



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WEEK 5 | TERM 3 | 2025



WWW.PAPATOETOEHIGH.SCHOOL.NZ



PAPATOETOE HIGH SCHOOL



@PAPHIGH.OFFICIAL



Vaughan Couillault
Principal
MEdLM, PGDipSM, BCom, DipTchg

Principal's message

Tēnā koutou katoa,

As we move through the term, I want to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the vibrant life of our school community.

Firstly, heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved in our recent school production. Whether you were on stage, behind the scenes, directing, or supporting with hair and makeup, your dedication and creativity brought our school to life in the most inspiring way. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we are incredibly proud of what you've achieved.

Last week, we also celebrated Cook Islands Language Week, a valuable opportunity for us all to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Pacific cultures. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make it a meaningful learning experience.

A special thank you to the students who took part in the PISA testing. Your involvement plays a vital role in shaping educational insights for our country, and we are grateful for your contribution.

Our recent art exhibition was a beautiful showcase of student talent and imagination. The creativity on display was truly impressive and deserves to be celebrated. A special thank you to the Art Department for curating such a stunning and thoughtful exhibition. Your guidance and support helped our students shine, and the results were nothing short of exceptional.

I'd also like to acknowledge the ongoing support from our community in adhering to parking guidelines. Your cooperation helps keep our streets safe for everyone. Please know that staff will continue to monitor the area daily to ensure this continues.

Looking ahead, please take note of the upcoming strike dates and preparations for Tournament Week. These are important events in our calendar, and we appreciate your attention to the details provided.

Voting information has been sent out, if you haven't received your papers, please check your junk mail or contact the school office for assistance.

Finally, don't forget to check the key dates section for upcoming events, including Tongan Language Week and other important happenings.

As we move into the second half of the term, let's continue building on the momentum, creativity, and commitment that have made this term so special. I look forward to finishing the term on a high note, with pride in all that we accomplish together.

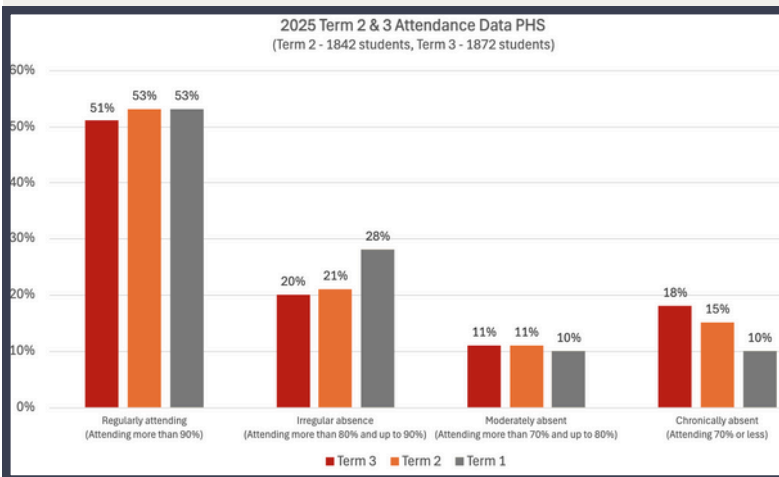
Ngā mihi nui,
Vaughan Couillault
Tumuaki/Principal



REMINDERS

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance data shows that just over half of our students have been regularly attending school each term, with 53% in Terms 1 and 2, and 51% in Term 3. While regular attendance has stayed steady, there has been a slight increase in chronic absence in Term 3 (18% compared to 15% in Term 2 and 10% in Term 1).



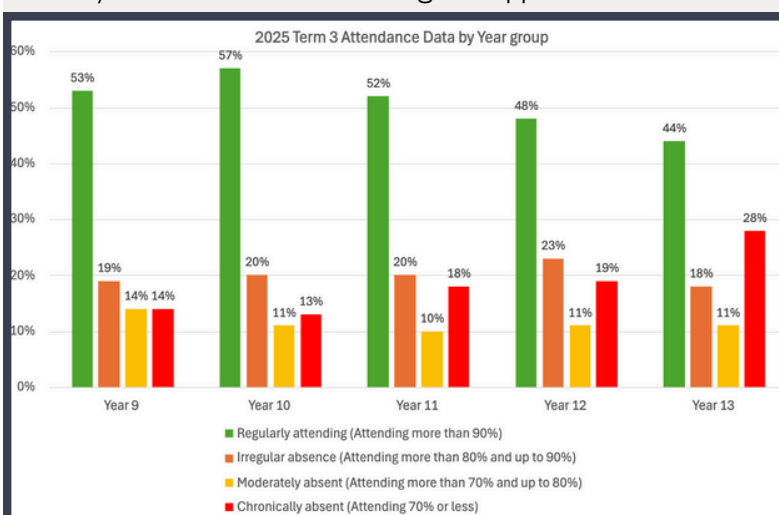
It's great to see that over half of our students are maintaining strong attendance—let's keep building on this momentum and work together to help more students reach that 90%+ target. We are more than half way through Term 3 and every day at school counts!

