



11 December 2025

## End of Year Communication

Teenaā koutou e ngaa whaanau,

Welcome to Pukekohe High School. We are looking forward to you joining us in 2026 for the start of your secondary school journey. We are proud of our school, its place in the community and the opportunities that it provides young people to thrive.

Our school vision is '*Whiria te taangata, whiria te angituu* ; Weave the people, create success'. By bringing people together in our school and providing opportunities for engagement we can, and do, create an environment where young people succeed.

The information below provides some details for the start of the 2026 school year and other key aspects of our kura. We will follow this up with further information prior to school starting in 2026.

Ngaa mihi  
Murray Saunders  
Tumuaki | Principal

## Start of Year Dates

### **Thursday 29 January**

Year 9 students will have their first day at school. This will start with a poowhiri at 9:00am followed by activities throughout the day in Te Maahuri (form) classes with Kaihaapai (form teachers). Whaanau are warmly invited to attend the poowhiri. The day will finish at the regular time of 3:15pm.

Year 9 students will receive their timetables on this day and will be orientated around the school.

### **Friday 30 January**

All year levels will be at school this day. Students will be in their Te Maahuri classes until 12:55pm when they will be dismissed.

### **Monday 2 February**

All students are on timetable from this day.

## Poowhiri Kawa and Tikanga | Protocols and Practices

A Poowhiri (Pōhiri) is a traditional welcome ceremony which brings newcomers or visitors into a space, organisation or marae. The Poowhiri process is about making connections and bringing groups together as one with a common purpose.

The start-of-year Poowhiri at Pukekohe High School involves the following protocols:

- Manuwhiri (visitors / new people) gather at the gate (please don't come on-site until you are called as a group).
- Karanga – a traditional call of welcome
- Whakaеke – the visiting group enter (women in front, males behind), and take their places (Males seated in front, women behind).

- Karakia and Hiimene – an opening prayer or traditional incantation followed by a hymn or song.
- Whaikoorero – a series of speeches by speakers on each side
- Waiata – each group stands to sing a song to support their speaker
- Hariruu – greeting (hongi – pressing of noses) or handshake
- Kai – everyone has some food to whakanoa (transition from the protocol to everyday activity).

## **Parking and Gathering**

To avoid congestion, **please do not park on Harris Street** during the morning of the poowhiri. On-street parking is available on John Street, Roulston Street and Graham Street.

**Gather along Harris Street** – at the start of the poowhiri, you will be called to **enter via Gate two**. Please be aware of the movement of traffic and school buses on Harris Street and do not stand on the road.

You may gather in the carpark at gate 3 (main entrance) but please do not come onto the quad or school grounds until after the poowhiri – this ensures we follow poowhiri protocols.

### **Day/Week Structure**

The table below shows the timings for our days from the start of next year:

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>9.00 9.55am</b>	-	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1
<b>10.00 10.55am</b>	-	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
<b>10.55 11.25am</b>	-	Te Maahuri	Te Maahuri	Te Maahuri	Te Maahuri
<b>11.25 12.00pm</b>	-	Break 1	Break 1	Break 1	Break 1
<b>12.00 12.55pm</b>	-	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
<b>1.00 1.55pm</b>	-	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4
<b>1.55 2.20pm</b>	-	Break 2	Break 2	Break 2	Break 2
<b>2.20 3.15pm</b>	-	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5 (Y9/10 only)	Period 5

- School will start at 9:00am each day. There will be no late starts.
- School will finish at 3:15pm everyday with the exception of Wednesday (see next point)
- Years 11-13 students will finish their day every Wednesday at the end of period 4 (1:55pm). Years 9 and 10 students will finish their day on Wednesday at 3:15pm.
- Rostered assemblies will take place for year levels and houses across the week during Te Maahuri time.

- Busses will continue to leave at the usual time in the afternoon (3:35pm). Senior students who need to catch an afternoon bus on Wednesdays can be accommodated in the school library should they need to stay on the school site between 1:55-3:15pm.

## Ngaa Uara | our MANA Values

Our MANA values help unite our diverse school community and all that we do as a kura. We look forward to exploring these values over the course of the year with our new students.



## Te Maahuri Pastoral Programme

Following community and staff consultation in 2024 and 2025, the implementation of a new pastoral care curriculum at Pukekohe High School has been built into our timetable for 2026. The name Te Maahuri is drawn from the whakataukii "Te piko o te maahuri teeraa te tipu o te rakau". The name Te Maahuri is best understood within the context of this whakataukii - the way in which the sapling, the student, is nurtured determines how the tree, all that they can be, will grow.

Te Maahuri is a space in every student's timetable (replacing Whaanau Roopuu/form time) which intends to provide dedicated time for connection, koorero (through academic mentoring), and holistic learning that nurtures the whole young person. Every Te Maahuri class will be led by a Kaihaapai, a staff member that acts as the students' advocate, champion, and significant adult here at school. It is our hope that through Te Maahuri, our students, whaanau and school will develop educationally powerful relationships for growth, ako, and connection.

