



From the Tumuaki

Whiria te taangata, whiria te angituu

Weave the people, create success

Teena koutou e ngaa whaanau,

I would like to extend my thanks to all in the school community for contributing to a positive start to 2026.

In particular, to the groups and individuals below:



- Our students who have taken on board our MANA Ako school learning culture framework and who are working hard to own their educational journey
- Our staff who are also working hard to embed MANA Ako learning culture practices into their teaching
- The school's Leos Club for their acts of service at events throughout the Franklin community
- Our four groups who represented the school with pride at Polyfest – Filipino, Indian, Cook Island and Kapa Haka
- The five sporting codes who participated in summer tournament week – cricket, basketball, clay pigeon shooting, waka ama, rowing
- Our Big Band and Stage Band who participated in the Tauranga Jazz Festival
- To families who have engaged with the school through Academic Conferences, supporting students in extra-curricular activities and attending our Polyfest family event
- 80% of our students who have maintained an 80% or higher attendance rate in term one
- Our Year 12 Te Maahuri form classes who have led random acts of kindness throughout the school during the term
- Council members and Amokura who have led across-school events in term one – **Mufti day, Athletics Day, Scholar's Evening**, Cook Island family night, Jump Jam
- Our International student ambassadors who have acted as guides and hosts for our visiting International student groups
- Our House Leaders (students and staff) who are leading expanded house assemblies this year
- Parents who have volunteered their time and expertise to lead groups and teams
- The cast and teacher leaders who are working hard in preparation for the school musical of *Joseph and the Technicoloured Dreamcoat* early in term 2
- Our PTA and Alumni committees who are working hard to develop and promote opportunities for school improvement

I would like to wish everybody an enjoyable term one holiday period ahead. We look forward to seeing students back for a busy and rewarding term two.

Murray Saunders
Tumuaki | Principal

Uara | Living Our Values

Attendance

Student attendance across-school has looked like this in term one this year:

Attendance Category	% of students
Regular (90%+ attendance)	57%
Irregular (80-90%)	23%
Moderate (70-80%)	10%
Chronic (under 70%)	10%

It is pleasing to see that 80% of students so far this year have an attendance percentage of 80% or higher. Keep up the good work!

Student Council Update

Learning Council

Term 1 was filled with lots of busy planning for the Kaunihera Akoranga in setting up one of the **biggest events on our school's academic calendar** - the 2026 Scholars' Evening. We celebrated the successes of our highest academic achieving students across all year levels in 2025. We were also lucky to have neuroscientist Dr Malvindar Singh Bains who passionately spoke about her journey and the importance of 'keeping your options open'. Looking forward into next term, we will be relaunching our Professional Insights series where seasoned professionals across various careers will come in and share their experience's. We plan to host an onsite TEDx Talk where students across all year levels can share ideas and express themselves.

Pasifika Council

Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, Malo E Lelei, Bula Vinaka, Mauri, Warm pacific greetings to you all. In Term 2 the Pasifika council will continue to promote brown excellence within our kura. We have planned events for language weeks and a FieFia night in Week 7. Malo Aupito, Meitaaki Maata.

Maaori Council

This Term, the Kaunihera Maaori has been supporting Ngaa Uri o te Kohekohe as they prepared to perform at Polyfest. Next Term we have big plans for Matariki that we are excited to bring to life.

Hauora Council

Wow, it's been a busy start to the year having sold 560+ roses for Valentine's Day and then having Easter Mufti day where we raised money for the Runway Foundation, a local organisation which works with local schools in Pukekohe. We look forward to planning more fun events next term.

Community Council

Our community council is comprised of passionate, diverse young people looking to further our connection with the wider Pukekohe community. This term we have been busy planning projects for term 2 and are looking forward to being marshals for the Mason Ave Trike - a -thon in May!

Arts & Culture Council

This Term, we have revisited our music murals and school beautification projects. Our council members have shown growth in their leadership and teamwork skills. We couldn't be more proud to have such a wonderful selection of council members this year.

