

Newsletter



PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL

Issue One, 30 January 2026

From the Tumuaki

Teena koutou e ngaa whaanau,

A warm welcome to everybody for the beginning of the 2026 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. To our returning students, all the best for a year ahead full of hard work, achievement and personal growth.

2026 sees our school continuing to grow and develop. This is in the sense of the size of our student body – 1950 students and counting at this point – as well as the new aspects of our curriculum and how we teach and learn here at school that are being introduced this year. More on these new developments is shared later in this newsletter.



When we talk about changes or improvements here at Pukekohe High School we always come back to our responsibility as educators to set our students up for success. This is captured in our school vision statement – *Whiria te tangata, whiria te angituu / Weave the people, create success*. Success can look like different things for different people. This includes different forms of academic attainment, achievement outside of traditional curriculum areas and successful transition into the next phase of life for a young person – be it training, further education or employment. Regardless of the nature of success, it is the attributes and dispositions that the learner develops and possesses that leads to successful outcomes. Many of these are linked to our school values. They include things such as organisation and timeliness, focus and engagement with work and completion of learning activities. It is the development of these attributes amongst our students that we are really focusing on in 2026.

In terms of student success, I would like to extend my congratulations to all of those returning Year 12 and 13 students who achieved their objectives with their NCEA qualification in 2025. As a school, we are particularly proud of our Year 13 cohort from 2025 who achieved a 76% attainment rate for NCEA Level 3 – well above the national average for Level 3. Our 2025 Level 2 cohort (our current Year 13s) also performed above the national rate for obtainment of the NCEA Level 2 qualification. We will continue to work hard this year on other areas of student achievement that we have identified as needing more work. This includes NCEA Level 1, literacy and numeracy co-requisites and school-wide literacy and numeracy testing for Year 9 and 10 students.

Students heard much last year about 'owning their education journey'. As such, I encourage whaanau to fully engage with the school in supporting their young people as they seek their successes. There are a number of ways that families can do this:

- Attending academic conferencing, parent teacher interviews and NCEA information evenings
- Checking weekly engagement reporting from subject teachers
- Using the Kamar portal to stay on top of attendance and academic achievement
- Communicating with subject teachers and Kaihaapai (form teachers) around concerns over learning and/or achievement

Research shows that a three-way approach – student-school-family – leads to positive results to supporting positive student outcomes. I thank families in advance for getting alongside their young people and the school and guiding students to successful outcomes.

As with 2025 we will be continuing to promote our school values and recognise students who are displaying these through their actions inside and outside of the classroom. Our student values recognition system is designed to showcase young people who embody our school values of; Manaakitanga (respect, responsibility, kindness), Kotahitanga (unity, community, relationships), Aarahitanga (leadership, pride, honour) and Puumautanga (resilience, commitment, perseverance).

Alongside the focus on promoting positive student outcomes, we continue to be excited by the breadth of opportunities on offer for our students here at Pukekohe High School. Our school stacks up alongside any other state school in terms of the quality and quantity of extra-curricular activities on offer to students. This includes cultural, sporting, the performing arts, clubs and community service pursuits. I encourage all students to take advantage of what is on offer here and to seek out these opportunities from the start of the year.

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 2026 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 2026 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 2026



Whole School Assembly | 30 January 2026



New Staff

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

Counsellor

Kendra Williams

English

Michael Grainger

Joanne Te'o

Wanda Hart

Technology

Andrew Reid

Lisa Mous

Te Waahanga Whakaako / Māori

Sylvia Patu – Pou Taahuu/Curriculum Leader

Social Science

Gia Do

Maths

Rui Cao

Ashneel Raju

Manpreet Kaur

Aneel Patel – Teacher trainee

Music

Tavite Tonga – Teacher trainee

PE

Nikki Bhana – Year 9 Pou Tuarongo/Dean

Ella Kayrouz

Science

Jobandeep Bhinder

Rosie Mooney – Teacher trainee

Foundation Studies

Alison Taylor-Wade

Angela Smith

Carol Mulcahy

Teacher Aides

Devin O'Callaghan

Cameron Matthews

Leanne Allen

Library Assistant

Lynley Innes

Amokura and Student Council Representatives

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as Amokura (head students) for 2026

Akoranga | Learning

Caleb Quinlan



Hauora | Well Being

Joshua Durham



Maaori Gracie Moon



Pasifika Elizabeth Klavenes



Haakinakina | Sport

Zack Meads



Toi me Ahurea | Arts & Culture

Erika Villejo



Haapori | Community Katie Chamberlain



Manukura | Year 13 student leaders: Congratulations to the following Year 13 students who have been selected to support the Amokura in leading our student councils for 2026.

