



PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Issue Ten | 11 December 2025

From the Tumuaki

Whiria te taangata, whiria te angituu

Weave the people, create success

Teenaa koutou e ngaa whaanau,

We have arrived at the end of the 2025 school year. I would like to extend my thanks to our students for their perseverance all the way through to mid-December. Whether it be our seniors sitting their external NCEA examinations throughout November or our junior students participating in the wide range of activities in our MANAdventures week, the school has been a busy place right the way to the end of term.



In 2025 we have built on the strong foundations that the school has established over the past 103 years. These foundations are based on a school environment that encourages participation and inclusion for all students giving young people the chance to follow their passions and, ultimately, to succeed – *whiringa te taangata, whiringa te angituu. Weave the people, create success.*

We look forward to welcoming a Year 9 cohort of more than 400 students to our kura next year as our roll continues to nudge upwards. New subject options across nearly all learning areas and initiatives such as our Year 12 Pathways Programme have added great value to our curriculum. Our students are very well served in terms of what is on offer and the supports available to them with transition into further study or employment.

2026 brings with it some challenges in the form of curriculum change and the move towards a new senior qualification – the NZCE. Staff will be busy working through these major adjustments in the education sector throughout the course of next year. There are also some exciting opportunities for us at Pukekohe High School. The start of our Te Maahuri pastoral care programme is one of these. Under this timetabled programme students and staff will work on a variety of topics to upskill students and empower them to take ownership of their education. Topics include study skills, financial literacy, careers, wellbeing/hauora and the tracking of academic achievement. We are excited by what this programme has to offer.

At this stage of the year, it is time to acknowledge and farewell our departing Year 13 students as well as staff who are leaving us. To Mrs Miller, Mrs Armstrong, Ms Bothma, Mr Goorah, Mrs Thompson and Mr Whitby my thanks for your contributions to Pukekohe High School.

To everyone, have a safe and relaxing summer break. We look forward to seeing students back for the start of the 2026 school year.

Ngaa mihi nui

Murray Saunders
Tumuaki | Principal

Ako | Quality Teaching and Learning

Farewell to staff leaving

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our staff that we have farewelled at the end of the year. To the following, I thank you for your dedication to Pukekohe High School and our students and wish you all the best in your future endeavours:

- Matt Whitby
- Micaela Thomson
- Kamal Pratap
- Kayla Edmonds
- Mariko Aiavao
- Katrina Miller
- Faith Armstrong
- Vikash Goorah
- Teo Kaitu
- Catharina Bothma

Te Pae Oorite | Equitable Opportunities and Outcomes

Junior Prizegiving Recipients

Congratulations to all our prize winners acknowledged at our Merit and Prizegiving ceremonies.

Year 9 Merit Recipients

Students who received Excellence in 2 subjects:

- Lily Adams | Art & Japanese
- Violet Armstrong | Art & Te Ao Maaori
- Jhennie Atillo | Technology & Social Studies
- Ataahua Bennett | Physical Education & Te Reo Maaori
- Ivy Burton | Dance-Drama & Food Technology
- Cheyenne Chaplin | Art & Music Band
- Kortney Delamore | Art & Ngaa Toi
- Dougie Foster | Art & English
- Peyton Gardner | Art & Design and Visual Communication
- Sherleen Gill | Art & French
- Isla Green | French & Physical Education
- Mihera Hetaraka | Art & Music Band
- Rayyan Inam | French & Mathematics and Statistics
- Poppy Kaire | Dance-Drama & Physical Education
- Sau-Ying Kananous | Art & Physical Education
- Caiya-Rosalie Kinkade | Art & Social Studies
- Israel Konelio | Ngaa Toi & Te A Maaori
- Matthew Malaiba | Art & Physical Education
- Jasmine Nichole Maningas | French & Technology
- Kartik Mehmi | Music & Social Studies
- Brooklyn Moke | Digital Information Technologies & Te Ao Maaori
- Harseerat Natt | Art & Social Studies
- Ella Naude | Art & Food Technology
- Chad Peterson | Art & Technology
- Addi Pham-Phommassa | Dance-Drama & French

