



## Otago College Newsletter

Friday 3 March 2017

### From our Principal

There have been some great trips for our students this week. Our art students have been to look at some of New Zealand's top art work, while our Economics students have been visiting the Tip Top factory which seems to be the perfect school trip in this weather. Trips like these are important as the more students can see and experience real world examples to back up the excellent teaching they get in class, the more successful and stronger our community will be.

Our Polyfest groups are practicing hard and we are all looking forward to seeing their performances in two weeks time. At the same time winter, yes winter sports, are into their training for the upcoming season. Our First XV are playing at Eden Park as a curtain raiser for the Blues next Saturday at 5pm.

Just like we need to practise to be good for Polyfest, Music or Sports we also need to practise our schoolwork- this practise is better known as homework and all students should have work to do after school each day to help them do better in their learning.

Enjoy the weekend.

### Important Dates

Wednesday 8 March	Central Zone Athletics
Tuesday 14 March	Fiafia afternoon from 1.30pm
Friday 17 March	Teacher only day (no students at school)
Thursday 23 March	Academic Mentoring 8am – 7pm (no timetabled classes – see Curriculum and Study News below)
Friday 24 March	Academic Mentoring 8am – 4pm (no timetabled classes – see Curriculum and Study News below)

### Our Commitments

On Thursday we celebrated the first of our Recognitions' Assemblies. Teachers 'recognise' students who are engaged, respectful and supportive in their learning through a points system. Two students from each House received their certificates at assembly: Grace Ah Chong G2, Sione Mahe G4, Rulon Brown

H2, Anna-Li Tanuvasa Chou H1, Shahilta Shah M10, Abhishek Dutt M10 and Fahdil Ali S3. The next Recognitions' Assembly will take place in June.

## Attendance Matters

Regular attendance means attending school at least ninety percent of the time.

Like other top schools we expect all our students to be at school on time each day. Students who are late three times in a week will be given a detention.

Students should be at school by 8:30am and it is their responsibility to be seated in the correct places for assembly. Your support in making sure your child is at school on time is appreciated.

If your child is going to be late or absent please phone the office 9634000 or alternatively 0800 4 OTAHUHU to leave a message on the absence voice mail before 8:00 a.m. You can also email [attendance@otahuhucollege.school.nz](mailto:attendance@otahuhucollege.school.nz)

## Curriculum and Study News

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March, the school will be closed for instruction so you can come in to school and talk with your child and their whanau teacher for approximately 15 minutes. Times available are 8am till 7pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 8am till 4pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Go online to [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and use the code **747kd** to make an appointment with your child's whanau teacher (they will need to tell you which whanau class they're in first!). If you have more than one child at the College you can make all your interviews at around the same time for your convenience. Interviews are made on a first-in-first-served basis so we encourage you to make bookings early.

Alternatively, you or your child can visit the school library before, during or after school to make a booking using one of the two kiosks set up there. Librarians will be available there to help you do this.

A link straight to the bookings page is:

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code?code=747kd>

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### **RE: Teaching of Year 9 and 10 Sexuality Education in Secondary Schools**

The teaching of Sexuality Education to Year 9 and 10 students is a compulsory part of the New Zealand school Curriculum.

At Otahuhu College there is a holistic focus in Health Education. For example, we study the physical, social, spiritual and physical influences and effects on Sexuality through the concept of Hauora. Teachers cover areas such as puberty, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, relationships, personal decision making about sexual behaviour, peer pressure and social media influences

We teach this unit of work over the course of a term, 2 periods per week in single sex classrooms.

Teachers are well supported by our school Health Centre. Nurses and doctors can be called upon to assist with the course delivery and provide the latest research and facts around key issues.

There also times in the year where we get outside agencies such as 'Attitude' to enhance and affirm the content that is being taught in the classroom.

There is an opportunity to speak to myself or Stuart Roberts (Deputy Principal) at the first academic mentoring days March 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup> If you have any questions regarding the teaching of Sexuality Education at Otahuhu College. Or please feel free to contact me in person

[lmorgan@otahuhucollege.school.nz](mailto:lmorgan@otahuhucollege.school.nz)

Ms Leigh Morgan

HOF Health & Physical Education

## Sports News

### **Waka Ama:**

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 15 Otahuhu College students took part in the Auckland Secondary Schools Senior Waka Ama regatta held at Orakei basin. The competition was extremely tough as our team were versing experienced senior paddlers. We used this regatta as a chance to gain some racing experience and it was very worthwhile for our students, as most were able to participate in more than 4 races. As usual, our students behavior and sportsmanship was highly commendable. Watching their skills progress throughout the regatta was inspiring and left everybody with enthusiasm for our next season in term 4. The teachers involved; Sian Jones-White, Malcolm McAllister and Dave Buchan would like to thank the students for their dedication and willingness to try a new sport. See you in term 4 for our junior season!



## Arts and Culture News

### Year 9 Music Academy

This year we are lucky to have two Year 9 Music Academies with a group of motivated and enthusiastic students. Our programme has started with intense Keyboard work and we are working towards an Academy performance at the end of this term for our first Music Showcase.

## Health and Wellness Centre News

We provide a range of free health and social services for our students.

Our team consists of:

- 4 nurses (part time)
- 1 doctor (part time)
- 2 social workers
- 2 receptionists
- 2 physiotherapists (part time)
- 2 psychologists (part time)

We will be starting the Year 9 health check-ups soon. This includes a hearing and vision test. If the students fail their hearing or eye test we will let caregivers know. If they can't see we will send you information about going to an optometrist in the community. The optometrist and glasses are free with a community services card for anyone under 16 years.

If you have any concerns about your child's health please feel free to contact the nurses on Ph. 963-4081

## Career Information

Well done to Year 12 and 13 students who are gaining valuable work experience in a variety of industries:

- COMET Auckland Learning editor journalism placement (6 students)
- Middlemore hospital placement (4 students)
- Warehouse Redshirts placement at Auckland airport (11 students)
- McDonalds Oasis hospitality placement (12 students)
- Red Badge Security placement at venues all over Auckland (10 students)

*\*Photos to follow*