Let's look closely at our five year groups:

Over half of our Year 9, 10, and 11 students are regularly attending school (above 90% attendance), with Year 10 leading at 57%. While senior attendance is slightly lower, with 48% of Year 12s and 44% of Year 13s attending regularly, please encourage your senior students to attend school as we also have the preliminary exams taking place Week 8 - 9 this term.

Please check your email inbox for our mid term attendance letter. We encourage all parents and caregivers to also check the Parent Portal once or twice a week to keep track of their child's attendance. Please contact your child's form teacher if you notice any unexplained absences, and remember that all absences must be reported to the school.

Thank you whānau for continuing to support our students



TERM 3 KEY DATES

- Aug 18: School CLOSED for instruction
- Aug 20: School CLOSED due to PPTA strike
- Aug 18 - 23: Tongan language week
- Aug 25 - 29: Tournament week
- September 1-12: LIT/NUM assessments
- September 10: Election day for the board
- September 14 - 20: Te wiki o Te Reo

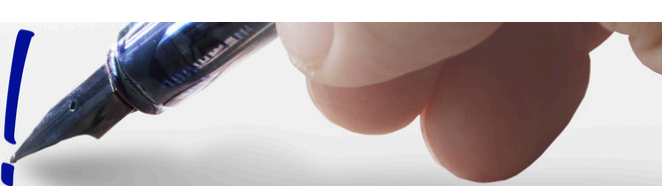


KEEP IT CLEAR, KEEP IT SAFE!

Over the past week, you will have noticed reminders about no-parking zones and the importance of not stopping on yellow lines. Any vehicles found breaching these rules will be reported directly to Auckland Transport (AT). These measures are in place to protect the safety of our staff, students, and the wider community, your cooperation makes a real difference.



Thank you!



I would like to take this opportunity to thank both NZMA and Apollo Projects for their continued support of our students. NZMA support our students by providing grants to be used to purchase music instruments, art supplies and much more from the arts fields. Apollo Projects do the same but for students who wish to pursue their passion for sports by providing grants to students to purchase sports gear. If you would like to know more about these opportunities see Miss Ralphs for information about the arts grants and the sports co-ordinators for the sports grants.

Mr Barry Williams



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Woolworths Hunters Plaza and Woolworths Manukau for their generous sponsorship of our boys' 1st XI and girls' teams for this year's winter tournament week. Your financial support means our students can focus on training and competition without the added worry of fundraising, and ensures they have the resources they need to represent Papatoetoe High School with pride.

Thank you for investing in our students' success on and off the field—we truly appreciate your commitment to youth sport in our community



We would like to express our sincere gratitude to New Horizon Community Trust for their generous sponsorship, which has enabled the purchase of additional laptops and Chromebooks for our school which will arrive in the next few weeks.

This support has will make a significant difference across multiple classrooms, and allow more students to access digital tools that enhance their learning experiences.

Ngā mihi nui, New Horizon Community Trust



SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

We extend our warmest thanks to Trillian Trust for their generosity in supporting our school's sports programme. Their sponsorship has provided additional sports gear, building on what we already have and ensuring even more of our students are equipped to participate with pride.

This support strengthens our teams, and helps create more opportunities for our rangatahi to thrive through sport.

Ngā mihi nui, Trillian Trust

PRODUCTION

Update

Over four nights and one matinee, our students brought Romeo and Juliet to the stage with heart, humour, and real talent. From the first rehearsal to the final bow, the energy and commitment from everyone involved was incredible.

A huge thank you to Lizzy Strevens, our brilliant drama teacher, for leading this production with passion, vision, and endless patience. We're incredibly lucky to have someone who brings out the best in our students and creates space for them to shine.

Not everyone in the cast takes drama – some just wanted to give it a go, and they shone. If you've ever thought about being part of a production, on or off stage, we'd love to see you in the next one.

Along the way a lot of new friendships were made and strong bonds formed. One of the highlights was seeing students in a completely different light, discovering talents and confidence that surprised even them.

Thank you also to all the staff, students, and whānau who supported the show. Whether you were acting, building sets, helping with costumes, hair and make up, backstage or in the audience, you helped create something special.



COOK ISLANDS LANGUAGE WEEK

Week 4, we celebrated 'Epetoma o te reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani under the theme 'Ātūitui'ia au ki te raurau a tōku matakeinanga—honouring the rich offerings of our Cook Islands heritage and the deep connections to our people.



