



# PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Issue Eight | 19 September 2025

## From the Tumuaki

*Whiria te taangata, whiria te angitu*

Weave the people, create success

Teenaa koutou e ngaa whaanau,

The whakataukii above was adopted **as our school's new vision statement** at the beginning of this year. It speaks to the place of a school in bringing people – students, staff and the community – together around the collective aim of supporting our young people to achieve success.



Success, of course, can mean different things to different people. In a school setting this is most commonly thought of as academic success. Whilst this is critically important and something that we are working alongside our students to enable, it is only one measure of the success of a school. Over the course of this term, it has been a privilege for me to witness and experience the variety of activities that Pukekohe High School students have engaged in. You will be able to read about these throughout this newsletter. The breadth of activities and the variety of successes achieved is evidence to me of a school community where our students embrace the opportunities that are presented to them.

Success in a school setting can also mean helping to develop good young people who live and embody our school values. I was pleased to receive multiple pieces of correspondence from members of the community in August acknowledging groups of Pukekohe High School students for their conduct, service and attitude. A staff member from a Waikato school whose group shared an Outdoor Education experience with Pukekohe High School students commented that our students '**were polite, respectful and genuinely friendly**' in their interactions with their students and staff. In another piece of feedback, a staff member from a neighbouring early childhood centre who has been hosting PHS students shared that she '**had the privilege of observing the visits of PHS students and that the interactions between the rangatahi from the high school and our tamariki have been beautiful to witness**'. At a time when teenagers sometimes get a bad rap, I would like to acknowledge the majority of our students who are courteous, respectful and represent themselves and their school with pride.

I would also like to acknowledge the role that our School Board continues to play in the governance of our kura. A special thanks to four of our long-standing members who are stepping down from the Board at this election cycle. The successful candidates are mentioned later in the newsletter. I look forward to working with the new Board to continue to progress the school in the coming years.

As we move towards the final term of the year and thoughts turn to 2026, I encourage students to prioritise their attendance and effort in class right the way through to the end of the year. Whether this be senior students in their final push towards NCEA examinations or junior students continuing with learning and extra-curricular opportunities throughout term four, there are valuable experiences still to be had. We are making solid progress in improving our school-wide attendance through the efforts of students, whaanau and our staff. It is critical that we continue this momentum starting with a consistent approach to attending all classes from the start of term four.

To everybody, enjoy the school news contained in the following pages and the upcoming holiday break. We look forward to seeing students back with us on October 6th.

Ngaa mihi nui

Murray Saunders  
Tumuaki | Principal

# Uara | Living Our Values

## Staff Farewells

As we wrap up Term 3, we'd like to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate some members of our Pukekohe High whaanau who will be moving on to new adventures:



Piali Dasgupta (Learning Support Teacher)



Shan Dissanayake (English Teacher)

Please join us in wishing all these colleagues every success and happiness in their new endeavours. Ka nui te mihi!

## Mana Values

This term, we have celebrated our school value of Aarahitanga. We would like to acknowledge the following students who were nominated by a staff member for exemplifying Aarahitanga this term. It was a pleasure to recognise these students at our end of term celebration assemblies. Thank you for being such shining stars!



### YEAR 9

Lalomilo Uliefu	Baylee Kingi	Zainab Umar	Gurbaaz Sidhu	Callen Firth	Lily Adams
Ashton Orme	Nevaeah-Leigh Harris	Maré Sol	Sitani Vea	Asher Badger	Bradley Luscombe

### YEAR 10

Matthew Thompson	Paora Beazley	Koia Northcott-Garrett	Louise Kiri
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### YEAR 11

Ruita Totio	Tia-Marie Nove	Jacob Luscombe
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### YEAR 12

Ariana Greig	Ibrahim Umar	Zack Meads
Hayley Terrill	Cassie Tippins	Serge Mico Miranda

### YEAR 13

Lily Badger	Greer Batters	Acacia Dickson	Keira Wilson
Anna Clooney	Kaitlyn Dickinson	Ella Bryant	

# Ako | Quality Teaching and Learning

## The Innovation Franklin Youth Shark Tank

Congratulations to 'Patched Up' Business Group (Airah Padilla, Nav Kaur, Keira Wilson, Khayem Libo-on, Cara Rademeyer, Anneka Tapp) for winning the Innovation Franklin Youth Shark Tank Competition. The students have won an amazing prize of \$1,000 cash and an additional \$1,000 worth of mentoring and business support.

