



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WEEK 9 | TERM 1 | 2026





Principal's message

Tēnā koutou katoa,

As we conclude our first term for 2026 it gives me great pleasure to share with you some of the successes across the term.

We have welcomed more than 350 new students to our school, settling them into their classes and starting their learning journey.

We've concluded the summer sports season and are busy preparing for the winter season. We've enjoyed our first whānau/parent hui and numerous trips out to support learning.

After 7 weeks of intense practice, we enjoyed celebrating our many cultures on the ASB Polyfest stages with huge successes. We've had students beat the challenge of escape rooms and excel on the volleyball court at the National Championships. Late nights showcasing our music talents as well as receiving our NCEA certificate endorsements for our 2025 successes.

House competitions galore for students to enjoy, and deans to boast about! and a fabulous International Day to finish off the term's fun.

At the same time as all this, we have had staff work tirelessly to help students achieve and to progress faster than they thought they could. Staff have given up so much of their time to provide students with opportunities outside of the classroom.

We have also had the support of you too - parents and whānau who have ensured their children turn up every day and on time. You ensure they arrive prepared for learning; with all the correct gear they need to succeed.

And they do. Students are gaining credits already and regular attendance is up considerably compared to this time last year. And it's this improvement in attendance that will bring success for your children. Students can't learn if they are not in class. If they are, we know success will come so thank you for your support in getting your children to school every day.

So, as we conclude term 1, I wish you all a happy Easter break and look forward to doing it all again next term.

Ngā mihi nui,

Barry Williams - Tumuaiki/Acting Principal



ATTENDANCE

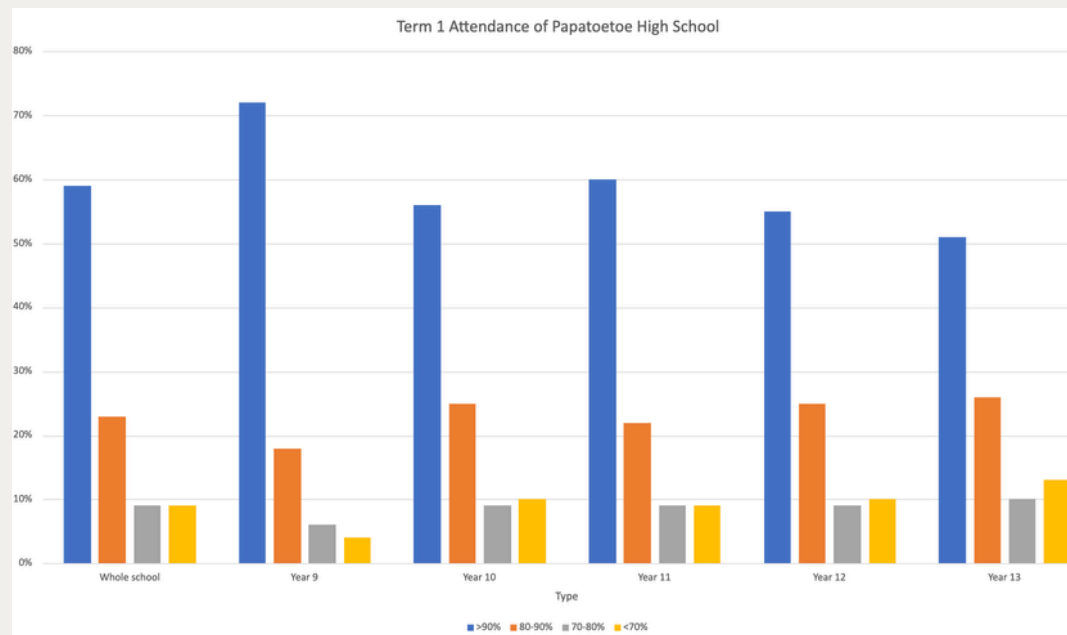
This term, we launched a new weekly attendance letter that outlines your child's class attendance and their year-to-date attendance rate. The report also includes convenient links to the parent/student portal and our staff directory. If you have any questions, please email your student's form teacher directly.

In terms of school-wide attendance for term 1, our year 9 students are the top performers, showing the highest engagement with 72% attending regularly and only 4% identified as chronically absent. Well done to all our Year 9s!

Unfortunately, there is a noticeable downward trend in attendance as students move into higher year levels. Year 13 students currently have the lowest regular attendance (51%) and the highest chronic absence rate (13%). We ask that you please encourage your senior students to attend regularly; our target is for students to be absent for no more than five days per term.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Have a safe and happy holiday!



attendance@papatoetoe-high.school.nz



[Report an absence](#)



09 278 4086
and select option 1

WHAKATŌNGIA TE KĀKANO

WHIWHINGA TOHU MĀTAURANGA

Kia ora Whanau and welcome to our first newsletter for 2026. Term One has been a whirlwind of new initiatives we have been trying to get off the ground. There are exciting new things coming in Term 2 as a result of this.

