anna Clooney
Riley Cockerton
Jude Dennis
Joshua Durham
Sophia Echevarria
Saniyah Hasan
Chrystal Heagney-
Hakim
Piper Jackson
Keerat Kaur
Shauna Kawondera
Harry Kelso
Airah Padilla
Tess Rennell
Kian Tapper
Indi Yates

Maaori Council

Hinenui Clarke
Rongonuiarangi McLean
Kayla Moana
Riya Moana
Gracie Moon
Koia Northcott-Garrett
Tia Nove
Ava Rule
Fern Taiapa
Jacob Tito
Alexander Wellwood-
Stewart

Pasifika Council

Fifita Aitu
Tyson Ali
Ryna Clark
Olya Eremee
Chelsey Greenaway
Salome Kolofale
Faifufunaki
Taumoefolau
Joanna Teaiaki
Akoia Temaiana
Ruita Totio
Laneyah Tuifua
Robert Tytherleigh
Annie Vaka
Rachel Vehikite

Toi me Ahurea | Arts & Culture Council

Alex Banas
Kyllie Calzada
Streme Clarke
Sorcha De-Viell
Anthea Goel
Brooke Heaney
Ashleigh Hermitte
Grace Huang
Nav Kaur
Landon Le Fleur
Rosalie Milsom
Maia Moseley
Rodayna Mostafa
Kyra Sheldon
Raquel Sheldon
Seeratdeep Singh
Keira Wilson

Year 12 Pathways Programme

Our new Year 12 Pathways Programme students started their year off with a family bbq on Thursday 30th January. The event was an opportunity for students involved in the contextualised learning courses to come together to meet the staff who will be teaching them this year.

Pathways courses in Automotive, Building, Agriculture and Electrical/Engineering fields will be combining school-based learning with MIT/PITO off-site learning as well as work experience placements in preparation for students moving into further training and education or a move into the workforce.



School rule changes and processes

Year 13 onsite:

As signalled at the end of 2024, from the beginning of this year, Year 13 students will no longer be permitted to go off-site during their study periods. A designated Year 13 Common Room and study space has been provided to accommodate students during their study period. Year 13 students on their study period will have access to the school canteen to purchase food through the day.

Cell-phone use:

As specified under government policy, schools must ensure that student mobile phones are not visible and in use throughout the course of the school day. At Pukekohe High School, the current policy of confiscating phones seen during lessons will be expanded to include phones seen during break times. We ask that students have their phones turned off and in their bags throughout the course of the school day. Urgent messages can be passed onto your children via reception on 09 237 0117.

Late-to-school process:

We will be continuing with the late-to-school sign in process. Students who arrive after the second bell (8.45am) will be required to collect a pass before they go to period 1. Those arriving late due to busses being delayed will not be required to do this.

We thank students and families, in advance for supporting these changes. They are being implemented to ensure that our school can provide the best possible environment for young people to flourish both academically and socially.

Process for reporting Absences

Explaining Justified Absences

What do I do if I need to leave school for an appointment?

- Students with sighted and signed permission to leave school during the day must present this to staff at the Student Support Centre and sign-out using the electronic Student Register.
- When students return to school, they must go to the Student Support Building and sign back in using the electronic Student Register.
- Students being collected from school, must be met by a caregiver registered on the school system at the Main Office.
- The only gate students may leave from during the day is Gate 3: Harris Street. Please don't make arrangements to meet students at another other area of the school.

What do I do if I am not at school because I am sick?

Parents/caregivers must phone /email or use our SchoolApp to report a student absence:

- **SchoolApp:** follow this link to download or if already downloaded, click on **Absentee** Download the SchoolApp here <https://pukekohehigh.apps.school.nz/share/>
- **Email:** attendance@pukekohehigh.school.nz
- **Phone: 09 237 0198** – when students return to school, they should bring a note from home explaining the absence for the Kaiāwhina (Form Teacher)

What do I do if I know I am going to be away from school for more than two days?

- Students will need to apply for leave from school.
- Students bring a note from home explaining the reason for the leave request and pick up a form from the Student Centre.
- Students take this form around to their teachers to see how the absence will impact upon learning while the student is away.
- Students return the form to the Student Centre.
- A Senior Leadership Team person will approve/decline the leave request of up to FIVE days.
- If it is accepted, it is the student's responsibility to catch up on any missed work and assessments in their own time.

Follow us

Please ensure your contact details are up to date, so you don't miss any communication from us. To update your details, please send an email to_update@pukekohehigh.school.nz

Below are the different ways to find out more about what is happening here Pukekohe High School.

<https://www.facebook.com/pukekohehighschoolnz>

https://www.instagram.com/pukekohehighschool_/?hl=en

<https://www.pukekohehigh.school.nz/>

<https://pukekohehigh.apps.school.nz/portal/>

<https://www.instagram.com/pukekohehigh.sport>

https://www.instagram.com/pukekohehigh_international

<https://www.instagram.com/phscouncils>



2025 Sporting Programme

For those students interested in participating in a sport for PHS please pay a visit to the sports department and speak with a member of staff there. The link below contains information about our school sports programme and key information about who to contact.

<https://www.pukekohehigh.school.nz/sport/> > Sports Handbook

Student Achievement

North Island Club Championship Rowing

Women's intermediate coxed 4 won a bronze medal with a time of 8:04

- Xanthe Hedley
- Katie Chamberlain
- Hinemoa Haak
- Brook Harris
- Coxed by Dan Nota

Men's intermediate Double Sculls

Vaughn Cameron and Josh Payne placed 6th in their A final

Women's novice coxed octuple sculls

Tiffany Robinson, Alyssa Gilchrist, Mele Isileili- Fo'ou, Scarlet Reader, Ruby Lukic, Zara Cameron, Sienne Willing, Chloe Ferris, Emily Tod

6th in their A final! 8:12

Women's Int coxed 8

Xanthe Hedley, Katie chamberlain, Hinemoa Haak, Brooke Harris, Elizabeth Sharp, Lexie Moody, Kameron Price, Nikki Roux and Rebecca Klatt

7th in their A final



Music

Congratulations to Logan Topp and Oliver McKay who have both made it into the Tauranga Jazz Festival Honours group. This is a tremendous achievement gained at a prestigious national musical event.

International Homestay Accommodation

We are looking for homestay accommodation for international students attending Pukekohe High School

If you

- Have a spare room
- Can offer a caring and supportive family environment
- Enjoy learning about different cultures

Can be short or long term stays, Year 7 - 13.

CONTACT OUR INTERNATIONAL HOMESTAY COORDINATOR

LYDIA FIRMIN 021 224 6456

LFirmin-Cavanagh@pukekohehigh.school.nz



Important Dates

Week 2

- Thursday 6 February | Waitangi Day – School CLOSED
- Friday 7 February | School is open

Week 3

- Friday 14 February | School Athletics Day

Week 4

- Wednesday 19 February | Photolife ID Photos
- Thursday 20 February
 - Scholar's awards event
 - Year 9 Whaanau Open evening | More information to follow

Week 6

- Thursday 6 March | Swimming Sports

Week 7

- Thursday 13 March | Academic Conferences
- Friday 14 March | Academic Conferences

Week 8

- Thursday 20 March | Franklin Schools Career Expo