Sports Council

This Term the Sports Council has run some successful events including Tennis, Athletics and Swimming Sports. The council, with students across year 10-13, has worked together to make sure the days ran smoothly and our peers are having fun and getting involved. Next term we look forward to running more inter-house and Te Maahuri events to get Pukekohe High School in a sporting spirit.

Uniform

At Pukekohe High School, we encourage all students to wear their uniform with pride and represent our school well. As we move into Term 2, please remember the following uniform expectations:

- All Hoodies are no longer part of the school uniform and will not be permitted from Term 2
- Sandals must be plain black with a back strap. No socks
- Shoes must be plain black

The new crewneck sweater is available at the Uniform Shoppe. Stock levels for the crewneck and woollen jerseys are limited. Stock should be replenished by 15 April.

Thank you to our students and whaanau for supporting these expectations and helping maintain the high standards of our school uniform. Further information about the opening of our on-site second-hand uniform shop will be shared early in Term 2.



**Winter Uniform
Now Available**

Our new look winter uniform pieces are now available at the Uniform Shop on Glasgow Road—just in time for the colder months!

*Woollen Vest
Seam Sealed Jacket
Crewneck*

Get winter-ready and stay warm while representing Pukekohe High School with pride.

The advertisement features a dark background with a school crest in the top left and a circular logo in the top right. It displays three items of winter uniform: a dark jacket with a red stripe at the bottom, a dark crewneck sweater, and a dark woollen vest. The text is in white and yellow, providing details about where to purchase the items and the types of clothing available.

Te Maahuri

Following student, community and staff consultation, a new part of our timetable, Te Maahuri, has been through its first term in action. Te Maahuri is a daily space in our timetable for students to connect with their Kaihaapai (form teacher) and peers, have important conversations about **their educational journey and partake in holistic learning.** A highlight of this term's Te Maahuri programme has been our Year 12 random acts of service. Acts included a canned food drive for the Salvation Army, handing out random cards of affirmation and gratitude around the school, picking up rubbish, hosting Year 9s for a shared kai, cleaning up our Science and Technology rooms, making fry bread and cookies for staff, finishing our amazing new house banners, spending time at the local kindergarten and tutoring our junior students. A huge mihi to our Year 12 students, Kaihaapai and Pou Tuarongo for making Te Maahuri happen so meaningfully this Term!

Ako | Quality Teaching and Learning

NCEA change

The Ministry of Education has confirmed the replacement of the NCEA qualification moving forward.

The key features of the **Ministry's** new qualification structure are as follows:

1. Replacing NCEA with a new secondary qualifications system with two levels over two years at Year 12 (2029) and Year 13 (2030).
2. Removing NCEA Level 1 (2028) and replacing it with curriculum-driven learning in Year **11**.
3. Introducing subject-based assessment for Years 12 & 13. Students to be assessed on whole curriculum subjects from the MOE-approved list of subjects.
4. Introduction of a **Foundational Award (2028) recognising students' achievement in literacy and numeracy at a Year 11 curriculum level.**

Schools are waiting on further information from the Ministry in order to start planning for these changes. In the meantime, NCEA Levels 1-3 will continue to be taught and assessed until the end of 2027 (Level 1), 2028 (Level 2) and 2029 (Level 3). Our current Year 9 cohort will be the first group of students to work their way through the new system in place of NCEA. This will begin for them in 2028.

We will continue to keep whaanau informed of changes as they come to hand.

Term 2 learning and assessments

Term Two is critical for student achievement. It sees an increase in the amount of internal assessments being completed by senior students as well as the first round of the literacy and numeracy common assessment (CAAs).

Junior students will have the first opportunity to take part in the new SMART assessments that track levels of numeracy and literacy provision.

See below for further details:

CAAs

- The CAAs or Common Assessment Activities help us check that every student has the essential reading, writing, and maths skills they need for success in school and beyond.
- The assessments are practical and real world, helping students build confidence in everyday skills like understanding information, communicating clearly, and solving problems.
- Achieving the literacy and numeracy co-requisites sets students up strongly for NCEA and future study, training, or employment.
- The CAAs are designed to be fair, supportive, and accessible for all learners, including those who need extra time or different ways to show their strengths.