STUDENTS SHINE AT AI HACKATHON!

On August 12 and 13, our team proudly represented PaS at the 2025 AI Hackathon, organised by AI Forum NZ. We were the only high school participants at the event, surrounded by industry professionals and university students with far more experience in artificial intelligence. At first, it was daunting, but with encouragement and support, we found our footing and learned to work shoulder to shoulder with the professionals.

In under 48 hours, our team developed MemoryEcho – a program that uses AI to help people preserve, organise, and revisit memories through rich, intergenerational storytelling. The journey was packed with challenges, last-minute problem-solving, and rapid learning. We were tasked with developing the front end using Vercel.

Our pitch for MemoryEcho struck a chord with the audience, winning the People's Choice Award. More than the award, we came away with new skills, newfound confidence, and the realisation that we can thrive in a professional environment. We are grateful to the Digital Department and Ms Jayawardena for making this unforgettable experience possible and encouraging us to take part. This experience will help us in life beyond school, as having AI skills will be increasingly important in the future. Rahul Seenivasan, Arush Singh, Jaden Hansdak and Rishaan Kumar



ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

As part of their Social Studies assessment this year, our Year 11 SST students planned and carried out a Social Action to address the issue of poverty in New Zealand. They decided to organise a school-wide food donation drive, inviting contributions from both staff and students.

The collected items were donated to the Mangere Budgeting Services Trust for use in their community initiative, the "Tatou" Social Supermarket.

In total, nearly 500 individual canned food items were collected, an outstanding effort! It's inspiring to see our students taking initiative, engaging with local organisations, and making a positive difference in their community.



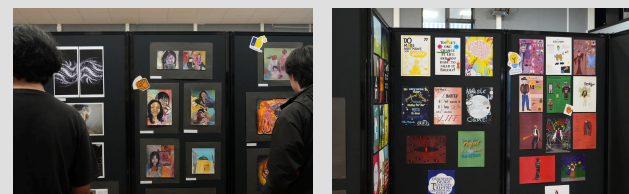
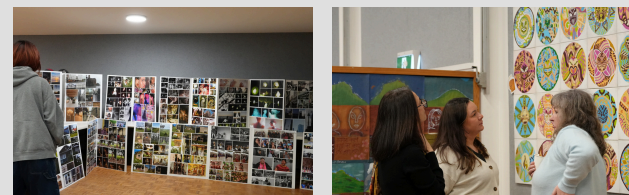
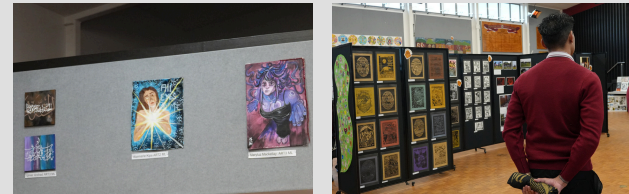
STUDENT ART SHOW

Last week, our school hall transformed into a vibrant gallery space for the annual Student Art Show, showcasing the incredible talent and imagination of our visual arts students. From bold paintings to digital works and mixed media installations, the exhibition reflected the diverse voices and creative energy of our student artists. Each piece told a story—some personal, some political, some playful—and all deeply expressive.

We're proud to acknowledge the following award winners from the show:

- Most Outstanding – Tarani Takai
- Best Painting – Amanda Wei
- Best Photography – Faez Leibrandt
- Best Design – Isaac Huang
- Best Creative Studies – Radhika Prasad
- Best Junior Digital – Chiara Whittam
- Best Junior Art – Tien Nguyen

A highlight of this year's show was the series of workshops with visiting artists - Faamele Etuale (Mangere Arts Center) and photographers - Emily Mafie'o and Raymond Sagapolutele (Taro Patch Gallery), who generously shared their skills, stories, and creative processes with our students. These sessions offered hands-on experiences in everything from painting and crafts to contemporary Pacific photography art. Students were inspired not only by the techniques they learned but by the connections they made with practicing artists from our wider community. The show was open to whānau, staff and students, with many commenting on the professional quality of the work and the thoughtful curation of the space. It was a proud moment for our arts department and a reminder of how powerful creativity can be in building confidence, community and cultural expression. A huge thank you to our visiting artists, the visual arts teaching team, and all the students who contributed work or helped behind the scenes. You made this event a true celebration of art at Papatoetoe High School.



SHEILAH WINN

Earlier in term 2, four of our talented drama students: Ace Rawiri, Tyler, Ari-Elle, and Davhani had the incredible opportunity to perform at the prestigious St James Theatre in Wellington as part of the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Competition National Finals.

Under the direction of Zaynah, the group represented Papatoetoe High School with creativity, confidence, and flair, joining over 50 schools from across Aotearoa in a celebration of Shakespearean performance.

