



TAMATEA HIGH SCHOOL

Ngā Pitopito Kōrero



E tipu e rea, ka tipu koe hei tangata—Growing good people for a changing world
Te Whakaputanga — Hui-tanguru/February 2026

2026

Hui-tanguru/February

Wednesday 25th-Friday 27th
12/13 Physical Education—
Tongariro Crossing

Poutū-te-Rangi/March

Tuesday 3rd
Te Ara Whai Mahi—The
Pathway to Work—career
workshops for Year 12

Wednesday 4th
Waikato University Presentation
at 11.45am

Driving with Ignite Mentors

Thursday 5th
Athletic Sports Day

Friday 6th
International Students' trip to
Mohi Bush

Tuesday 10th
Hui Whāinga—caregiver/
student/teacher meetings for
Year 9 and Rumaki students

Wednesday 11th
Hui Whāinga—caregiver/
student/teacher meetings for all
students

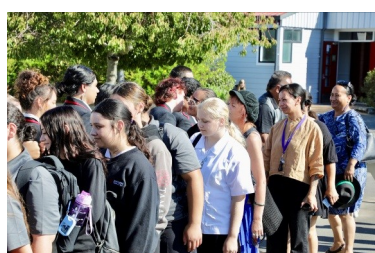
Spark Tank for Young Enterprise
Students

Thursday 12th
School Photo Day

Tuesday 17th
Te Ara Whai Mahi—The
Pathway to Work—career
workshops for Year 12

Wednesday 18th
Driving with Ignite Mentors

At the end of January we welcomed our new students, International students, and teachers with Pōwhiri. It was so cool to see students and their whānau at the school. The students were able to check out their classrooms and meet with their teachers. A great way to kick off the new school year.



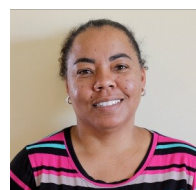
Welcome to our new staff



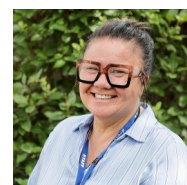
Top: Chris Shawmarsh-Smith — Kai/Food and Nutrition,
l to r, Steve Pickett — Digital, Wilson McCullough — Year 9
Homeroom and Year 10 Maths, Matua Tūkotahi Raki — Music



Leanne Harris—Year 9 Homeroom and Year 10 Maths



Heliziane Ribeiro —
Canteen



Raquel Matiaha —
Attendance Liaison

Ngā whakaaro o te Tumuaki

Kia ora e te whānau



We want to celebrate a fantastic start to the year for attendance. Our first four weeks have shown a real lift across the kura.

We track attendance in four simple categories (based on the percentage of half days your child is at school). Good attendance is over 90%. Worrying is more than 80% and up to 90%. Concerning is more than 70% and up to 80%. Very Concerning is 70% or less. These categories help us notice patterns early and put the right support in place.

This year we set clear term targets based on last year’s results, with a focus on lifting “Good” and reducing “Very Concerning” attendance. Across Term 1, 2025, 34% of students were in Good attendance and 28% were in Very Concerning. Our Term 1, 2026 goal was over 45% for Good and under 20% for Very Concerning. Currently Good is at 59% and Very Concerning at 17%, which means we are currently on track to meeting our goals for Term 1.

We’re proud of our ākonga for showing up, ready to learn, and we thank you, our whānau, for making this possible. Being at school every day supports learning, progress, and wellbeing, and we’re committed to keeping this momentum going all year. In 2025, we made improvements in our NCEA level 1 and 2 results. Part of this improvement is our school’s focus on supporting students to meet the literacy and numeracy requirements as part of NCEA. This focus and support dramatically increased the number of students passing these requirements and in turn NCEA Level 1 and 2.

Below is a snapshot of our NCEA achievement progress from 2024 to 2025. We are proud of the strong lifts, especially at NCEA Level 1 and in Year 11 literacy and numeracy, and we are also pleased to see growth in NCEA Level 2 and University Entrance. These results reflect the commitment and focus of our kaiako, the support and partnership of our whānau, and the perseverance and resilience of our ākonga. We acknowledge everyone who has contributed to this progress and the collective effort behind these gains.

Achievement	2024	2025	Change
NCEA Level 1	34.6%	67.9%	+33.3
Literacy and Numeracy in Year 11	44.8%	75.3%	+30.5
NCEA Level 2	53.2%	63.6%	+10.4
NCEA Level 3	63.8%	52.9%	-10.9
University Entrance	23.4%	31.4%	+8.0

Tamatea High School senior students achieved outstanding success this year, securing more than \$100,000 in external scholarships to support their tertiary study. These awards reflect excellence across academic, cultural, and leadership areas, with scholarships awarded through the University of Auckland, Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Waikato, Massey University, and EIT.

We also want to acknowledge the valuable support of our community partners who have backed our students financially to strengthen their learning journey, including Greenmeadows Rotary, Spirit of Adventure, QuakeCore, and the “Be the Difference” scholarship sponsor, Dr Pip Arnold. Together, these contributions recognise the potential of our Tamatea ākonga and the way our wider whānau and community stand behind them as they step into their futures.

In closing, we want to thank you, our whānau, for your ongoing support and partnership. The progress we are seeing is the result of a shared effort: our ākonga showing resilience and commitment, our staff’s commitment to supporting and encouraging our students to meet their potential, and whānau backing learning at home and helping students be present each day. We are excited that so many of our students are entering 2026 ready to build on the strong platform they created in 2025 to make further academic progress.

Matua Jesse



Art Deco

We acknowledged Art Deco with our Year 13 last Friday. The year 13 students and staff were dressed up in Art Deco finery. Beads, feathers and beautiful hats galore, waistcoats, braces and bow ties were simply spiffing! We shared a fabulous morning tea and then had photographs with 'Emily' the 101 year old car.



Two of our students, who are a part of the Napier Army Cadets, were busy over the weekend lending a hand to support the influx of visitors to the Art Deco celebrations.

Year 12/13 Physical Education

A trip to walk Te Mata Peak as part of training for the Tongariro Crossing trip.



Our students at the opening of Trades Academy @ EIT on Friday. Most of our Year 13 Trades students attend Monday to Thursday, depending on their course. The courses they are attending in 2026 are Building and Construction, Integrated Trades Skills, Animal Care, Automotive, Hospitality, Cookery, Hair and Beauty, Barbering, Electrical, Early Childhood and Sport, Coaching and Exercise.

Year 13—Moteo Marae



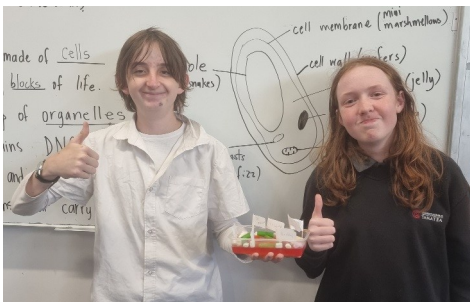
Year 13 students recently spent two days at Moteo Marae where they developed mahi tahi/teamwork through shared responsibilities (kai prep, cleaning) and with group challenges and activities. They supported one another with karakia and waiata. They also prepared dinner for whānau. Working together at the marae strengthened communication, trust, and leadership skills.

A visit like this helps students to understand manaakitanga (hospitality and care for others) and to respect tikanga (customs and protocols). They were able to reflect on their own identity and values. Their experiences at the marae helped to build confidence, cultural awareness, and a deeper sense of belonging.



Year 10 Science

Cell models made with jelly



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