



# PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Issue Seven | 08 August 2025

## From the Tumuaki

*Whiria te taangata, whiria te angituu*

Weave the people, create success

Teenaa koutou e ngaa whaanau.

There is a saying that 'the only constant in life is change'. We have certainly been experiencing this of late here at Pukekohe High School and throughout the wider education sector. Some of the in-school changes that we have been working through over the past year have included:

- Design, production and display of our new school values insignia through the school campus
- Junior curriculum consultation and review culminating in changes for 2026 and beyond (to be communicated later in this newsletter)
- Student leadership structure being widened to cater for our junior students being included in school councils. An added layer of Year 13 Manukura/Prefects is being introduced for 2026
- Student subject selection process being supported through the running of an NCEA information day and whaanau subject selection evening
- Piloting of the Year 12 Pathways Programme – a contextualised learning programme including work experience placements
- Reforming of a PHS Alumni Association

In addition to the school-based developments, earlier this week major proposed changes to the NCEA qualification were communicated by the Minister of Education. These include:

- Working with industry to integrate Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects into the senior secondary qualification
- Removing NCEA Level 1 and introducing a new Foundational Award. Replacing NCEA Levels 2 and 3 with new qualifications: New Zealand Certificate of Education (Year 12) and New Zealand Advanced Certificate of Education (Year 13).
- Shifting focus to a structured subject approach and introducing required subjects in the curriculum
- Strengthening achievement requirements

Proposed changes to NCEA are in the consultation stage at this point. We will continue to keep our school community updated as details are confirmed by the Ministry. In the meantime, teaching and learning programmes and NCEA assessment will continue at school.

While change often brings challenges, we are determined to keep our student's outcomes at the centre as we navigate these developments. As you will see throughout this newsletter Pukekohe High School students excel in a variety of fields and contribute positively to the school and wider community. Regardless of future changes to curriculum and qualification structures we will continue to promote positive citizenship, adherence to our school values, quality teaching and learning and a community-focussed mindset that results in a school that we can all be proud of.

I hope you enjoy the celebration of all things Pukekohe High School in the pages ahead and I wish all students and whaanau well as we head into this busy stage of term three.

Ngaa mihi nui  
Murray Saunders  
Tumuaki | Principal

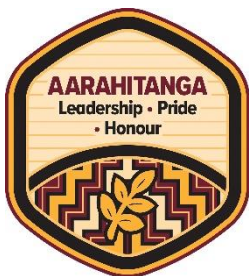
# Uara | Living Our Values

## Staff Welcomes

Please join us in giving the following staff members that have started with us this term a big welcome:

- Smrita Haley | Science
- Sharon Abitbol | HOD Physics
- Stephanie Walton | English
- Nicolie Villaceran | Science Technician
- Mariko Aiavao | ESOL Teacher Aide

## Mana Values



This term, we are celebrating our school value of Arahitanga. Arahitanga stems from the word Ara (Path). It speaks to a person's ability to lead the way, both in terms of their ability to lead others as well as themselves.

# Ako | Quality Teaching and Learning

## Curriculum and timetable changes - 2026

We have been undertaking a review of our curriculum structures and timetable over the last 18 months. This has involved extensive consultation with our staff, students and community, along with visits to other schools and the evaluation of current research. Thank you to those parents and whaanau who contributed to the consultation survey earlier this year.

In response to the review, we are taking a phased approach as we await the final publication of new curriculum documents from the Ministry of Education.

Our over-arching intent has been to *develop curriculum and timetable structures that enable Pukekohe High School students to access an inspiring, wide-ranging and future-focussed curriculum that unlocks their passion for learning, develops foundational knowledge, skills and competencies and holistically sets students up for success beyond school.*

From 2026 we will be introducing a 'Te Mahuri' programme across all year levels to teach students the important knowledge and skills identified in our consultation that sits outside of traditional subject learning. The programme and content within it will be relevant to each year level and will provide time for high quality academic mentoring and support.

The name Te Mahuri comes from the whakatauki:

*'ko te piko o te mahuri, tērā te tipu o te rākau'*

*the way the young sapling is nurtured determines how it grows*

We believe this name encapsulates the intention of the programme – to nurture and grow our young people as they journey through our school. We thank Whaea Te Ataakura for the gift of this name.

To enable Te Mahuri to be implemented, we are changing the times of the school day. From the start of 2026 all students will start at 9.05am every day (teachers will be involved in professional development and / or meetings every morning from 8.30am). Students in years 11, 12 and 13 will finish at 1.55pm on Wednesdays.

The school day for students will look as follows.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>9.05 -10am</b>	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1
<b>10.05 – 11am</b>	P2	P2	P2	P2	P2
<b>11.05- 11.35</b>	Te Mahuri	Te Mahuri	Te Mahuri	Te Mahuri	Te Mahuri
<b>11.35- 11.55</b>	Interval	Interval	Interval	Interval	Interval
<b>12 – 12.55</b>	P3	P3	P3	P3	P3
<b>1 – 1.55</b>	P4	P4	P4	P4	P4
<b>1.55-2.25</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<b>2.30 – 3.25</b>	P5	P5	P5 (Y9 and 10 only)	P5	P5

Buses will depart at the scheduled time of 3.35pm.

2027 will see the introduction of more choice for students in year 9 and 10 within subjects to enable greater personalisation of learning, while retaining a broad education for students across the curriculum. Details around this phase of the process will be finalised and communicated in 2026.

## NCEA change (MOE)

As indicated, this week the Ministry of Education announced some proposed major changes to the NCEA qualification.

A six-week consultation period is underway to help inform the final shape of the new qualification.