Most students will complete these on their own laptops, however, students who are not able to bring theirs on the day may be able to access a school device.

At PHS these will take place in week 6 of term 2 with students completing 3 separate exams over the course of the week.

Students who have not previously gained these in year 11, 12 and 13 will be required to sit these. **Year 10 students will have an opportunity to sit the CAA's in term three.**

If your student is unclear if they have achieved this they can check on their NZQA login and/or check with their Te Maahuri teacher.

SMART Tool assessment

- This year as a school we will be taking part in the Ministry of Education's new SMART Tool assessment.
- The purpose of the SMART Tool assessment is to help us track how well students are progressing in key literacy and numeracy skills across all their subjects.
- **It gives teachers a clear picture of each student's strengths and the areas where they may need extra support.**
- **The SMART Tool also helps families understand their child's learning journey in a simple, consistent way and it supports smoother transitions into senior school by building strong learning habits early.**
- This assessment will take place during normal class time in the school hall (with some changes to the school day taking place).
- The assessment itself will be completed either on paper or digitally on students' own laptops, however, students who are not able to bring theirs on the day may be able to access a school device.

Internal Assessments

As part of NCEA year 11, 12 and 13 students complete both internal and external assessments. With most students completing the internals during the year and externals being completed at the end of the year.

Internal assessments let students show their learning in practical, meaningful ways throughout the year, not just in one-off exams.

- **They give teachers a fuller picture of each student's progress, strengths, and next steps.**
- Students can demonstrate their skills in different formats — projects, performances, reports, experiments — which helps them succeed in ways that suit their learning style.
- Internal assessments build confidence by giving students multiple opportunities to learn, improve, and achieve.
- They help students develop real-world skills like time management, problem solving, and communication.

This assessment takes place during normal class time either on paper or digitally on students' own laptops.

Many of our senior students may have already achieved standards in term 1 and will be building on these or starting new ones in Term 2. Students can check their progress using their NZQA login and/or check with their Te Maahuri teacher.

Learning in the Community

Fisher and Paykel Healthcare

On Friday 27 March, a group of 18 Year 13 students paid a visit to Fisher and Paykel Healthcare in East Tamaki.

The chance to view the nature of work in a high-tech sector was extremely valuable for this group of students who are interested in engineering or medical pathways.

Interestingly for our school, Fisher and Paykel Healthcare is developing a huge additional site in Drury. This is forecast to provide future employment for approximately 10,000 additional workers in this field.



Business Hub – Term 1 Summary

Term 1 was a dynamic and enriching start for students in the Business Hub, featuring a range of learning experiences beyond the classroom. Year 12 Business Studies students developed their ideas and presentation skills at the *Business is Awesome* workshop at the University of Auckland's Manukau campus. The school also hosted the YES Youth Spark Tank, where students from across the Franklin area refined business ideas with mentor support and began planning a collaborative market day for Term 3. Accounting students in Levels 2 and 3 gained valuable industry insight through a visit from Campbell Tyson, exploring career pathways and training opportunities. Level 3 Business Studies students further enhanced their learning by testing the *Democrasee* board game prototype, gaining firsthand experience in product testing while reinforcing their understanding of government formation.



Y10 Foundations Science Experiment

This term in our Year 10 Foundations Science class, students have been exploring the topic of electricity through engaging, hands-on learning experiences. We were fortunate to receive practical kits from Counties Energy, which allowed students to investigate electrical concepts in a creative and interactive way.

Students began by designing and constructing their own paper circuits using batteries, copper tape, and LEDs. They applied their understanding to create illuminated "Pokeno ice cream" designs, combining science with creativity.

In the second half of the term, our focus shifted to solar energy and forces. Students worked collaboratively to build, decorate, and refine their own solar-powered race cars. This project not only strengthened their understanding of energy and motion but also supported the development of fine motor skills, teamwork, and problem-solving.

