



Otago College Newsletter

Friday 2nd February 2024

Important Notices

Tuesday 6 th February	Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)
Tuesday 13 th February	Netball Parent Evening
Monday 19 th February	Haka Waiata Competition
Wednesday 21 st February	Head Prefect Speeches/Voting



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

It has been an exciting and enjoyable week welcoming so many new and returning students to Otago College. We have two things to think about at the start of the year: high standards and hard work.

High standards are not imposed upon us; rather, they are aspirations we set for ourselves. They are the benchmarks that challenge us to rise above mediocrity, to rise above OK, and reach for excellence. As we start the school year, let us commit to holding ourselves to the highest standards in all aspects of our lives – academically, socially, and personally. Let us remember that excellence is not an outcome; it is a continuous process of improvement, a mindset that always seeks to do better than before.

However, high standards alone are not enough. We must pair them with unwavering dedication and hard work. Success is not handed to us; it is earned through persistent effort and a willingness to push beyond our comfort zones. Each assignment, every test, and all the challenges we encounter are opportunities for growth. Let us embrace them with enthusiasm and a determination to give our very best.

The path to success will undoubtedly be demanding, but it is through hard work that we unlock our true potential. The late nights of studying, the moments of frustration, and the challenges we face will be the building blocks of our success story. Moreover, let us foster a sense of community and support.

Let us set ambitious goals and work relentlessly towards achieving them. As we embrace the challenges that come our way, let us remember that it is through our collective efforts that we will make this year a resounding success for our students, for our families and for our community.

Our Commitments

Our focus for next week is being engaged in lessons. On the basic level it is making sure that every student takes individual responsibility to have their books and pens. To make sure that as soon as they get into class that they have their books out, bags on the floor, and they are ready to learn. 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.

Cell Phones Not to be Used Between 8:30am and 3pm

Government regulations require that schools must ensure students do not use or access a phone while they are attending school, including during lunch time and breaks. This includes students who are on a school course or visit outside the school grounds.





Guidelines

1. Ōtāhuhu College is not responsible for the loss of cell phones if brought to school or on school-based activities.
2. Cell phones are to be kept in student's bag and turned off between the hours of 8:30am and 3pm. In case of emergency parents are to contact the school office on 963 4000 Teachers may grant students the use of their phones for specific learning purposes. In which case phone use will be actively supervised.
3. Breach of this policy will result in the phone being confiscated for the rest of the day.
4. Dispensations can be granted for exceptional Health and Safety reasons.
 - a. Parents must apply in writing.
 - b. Dispensation can be granted by the principal.
 - c. A pass will be issued to the student.

Junior School

Year 9 Induction – Tuesday 30th January



We were blown away by the incredible turnout on Tuesday to our pōwhiri to welcome our newest Kōtuku to Ōtāhuhu College and our new kaiako. The warmest welcome to all our new whānau who have started with us in 2024.

For the remainder of the week, Year 9 have slowly been finding their way, making new friends and discovering what life is like as a small fish in a big pond! This transition is daunting, and it is a dramatic change for them. Do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any initial queries or concerns.





It is incredibly hot at the moment and our students are working hard in the sun to prepare for our Haka Waiata competition. All students should bring a water bottle with them and ensure that they keep hydrated. A polite reminder that under government conditions there is a permanent ban on the use of mobile phones in school. Students, if bringing, need to have phones switched off and in their bags, only to be used under permission in an emergency.

Emma Norgate

Year 9 Dean

Enorgate@otahuhucollege.school.nz 09 963 4051

House News

Haka Waiata Practices

With students at all year levels commencing this week, the season of Haka Waiata practices has begun in anticipation of the grand event on Monday 19 February.

It has been pleasing to see senior students taking the initiative of leading their houses both spiritually and practically during the daily afternoon sessions, with each house adopting a unique approach to learning the words and actions. For example, in Massey House, our female leaders have divided the group into newbies and experienced performers, with some of the leaders taking the Year 9s and other new students to a separate location to rehearse the words and melody of the waiata, while the rest of the group works on fine-tuning.

Echoing the messages from others, house leaders would like to remind students to bring a water bottle to hydrate themselves before and during practice, as well as to take advantage of the sunscreen on offer in these sweltering afternoons.





Arts and Culture News

POLYFEST

Polyfest signups have begun with many enthusiastic students getting involved already! We are proud to have our first ever Filipino group with 30 students signed up!

So our groups for the year are:

Kapa Haka – please see Mr Stewart

Tongan Group – please see Mrs Otunuku

Samoan Group – please see Ms Wickman

Cook Island Group – please see Ms Harford/Mrs Stretton

Filipino Group – please see Ms Harford/Mrs Stretton

Fijian Group – please see Ms Harford/Mrs Stretton

Students are still able to sign up and need to see the appropriate staff to find out when practices are. For our parents, practices are usually after schools until 5-5.30pm, but please confirm with your child for exact times, or you're welcome to contact the school office to confirm. Practice times should be locked in by the end of next week. Kia Tamatane!





TUTORS

We are still in search of a Niuean Group Tutor. Practices will run after schools a few times a week. We are keen to have family members of our students tutor our groups, of if you know of someone in your community, please contact Ms Harford lharford@otahuhucollege.school.nz or Mrs Stretton rstretton@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Music Department

Itinerant tutors are needed for Band, Guitar, Keyboard, Vocals in Rap and Singing, Brass and Saxophone. Please contact Ms Harford for more details lharford@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Health and Wellness Centre



**NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR
Deaf & Hard of Hearing**

The National Foundation for The Deaf Incorporated have a Youth Program:
Providing free hearing screening test for Year 9 students
At Otahuhu College on Wed 14th and Thurs 15th Feb.

A letter and email will be sent home with more information.

If you **do not** want your Childs hearing tested:
Please contact the Health and Wellness Centre to OPT OUT
Email: HReception@otahuhucollege.school.nz
Or ph 963 4081

HELPFUL SUMMER HINTS – bring a water bottle and refill it from the drinking fountains during the day. Prevent headaches, tiredness and give you oomph for Haka Waiata





Sports News

Welcome back to 2024. We hope you have had a wonderful and restful break and are ready for the start of the Sports year. Trainings will begin next week for most teams for Summer Sports. This year we have a number sports on offer and are still accepting sign ups for these teams. The following Sports on offer in Term 1 are:

- Athletics
- Kilikiti Boys
- Kilikiti Girls
- Rowing
- Tag Football Boys
- Tag Football Girls
- Tennis Boys
- Tennis Girls
- Volleyball Boys
- Volleyball Girls
- Waka Ama
- 3 v 3 Basketball

Should you have any questions about Summer Sports please free to contact Mr Tamati or Mrs Robati from the Sports Department.

Netball Information Evening

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: School Pavilion

Everyone is welcome! Join us, whether you're a parent, student, teacher, or part of the local community, to learn more about Otago College Netball.

Discover:

- Umpiring Pathways
 - Coaching Opportunities
 - Year 9 & 10 Netball Academy
 - Senior Netball
 - Training and Match Schedules
- Come and be a part of Otago College Netball!