Whaanau can find out more about the proposed changes here:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/consultation-ncea>

[Feedback from families can be provided up until 15 September 2025.](#)



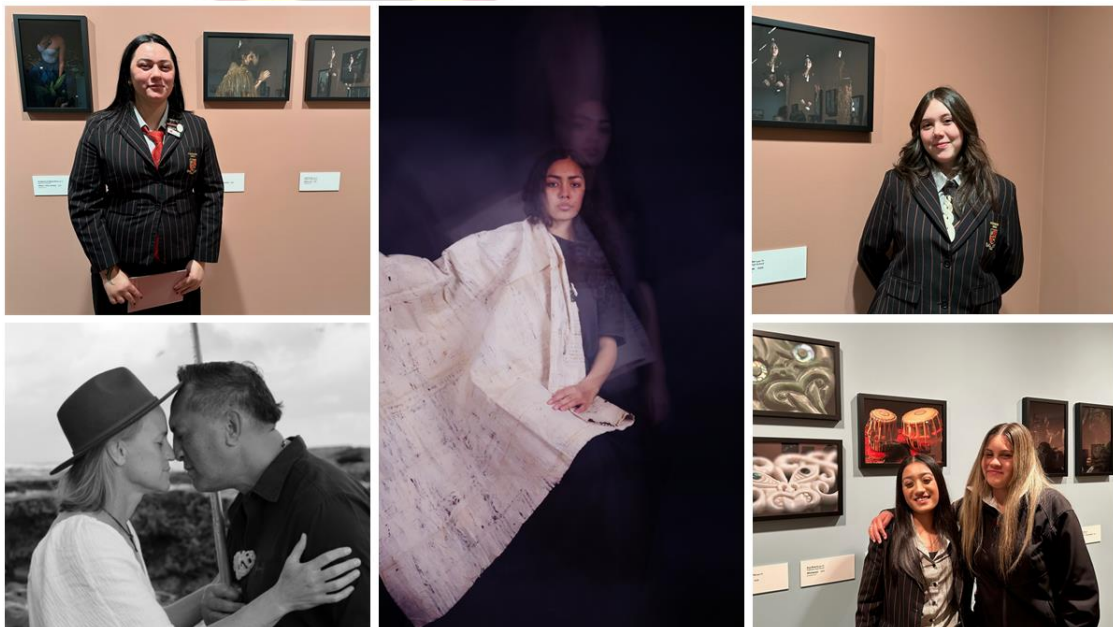
## Beyond the Walls Exhibition

On Friday 25 July a group of PHS delegates ventured into the Auckland City Art Gallery to celebrate six of our Y13 Photography students being invited to submit their work for the final exhibition. They were Larni Ronaki, Leah Foster, Riya Moana, Sylvanna Sade Hanly, Streme Clarke and Fern Tiapa. We also had Oceana Taaka Te Kaute participate in workshops.

The programme's aim is to build relationships with kura and ākonga Māori across Taamaki Makaurau and expand engagement beyond the walls of the gallery, into the community. This year the programme focused on the theme "Ko Wai Au" bringing together aakonga, and their kaiako with practising Māori photographers to equip aakonga with tools for expressing their story through the medium of photography.

The exhibition is up in the Auckland City Gallery for the next 2 weeks. It is open to the public.

Congratulations to Fern Taiapa whom has the honour of having her work selected to be the hero image for the entire exhibition! <https://www.aucklandartgallery.com/whats-on/exhibition/student-exhibition-or-kiritai-or-beyond-the-walls>



## Deloitte Business Workshop

Keira Wilson, Chris Joubi and Shauna Kawondera recently attended a workshop hosted by Deloitte and Young Enterprise where they were tasked with creating a solution to a problem faced by a business. They pitched their solutions to a panel of business experts and ended up winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place!

They each learned valuable skills they can use on their entrepreneurial journey with their Y13 Business Studies businesses Patched Up!, Scent Up and All Star Bags.

This was an amazing opportunity for them all, we are so proud!





## Year 12 Business Students Step Up for Market Day

This term, our Year 12 Business Studies students showcased their creativity and enterprise through two successful Market Days held at the Pukekohe Racecourse and the Franklin Art Centre. Eleven student-run businesses from across two classes took part, each gaining invaluable real-world experience as they sold their products to the public.

The products on offer were innovative and unique, ranging from car air fresheners and grip socks to handmade ribbon roses, hair masks, jewellery and more. While the crowds may not have been as large as in previous years, every market was a valuable learning opportunity. Students worked hard to refine their products, strengthen their marketing strategies and develop their customer service skills with each event. These experiences form part of a 9-credit internal assessment focused on real-world business application.

We're proud of the progress these young entrepreneurs have made and look forward to seeing their innovation and business skills continue to grow as they move into Year 13 next year.



## Level 1 Commerce Market Day a Huge Success

On Thursday 24 July, our school was buzzing with activity as 116 Level 1 Commerce students took part in Market Day. Spread across four classes, these enterprising Year 11s formed their own small businesses and sold a fantastic range of high-quality products, including handmade candles and holders, scent diffusers, jewellery, dog toys, slime and essentials packs.

The event is part of a 5-credit assessment, offering students valuable hands-on experience in planning, production, marketing and customer engagement. It was clear from the energy and enthusiasm on the day that students not only learned a lot but also had a great time doing it.

A big thank you to our Level 3 Business Studies students who supported the day - both by running their own successful stalls and by helping supervise and guide the Year 11s.

We look forward to seeing their entrepreneurial spirit shine as they look at Year 12 and 13 Business Hub subjects!