We wrapped up the term with an exciting race day, where students tested their designs. Congratulations to Gabriel, who won the prize for the furthest distance travelled!



Te Pae Oorite | Equitable Opportunities and Outcomes

Careers Update

The Careers Centre has been highly active this month, hosting a range of guest speakers who introduced students to university study options, NZDF career pathways, and specialised programmes from Queenstown Resort College. Students also engaged with Professor Paul Kenyon from Massey University through career-focused talks and hands-on learning sessions. During Te Maahuri time, classes have been introduced to the Careers Centre and key career planning steps, with the space also available to students at break times. Students are encouraged to book individual careers appointments via Careerwise, ensuring the Career Planning Form is completed beforehand.

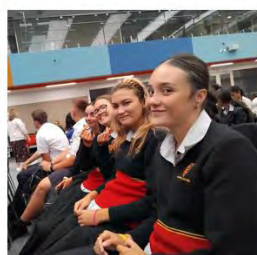
Don't forget the Franklin Schools Careers Expo on Thursday 30th April, 5:30pm – 7:30pm – a community event, all welcome.



Puuhoro Waananga

On Tues the 24th March the senior Puuhoro group joined central and south Auckland schools to experience the senior Waananga day.

Here the groups participated in STEMM engagement activities (code breaking and biological studies). **They worked with other schools' senior Maaori students to demonstrate their skills and to build interest and knowledge for further STEMM studies.**



Sports Update

Athletics Auckland Champs Results:

1st Place – El-Mikhe Joubert	200m Hurdles Junior Girls	0:29.11 (NR)
2nd Place - El-Mikhe Joubert	300m Junior Girls	0:42.83
2nd Place - El-Mikhe Joubert	80m Hurdles Junior Girls	0:12.83
4th Place – El-Mikhe Joubert	200m Junior Girls	0:26.98
1st Place – Emkhe Joubert	400m Intermediate Girls	0:56.77 (NR)
1st Place – Emkhe Joubert	200m Intermediate Girls	0:24.99
1st Place – Emkhe Joubert	300m Hurdles Intermediate Girls	0:44.07 (NR)
2nd Place – Emkhe Joubert	80m Intermediate Girls	0:11.99
5th Place – Nofo Isileli-Fo’ou	Intermediate Shotput	10.07m
3rd Place – Kyra Drake	Senior Girls Long Jump	4.60m

Congratulations Emkhe Joubert!

For being selected by Athletics New Zealand to compete at the 2026 Oceania Athletics Championships in Darwin, Australia from 18-23 May 2026. This is an incredible achievement and a testament to Emkhe’s hard work and dedication. We are incredibly proud to see her represent on the international stage.



PHS Swimming Sports:

Int Girls Backstroke 50m ** NR - Meeka Mills 32.60 (2026)
Int Girls Freestyle 50m ** NR - Catherine Tegmann 28.44 (2026)
Int Boys Backstroke 50m ** NR Jing yang Chua - 27.90 (2026)
Int Boys Freestyle 50m ** NR Jing yang Chua - 25.81 (2026)
Snr Girls Freestyle 50m **NR Talia Chaney - 28.18 (2026)



Congratulations Tasmyn Clunie

On 20-22nd March, Tasmyn represented Pukekohe Swimming Club at the New Zealand Division 2 Swimming Championships in Dunedin.

- 7th 50m free 16 year old girls
- 6th 50m fly 16 year old girls
- 2nd in 4x100m IM relay
- 8th in 4x50m free relay
- 5th 4x50m IM relay

Summer tournament

Pukekohe High School enjoyed a highly successful Summer Tournament Week across multiple sports. The Boys 1st XI Cricket team competed strongly at the Northern Districts Top 8 Regional Cup, with standout batting performances and several debutants gaining valuable experience, reflecting the depth and future promise of the squad.

