



# Otago College Newsletter

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Important Notices

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 9 Social Studies AM
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Y10 Math's Exam AM
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Y13 Last Day
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Y12 Last Day
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Y11 Last Day



## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

NCEA Exams have started well with, as you would expect from Otahuhu College, students meeting the challenge with determination, commitment and hard work. Our excellent teachers have also been helping with extra tutorials and it is great to see so many students taking advantage of this.

This week some of our junior students had the opportunity to go on camp. Schools have run camps for many generations and the benefits of these camps are far reaching. You will see students challenging themselves on climbing walls, laughing and enjoying the activities, cleaning up after lunch and having fun with their friends. What camps do is to foster sensible risk taking, reinforcing the importance of students sharing tasks, building resilience and friendships.

## Our Commitments

Our commitment next week is to be supportive. We must all be aware that we don't know what's going on in the lives of those we pass and, more than anything else, no matter where they may be, a smile and greeting is much the better engagement than to look away or at the pavement with detachment. We reap what we sow. Therefore, if we want our day to be filled with enthusiasm, logically we should be enthusiastic.

If we want our day to be joyful, then we must reflect on just that. This references, of course, to our inner state of mind and how we choose to present ourselves to the world – something that we completely control. We encourage each other here at college to greet and acknowledge each other with interest, putting in mind the needs of the other rather than oneself. It is good to remember when we help others, we help ourselves.

## Study News

The following message includes important information about NCEA externals. NCEA externals are the exams that students sit, in the hall, from Monday 6th November (term 4, week 5) until Thursday 30th November.

The expectation is that all senior Ōtāhuhu College students sit all their externals. To achieve UE@OC students must achieve UE Literacy. Very often students must pass externals to achieve their UE literacy credits. UE Literacy is 5 Reading credits (R) and 5 Writing credits (W). B stands for Both. B credits can be used for reading or writing. The table below shows which subjects have UE literacy credits with the externals.





Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
History ( <i>HIS1U</i> )	English ( <i>ENG2U</i> )	English ( <i>ENG3U</i> )
	Geography ( <i>GEO2U</i> )	Biology ( <i>BIO3U</i> )
	History ( <i>HIS2U</i> )	Dance ( <i>DAN3U</i> )
	Biology ( <i>BIO2U</i> )	Drama ( <i>DRA3U</i> )
	Te Reo Māori ( <i>MAO2U</i> )	Geography ( <i>GEO3U</i> )
		History ( <i>HIS3U</i> )
		Economics ( <i>ECO3U</i> )
		Health ( <i>HLT3U</i> )
		Te Reo Māori ( <i>MAO3U</i> )

Common ‘thinking traps’ to avoid:

- I already have enough credits from internals, so I don’t need to sit the externals.
- I’m not taking that subject again so there’s no point in sitting the externals.
- I haven’t done well enough to pass the course so there’s no point in sitting the externals.

Correct thinking:

- Achieve your externals to get your UE literacy credits.

Notes:

- Students should know which externals they are entered in and target achieving those externals.
- T2 is open both breaks on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays (and after school by arrangement) to prepare for externals. Resources provided, bring your lunch!
- If you do not achieve UE Lit by the end of year 12 your option choice for year 13 will be limited.

### [Junior Leadership Camp](#)

"Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others." — Jack Welch

For our budding Year 9 and Year 10 leaders who attended this week’s junior leadership camp at Port Waikato, success proved to be a combination of personal growth and growing with others. While some activities challenged the students to grow in their physical and sporting skills, such as archery and climbing, others focussed more on practical know-how, such as bivouac building and the spaghetti-tower challenge. Tasks involving teamwork and problem solving also featured heavily across the two days, especially outdoor games such as “aqueduct” and “magic carpet” which depended on everyone participating and using initiative to find a useful role within the group.

For the duration of camp, students were given the leadership focus of *manaakitanga*, which they embodied in three ways: *manaaki whenua*, by keeping the physical space clean and tidy; *manaaki tāngata*, by caring for people with kindness and inclusivity; and respect and care for oneself, by acting





with confidence and seizing every opportunity to grow greater. Without exception, our group embraced these three facets of *manaakitanga*, as is testified by the contents of the “compliment box” into which everyone was able to deposit anonymous notes throughout camp. Every single student received at least one shoutout from peers or staff via the compliment box, and the bursting seams of the box point to another leadership quality our students were practising: the importance of praising and recognising excellence in others.

It was not only the compliment box that was bursting with praise: so too were the adults at camp overflowing with admiration for our students. They were not only impressed by how the students tackled the activities, but also how they cared for each other and took initiative with cleaning and tidying. It is worth noting that every adult external to Otago College — the camp instructors, the caterers, and even the bus driver — commented on how respectful, friendly, and welcoming our students were. In fact, one of the instructors remarked that our Otago College juniors were one of the best groups she had ever encountered in her career.

Indeed, the display of openness, positivity, and *manaakitanga* on the part of these juniors was inspirational, and it paints a wonderful picture of how student leadership can look as this cohort moves towards the senior school.









### Sports News

#### Blues Regional U15 7s Rugby Tournament

Our U15 Boys and Girls rugby teams competed at the recent Regional 7s Tournament at Bruce Pulman Park. Our U15 boys were coming off a successful 15s season and the expectations of being competitive were high. They boys play some very good rugby winning pool games against Waitakere College 35-0 and Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate 26-0. The Boys then went on to their semifinal and were convincing winners against Selwyn College 54-5. This set up against a very polished Kelston Boys College team. The Boys played very well but were to go down in a hard fought final to finish runners up in their grade.

The Girls went in with a very inexperienced team whereby only 3 girls had played rugby for Otahuhu College. The girls played very well in each of their games, losing by two tries or less in each of their games.

We wish to thank all those students who took part in this Tournament and our parents who came along to support both teams. A big thanks also to our coaches and managers of each of our teams.





Fifteen students took part in the junior waka ama regatta at Ian Shaw Park, November 4th. Over half the crew were new to the sport. The students pictured have been training all year with the Manukau Outriggers club with only a short break over winter. All our paddlers are looking forward to the senior regatta next March.



Representative Rugby

Once again, we would like to congratulate Gillian Faaumu on her selection into the Black Ferns U20s training camp which is currently running in Palmerston North.



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