## Accounting Students Inspired by KPMG Visit

Our Year 12 and 13 Accounting students recently had the exciting opportunity to spend the day at KPMG's head office in Auckland. The visit provided a valuable look into the world of professional accounting and finance, with students touring the offices, hearing from industry professionals and gaining insights into the wide range of career pathways available.

A special highlight was meeting Pukekohe High School alumni now working at KPMG, who shared their journeys and inspired students with what's possible after school through a deliciously catered networking lunch! The group also heard from Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, who spoke about the global reach of accounting and the diverse roles it can lead to across industries.

It was an enriching and eye-opening experience, and we are incredibly grateful to Cam and the team at KPMG for hosting us and giving our students such a warm and informative welcome.



## 3ZBST Article 2- Keira Wilson - Young Enterprise Entrepreneurs In Action

At the end of Term 2, our very own Y13 Business Studies entrepreneur Keira Wilson was selected from hundreds of applicants across Aotearoa to fly down to Wellington and take part in Entrepreneurs in Action. EIA, hosted by Young Enterprise, is an exciting four-day national business challenge that brings together some of Aotearoa's most driven and creative Business Studies students and allows them to collaborate in real-world business scenarios with top New Zealand companies. They got to work in teams and prepare a pitch which gave them the chance to build their skills in teamwork, innovation and leadership.

From the chaperones at Young Enterprise:

*"Keira ... Your thoughtful contributions made your team strong in their pitches. It was great to see you grow over the 4 days and we can't wait to see what you do next!"*

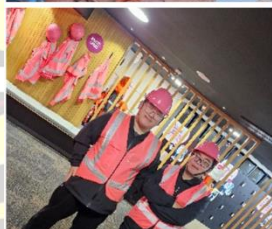
We're incredibly proud of Keira for being selected to take part in this amazing opportunity, and even more so for making the most of every moment! We look forward to seeing how her entrepreneurial skills helps her business Patched Up!





## Level 2 Catering go to Chelsea Sugar Factory

The entire Level 2 catering cohort of 5 classes had the opportunity to go to the Chelsea Sugar factory in week 2 of this term. We had a fantastic day out and learn so much about sugar processing, packaging and uses. Students all went on a factory tour and Sugar Mountain was a surprise to all of us! We did a baking session and made some really yummy YoYo Biscuits using Chelsea Sugar products. We also had time for the



interactive area learning some tricks for measuring and mixing while discovering the history of the factory. Every person on the trip, staff and students, had a wonderful day and we encourage everyone to go and visit the factory, take the tour and enjoy a bite at the café.

## Building Futures: HEB Construction Inspires Our Pathways Class

During week three, students in the Building and Construction Pathways class had the privilege of hosting industry experts from HEB Construction, who delivered an engaging and informative session on one of Pukekohe's key infrastructure projects. A huge thank you to Alex, James, and Ray from HEB for generously sharing their time and expertise—it was a fantastic presentation that left our students inspired and informed.

### A Real-World Project - Paerata Culvert Widening

The team shared details of the Paerata Culvert Widening project currently underway on Paerata Road. Scheduled to run from April 2024 to March 2026, the project carries a budget of \$14 million and plays a crucial role in future-proofing our town's infrastructure. Students were impressed to learn about the scale and complexity involved in a major civil engineering project happening in their own backyard.

### Linking to Learning and Sustainability

As part of their assessment, students are exploring how construction projects incorporate sustainable building principles. The Paerata project offered a real-life example of this, with considerations such as local sourcing, waste reduction, and environmental impact all informing the design and materials used.

### Pathways to the Future

This visit highlighted how the Building and Construction Pathways programme connects classroom learning with real-world industry practices. By engaging directly with professionals, our students gain valuable insights into potential career paths and the impact they can have on their communities.

We once again thank HEB Construction for their time, knowledge, and commitment to supporting future builders.



## The PHS Reading Challenge: Bringing Back the Joy of Reading

This term, the PHS Library has been on a mission: to bring back the joy of reading *just for the love of it*. The **PHS Reading Challenge**, which launched in Week 2 and runs through to Week 8, is all about encouraging aakonga to rediscover the simple pleasure of getting lost in a great story.

Why? Because reading for pleasure really matters. Studies show that reading for enjoyment is more strongly linked to academic success than almost any other factor. It boosts empathy, vocabulary, imagination, and even mental wellbeing. And most importantly—it's fun, free and fully accessible with support from our wonderfully resourced PHS Library!!

### How it works:

Every aakonga is welcome to enter. All they need to do is read a book (in te reo maaori, English, etc) and fill in either a paper form from the library or the quick online form via the PHS Library Teams page. Each week, we celebrate readers with spot prizes for everything from most books read to the most thoughtful or creative response.

The prize pool has been a real community effort. Our *amazing team of librarians* have been promoting the challenge across the school and during book issues and fundraising to ensure the rewards are worth the effort. Weekly prizes so far have included fidget pens, games, socks, treats and more—but the big one is still to come...

**The grand prize pool**, valued at over **\$400**, will be awarded in Week 9 and will include a mix of cash, experiences, and vouchers, thoughtfully chosen by our own student librarians.

### Parents & Whānau – we'd love your support!

Encourage your child to get involved, ask what they're reading, help them find a book they might enjoy, or visit the local library together. Whether it's a graphic novel, fantasy series, biography, or classic, every book counts.

The response so far has been fantastic!! It's been awesome to see more and more students filling out entries, chatting about what they're reading, and making the library a true hub of literacy excitement.

There's still *plenty of time* to enter, with the challenge running until the end of Week 8. So, let's keep the pages turning and the stories flowing—*PHS is reading again, and we love to see it*.