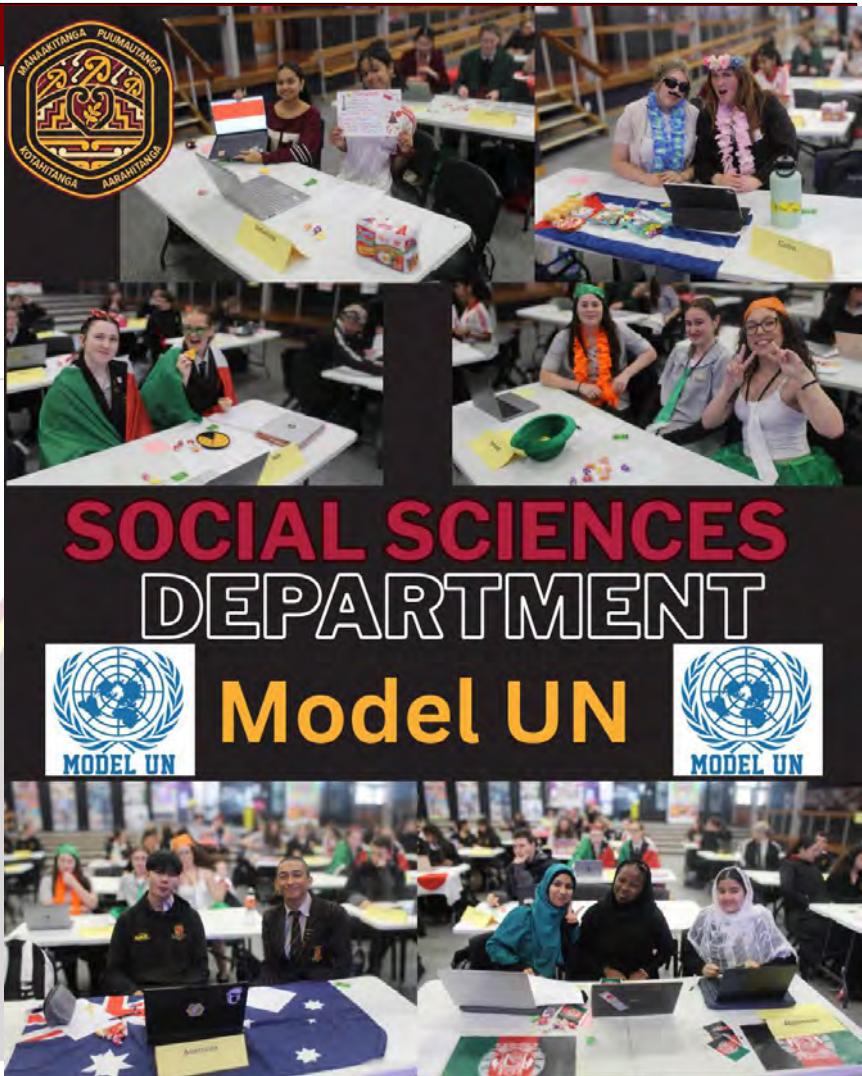


## Model United Nations

Our recent Model UN event was a fantastic success. Students represented over 20 different countries, including the United States, Russia, Costa Rica, Switzerland, North Korea, and Ukraine. The debates were lively, thought-provoking, and focused on two major global issues: gender-based violence and threats to international security.

It was inspiring to see every delegate step up, contribute, and embody our school values of Manaakitanga, Kotahitanga, Puumautanga, and Aarahitanga throughout the proceedings. From powerful speeches to constructive negotiations, each student played a role in shaping the conversation.

