



# PRINCIPALS ADDRESS

WEEK 2 | TERM 1 | 2026

*Whakatononga te kahano*



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PAPATOETOE HIGH SCHOOL



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Tēnā koutou katoa,

Ko Yr Wyddfa tōku maunga  
Ko Llyn Ogwen tōku awa  
Nō Cymru ahau  
Ko Barry Williams tōku ingoa  
Ko au te Tumuaki Tuarua o Papatoetoe High School

It is both a privilege and a pleasure to be serving as acting principal of Papatoetoe High School this year. As I enter my 18th year at our kura, I do so with a deep sense of pride, purpose, and confidence in our people and our community. I feel well prepared to lead our staff, students, and whānau through what promises to be an exciting and rewarding year ahead.

I would like to sincerely thank Mr Couillault and the Board for their vote of confidence. Please be assured that I will give this role my full commitment and energy. To Mr Couillault, I wish you every success in your new role at the Ministry of Education. Our sector is fortunate to have someone of your experience and integrity helping guide the education community through the implementation of the new curriculum and qualification.

A warm welcome to our new staff members this year: Manh Vu (ESOL), Jessica Rouse (ESO teacher aide), Jemma Matthewson (PEH), Mansimran Kaur (PEH), Simon Dennen (english), Moravia Tuumatavai (english), Sandhya Naicker (english), Rani Triveni (science), Samethra Pillay (social sciences), Madhu Nath (commerce), Tanvir Kaur (Richards Centre teacher aide), Stephanie Trowill (sports coordinator), Veronica Toetoe (engagement worker/attendance officer), Begard Zaman (TWM teacher aide), Nia Tongaonevai (LTR). We also have graduate student teachers: Reuben Wairau (PEH, TESP, AUT), Carol Xie (Digital, TESP, AUT), Marcel Derkum (Maths, TESP, UoA). It is always encouraging to see experienced, high-quality educators choosing to work at Papatoetoe High School and contributing to our strong professional culture and community.

To our new students joining our kura in 2026 – welcome. Your challenge is to make the absolute most of your time here. As I shared in our assemblies, you will get out of your time at Papatoetoe High School what you put into it. Get involved, try new things, build positive relationships, and remember – these years will pass very quickly.

Finally, to our parents and caregivers, never underestimate the impact you can have on your child's success. Your involvement matters. Rather than asking "How was school today?" - to which the answer is often "good" - ask instead, "What did you learn today?" Encourage your child to talk about their learning and experiences. These conversations help reinforce learning and show your child that their education is valued.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school. I look forward to working alongside you all this year.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Barry Williams  
Acting Principal