The Equestrian team achieved an outstanding result at the Pegasus Cup, finishing 6th out of 52 teams at a highly competitive event. All four riders delivered impressive individual placings, showcasing skill, dedication, and teamwork, supported by excellent management.

Boys’ and Girls’ 3x3 Basketball teams also had an excellent tournament at Bruce Pulman, displaying strong performances, sportsmanship, and team spirit. All teams placed well in competitive draws, supported by coaches, managers, sponsors, and families. Overall, the week highlighted commitment, camaraderie, and exciting momentum across PHS sport.

The Pukekohe High School Rowing team competed at the 2026 Maadi Regatta at Lake Ruataniwha during summer tournament week. We had 12 students who proudly represented our school and had a stellar week with some stand out performance:

- Boys u17 single sculls – B Final 8th Place. Vaughn Cameron
- Girls u16 Coxed Quad Sculls – D Final 1st Place. Tiffany Robinson, Mele-Ofa Isileli-Fo’ou, Zara Cameron, Naomi Lukic + Owain Brett-Chinnery

Congratulations to all who competed and a huge thank you to Ashleigh Klatt, Anton Schutte and John Cameron who coached the team throughout the season. A special thanks to all Pukekohe High Staff and Whaanau who helped managed during the regatta and Mercer Rowing club for their support.

Our Waka Ama crew competed in Rotorua Waka Ama Nationals. A huge mihi to Whaea Tash for her leadership. Congratulations to our J19 crew that came 9th overall.



Haapori | Community Highlights

Polyfest

Pukekohe High School's participation in the world's biggest Polynesian Secondary Schools festival was a vibrant showcase of our diverse cultural tapestry. On the Diversity Stage, our Cook Islands, Indian, and Filipino groups delivered captivating performances. This afternoon Nga Urite Kohekohe will **represent our school with pride and passion on the Māori Stage** at 3pm. These events would not have been possible without the dedicated support of our teachers and parents, who tirelessly guided and mentored the students. Special recognition is due to the exceptional student leaders who spearheaded each group, demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment. Their collective efforts resulted in performances that were not only of an extremely high standard but also filled our school and community with immense pride.



Grab your tickets now to our School Production

PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

JOSEPH

AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
LYRICS BY TIM RICE

Performances
Thursday 7 May, 7.30pm
Friday 8 May, 7.30pm
Saturday 9 May, 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Ticket Information
Students: \$15
Adults: \$20
Seniors: \$15

HARRINGTON THEATRE
2 HARRINGTON AVE, PUKEKOHE

BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT TRYBOOKING

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BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CHERRY THEATRES ON BEHALF OF THE MUSIC LICENSING GROUP LIMITED

<https://www.trybooking.com/nz/BCSI>

Meet our Teachers | Samantha Hansen

I have been privileged to work at Pukekohe High School since 2019. Having completed part of my teacher training here, I was fortunate to gain a full-time position as a science teacher. I have been the Head of Biology for the past 3.5 years and have enjoyed seeing the subject grow and the amazing group of staff we have in the science department. I have especially enjoyed our students getting amazing field trip opportunities, collecting real-world scientific data, and getting more hands on with practicals and dissections. Every year I am so inspired by the curiosity and desire to learn that our students show. This year I am excited to get to know more students and support them to success in my role as Kaihaapai Tumuaki (Assistant Principal).



Primary school – Mellon’s Bay Primary School

Favourite food – my Mum’s chicken stew.

Favourite subject – Biology, of course!

Fun fact – I am passionate about nature photography and even make my own calendar every year.

Meet our Amokura | Caleb Quinlan

Kia ora, my name is Caleb Quinlan, and I’m incredibly grateful to be your Amokura Akoranga (Head of Learning) for 2026.

Primary School – Pokeno School

Favourite Food – Chicken Filo Parcels

Favourite Subject – Scholarship English and Agricultural Science

Fun Fact - I play guitar in my spare time



Leos Update

Pukekohe High Leos are back with a busy month of service and smiles

March was full of action for our senior Leos. At Warbirds on Parade at Ardmore Airport, they helped park thousands of cars, building confidence and traffic management skills. This was followed by their first multiday project of the year at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, where they worked with The Beautification Trust during Eye on Nature Day, guiding visiting primary schools and helping tamariki connect with and care for the natural world.

