



# Otago College Newsletter

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Important Notices

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Literacy and Numeracy Digital Assessments (10GR, 10RY, 10HB, 10ON)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Y11 and 12 Prizegiving 1:00pm (Y9, Y10, Y13 dismissed at 12:30pm) Y13 Prizegiving and Graduation Evening 7:00pm start
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	NZQA External Exams begin



## *FROM OUR PRINCIPAL*

Our annual Sports' Award Evening was another fantastic celebration of the hardwork and commitment of our students, and the fantastic support they get from their families.

Preparation for exams are well under way, and it is great to see so many students taking advantage of the tutorials available and most importantly making time to study and revise at home. It is at this time of year that I am often asked how families can help at home with their child's learning and getting the good grades they need. The following are some important ways of helping your child succeed:

- Make sure they get to school every day. The last days for Seniors is 22 November, until that time senior classes are running as normal. Teachers will be helping students with their exam preparation and practise as well as finishing of assessments.
- The senior students should be studying and working on their assessments at home. ITO be honest at this time of year half an hour for each exam subject should be a minimum for home study.
- This time of year can be stressful for students and families. One father told me that he makes a cup of tea for his son while he is studying. Little things like that can make such a difference.

Thanks for all the support you give to your children's education.

As a community we are looking forward to celebrating our senior students' success at the prize-giving's next week. I also want to acknowledge all those who are not getting prizes, their contribution to Otago College is vibrant and positive, the successes of the few winning prizes is made possible by the support and efforts of the many.

We have so much to be proud of and I look forward to celebrating our students next week.

## *Our Commitments*

The focus for next week is being on time. Students are expected to be at school by 8:30am, and then seated in the correct space in assembly. With the weather due to change to more wintery conditions, your child should have a plan to get to school on wet days on time. With Auckland traffic this often means leaving 10-15 minutes earlier. For those students who are late to school three or more times in a week, they will be given a detention.

Please remind your child that they need to move to class as soon as the first bell goes, and they should be seated, with their books out and bags on the floor ready to learn by the second bell. From time-to-time students may not have finished all the expected work during class time, when this happens in the last period of the day, your child will likely be required to stay behind 5-10 minutes to complete the work to a standard expected at Otago College. If you have any concerns regarding this please contact the Principal





### Study News

The following message includes important information about NCEA externals. NCEA externals are the exams that students sit, in the hall, from **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** (term 4, week 5) until **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> 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> )
		Economics ( <i>ECO3U</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.

### Fight the Good Fight Break Up

Fight The Good Fight Break Up.

Year 9s, Y10s, and Y12s set off to Rainbows End for their breakup.

Presentation to students with gift bags





Best day this year so far, enjoying the rain and sunshine and a big thank you to Tarres, Joe and Iona for dropping us off and picking us up.





## Duke of Edinburgh

Near the end of term three, the inaugural Duke of Edinburgh group embarked upon its first off-site excursion with a day trip to Rangitoto Island. Basking in splendid sun, we trekked to the summit, visited the lava caves, and took an extended stroll around the coastline of the island, including McKenzie Bay and Flax Point. Although some students found the initial uphill climb quite gruelling, the challenge served as good practice for them and has set the tone for our future more ambitious missions. Throughout the walk, our eight students — as well as Mr Hodgkinson and Ms Green — were very patient with Mr Hart’s rambling lectures about the geography and history of the island.

While exploring the island, it was very interesting to meet staff and students from Saint Kentigern College, a school which had brought several hundred students for an overnight stay on the adjacent Motutapu Island — an inspiring taste of what the incipient Otago University Duke of Edinburgh programme could become in the future. Our day was bookended by a gorgeously scenic ferry journey, another bonus for several students as it marked their first time on a boat.



## Chess Competition

Planning, patience, and partnership were the key attributes on display in last week’s chess competition, held daily during break times with an eye-catching jumbo-sized outdoor set. Though originally envisaged as an interhouse competition, the event evolved into a staff-student team effort which drew small crowds of spectators of all ages.





Special mention goes to Colenso King, G4, for being the most involved player and a very decisive one at that. We are grateful to all students and staff who supported and participated, and we hope to expand involvement in chess to a wider audience in 2024.



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