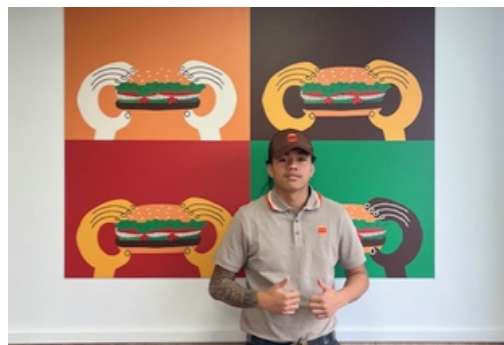
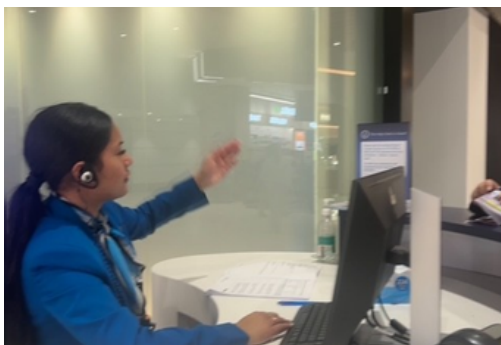
We're proud to share that Ace Rawiri received the Little Moments of Joy Assessor Award—a well-deserved recognition of his expressive and engaging performance. This unforgettable experience was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Papatoetoe Lions Club, NZMA, and Cookie Time. Their contributions helped our students travel to the finals and take part in this national event.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to Lizzy Strevens, our dedicated drama teacher, for guiding and supporting the group throughout their journey, and to Mr Renouf for stepping in at the last minute to accompany the students to Wellington.



GATEWAY & CAREERS

We're thrilled to share that 120 students successfully completed their Gateway placements by the end of July holidays! Even more exciting, a few students secured part-time employment offers as a direct result of their work experience. Students who want to know more about Gateway, please see Mrs. Pahlmann in G5 during interval or lunchtimes.



OPEN DAYS

University of Auckland

Saturday 30 August

AUT

Saturday 30 August

MIT

Friday 12 September

UNITEC

Saturday 6 September

I encourage you to attend open days and check out the faculty you will be studying at. Please register for these event.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES



Monday
1 September 2025

VISIT TO KIWI BANK

Careers took 10 year 11 girls to Kiwi Bank where they were provided with an opportunity to discover the world of tech, spark their curiosity and explore career pathways. This initiative is run through Shadowtech which encourages females in the technology industry.



PHS SPORTS

WINTER SPORT SUMMARY

SPORT	TEAM/CATEGORY	DIVISION/GRADE	RESULT/ STANDING
Badminton	Counties Manukau	C & D grade - Otara	6 teams participating - term 3
Basketball	Open boys A	Senior A	8th place
	Junior boys	Junior A	10th place
Football (boys)	1st XI boys	Senior A	4th place
	Junior boys	Junior	1st place
Football (girls)	1st XI girls	Senior A	Played 10: W7, D1, L2 - 2nd overall
	Junior girls	Junior	Played 10: W3, D2, L5 - 4th overall
Netball	Premier	Premier B	1st place
	Mixed	Mixed A	2nd place
	Senior A	Senior B, section 1	3rd place
	Year 9	Year 9 A	4th place
Rugby (girls)	Girls 10's	Girls 10's-a-side	5th place - 3 wins, 4 losses
Rugby league	1st XIII boys	Senior A, pool A	4th place
Table tennis	A grade	A3	4th place
	B grade	B2	8th place
	C grade	C	6th place

PHS SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



IS YOUR SORE THROAT STREP THROAT?



Strep Throat is caused by the Group A Streptococcus (GAS) bacteria. If left untreated it can lead to rheumatic fever and possibly rheumatic heart disease.

Rheumatic fever rates are most prevalent amongst Māori and Pasifika populations. People aged 3-35 years living in the North Island are most at risk.



Why Does It Matter?

Sometimes the body's immune reaction to fight off the GAS infection can cause an inflammatory response within the body that can cause lasting damage to the heart.

PREVENTION IS THE BEST PROTECTION
(so let us know if you have a sore throat)

Rheumatic Fever Signs & Symptoms

If Strep Throat is left untreated you may develop:

- Sore & swollen or hot joints
- Jerky movements
- Fevers that lasts a few days
- Stomach pains
- Extreme tiredness
- Weight loss
- Unusual looking rashes

Rheumatic Heart Disease

The inflammation caused by rheumatic fever can scar the heart valves. This can cause permanent damage to the heart. This is rheumatic heart disease.

The risk of damage increases more with each presentation of rheumatic fever but can also result from the first episode.

Importantly, rheumatic fever is preventable.

Screening & Treatment is Easy

(Your school nurse will advise you further)