- Jessica Reay | Art & Social Studies
- Rose Skinner | Art & Te Reo Maaori
- Elliot Stewart | Art & Music Band
- Rawiri Te Anau | Te Ao Maaori & Te Reo Maaori
- Catherine Tegmann | Art & Music Band
- Emily Thorpe | Art & Japanese
- Zainab Umar | Ngaa Toi & Science
- Levi Walker | English & Mathematics and Statistics
- Kaiya Wallabh | French & Te Ao Maaori
- Jason Wang | Digital Information Technologies & Music

Top 9 in Core Subjects Overall

Tenth Overall

- Amy Beaurain | Art, Design and Visual Communication, Health, Mathematics and Statistics, Music Band and Social Studies

Ninth Equal Overall

- Noelle Thomson | Art, Design and Visual Communication, English, Music Band, and Science
- Mikaela O'Donnell | English, French, Health and, Mathematics and Statistics
- Joseph Chang | English, Mathematics and Statistics, Te Ao Maaori, and Science

Eight Overall

- Amine Sadafipour | Dance-Drama, English, Mathematics and Statistics, Music, Science and Social Studies

Seventh Overall

- Charnce Warrender | Art, English, Food Technology, Health, Science and Social Studies

Sixth Overall

- Tiffany Robinson | English, Physical Education and Social Studies

Fifth Overall

- Dana Madsen | Art, Japanese, Mathematics and Statistics, Science and Social Studies

Fourth Overall

- Arina Borissenko | Art, Dance-Drama, Design and Visual Communication, English, French, Mathematics and Statistics, Science and Social Studies

Third Overall

- Ariella Cocker | Art, English, Japanese, Mathematics and Statistics, Music Band and Science

Second Overall

- Ishmeet Gill | Art, English, French, Mathematics and Statistics, Science and, Social Studies

First Overall

- Lila Dwane | Art, English, French, Health, Mathematics and Statistics, Te Ao Maaori, Science and Social Studies

Special Awards

- Tiffany Robinson | Year 9 Kennis Cup Year 9 Knowledge Cup (as translated from Dutch and Afrikaans)
- Lila Dwane | Year 9 Overall Achievement Cup

Year 10 Merit Recipients

Students who received Excellence in 2 subjects:

- Baylee Anderson | Art Semester Course & Food Technology
- Sophie Appleby | Art Full Year Course & Food Technology
- Urwa Basit | English & Health
- Grace Carol Brookes | Art Semester Course & English
- Kyla Burger | Hard Materials Technology & Physical Education
- Lucy Butler | Art Full Year Course & French
- Victoria Campbell | Mathematics and Statistics & Science
- Holly Cooper | Money Matters & Social Studies
- Jenaya De Thierry | Te Ao Haka & Te Reo Maaori
- Gracious Dumburashe | Creative Enterprise & Food Technology
- Isaiah Edgecombe | Digital Technologies & Physical Education
- Chloe Ferris | Health & Social Studies
- Casey Halliday | Health & Physical Education
- Elizabeth Hann | English & Japanese
- Peyton Hari | Art Full Year Course & Digital Technologies
- Taya Hopkins | Ngaa Toi & Te Reo Maaori
- Tehzeeb Kaur | Japanese & Mathematics and Statistics
- Naomi Lukic | Art Full Year Course & Science
- Rosalie Milsom | Creative Enterprise & Mathematics and Statistics
- Casey Neru | English and French
- Aiyana Pellowe | Health & Social Studies
- Katie Quinlan | Art Semester Course & Production Science
- Japkirat Singh | Money Matters & Science
- Roman Timo-Perry | Drama & Health
- Tyler Vince-Waikawa | Whare Hiku Memorial Award & Te Ao Haka
- Jakob Watson | Health & Physical Education
- Nate Williams | Health & Physical Education
- Indi Yates | English & Science