**PHS READING CHALLENGE**

**OPEN TO ALL AAKONGA**

**YOU CHOOSE WHAT TO READ**  
Pūtaakau - eBooks - Audiobooks - Novels - Mags - Articles -  
Non-fiction - Manga - Graphic Novels - Picture Books - Quick Reads  
(in te reo Māori and/or English)

**WEEKLY SPOT PRIZES!**  
**MAJOR MYSTERY PRIZE DRAWN WEEK 9!**  
(trust us — it's worth it.)

**HOW TO ENTER:**  
Fill out a Reading Entry Slip (online or pick up a form from the library)

**HAVE QUESTIONS?**  
See Mrs Harris in the Library

**CHECK THE LIBRARY TEAMS PAGE WEEKLY FOR UPDATES, SHOUTOUTS, SPOT PRIZES AND INFO**

**WIN PRIZES**

- ✓ READ**  
You choose: novels, quickreads, manga, comic books, graphic novels, eBooks, Audiobooks, non-fiction, journals, (te reo Māori or English)
- ✓ FILL OUT THE FORM**  
Found at the front counter of the library, or online via the Library Teams page.
- ✓ ENTER THE DRAW**  
Entry box at the front counter of the library, or online via the Library Teams page.

Read as many books as you like, no limited number of entries. The more you read the more chances you have.  
Closes Friday Week 8: Overall winner announced Week 9

**READING: THE ONLY WAY TO SKIP CHORES AND STILL GET PRAISED.**

**PHS READING CHALLENGE**

NB: Results may vary. Parental suspicion may increase with eye contact



## Mathex

On Thursday 31st July, 17 students took part in Counties Mathex at St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College in Drury.

Mathex is a challenging and fast-paced mathematics contest where schools from across Counties Manukau compete against each other in teams of four students to answer questions as quickly as possible. The team that scores 100 marks first under 30 minutes win the competition. If no team scores 100 marks the team with the highest score will win the competition.

Our teams were made up as follows.

Year 9 Team A

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Lila Dwane      | 3. Miela Dullab    |
| 2. Charley Goodwin | 4. Annabelle Crann |

Year 9 Team B

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Fletcher McNaab | 3. Jason Wang    |
| 2. Kerry Feng      | 4. Brooklyn Moke |

Year 10 Team A

- |                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Jing Yang Chua | 4. Sasan Golchin            |
| 2. Adam Warren    | 5. Palmmy Chaimut (Reserve) |
| 3. Reilly Boyle   |                             |

Year 10 Team B

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shreya Pokhriyal       | 3. Ankita Balvir Kumar (Y9) |
| 2. Sukhmanpreet Kaur (Y9) | 4. Gurbaaz Sidhu (Y9)       |

All PHS teams were amazing, with one Year 10 Team coming in 2nd place. We are really proud of the overall achievement and participation of our aakonga – a huge congratulations to all participants!

## Course Selection Day / Evening

We hosted a successful NCEA Course Selection Day on 6 August. We created an event for students to explore the multitude of courses available at Pukekohe High School and the opportunity to ask curious questions about their course options for 2026. Thank you to all the students and staff who participated.

Course Selection for Year 10 to 12 will be open from 7 - 28 August. Emails were sent to whaanau, parents, and caregivers. This link will provide you with access to SchoolPoint for course selection and additional course information.

[https://pukekohe.bridge.school.nz/course\\_selection](https://pukekohe.bridge.school.nz/course_selection)

[Senior Course Information Booklet](#)

- Year 9 for Year 10 course selection opens on 29 August.
- Year 8 for Year 9 course selection opens on 15 September.



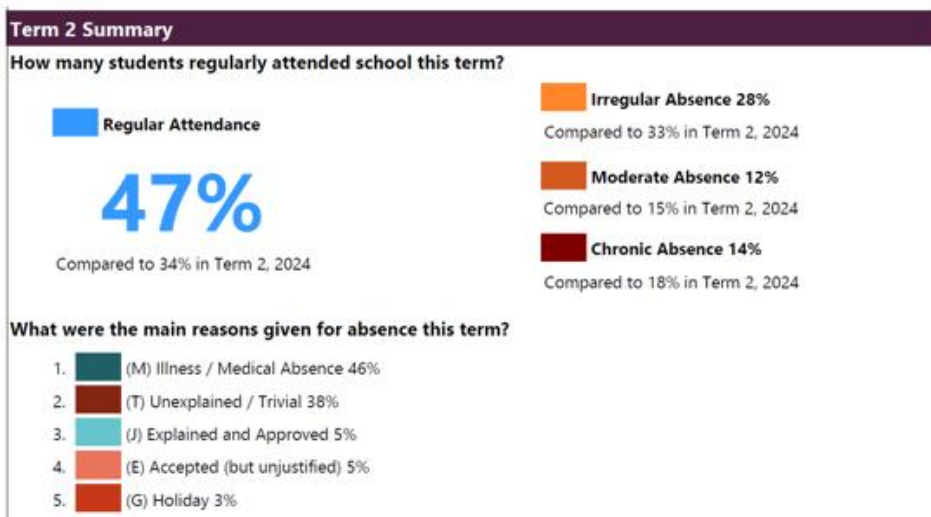
# Te Pae Oorite | Equitable Opportunities and Outcomes

## Attendance

This term we will continue to focus our efforts on encouraging students to remain in the regularly attending category (90%+ attendance) or working towards reaching this category. Congratulations to the 886 students who reached this level during term 2

As well as this, we will be working closely with students who are continuously not in class during the school day. This is a small minority of students, however absences from class has an impact on student achievement as well as maintaining a school learning environment that conducive to achievement.

