



Otago College Newsletter

Friday 26th January 2024

Important Notices

Monday 29 th January	Auckland Anniversary (Public Holiday)
Tuesday 30 th January	Enrolled Year 9s & 13s start
Wednesday 31 st January	All Year levels return
Tuesday 6 th February	Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Year 13 students from Otahuhu College gained our best ever UE rate and for the eighth year in a row exceeded the national average for Level 3. This pass rate is significantly above the historic national average and caps off a strong year for Otahuhu students. Excellent classroom teaching, great support from families and the hard work and dedication of all the Otahuhu Community led to these results.

There is a very strong culture in the school that every student should have the very best possible opportunity and strive for the highest qualification available, UE@OC. With more of Otahuhu's students gaining qualifications than ever before these results will help create better opportunities for the students, their families and the community.

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.

We look forward to our Year 9 and 13 students starting on Tuesday, and all students back on Wednesday.

Our Commitments

Our commitment is to be respectful. A key part of being respectful is using appropriate language. Learning what words, and indeed the volume, you use in different circumstances is one of the challenges of growing up into young men and women. Teenagers find this hard to do, so talking to them and explaining how different situations require the use of different words and mannerisms is a great step on developing articulate respectful young men and women.

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.
3. In case of emergency parents are to contact the school office on 963 4000.





4. Teachers may grant students the use of their phones for specific learning purposes. In which case phone use will be actively supervised.
5. Breach of this policy will result in the phone being confiscated for the rest of the day.
6. 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.

Uniform

Otago College has a proud tradition and we expect students to take pride in wearing their uniform to and from school, and we seek your assistance in getting things right. If your child is unsure of our uniform expectations, please refer them to the Deans. We have a great deal of pride in our achievements and want that reflected in how our students wear their uniform and the pride they have in Otago College.

The uniform is available at NZ Uniforms in Penrose and available online:

<http://otahuhucollege.nzuniforms.com/catalog/school-uniform-1103685.htm>

Correct school uniform is to be worn to and from school.

Students must wear completely black shoes, for health and safety reasons these must be enclosed shoes. Males are to wear school socks, pulled up. Females plain white socks.

No undergarments (T shirts etc) should be visible, unless a plain white short sleeved top.

There are Otago College hats available, non-uniform hats will be confiscated.

If students are wearing incorrect uniform, it is their responsibility to see the Dean first thing in the morning.

Students without a uniform pass will have items confiscated for the remainder of the term.

Uniform Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get the College uniform from?

The uniform is available at NZ Uniforms in Penrose and also available online:

<http://otahuhucollege.nzuniforms.com/catalog/school-uniform-1103685.htm>

Can my child wear jandals?

No, due to Health and safety reasons students need to wear enclosed shoes.





Is it OK to wear a hoodie underneath the school jacket?

No, a hoodie, even if one with Otahuhu College branding, is not part of the school uniform.

What happens when students turn up in non- uniform clothes?

Non uniform items get confiscated, unless first the student has got a note from their Dean at the start of the day.

Can my child wear a t shirt at lunchtime to play sports?

Yes, a plain white t shirt or the PE uniform may be worn if actively playing sport at lunchtime or break.

Is help available?

Yes, if families are struggling with the uniform requirements, then contact the Dean or Deputy Principal.

My child has been selected for a sports tournament, what should they wear?

When representing the school students should either be in full uniform or wearing a College tracksuit (the College can lend when needed).

Attendance Matter

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 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

Each day a text message is sent out to families when their child has been marked absent up until 10am. Please reply to this text letting us know where your child is.

There will be times when your child may be absent and for whatever reason the school has not been informed, in this case a note needs to be brought the first day back and given to the whanau teacher.

Attendance and Extra Curricular Activities

Attending regularly is defined by the Ministry of Education as attending over 90% of half-days. A half day means that a student is present for teaching and learning for either 2 hours in the morning or 2 hours in the afternoon. Chronically absent at school is defined as attending 70% or less. From Term 3





Students who are chronically absent from school will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities

- a. Only when students have maintained regular attendance (90%) for the four weeks preceding the finalisation of the team/activity group may the principal consider dispensation.
- b. For students granted a dispensation they must maintain regular attendance to continue to participate.
- c. If a student who was granted a dispensation attendance improves to over 70% then they are no longer chronically absent.

Traffic Safety for Students, Families and Visitors to OC

Students are to be dropped off either on Mangere Road or Golf Avenue, families are not to drive into the grounds to drop their children at school.

Visitors must park in the visitor car parks as directed by our Security guards.

If these car parks are full then you must park on the road.

The Golf Avenue gates will be closed from 8:30am to 3pm

It is important that we keep our students safe and your support in this matter is appreciated.