Akoranga Learning	Hauora Well Being	Maaori	Pasifika	Haakinakina Sport	Toi me Ahurea Arts & Culture	Haapori Community
Anna Spackman Ibrahim Umar	Piper Jackson Emma Lane	Teja Graham Lexie Moody	Ariana Greig	Charley Fear Grace Montgomery	Chrystal Heagney-Hakim Mia Fernandez	Caitlin Stuart Jaide Boulton

Ngaa Kaunihera | Student Council: Congratulations to the following students who have been chosen as members of student councils for 2026.

Akoranga Learning	Hauora Well Being	Maaori	Pasifika	Haakinakina Sport	Toi me Ahurea Arts & Culture	Haapori Community
Arina Borissenko Esme Burson Palmmy Chaimut Talia Chaney Jing Zhao Chua Anna Clooney Ezekiel Dondapati Lila Dwane Luka Eshuis Sukhmanpreet Kaur Jacob Luscombe Shreya Pokhriyal Adwin Purewal Drishiti Raj Sophie Tong	Ashlee Batterham Daniel Chamberlain Shyna Chand Emily Flynn Ariana Greig Naomi Hayward Chrystal Heagney-Hakim Jenna Mills Wahaj Mobeen Alishia Mungwariri Emerson Olson Levi Psaros Mehr Rauf Tiffany Robinson Amine Sadfipour Phoebe Sayer Mikeila Percy Tucker Dan Turnbull Abigail van Huyssteen	Ivan Carrapiett Jenna Mae Enrquez Joseph Joyce Louise Kiri Koia Northcott-Garrett Tia Nove Nevaeh Tupaea Tyler Vince-Waikawa Prince Whiunui	Ryna Clark Chelsey Greenaway Bella Kau Ricklynn Lovo Aliana Neru Betty Otia Huli Taumoefolau Joanna Teaiaki Ruita Totio Louse Vakalahi	Hunter Albert Otis Barry Riley Fern Adelia Hegan David Hughes Lucy Kingham Katie Lane Meeka Mills Jordan Musonye Taylor Neate Thomas Scott Catherine Tegmann Jakob Watson Sahara Weight	Ariella Cocker Gracious Dumburashe Grace Huang Keerat Kaur Dana Madsen Rushitha Naicker Lina Nguyen Eva Reynolds Keira Richards Megan Smith Holly Sousa Daisy Stallworthy	Brooke Boniface Meg Clooney Sophia Echevarria Kerry Feng Heidi Flinkenberg Shahid Khan Caiya-Roselie Kinkade Emma Logie Ashtrud Summer Padilla Katie Quinlan Theo Rodger Eshita Singh Savannah Truter

Ngaa Kaiaarahi Whare | House Leaders: Congratulations to the following students who have been chosen as members of student councils for 2026.

Puuriri	Maanuka	Matai	Maahoe	Tiitoki
Mikeila Stone Dan Turnbull	Emily Flynn Abigail van Huyssteen	Mehr Rauf Emerson Olson	Ariana Greig Chrystal Heagney-Hakim	Jenna Mills Phoebe Sayer

School Learning Culture / MANA Ako

In order to best support students to achieve their academic qualifications and pathway into their chosen next steps we see the development and promotion of learning attributes and dispositions as an important part in helping students to 'own their education'.

Alongside our student values, from the start of 2026 we are explicitly implementing a school Learning Culture / MANA Ako framework. We know that routine and familiarity greatly helps students settle into their learning and to focus in on developing the knowledge and the skills required to master the curriculum and achieve their NCEA qualifications.