A huge congratulations to all participants for their preparation, passion, professionalism, and amazing costumes —you truly brought global issues to life in our school community! Finally, a huge congratulations to our organisers Ayla Stichbury, Kyra Sheldon and Hinenui Clarke and Emily Woolliams who worked with Ms Mordecai to bring the event together.



## Agriculture Pathway

Congratulations to Millar Te Rangi who has been accepted as a cadet for the next intake at Otiwhiti school of Agriculture.

There were a large number of applicants, and we are pleased and proud of Millar for being accepted.

Millar is one of the top Ag pathways students and has excelled in all aspects of the programme. He is an outstanding young man and farmer, and we wish him all the best for his future in farming.



## Pat Hanly Awards and Young Artist

**Held annually, the Pat Hanly Creativity Awards acknowledge Pat Hanly's outstanding contribution to New Zealand contemporary art and his passion for art education and supporting young artists. The awards highlight the crucial role of art education in shaping future creatives and connecting them with the wider art community.**

This exhibition features a selection of the top submissions, chosen by Gallery staff for their **outstanding creativity, originality and skill**. **Displayed within the Gallery, these young artists' works are placed in conversation with our other exhibitions and taonga (treasures), creating meaningful connections across generations of artists from Aotearoa.**

Congratulations to **Erika Villejo** and **Andre O'Callaghan** for receiving awards with their artwork.



# Te Pae Oorite | Equitable Opportunities and Outcomes

## KBB Music Festival Highlights

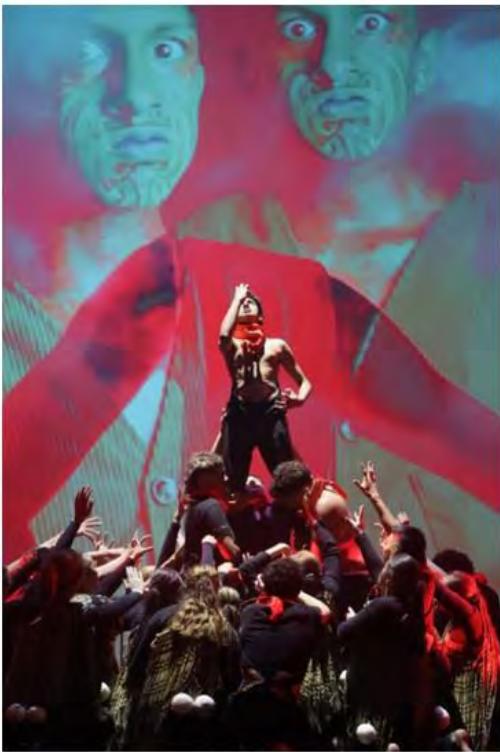
- Pukekohe High School Stage Band -won Gold Award & Best Performance of a NZ Work
- Pukekohe High School Big Band – won Silver
- Pukekohe High School Wind Band – won Bronze
- Pukekohe High School Concert Band – won Silver





## Autaia

Our Kapa Haka Ngaa Uri o te Kohekohoe were one of ten schools invited to perform an original haka theatre performance at the Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre stage on Friday 29 August for Autaia. Autaia celebrates the richness, diversity, and importance of Ngaa Toi Maaori (Maaori performing arts). Every school has a story to be told, and every student has a light to shine.



## Sports Update

### Winter Tournament Week Highlights.

#### Overall placings

- Girls Football – 5th
- Boys Football – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Girls Hockey – 17<sup>th</sup>
- Boys Hockey – 10<sup>th</sup>
- Premier Netball UNISS – 8<sup>th</sup> in A Grade
- Senior Girls Basketball – 8<sup>th</sup>
- Senior Boys Basketball – 6<sup>th</sup> & Qualified for NZSS Basketball Nationals 2025
- Equestrian - Won NISS Team Champion Jumping Trophy, 5<sup>th</sup> overall in Dressage, 20<sup>th</sup> in Arena Eventing & 15<sup>th</sup> overall out of 90 schools





## Clay Target Shooting

### Rotorua Competition

- 1<sup>st</sup> Girls - Piper Crane
- 1<sup>st</sup> Girls Team - Piper Crane & Kourtney Wintle

### Tauranga Competition

There was a total of 106 shooters over 22 squads, this included 23 Girls, 48 Juniors (boys and girls), 42 Senior Boys, 5 Girls Teams and 12 Open Teams.