The attendance information from term 2 shows a pleasing improvement from the same time in 2024. We would like to encourage students and families to support us in continuing this trend by being at school all day every day.



## Absences

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

- Students who have caregiver permission (in the form of a signed handwritten note) to leave school during the day must present this to their Kaiaawhina (teacher) and sign out using the electronic Student Register in the Student Support Building.
- When students return to school, they must return to the Student Support Building and sign in using the electronic Student Register.
- Students being collected from school must be met by a parent/caregiver who is registered on the school system (KAMAR).
- Students may leave using Gate 3 (Harris Street) only. Parents/caregivers are advised not to make arrangements to meet students at other gates/locations.

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

Parents/caregivers must phone, email or report an absence through one of the following:

- <https://www.pukekohehigh.school.nz/report-an-absence/>
- Phone: 07 237 0198
- Email: [attendance@pukekohehigh.school.nz](mailto:attendance@pukekohehigh.school.nz)



## 2026 Student Leadership Process

Student leadership applications are now open! If your current Year 11 or Year 12 student is interested in developing their leadership skills, leading by example, and making a difference in our school, we welcome their application for a 2026 leadership role. Please read through below to learn about what roles are on offer and where their strengths might shine best. Applications should be made using the online application form (<https://forms.office.com/r/6VLXBj34uf>) but if they prefer a paper copy, you can collect this from the student centre. Applications close on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kaur (Deputy Principal). We're excited to see the next generation of Pukekohe High School leaders step up and into their leadership potential.

**Ngaa Amokura / Head Prefect (7 positions)** As a Head Prefect, you will lead the Year 13 Prefect team and chair a student council, working closely with staff and senior leadership to shape the direction of student voice and leadership in our school. You will coordinate major school events, lead assemblies, and represent the school in the wider community. Through your leadership, you will help build a strong, connected community where every student feels heard, valued, and inspired. This role calls for strategic thinking, confidence, and a commitment to leading with integrity and purpose.

**Ngaa Manukura / Year 13 Prefect (2 positions per council):** This is a new role for Year 13 council members who will support the Head Prefects in bringing student council goals and leadership initiatives to life. Year 13 Prefects are council members that will take a more active role in each council and the wider student body and help implement initiatives that make a difference to our school. You are expected to lead by example, demonstrate maturity and reliability, and work with Amokura, council members, and staff in this role.

**Kaiaarahi Whare / House Captain (2 positions per house):** As a House Captain, you will be a driving force behind school spirit and house pride. You'll lead house assemblies, coordinate inter-house competitions, and support the development of each house's "hype crew" to energise and engage students. Working closely with your staff house leader and as a part of the Hauora Council, you will help create a vibrant and inclusive environment where every student feels connected and has opportunities to grow.

**Ngaa Kaitautoko Tuakana / Peer Support Leader:** Our Peer Support Leaders play an important role in welcoming and guiding Year 9 students as they begin their high school journey. You will help lead their induction at the start of the year, support them through weekly mentoring sessions, and model our school values of manaakitanga, kotahitanga, aarahitanga, and puumautanga. This role is suited for someone who is empathetic, responsible, and passionate about supporting the wellbeing of new students.

**Ngaa Manutapua / Council Member (3 positions per year level):** As a Council Member, you will be part of one of our seven student councils that drive positive change across the school through student-led initiatives and events. You'll help represent student voice and bring creative, purposeful ideas to life. This role requires collaboration, initiative, commitment, and a strong desire to contribute to a better school experience for all. The seven councils are:



## Sports Update

### NZSS Orienteering Championships Success

Congratulations to our Senior Boys relay team - Riley Massey, George Williams and Zack Meads who placed 3rd in the relay at the 2025 NZ Secondary Schools Orienteering Champs in Auckland.

A superb effort and result!

Well done to all our orienteers who competed on the national stage over the past weekend!

On another note, Congratulations to Year 12 Zack Meads who has been selected for the NZSS Orienteering squad for 2025. This is his third consecutive year being selected for this squad. This coming school holiday break, Zack will travel to Brisbane to represent New Zealand in the Trans-Tasman Orienteering competitions. All the best Zack!



### Netball

Our 2025 netball season has recently wrapped up on Wednesday for the CMSS netball competition held at Papakura Netball Centre. It has been a positive season with a growth of participation numbers; 9 netball teams competed in 2025.

Congratulations to our following team have won their respective grades for the CMSS Netball season.

- Premier 1 Netball – Champions in Premier A Final vs Manurewa HS
- Year 9 A – Champions in Year 9 A Final vs Manurewa HS
- Year 9 B – Champions in Year 9 B Final vs Rosehill College
- Year 9 C – Champions in Year 9 C Final vs James Cook HS



Well done to all our Netball teams in season 2025. We look forward to our Premier 1 team competing at UNISS during Winter Tournament Week in A grade.

### Rugby

Our 2025 rugby season closes out for the year this weekend with our 1<sup>st</sup> XV playing off in a Plate Final vs Rosehill College, 10:30am at Wesley College.

Well done to our Girls XV team who reached the final of the CMSS Girls XV competition vs Manurewa HS held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Aug at Navigation Homes Stadium.

Our team loved the opportunity to play on the big stage of local stadium in front of a large vocal crowd. Final score, 20-12 to Manurewa HS.

Well done also to our Year 11+, Year 10 and Year 9 boys team who have completed their season this year with some positive results throughout the year. Our Year 10 Boys recently reaching the Semi Final last weekend vs TIPENE.



We look forward to celebrating the success of our rugby season with our annual Rugby Awards evening taking place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm in the school hall.