Our first Whanau Hui was a success with a great turn out from Whanau. We welcomed back Chas and Corey from Tutaru to Korero with whanau, around engaging our Tamariki in school. From that Hui we have started a Whanau committee led by Moana, a parent representative. If you are interested in being a part of this please reach out to Matua Waru or Whaea Cobbald. There will be a Hui every term so please keep an eye on your emails and our social media pages for updates on this.

Our Term 2 Hui will be on Wednesday 13th May in the school staffroom, from 5.30-6.30pm

We are temporarily farewelling Whaea Lauren as she heads off on Maternity Leave. We wish her all the best on her new journey and look forward to her return next year. Matua Strickland will be the new Rautoetoe teacher during this time



Tēnā koe, a Caleb Strickland.

Nau mai, haere mai ki te whānau o
Rautoetoe.

He mea nui koe ki a mātou, ā, e koa ana
mātou ki tō taenga mai ki tō tātou whānau.

Greetings, Caleb Strickland.

Welcome to the Rautoetoe family.

You are important to us, and we are happy
that you have joined our family.



Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini" -
My strength is not as an individual, but as a collective.



WHAKATŌNGIA TE KĀKANO

ARTHUR CASSIDY MANUKURA TANE 2026



Tena Koutou Katoa, Ko wai au?

Ko Arthur Toku Ingoa

Ko Ngā Puhi te Iwi

Ko Mangaia te Hapu

My names Arthur And I'm your Manukura Tane for 2026!

I whakapapa Back to Kaikohe and Rarotonga among other places, but I'm here to introduce myself to you and make sure all of you know who this pretty face belongs to because you'll be seeing it a lot this year.

Nazrana and I are planning to do a lot of things this year, We have already been working with a lot of staff and Whanau to elevate the emphasis on tikanga Māori in our Kura.

This term we've been building up our Kapa Haka ropu, planning with Staff and Whanau for implementing Poutama Reo next term! And so much more in store especially in term 2.

My goal for this year is to build and implement new ideas and to leave a lasting impact on our Kura and the people that are a part of it.

No Reira, Ngā Mihi i te whanau and Hei Kona Ra!

NAZRANA KAIRAU-HASAN MANUKURA WAHINE 2026



Nazrana Anahera Kairau-Hasan Manukura 2025

Tenei te mihi e te whanau, serving as Papatoetoe High School's Manukura has so far been an amazing experience for me, and I feel really honored to have been given the position. As the Manukura, I am learning how crucial it is to be resilient and to lead honorably alongside other student leaders. Through my work, I am able to learn so much and even show maturity in situations I wouldn't know how to face before. Being the Manukura is honestly changing my perspective in many aspects, as well as strengthening my ties to my culture more importantly. I genuinely hope that anyone assuming my role would enjoy it as much as I do. I am immensely grateful for all the chances, connections, and knowledge I am gaining while serving as the Manukura. Ngā mihi maioha!

Careers

During Term 1, several Year 13 students took part in a range of valuable career and tertiary pathway experiences.

9 Year 13 students attended the Waipapa Ōhanga Rau Programme at the University of Auckland, which supports rangatahi in transitioning to tertiary study.



6 Year 13 Pasifika students interested in Business visited PwC to explore career opportunities. They enjoyed activities, guest speakers, and celebrated Vincent Mulipola winning an iPad.

50 Year 13 students attended the Careers Expo at Te Puke o Tara Community Centre, where they spoke with tertiary providers and employers to support their future pathway decisions.



We hosted a police presentation where students learned about the requirements for joining the Police and gained valuable insights into the career.



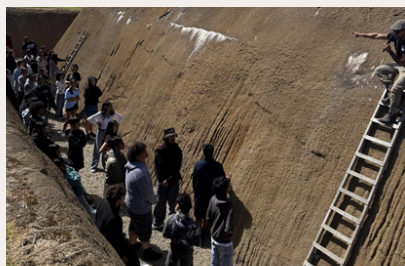
Upcoming trips and presentations in Term 2

- University of Waikato Open Day – Year 13
- NZMA Open Day – Year 13
- Girls in Infrastructure – Year 12 and 13
- South Auckland Careers Expo – Year 13
- Defence Presentation – All Students
- Waipapa Oranga Rau program at University of Auckland – Year 12 Pasifika students
- Year 11 Va'a programme – University of Auckland – Year 11 Pasifika students interested in studying Health Science

Students are encouraged to visit papatoetohigh.careerwise.school for the latest careers updates and scholarship information. Applications for university, trades, and other tertiary courses begin in term 2. All year 13 students should meet with Mrs Parshotam for guidance.