The month wrapped up with a wonderful weekend of service, assisting with parking at the Puni Multicultural Festival, enjoying vibrant cultural performances, and finishing strong at the Tuakau Kindergarten Duck Race, where the Leos pitched in with everything from BBQs and raffles to games, bouncy castles, and river safety. A truly quacking good effort in support of the community!



Acts of Kindness

Canned Food Drive

During the end of Term 1, our Te Mahuuri class (12WNS) took part in a canned food drive as a way to give back to the community. The Salvation Army work with the community on Tobin Street to provide support like food parcels, budgeting advice, counselling, and help for people facing financial or personal difficulties. They also run a Family Store (Op Shop) and community programmes using donations to support locals in need. Our donation means a lot to their charity and the wider community. During the week Tonya, Saaniya, Briar, Phoebe, Josh, Anahera, Sinfonia and Aysha played a part in speaking to the school, spreading awareness about the cause as well as going around during Te Maahuri to collect any donations. Thanks to everyone's donation we raised around 250 cans with all the proceeds going to the Salvation Army.



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 to discuss options here or alternatively to look at the [sponsorship packages available](#) and to make contact with the school.

PUNCHBOWL

A huge thank you to Punch Bowl who generously donated 5 sports first kits to the Pukekohe high School sports teams. This goes a long way in ensure our students Health and Safety needs are met at our sports events.



Driving in style

Our deepest thanks go out to Ebbett Pukekohe, who have kindly sponsored a new 10-seater van for our school.

This van offers our students more opportunities to engage and connect with events in the community.



Positions Available

To apply, please send through your CV and cover letter to jobs@pukekohehigh.school.nz



WANTED
Soft Materials
Food Technology Assistant

Pukekohe High School is seeking a hands-on, organised, and enthusiastic food technology assistant to join our busy department, 20 hours per week.

Responsibilities include:

- Weekly food orders – order & pick up.
- Day to day running of 3 kitchens: laundry, liquids & pantry stock.
- Computer knowledge: emails, data entry & purchasing.
- Assist teachers when required.

All applicants must either be a NZ citizen or have a visa which entitles the applicant to work and live in NZ.
Successful applicant will be police vetted.



SCHOOL CLEANER POSITION

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.

Homestays Wanted

Pukekohe High School is currently seeking caring and supportive families to host international students.

Hosting is a wonderful opportunity to share your home and everyday Kiwi life with a young person from overseas while helping them feel safe, welcomed, and part of our school community.

Full support is provided by the International Department, and weekly remuneration is paid. If you have a spare room and would enjoy welcoming a student into your home, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Lydia Firmin (International Student Coordinator) at FCL@pukekohehigh.school.nz for more information."

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

Term 2

Week 1

- Monday 20 April | First day of term two 9.00am start
- Tuesday 21 April | Mt Roskill Sports Exchange

Week 2

- Monday 27 April | ANZAC Day Observed – School CLOSED
- Thursday 30 April | Franklin Careers Expo – 5.30pm – 7.30pm Pukekohe Indian Hall
- Friday 1 May / Senior reports issued

Week 3

- Thursday 7 May – Saturday 9 May | School Production

Week 4

- Tuesday 12 May | Parent teacher subject interviews (Year 11-13) 2.30pm - 6.45pm, School finishes at the end of period 4 (1.55pm)
- Thursday 14 May | | Parent teacher subject interviews (Year 11-13) 2.30pm - 6.45pm, School finishes at the end of period 4 (1.55pm)
- Friday 15 May | Year 12 Ryda Day

Week 5

- Monday 18 – Friday 22 May
 - CAA Exams
 - Junior Smart Assessment (Literacy & Numeracy)

Week 6

- Monday 25 – Friday 29 May | CAA Exams continues