Congratulations to:

Piper Crane - 3rd Girls (after a fantastic shoot off for 2nd & 3rd) 79/90

Lucas Hinton - achieving his 25 badge

Piper Crane - 5th= Juniors 79/90

Lucas Hinton - 5th= Juniors 79/90

James Harvey - 9th= Juniors 77/90

Emma Lane - 6th= Girls 73/90

Rory Thorpe 13th= Senior Boys 84/90

Pukekohe High 1 - 4th Open Teams 258/300

Pukekohe High 2 - 8th Open Teams 237/300

Kourtney Wintle & Piper Crane - 2nd Girls Team 88/120

Emma Lane & Ava Williams - 3rd= Girls Team 87/120

Taylor Wintle & Isla Robinson - 3rd= Girls Team 87/120

Some fantastic results especially from our Juniors/first year shooters.

### Competition Results:

HOA - Paul Porter - Hauraki Plains 89/90

#### Boys:

1st - Blair Bodley - Hamilton Boys 89/90

2nd - Jarrod Strawbridge - Hauraki Plains 88/90

3rd - Ayden Askin - Waiuku 87/90

#### Girls:

1st - Alexi Wood - Home School 82/90

2nd - Maiah Thompson - Waiuku 79/90

3rd - Piper Crane - Pukekohe High 79/90

#### Juniors:

1st - Hunter Rigby - Tauhara 86/90

2nd - Mac Muirhead - Hamilton Boys 83/90

3rd - Sam McCluskie - Hamilton Boys 82/90

1st Open Team - Hamilton Boys 282/300

1st Girls Team - Taupo 99/120



Good luck to everyone competing in the North Island Championship this coming weekend!

# Haapori | Community Highlights

## Board Election Results

Congratulations to parent representatives Simon Williams, Laiha Holliday, Frans van Dorsser, staff representative Eleanor Reynolds and student representative Lachlan Hadley being elected for our School Board. Welcome and we look forward to working with you to continue to progress the school in the coming years.

## Meet our Teachers | Matt Whitby



My two greatest passions in life are outdoor adventures and helping people with kindness. I have been incredibly fortunate at Pukekohe High School to be able to combine my love of these things in my professional career. Some of the opportunities I am especially grateful for include leading outdoor education and year 10 camp, going on expeditions with students through the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award, being Maahoe house leader and coaching the school rock climbing club. Through these special experiences and my daily classes of health, PE and outdoor education, I get to see our students challenge themselves every day and be there as they grow into young adults. **It is a privilege to be a part of each student's journey** through

high school. I have been at Pukekohe High School for eight years now, and I love working in a school with strong values, dedicated and talented staff, and a diverse and energetic student population. Coming from England, I know just how lucky we are to undertake so much teaching and learning in **real-life contexts outside the classroom. Whether it's outdoor education, practical courses such as trades and agriculture/horticulture, or any of the myriad EOTC (education outside the classroom) opportunities in our kura, there are so many experiences here which spark students' imagination and desire to learn. Outdoor education in particular is a space where bonds are formed, and memories made that will last a lifetime.**