For any questions about your child's pathway, please contact Mrs Parshotam, Pathways and Transition Advisor.

LEVEL 1 HISTORY TRIP



On Tuesday 3 March, both level 1 history classes (46 students) visited Rangiriri Pā in the Waikato. Rangiriri Pā was the site of one of the most significant battles of the Waikato Wars in the 1860s, where British troops invaded Māori land.

They explored battle sites, learned first-hand stories, saw weapons like muskets, and took part in a trench warfare activity using pool noodles. The trip deepened their understanding of 19th-century New Zealand, complementing their Term 1 study of the Invasion of Parihaka and preparing them for assessments.

ROBOTICS AND PROGRAMMING

Shine in Coding Competition

All level 1 programming students recently took part in the Python.Comp Beginners Competition, an international online programming challenge organised by Grok Learning. The competition was held over five weeks and attracted students from around the world, mainly Australia and New Zealand.



The Robotics Club and Codecraft AI Club

The Robotics Club and Codecraft AI Club start meeting from 21 April, every Tuesday at lunchtime in F Block. If you have already signed up or are keen to join, please come along to the meeting. Members work on robotics with an external provider, solve problems using Python, and explore AI model development.

We are proud to recognise the following students who achieved a Perfect Score:

Mishika Mehta, Mohammed Airah, Raja Adwaidh, Shanaya Chand, Freddie Moore, Gurfateh Singh, Gurjashan Dhah, Priyal Kumar, Saanvi Singh, Leon Tran and Nicholas Wilder.

Congratulations also to our High Distinction achievers:

Izum Ahmed, Gurkirat Brar, Karanveer Sandhu, Rammy Sandhu, and Varinderveer Singh.

PHS SUMMER SPORTS

Term 1 has been a busy term for the sports department with students representing the school in Archery, Athletics, Bowls, Futsal, Kilikiti, Orienteering, TAG, Touch Rugby, Volleyball and Waka Ama.

ORIENTEERING

A fantastic effort from our students in this term's Orienteering Sprint Series! Over six weeks, many students enthusiastically competed across six schools, building navigation skills, fitness, and quick decision-making in a fun, competitive environment.



FUTSAL

Our senior boys and girls futsal teams had a fantastic season, with both teams taking out their respective competitions in the College Sport Auckland Southern Zone. Even more impressively, each team remained unbeaten throughout the entire season - a reflection of their skill, teamwork, and determination.

ATHLETICS

Seven students represented the school at the Counties Manukau Athletics Zone. Congratulations to the following students on their outstanding achievements:
Nala Tau - 1st place, Senior Girls 1500m
Lissy Bulivou - 1st place, Intermediate Girls Javelin
Azalea Delailomaloma - 2nd place, Intermediate Girls 100m



VOLLEYBALL

During Summer Tournament Week, our premier boys volleyball team competed in Palmerston North at the New Zealand Secondary School Championships. Entering as Auckland's third-ranked school, they faced top teams, including 2025 champions Tauranga Boys' College. The team finished 6th in Division 2 and 22nd overall out of 97 teams—an impressive achievement reflecting their hard work, training, and dedication throughout the term.



We are excited for what's ahead with our winter teams getting their competitions underway in early term 2. It's always a busy and rewarding season, and we look forward to seeing our students out representing the school with pride.

We are also always on the lookout for enthusiastic individuals to support our programmes by coaching and/or managing our various sports teams. If you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch with the Sports Department at sport@papatoetoehigh.school.nz.

SHEILAH WINN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

On Sunday 29 March, eleven talented students took to the stage at the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival, hosted at Macleans College. They presented two vibrant performances that showcased both their creativity and their commitment to the craft.

The first piece, directed by Brent Jalasco, was drawn from *The Taming of the Shrew*, capturing the chaotic day before Katherine and Petruchio's wedding. The cast brought sharp energy and wit to the scene, leaning into the humour and tension that make the play so memorable.

The second performance, directed by Mrs. Strevens, featured a lively group of Year 10 and 11 students in an excerpt from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Their portrayal of the mechanicals' famously dreadful play was packed with charm, physical comedy, and wonderfully exaggerated theatrics.