Staff have been working through a process of developing learning expectations and routines that all students will be expected to adhere to from the start of the school year. The MANA Ako framework will be explained and shared with all students from the beginning of the year and continually reinforced through assembly messaging and classroom practice. School engagement reporting will capture important aspects of the Learning Culture framework and how individual students are embodying these.

The image below is what will be shared with students. It includes the elements of our Learning / MANA Ako culture that we will focus on from the beginning of the year.



2026 School Processes

Attendance processes:

The Ministry of Education's **STAR-aligned attendance policy** will be in effect from the beginning of 2026. This policy sets clear national expectations for regular attendance and outlines the required school responses when students fall below benchmark attendance levels. See the table below for the expectations and school responses:

Days Absent (per term-not consecutive)	School Response: Kaihaapai (form teachers), Attendance Team, Pou Tuarongo (Deans)
Up to 5 days	Contact home to discuss reasons and reinforce expectations.
6–10 days	Meeting with students and whānau to identify barriers and develop a support plan.
11–15 days	Escalated intervention involving pastoral team and external support services.
15+ days	Referral to Ministry of Education (legal action may be considered if support is declined).

Co-curricular attendance policy:

Students must maintain a minimum attendance rate of 80% to be eligible for all co-curricular activities. This includes sports, cultural groups, clubs and performing arts. Attendance will be monitored regularly. Teachers in charge of these activities will communicate with students who fall below this threshold and indicate to them that they will be prevented from participating until their attendance improves to an agreed level.

Late-to-school process:

We will be continuing with the late-to-school sign in process. Students who arrive after the 9.00am bell 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.

Year 13 onsite:

Year 13 students are required to remain on the school site during the course of the school day. A designated common room has been provided for use during study periods and break times. Year 13 students can also be accommodated in the library should they require a place to study. Students on their study period will have access to the school canteen to purchase food through the day.

Year 13 students who have a study timetabled period 5 are able to go home by displaying their timetable to a duty teacher on the school gates. Likewise, a student with a period 1 study period is able to arrive for school for the start of period 2.

Cell-phone use:

As specified under government policy, schools must continue to ensure that student mobile phones are not visible and in use throughout the course of the school day. At Pukekohe High School, 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.

A confiscation system is in operation should students be caught with their phone in their possession during the school day.

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 Kaihaapai (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.

Uniform

Uniform Expectations

At Pukekohe High School, our uniform shows **who we are**. We show **MANA** through:

- what we wear
- the choices we make
- how we present ourselves and our **kura**

What we expect

- Come to school in the **correct Pukekohe High School uniform**
- Wear uniform **properly** (not "mixed with non-uniform" items).
- Hoodies will be phased out by the end of term 1. School crew neck or woollen jumpers can be purchased from the uniform shop.
- Wear plain black shoes (including black soles and laces) OR black sandals with a heel strap. No socks to be worn with sandals. No Crocs. Socks must be plain white or black.
- Boys uniform – black school branded shorts or long black dress pants. No jeans, cargo pants or tracksuit pants.

You can refer to the [Uniform Handbook](#) on the school webpage for further information.

Pre-loved Uniform

Please contact the PTA through the [Pukekohe High School PTA](#) Facebook page for 2nd hand uniform enquiries.

Pre-loved uniform donations can be dropped at reception. A pop-up for the sale of pre-loved uniform will be arranged later this term and the date communicated to whaanau.



KIA ORA!

SHOW US YOUR MANA!

Need a uniform pass?
It's your responsibility to see your Kaitiaki Aakonga!

PLAIN BLACK SHOES OR SANDALS WITH BACKSTRAPS

SCHOOL JUMPER & JACKET (LEAVE THE HOODIES AT HOME!)

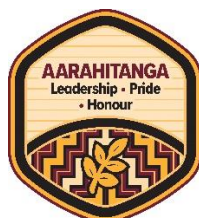
BLACK SOCKS, SCHOOL HATS & BLACK BEANIES

SCHOOL SHIRTS UNDER JUMPERS AND NO VISIBLE TEES

Important People

If you or your child have any questions during the school year, please feel free to connect with the relevant Pou Tuarongo (Deans).