# CONNECTION KOORERO LEARNING

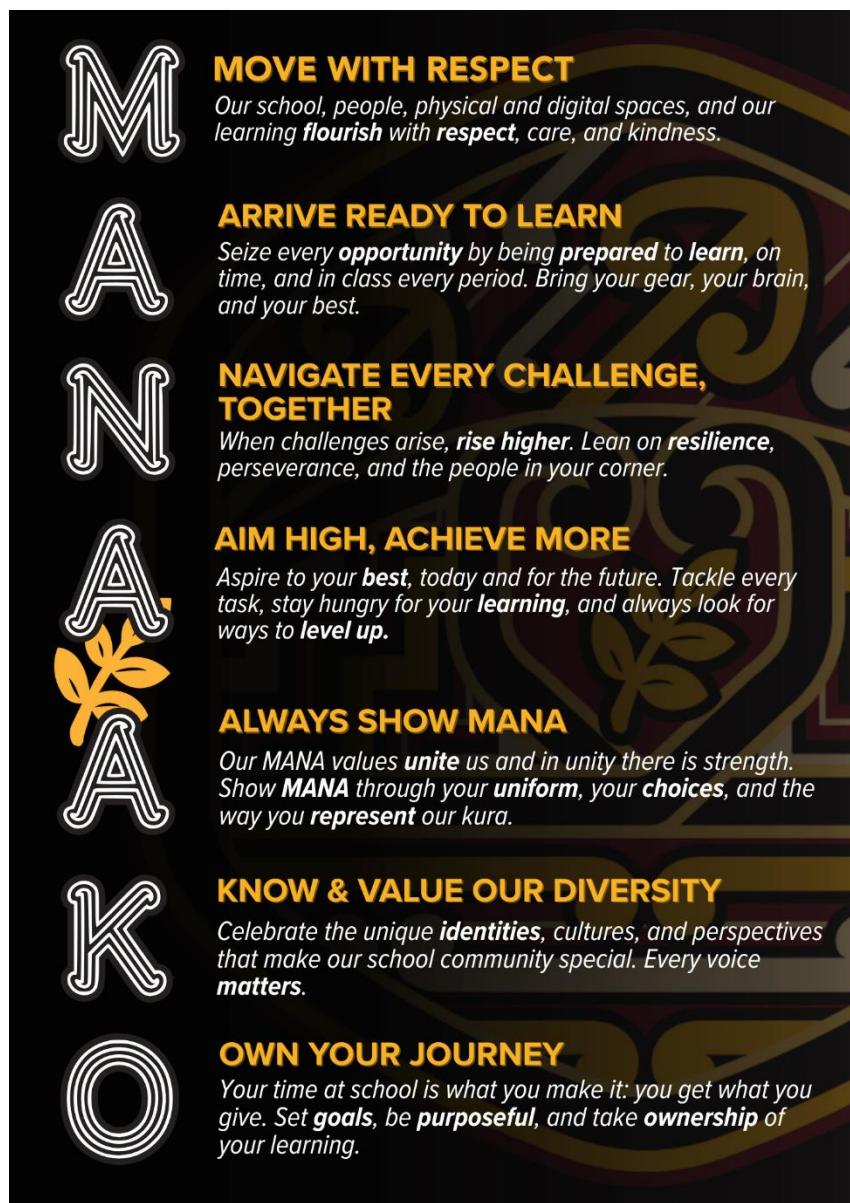
building educationally powerful relationships

meaningful conversations about students' educational journeys

nurturing students through holistic education

## MANA Ako Student Learning Framework

Alongside our Te Maahuri programme mentioned above, a significant piece of work is being undertaken next year around the culture of learning at Pukekohe High School. In order to create an environment where all students can achieve their best, we are paying particular attention to the types of learning behaviours that enable students to learn effectively and to achieve. These behaviours are captured in our MANA Ako framework below:



Alongside our MANA values, our MANA Ako behaviours will be continually reinforced throughout the year. Our staff will be supported to display relevant teaching techniques in line with the student behaviours outlined above.

## Uniform and Stationery Information

[Please click on this link to view the stationery lists for 2026](#). We will follow up with communication in the new year around subject confirmation for Year 9 students. Please note that Food Technology, Design Thinking and Hard Materials subject lines are now closed.

Our school uniform can be purchased at The Uniform Shoppe at 7A Glasgow Road, Pukekohe or ordered online from The Uniform Shoppe: <https://theuniformshoppe.co.nz/location/pukekohe/pukekohe-high-school/page/1>



## [Uniform Handbook](#)

Our Parent Teacher Association will be hosting a second-hand uniform pop-up shop at school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January from 12:00 to 1:00pm (cash or bank transfer only). The pop-up shop will be hosted in the Massey Block corridor (between the office and hall). You can also find the [PTA Facebook page](#) and contact them directly with details about required sizes and availability of second-hand uniform to purchase.

## 2026 Term Dates

Term 1: 30 January – 2 April (10 weeks)

Term 2: 20 April – 3 July (11 weeks)

Term 3: 20 July – 25 September (10 weeks)

Term 4: 12 October – 10 December (9 weeks)