Both groups delivered strong comedic timing and confident stage presence, and their efforts were recognised with two well-deserved awards:

- Ary-Elle Talitiga, honoured for her bold and imaginative use of costume
- Aleyna Ulufale, celebrated for her hilarious portrayal of Moonshine and her expressive physical comedy

Every student involved gave a stunning performance and should feel incredibly proud of what they achieved. Their success this year sets a brilliant foundation for even greater things to come.



SOCIAL SCIENCE FIELD TRIP

The students of SST Level 2, visited NFACT (New Settlers Family and Community Trust) on 5th and 6th of March in regard to their internal assessment based on "Personal involvement in a social action". The students got an insight into the plight of the refugees who come to New Zealand and their struggle to find a foot in the community. They further gave AI training to refugee women mainly from Afghanistan. They assisted the ladies in setting up their Gmail accounts and latest AI based websites.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S HILLARY AWARD



We are pleased to announce that two of our past students have been awarded their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award recently.

In a ceremony at King's College on 28 March, Zahraa Munam and Jenny Vu were presented with their Gold Awards by Sarah Hillary, Anne Lofts and Ken Hames.

The name of the award in New Zealand is the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award, so it was wonderful to have Sir Edmund Hillary's daughter Sarah Hillary to present the awards. We extend our huge congratulations to Zahraa and Jenny and wish them well for the future.



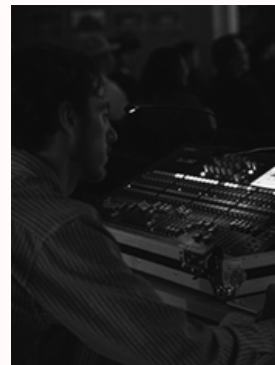
MUSIC

MUSIC EVENING

On Wednesday 25 March, our year 12 and 13 music students completed their first performance assessments for the year. We are incredibly proud of the effort, resilience, and commitment shown by our Music cohort, particularly alongside the demands of a busy term and Polyfest.

Our year 12 students presented their group compositions and performances, while year 13 students completed the first component of their solo portfolios. With such a high number of performers, the music evening was, for the first time, delivered across two programmes - highlighting the continued growth and enthusiasm within our music classes.

We extend our sincere thanks to the families and friends who attended to support our students. Your encouragement plays an important role in their success, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth and achievements throughout the year.



PLAY IT STRANGE

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Play It Strange for providing our students with the opportunity to learn from local artists Sam V and Paige. Their insights into songwriting and pathways into the music industry were highly valuable, and our students greatly appreciated the knowledge and experiences shared. A special highlight was the performance exchange between our student X-Saviour and Sam V.

We value our ongoing relationship with the Play It Strange Songwriting Foundation and are excited to see the original works our students will create and submit for upcoming competitions in the months ahead.

For more updates on our music department, please follow our Facebook @papatoetomusic and IG @paphigh_music

A MEMORABLE KIWI EXPERIENCE: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS VISIT PAPATOETOE HIGH SCHOOL

Our international department was delighted to host six students from Japan during term 1, creating a memorable cultural exchange for everyone involved.



During their stay, the students fully embraced the Kiwi experience. A highlight of their visit was an exciting day out at Rainbow's End, where they enjoyed rides and laughter alongside their student buddies. They also soaked up the natural beauty of New Zealand with a relaxing beach picnic of fish and chips at Maraetai, taking in the stunning coastal views...at least until they got caught in the rain!

Beyond these outings, the students formed meaningful friendships and immersed themselves in school life.

From classroom interactions to shared experiences, their time at Papatoetoe High School was filled with connection, learning, and fun.

The visit was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity and create lasting memories, leaving both the visiting students and their Kiwi hosts with friendships that will be treasured for years to come.

Sayonara Saki, Sae, Yukiho, Keishiro,
Nanami and Karen!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR NURSES

SECRETS ABOUT WATER

Our body is about 50–80% water, depending on your age and body weight.

If your body's getting low on water, it has a clever way of telling you. You feel thirsty!

Adults should aim for 6–8 cups of fluid each day and children 4–6 cups

Water is the best fluid to drink. Other low or no-sugar options include milk, tea or coffee. Sports drinks, fruit juices and fizzy drinks that contain lots of sugar are best avoided.

If you exercise vigorously, you should drink a glass of water before starting and then have half a glass every 15 minutes.

When you don't have enough fluid, you get dehydrated. Symptoms include dizziness and headache, difficulty breathing and problems swallowing.

Most young people don't drink enough and then get headaches.

So:

- Drink a large glass of water or diluted fruit juice before school
- Bring a full water bottle every day. Put it in the fridge overnight
- Refill at water taps around school
- Plenty water=no headache, happy body