Top 10 in Core Subjects Overall

Tenth Overall

- Joshua Marais | Mathematics and Statistics, and Science

Ninth Overall

- Rodayna Mostafa | Creative Enterprise, English, Health and, Mathematics and Statistics

Eight Equal Overall

- Zara Cameron | French, Food Technology, Money Matters, Mathematics and Statistics, and Physical Education
- Navani Nand | French, Health, Money Matters and Social Studies

Seventh Overall

- Alex Banas | Drama, English, Money Matters and Science

Sixth Overall

- Lucas Huang | Money Matters, Music Band, Mathematics and Statistics, Science and Social Studies

Fifth Overall

- Emily Stacey-Baxter | Art (Full Year Course), English, Music Band, Mathematics and Statistics, Science and Social Studies

Fourth Overall

- Naomi Hayward | Year 10 Art (Semester Course), Drama, English and Science

Third Overall

- Tara Gordon | Mathematics and Statistics, Science and Social Studies

Second Overall

- Jing Yang Chua | Digital Technologies, English, French, Health, Money Matters, Mathematics and Statistics, and Social Studies

First Overall

- Adam Warren | English, Japanese, Mathematics and Statistics, Physical Education, Science, STEM and Social Studies

Special Awards

- Adam Warren | Bill Barnaby Cup - Academic Excellence in Year 10 core subjects First Overall in Year 10 core subjects
- Ryna Clark | Gerard Brady Memorial Award - All round Excellence in Year 10
- Otis Barry | He tohu Aarahitanga Teina - Junior Leadership Award
- Louise Kiri | Puumau ki ngaa kaupapa katoa - Top all-round Maaori Student Year 10
- Tyler Vince-Waikawa | Whare Hiku Memorial Award for Whaikooreroo

MIT Prizegiving 2025

It was wonderful to attend the annual MIT Trades Academy Prize Giving Ceremony held at The Life Church in Manukau on the 11th November.

Thirteen of our students were received Top and Diligent awards which is a great achievement from our Trades Academy Cohort.

It was wonderful to see our students being acknowledged by MIT for all their hard work throughout the year.



Ringa Toi Exhibition Success – Celebrating Excellence in Toi Maaori and Pacific Arts

We are proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our talented Pukekohe High School artists who submitted their work to the prestigious **Ringa Toi Exhibition**, an annual showcase that celebrates *Toi Māori* and Pacific Arts at *Excellence level*.

This national exhibition, held at **Te Papa Tongarewa – Museum of New Zealand**, featured entries from 49 schools across the motu, with artworks representing seven categories of Māori art forms. Many of our students submitted stunning, culturally rich work, and we are thrilled to share that **12 of our students were selected as finalists**, with some having multiple pieces accepted, an extraordinary accomplishment!

Our students were honoured to attend the opening and awards ceremony in Wellington, accompanied by **Vicky Moore-Allen (HOD Arts)** and **Charlotte Manga (Kaiako Toi Māori)**. The celebration extended beyond the ceremony as students participated in creative workshops led by renowned artists **Michael Tuffery** and **Regan Balzer**, gaining valuable insights into contemporary Māori and Pacific art practices.

Among our finalists, **Ava Rule** and **Raquel Sheldon** received special recognition with *Commended* and *Highly Commended* awards for their exceptional entries.

This achievement is not only a celebration of individual artistic excellence, but also a reflection of the strength of our Arts Department. It reinforces our place in the national arts landscape, putting Pukekohe on the map once again.

Whiria te tāngata, whiria te angitu – Weave the people, create success. This success is woven from the dedication of our students, the support of whānau, and the leadership of kaiako who uplift and celebrate Māori and Pasifika identity through the arts.

You can view the Highly Commended and Commended winners for Ringa Toi 2025: [2025 category award winners](#)



Year 9 Social Studies Social Action Success

At the end of Term 3, our Year 9 Social Studies classes explored the important social issue of youth mental health deterioration in Aotearoa New Zealand. As part of their studies, each group planned and carried out a social action to make a positive impact.