## Basketball

Our Basketball has been ramping up in recent weeks after hosting an international high school from Taiwan, Songshan High School who travelled to NZ on an international exchange. Songshan High are one of the top national school teams in Taiwan. Our premier boys had the opportunity to play against the international team with a close loss 92-89. Our premier girls also had the opportunity to play in the exchange ending in another close loss 69-67.

This was a huge experience for all involved, we thank Franklin Basketball Association for their huge support and operations of this special exchange. The exchange has been used as great preparation for the BBNZ AA Premiership tournament which will take place during Winter Tournament Week and is also the regional qualifier tournament for NZSS Basketball Nationals later this year.

## Clay Target

On Thursday 17 July our students attended an event in Matamata. There was a total of 106 shooters over 23 Squads. 21 Girls, 37 Juniors, 27 1st year shooters, 50 senior boys, and 14 Teams in the Open Team event.

Congratulations to:

- Emma Lane & Ava Williams - 1st Girls Team (96/120)
- Emma Lane - 2nd Ladies (79/90)
- James Harvey - Best 1st year Shooter (68/90)
- Carter Kilian was 8th= in the Senior Boys (81/90)
- Ava Williams was 5th in the Girls (70/90)
- Piper Crane was 6th in the Girls and 8th= in the Juniors (67/90)
- James Harvey was 6th= in the Juniors (68/90)



## Hockey

The Girls 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey Team are currently in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Auckland A1 Hockey competition and are undefeated.

They head into semifinals and finals over the next 2 weeks with the potential of a promotion playoff to qualify for the Auckland Premier competition.

The team also has several players who have been selected into representative teams in 2025: Under 18 Counties reps:

Tess Rennell  
Lexie Moody  
Katie Chamberlain  
Katie Lane

Yaz McFarlane  
Poppy Carter  
Grace Montgomery  
Amber Anderson

Go Hockey NZ tournament Heat team  
Casey Halliday

The Boys 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey Team are leading the table in the Auckland Open A/B Boys Hockey competition. The team will be heading into their final season game full of confidence and look forward to competing in the Mayhill cup during winter tournament week.

We wish the boys and girls 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey teams well at their respective tournaments during winter tournament week.

## Football

Our Boys and Girls football teams are approaching the end their respective seasons with all teams heading into finals next week.

The Girls 1<sup>st</sup> XI football have had a good season in the Auckland A1 competition, with a midtable finish at the end of their season and retaining their place in the competition next season. The team turned their attention to the Auckland Premiers Cup to end their season.

The Boys 1<sup>st</sup> XI football team lead the table in the Counties Manukau Senior A boy's competition and remain undefeated. The team has displayed some strong performances this season. They head into their final game of the season aiming to secure another league title.

We wish all our teams all the best for their finals and tournaments ahead.

## Teams competing in New Zealand Secondary School Sports Tournaments over winter tournament week:

- Boys Premier Basketball – BBNZ AA Premierships
- Girls Premier Basketball – BBNZ AA Premierships
- Girls Equestrian – North Island Secondary School National Championships
- Boys 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football – NZSS Boys Football Rex Dawkins Tournament
- Girls 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football – NZSS Girls Football Kathy Seaward Tournament
- Boys 1<sup>st</sup> Hockey – NZSS Hockey Mayhill Cup
- Girls 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey – NZSS Hockey Chica Gilmer Cup
- Premier Netball – Upper North Island Netball Championships

We would like to wish all these teams the best at their national tournaments.

## 2025 NZ Secondary Schools Swimming Champs

Jessica Cochran

- 2nd – 50m Breast (17–19 yrs)
- 4th – 100m Breast (17–19 yrs)
- 10th – 200m Breast (17–19 yrs)

Meeka Mills

- 2nd – 50m Back (13 yrs)
- 2nd – 100m Back (13 yrs)
- 4th – 200m Back (13 yrs)
- 8th – 200m Free (13 yrs)

Talia Chaney

- 2nd – 50m Free (16 yrs)
- 8th – 100m Free (16 yrs)

Jing-Yang had a fantastic meet as well, achieving multiple personal bests and continuing to show strong improvement across his events.





## We the Woman – GirlBoss Event

We the Women was an amazing experience. It is a highly selective hackathon for women dedicated to using technology for social impact. I received a full scholarship to participate, collaborating with tech leaders from Spark New Zealand to address critical issues affecting women and girls today. Collaborating with innovators from across the country was such a privilege, we focused on UN Global Goal #5 - Gender Equality, developing cutting-edge tech solutions to uplift women and communities. It was amazing meeting such amazing girls and I definitely recommend for people to sign up and give it a go. By Nav Kaur – Year 13 student.



## PHS Got Talent Awards

A passionate student-led group of senior students came together to create PHS Got Talent 2025, a celebration of the incredible skills and creativity at Pukekohe High School. After 12 auditions in front of student judges who provided feedback and scores, six semi-finalists earned the chance to perform live in front of a packed school hall. The panel of judges included our Kaiārahi Whare (House) leaders and one student judge, making it a true community event.



From there, the top three acts were crowned:

- 3rd Place – Indi Yates, who delivered emotional ballads
- 2nd Place – Kyemani Henare, with powerful performances of hearty Māori waiata.
- 1st Place – Dilraj Bhullar, Dhruv Singh, and Dharmeeek Dhiran, who wowed the audience with their high-energy Indian fighting training montage.

All three winners received prizes, and every contestant was rewarded with mana cards or house points. It was a memorable few weeks filled with talent, culture, and school spirit – and a testament to what our students can achieve when they lead the way.

# Haapori | Community Highlights

## Student Board Representative Update



As you may have seen earlier in the year, my name is Phoebe Sayer, and I am the student representative on the Board of Trustees. I am currently in Year 11 and am actively involved in both sporting and academic life at our school.