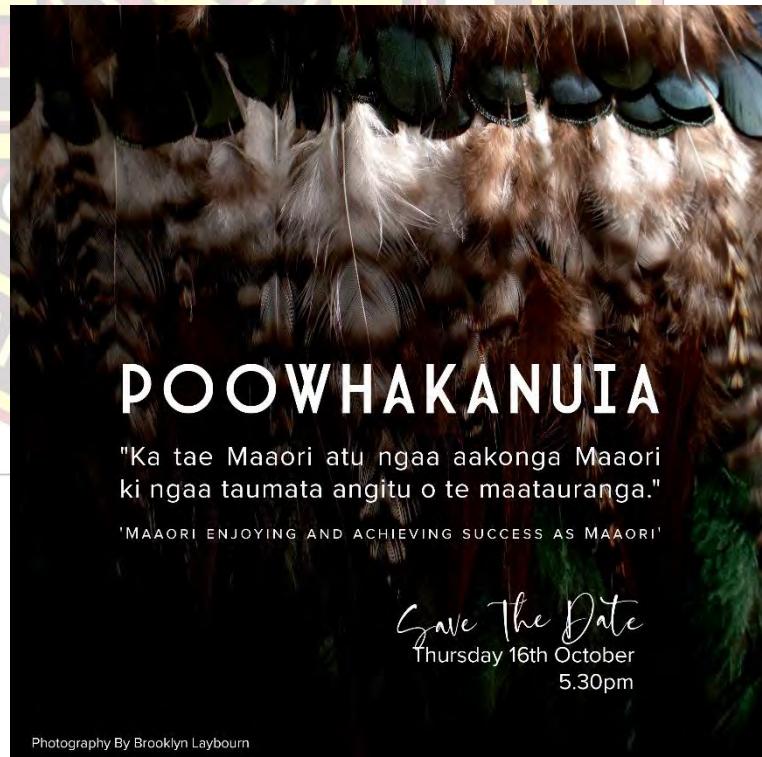
## Manaaki Tangata ki te Marae

At the end of Term 2, our Manaaki Tangata ki te Marae tauira helped out at the Kaumatua Kuia evening.



## Poowhakanuia – Save The Date

Our annual Maaori achievement prizegiving - Poowhakanuia will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Award recipients will be notified at the start of term 4.



## Leos Highlights

The Leos were out and about over the weekend, lending a hand at the Patumahoe Primary Calf Club Day. From sizzling up the BBQ and making egg-and-bacon rolls, to keeping an eye on the bouncy castle and serving tea, our Leos jumped in wherever needed. A great day of service, fun, and community spirit!



On Tuesday, 16 September, the Leos held their first official business meeting. This was a valuable opportunity for all voices to be heard, new projects to be discussed, and for our leadership team to step into their roles by running the meeting with guidance from their Leo advisor.

We were thrilled to have 60 students in attendance, showing the strength and enthusiasm of our club. A special thank you to District Governor 202K Lynda Halverson and Zone 7 Chair Cheryl Lovegrove for joining us and sharing their support and wise words.



## 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.



Unlocking the value of your IT assets

## 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)

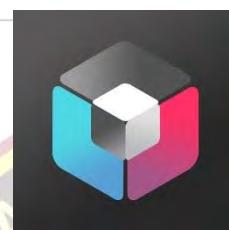
Below are the different ways to find out more about what is happening here Pukekohe High School. Each logo has a hyperlink to take you directly to those pages.



Website



Facebook



SchoolsApp



PHS Instagram



PHS Sports



PHS International



PHS Councils

## Important Dates

- School Holidays 22 September – 03 October

### Term 4

#### Week 1

- Monday 06 October | 8.45am start
- Thursday 09 October | Sports Awards Evening

#### Week 2

- Thursday 16 October | Poo Whakanuia
- Friday 17 October | Dance Showcase

#### Week 3

- Thursday 23 October | Senior Prizegiving – Pukekohe Indian Association Hall
- Friday 24 October | Y12 & 13 Senior Students Last Day

#### Week 4

- Monday 27 October | Labour Day – School CLOSED
- Tuesday 28 - Friday 31 October | Study Hub for Y12-13 Students
- Friday 31 October | Y11 Senior Students Last Day

#### Week 5

- Monday 03 November | Teacher Only Day – School CLOSED
- Tuesday 04 November | NCEA Exams Start