Year Level Profile	Pou Tuarongo (Year Level Deans)
Junior Assistant Pou Tuarongo / Dean	Mel Devaney dvm@pukekohehigh.school.nz
Year 9	Jude Webber Nikki Bhana PT09@pukekohehigh.school.nz
Year 10	John Cook Rajal Singh PT10@pukekohehigh.school.nz
Year 11	Jody Harnor Sukhjit Kaur PT11@pukekohehigh.school.nz
Year 12	Aisea Talia Colleen Jacobs PT12@pukekohehigh.school.nz
Year 13	Chantal Krybolder Jacalyn (Jackie) Green PT13@pukekohehigh.school.nz
Foundation Skills / Learning Support	Sarah Mwanankopa mws@pukekohehigh.school.nz



School Hours and Bell Times



PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL

School Hours and Bell Times

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
Period 1	9.00 – 9.55am	9.00 – 9.55am	9.00 – 9.55am	9.00 – 9.55am	9.00 – 9.55am
Period 2	10.00 – 10.55am	10.00 – 10.55am	10.00 – 10.55am	10.00 – 10.55am	10.00 – 10.55am
Te Maahuri	10.55 – 11.25am	10.55 – 11.25am	10.55 – 11.25am	10.55 – 11.25am	10.55 – 11.25am
Break one	11.25am – 12.00pm	11.25am – 12.00pm	11.25am – 12.00pm	11.25am – 12.00pm	11.25am – 12.00pm
Period 3	12.00 – 12.55pm	12.00 – 12.55pm	12.00 – 12.55pm	12.00 – 12.55pm	12.00 – 12.55pm
Period 4	1.00 – 1.55pm	1.00 – 1.55pm	1.00 – 1.55pm	1.00 – 1.55pm	1.00 – 1.55pm
Break two	1.55 – 2.20pm	1.55 – 2.20pm	1.55 – 2.20pm	1.55 – 2.20pm	1.55 – 2.20pm
Period 5	2.20 – 3.15pm	2.20 – 3.15pm	2.20 – 3.15pm (Only Y9 & 10)	2.20 – 3.15pm	2.20 – 3.15pm

- School will start at 9:00am each day. There will be no late starts.
- School will finish at 3:15pm every day. On Wednesday, senior students (Years 11-13) will finish at 1.55pm.
- Rostered assemblies will take place for all 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.

2026 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.

[Sports Handbook](#)

EOTC Blanket Consent Form

EOTC blanket consent form has been sent out to whaanau. These forms are to help with organisation of school trips in the local area. If caregivers can please complete the form. If they have any questions they can email hn@pukekohehigh.school.nz

Microsoft Teams and OneDrive Files from 2024

This is an important message to all current Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students in regards to past Microsoft Teams and OneDrive files.

On Sunday the 1st of February we will be resetting all student users as part of our regular system maintenance.

This means that any files students wish to keep will need to be backed up at home by logging in and downloading any files they wish to keep. These files could be stored on a USB/hard drive or in a personal Google or OneDrive account.

International Homestay Accommodation

Our International Department have welcomed our first groups of international students to Pukekohe High School for 2026. We are pleased to host a group from Beijing Tsinghua School and Guangzhou Yuyan School for three weeks as well as students for longer periods of time from Japan and Brazil.

We continue to look 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 9 - 13.

Contact our International Homestay Coordinator Lydia Firmin-Cavanagh on 0212246456 or fcl@pukekohehigh.school.nz.

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>



Important Dates

PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

JOSEPH
And the
AMAZING Technicolor DREAMCOAT

LYRICS BY TIM RICE MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

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7, 8 & 9 May 2026

AUDITION INFORMATION COMING SOON!

Week 2

- Monday 2 February | Timetabled classes begin
- Friday 6 February | Waitangi Day – School CLOSED

Week 4

- Wednesday 18 February | Photolife ID Photos
- Friday 20 February | School Athletics Day

Week 6

- Tuesday 3 March and Thursday 5 March | Academic Parent/Teacher Conferences

Week 8

- Wednesday 18 – Friday 20 March | Polyfest

Week 10

- Mon-Fri | Kapa Haka Polyfest
- Thursday 2 April | Last day of Term 1