This term, with many internals still to come for our senior students and externals quickly approaching, I am focused on providing effective resources and support. I am working closely with student councils and staff to ensure students feel confident and prepared for the upcoming assessments.

I've also been involved in initiatives to improve overall student wellbeing—especially during this stressful academic season. This includes promoting access to tutoring programmes, study sessions, and encouraging the use of the school's guidance and support systems.

Our school is lucky enough to have numerous sport teams from different codes competing at the NZSS tournament week. This entails our top teams representing our school in sport throughout the North Island. Best of luck to all teams competing!

If you have any suggestions, concerns or ideas, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to represent the school on behalf of the students and make sure your voice matters.

Phoebe Sayer | Student Representative – School Board

## Blood Drive

A red poster for a blood drive. The text "EVERY DONATION COUNTS" is in large white letters. To the right is a large white outline of a blood drop containing the number "49". Below the text, it says "Congratulations to students and staff that gave blood at our latest blood drive on Monday 4 August. We had 49 donations which saves up to 147 Kiwis in need." The NZ Blood logo is in the bottom right corner. There are two small crests: one in the top right and one in the bottom left. The bottom left crest has the text "KOTAHITANGA Unity • Community • Relationships".

**EVERY  
DONATION  
COUNTS**

49

KOTAHITANGA  
Unity • Community  
• Relationships

Congratulations to students and staff that gave blood at our latest blood drive on Monday 4 August. We had 49 donations which saves up to 147 Kiwis in need.

**NZBLOOD**  
Te Rotonga, Itohi O Aotearoa



## NCEA Whaanau Evening | Tuesday 19 August

General information pertaining to NCEA including:

- Overview of the qualification
- Level 1 specifications
- NCEA at Pukekohe High School – policies and procedures

To guide us with our planning and delivery of the evening could you please fill out the following form – <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/bFU9TqyjGf>

## Ngāa Hau E Whāa Marae Visit – maa pango, maa whero, ka oti te mahi

In Week 3, a Year 9 group visited our local marae - Ngā Hau E Whā to explore the tukutuku panels hanging in the whare. The visit was a powerful expression of Kotahitanga – unity, collaboration, and belonging. A meaningful extension of our tukutuku project working alongside Whaea Sharon Bennett to decorate our wharenui, *Te Hiikoi*, at school.

Guided by Whaea Sharon, our rangatahi explored tukutuku panels woven by our community. These taonga, rich in whakapapa, wairua, and community voice, are the stories and patterns inspiring our own tukutuku learning. Students engaged deeply by reading, interpreting, and discussing the values and kōrero woven into each piece which enabled students to make personal connections to the kaupapa.

Embracing *Ako* (reciprocal learning), they questioned, listened, and shared ideas, deepening their understanding of maatauranga Māori and the living history of Pukekohe. The visit was grounded in tikanga Māori with Te Ataakura as kaikaranga and Matua Tipene delivering whaikoorero. Towards the end, we were privileged to participate in the ceremonial lowering of the Kiingitanga flag, enhancing mana.

This experience wove together our tukutuku classroom learning, honoured mana whenua, enriched our local curriculum, and brought Te Tiriti o Waitangi to life in practice.



## Board Elections Update

With the upcoming board elections, the following 9 candidates that have put their name forward to join our school board.

- Ioane Ioane
- Kiri Tremewan
- Jana Langer
- Toa Masina
- Frans van Dorsser
- Moses Wiremu Pairama
- Laiha Holliday
- Simon Williams
- Philip Watson

Please look out in your inbox next week Wednesday for electronic invitations to vote. Candidate statements will be available online.



## Meet our Teachers | Aisea Taliai



After completing my Bachelor of Arts at the University of Auckland, I spent four years in China teaching ESOL—living and travelling in cities like Xiamen and Hangzhou—and picked up the language along the way. Back home, I teach Social Sciences at PHS, specialising in Tourism and junior Social Studies. Tourism is a fast-growing sector, and I'm passionate about helping students understand society and the world they'll work in.

I'm committed to building positive, identity-affirming learning environments where every student sees themselves in our kura. I'm involved with our Pasifika Council and love supporting language weeks that celebrate our diversity. I enjoy helping run whole-school events like PHS Got Talent.

Outside the classroom, I'm into hiking—working my way toward multi-day backcountry trips—and I'm a big fan of music and entertainment.

## Leo's Update

### Possum Bourne Retirement Village Visit

In the school holidays, 14 Leos gave up some of their holiday to reconnect with the seniors at Possum Bourne Retirement Village. It was a lovely event where the residents were able to swap stories of their time at school with the Leos.





## Rā Whakato – Planting Day with Auckland Parks

On 19 July, the Pukekohe High Leos joined the local community at Lough Bourne Drive for a Rā Whakato (Planting Day) in collaboration with Auckland Parks. Together, we rolled up our sleeves and planted native species on a nearby slope to help with erosion control and prevent future landslides. It was a rewarding morning spent reconnecting with nature, working as a team, and giving back to our environment and community.



## Christmas Trees

The Pukekohe High Leos were out in full force on Saturday, teaming up with their sponsoring club, the Pukekohe Lions, to plant 800 Christmas tree saplings. With plenty of hands helping out, the job was done in no time.

A huge shoutout to the awesome mums who pitched in on the day—we really appreciated the extra support!

These trees will take around four years to grow, and once ready, they'll spread Christmas joy throughout the Pukekohe community. It was a great day of teamwork, fresh air, and giving back—exactly what the Leos are all about.