Students got creative — designing posters and videos to raise awareness, running lunchtime stalls with fun activities educating students and writing to government representatives. Fundraising also took place, with some students selling arts and crafts while others sold chocolate boxes in their local community.

Together, our Year 9s raised over \$700, which has been donated to Youthline.

A huge well done to all the students involved for your compassion, teamwork, and commitment to making a difference!

#PukekoheHigh #SocialStudies #YouthAction #MANAValues #MentalHealthAwareness



Social Studies - Extreme Natural events- Volcano creation

OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN LEARNING ABOUT EXTREME NATURAL EVENTS. AS PART OF THIS, 10FLL WERE TASKED WITH MAKING THEIR OWN VOLCANO OUT OF RECYCLED MATERIALS. WE THEN TOOK THEM OUTSIDE TO SET OFF AN ERUPTION USING BAKING SODA, DISHWASH LIQUID AND VINEGAR!



SOCIAL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT
VOLCANO CREATION



Girl's Football Success

Anna Spackman

- Was an invitational player for Birkenhead United for the U19 Nationals tournament in Napier over the long weekend. The team had a fantastic weekend away and finished 3rd in the country, just narrowly missing out on a spot in the finals.
- Anna has also been nominated for selection for the New Zealand Secondary Schools U19 team that will travel to Thailand in April next year.

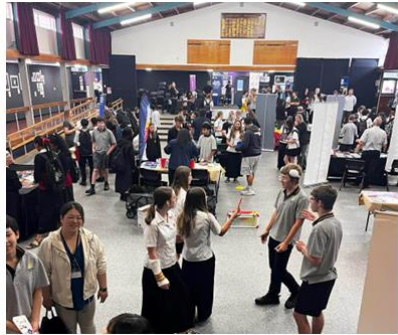


U17 Tournament

We have a bunch of girls who have been selected to represent Franklin United/Pukekohe AFC in the U17 Nationals in Western Springs from the 4-7th of December. Anna Spackman (Y12), Sarah Spackman (Y10), Isla Mataroa (Y9), Savannah Wensor (Y11), Kyra Drake (Y12), Kassidy Murray (Y11), Lucy Kingham (Y11), Piper Jackson (Y12), McKenna Hunt (Y11) and Isabelle Rowe (Y12).

Manaventures Week





2025 Wharefest

A great day was had by all Year 9 and Year 10 students on Wednesday 10 December. Check out the action below.



Haapori | Community Highlights

Sport Coaches/Managers Expression of Interest 2026

Pukekohe High School Sport is getting set for an exciting sporting year in 2026. We are on the look out for coaches, managers and volunteers to support our sporting programme at Pukekohe High School in 2026.

Pukekohe High School offers close to 30 sporting codes across 4 terms of the year. Volunteers play a critical part in ensuring every opportunity is met for our student athletes. If you or someone you know is interested in being involved in any capacity, please fill out the expression of interest form below and we will be in touch soon.

Please note - All management roles in sport are voluntary based only. All volunteers will need to undergo the Police vetting process. Any questions or if you would like further information, please email sport@pukekohehigh.school.nz

[Pukekohe High School Sport Coaches/Managers Expression of Interest 2026 – Fill out form](#)

French Trip Quiz Night



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors and supporters of the Pukekohe High School French Trip Quiz Night, held on 22 November at the Franklin Club. Your generosity and encouragement helped make the event a wonderful success.

Pukekohe High School Sponsorship packages

As a school we would welcome the opportunity to discuss sponsorship moving forward. Please see our sponsorship document in the link below:

[Sponsorship packages](#)

Uniform Donations & Pre-loved Pop-up Dates



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. 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

2026 Term dates

Term 1

Thursday 29 January – Thursday 02 April

- **Year 9s, all other new students & Peer Support Only: Thursday 29 January, 9.00am**
- **ALL YEAR LEVELS COMMENCE FRIDAY 30 JANUARY, 9.00am**

Term 2

Monday 20 April – Friday 03 July

Term 3

Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September

Term 4

Monday 12 October – Friday 11 December