## Pukekohe High Leos Charter Evening

On 6 August, the Pukekohe High Leos were officially chartered as an internationally recognized Leo Club. It was a proud moment as 50 Leos received their certificates of membership and shiny Leo pins.

The evening was filled with pride and celebration, supported by whānau, our Principal, and dedicated teachers. A huge thank you to our sponsoring Lions Club for helping to organise such a special event.

We'd also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Lenny van Heugten from the Beautification Trust, Lions District Governor Lynda Halverson, and the various Lions Clubs who came along to support this kaupapa.

Watch this space, the Pukekohe High Leos have some exciting projects on the horizon!





## Kiribati Group



Mahurangi College invited our Kiribati group to perform at their Young Navigators of the Pacific event. A fiafia night where they celebrate our young Pacific people, honouring where they come from, and where they are going as they navigate their futures. One of the highlights of the year for our Kiribati group, our students proudly represented the school with a vibrant performance that showed the beauty of Kiribati dance and culture. It was a wonderful celebration of Pacific heritage and our young people, and a fantastic opportunity for our students to share their culture with the wider community.

## Dance Students

Congratulations to our PHS Crew who participated in the Blueprint Schools Street Dance Competition in the holidays. A full day of workshops, learning, training, and competition alongside 12 other Auckland schools, our students came away proud to be setting the standard in our kura, being part of this wonderful community event and some incredible talent around the region. A huge thank you to our choreographers Ariana Greig and Jayla Hurunui for your leadership and guidance, making this possible for us.

**Ariana Greig**, with her crew; The Collective competed at World of Dance in Los Angeles, coming away with 1st in their division and 3rd in the world.

**Olliver Hintze, Jayla Hurunui, Peyton Hocking, Tayla Marshall, Olivia Roome, Sadie Tou and Neve Woodman-Stade** have all been at Hip Hop International in Arizona. Competing in various crews through local and wider Auckland studios, these students had a couple of semi-final finishes and represented NZ with pride.

These students are all incredibly talented and have committed many years and hours to be able to dance at this incredibly high level. They're deep thinkers, quick learners, adaptable, disciplined, creative, confident, committed, resilient and so hardworking. Congratulations on your achievements on the world stage, we're very proud of you.





## Kākā Spotted



Keep an eye (and ear) out—Kākā have been spotted swooping around school the past few weeks. These native parrots are a taonga, easy to recognise by their rusty-chest feathers and loud, chattering calls.

## Filipino Group visits Possum Bourne Retirement Village

Mabuhay! On 31 July our Filipino Group brought songs, dance, and big smiles to Possum Bourne Retirement Village—such a special cultural exchange and a joy to connect with residents.



## Cleaner wanted!

We have a team of dedicated cleaners who work 3 hours per day each, Monday to Friday during term time. We are looking to add more people to the team. Cleaning is carried out after school finishes for the day and hours are usually 3:15pm–6:15 pm.

Duties for all cleaners include cleaning sinks and toilets, rubbish removal from classrooms, offices etc, vacuuming, dusting, hot mopping floors and filling paper towel dispensers.

Start date is immediate and training will be provided. A Police Check will need to be passed.

Please contact Business Manager Denis Murphy on 09 237 0117 ext. 223 or email your application and CV to [mb@pukekohehigh.school.nz](mailto:mb@pukekohehigh.school.nz)



## Follow NZ ADHD Conference

<https://www.myspiritedchild.com/new-zealand-adhd-conference-auckland-2025/>



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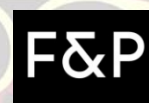


## Thank you

We kindly thank all the following sponsors for their continued support on behalf of the entire Pukekohe High School community. Through your generous support, our students have been able to gain invaluable resources, learn, thrive, and grow in an inviting environment.



We invite any other businesses interested in supporting the school to contact [publicity@pukekohehigh.school.nz](mailto:publicity@pukekohehigh.school.nz) to discuss options here.





## 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](mailto:update@pukekohehigh.school.nz)

Below are the different ways to find out more about what is happening here Pukekohe High School. Each logo has a hyperlink to take you directly to those pages.



Website



Facebook



SchoolsApp



PHS Instagram



PHS Sports



PHS International



PHS Councils

## Important Dates

### Week 5

- International Languages Week
- Friday 15 August | Sports Team Photos and Year 13 Photos

### Week 6

- Tongan Language Week
- Monday 18 August | School Board Hui
- Tuesday 19 August | Whaanau NCEA Night
- Wednesday 20 August | Year 8 Enrolment Interview Evening
- Thursday 21 August | Year 10 Market Day
- Friday 22 August | Year 12 Health Expo

### Week 7

- Winter Tournament Week
- Thursday 28 August & Friday 29 August | Autaia Performance

### Week 8

- Monday 1 September – Friday 5 September
  - o CAA Literacy and Numeracy Corequisite Exams

### Week 9

- Papua New Guinea Language Week
- Monday 8 September – Friday 12 September | Senior Y11-13 Derived Grade Exams

### Week 10

- Monday 15 September | Teacher Only Day – School CLOSED
- Te Wiki o Te Reo Maaori Language Week
- Wednesday 17 September | Pukekohe Rugby Awards Evening
- Friday 19 September | Last day of term 3

### Term 4

#### Week 1

- Monday 06 October | Start of term 4
- Fijian Language Week
- Thursday 9 October | Sports Awards Evening

#### Week 2

- Thursday 16 October | Poo Whakanuia Awards Evening
- Friday 17 October | Dance Show Case

#### Week 3

- Niue Language Week
- Monday 20 October | School Board Hui
- Thursday 23 October | Senior Prizegiving – Pukekohe Indian Association Hall

