



Otago College Newsletter

Friday 9th February 2024

Important Notices

Tuesday 13 th February	Netball Parent Evening
Monday 19 th February	Haka Waiata Competition
Wednesday 21 st February	Head Prefect Speeches/Voting
Thursday 22 nd February	Sports Day



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

The first two weeks of school have started well. It is great to see students signing up for the many extra-curricular activities that are on offer at Otahuhu College.

Classes have hit the ground running, with high expectations and hard work occurring across all the year levels. This is a good opportunity to explain the difference between Achieved, Merit and Excellence grades. Getting higher grades is not just a matter of getting more things right, though that does help. The key is the level of thinking which is demonstrated. There are some differences between subjects however in general, an Achieved grade means that you can describe the topic. To get a Merit you need to be able to explain, looking at reasons why something happens. While to get an Excellence you need to be able to analyse, make comparisons and draw links between different topics. One way of looking at it is if you can describe what a family member looks and acts like you get an achieved, if you can explain why they act that way then it's a Merit, and if you can show how their actions affect the family and how the wider family responds then that is an Excellence. All our students should be working hard towards Merits and Excellences in their subjects.

Our Commitments

The behaviour focus for next week is on being supportive. This means more than just talking to our children about treating others like they would want to be treated. It also means being supportive in learning. School is, and should be challenging, the work must require thought, and mistakes must be made if learning is to happen. A key part of being supportive at Otahuhu College is based around supporting each other in our learning, making mistakes and working hard to do better next time.

Sports Day

On Thursday 22nd February the whole school will be involved in a Sports Day. Students will come to school in their House colours and will move around various activities in their Whanau classes competing against the other Houses. Students will be provided more specific information during Whanau classes next week.

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 afternoon.



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

Samoa 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



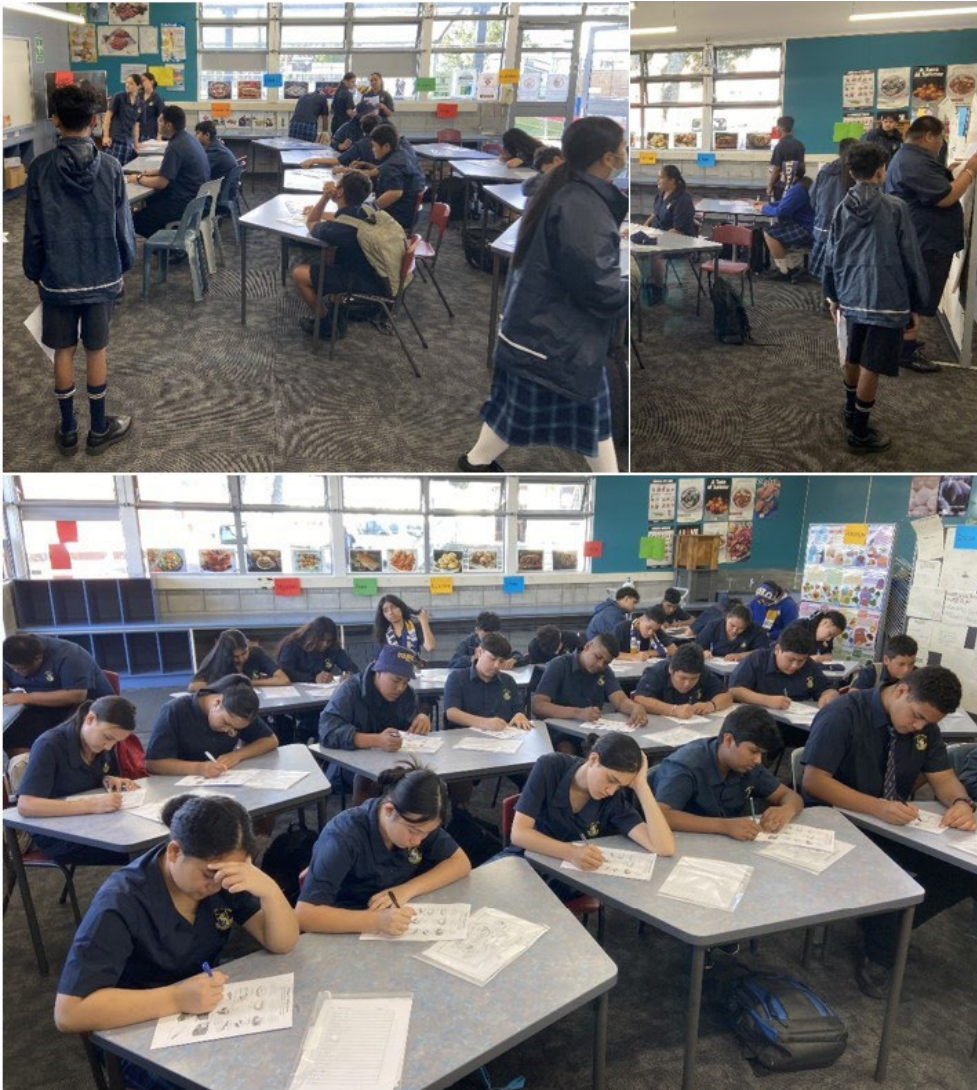


community, please contact Ms Harford lharford@otahuhucollege.school.nz or Mrs Stretton rstretton@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Junior School

Food Technology

The Year 10 food tech students all engaged with learning about food safety and about kitchen safety before entering the kitchen to cook.



Health and Wellness Centre

HEARING SCREENING FOR ALL YR 9'S WILL BE ON FEB 14TH AND 15TH.

INFO HAS BEEN EMAILED AND SENT HOME VIA A LETTER. IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO HAVE A HEARING TEST, TO OPT OUT, CONTACT:





HEALTH CENTRE, PH 963 4081

EMAIL hreception@otahuhucollege.school.nz

If we identify hearing loss of a year 9 students, you'll receive a referral letter recommending that they proceed to have a full diagnostic hearing test. There are no risks or side effects associated with participation in this study.



Sports News

Senior Summer sport begins with the Senior Volleyball Boys and Girls starting this week on Thursday 15th February.

Senior Girls South East vs One Tree hill @ Bruce Pulman Arena @4.00pm

Senior Girls South East vs Mangere College @ Bruce Pulman Arena @5.30pm

Senior Girls Purple vs Onewhero @ Bruce Pulman Arena @7.00pm

Senior Girls Purple vs Sancta Maria @ Bruce Pulman Arena @7.45pm

Senior Boys vs Tuakau @ Rosehill College @5.30pm

Senior Boys vs Rosehill @ Rosehill College @6.15pm

Senior Tag boys and girls training Break 2 this week on the lower field

13 Tuesdays 15 Thursdays Break 2

19 Monday 20 Tuesday Break 2.

Rugby Preseason XV

Runs for 5 weeks on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 6:30am. If you need more information about rugby, please email me vfalealii@otahuhucollege.school.nz

Dates are :

Tuesday 13th February

Thursday 15th February

Tuesday 20th February

Thursday 22nd February

Tuesday 27th February

Thursday 29th February





March dates

- Tuesday 5th March
- Thursday 7th March
- Tuesday 12th March
- Thursday 14th March

Study News

HELP CENTRE

ENGLISH

HOMework HELP

ASSESSMENT SUPPORT

LITERACY SKILLS PRACTICE

This is a study space where you can get extra help, more practice and additional time to work on skills, homework and assessments.

This is an opportunity for students of all year levels to get extra guidance and support to help them achieve to the best of their ability.

DETAILS: Day: Every Thursday
Time: 3pm-4pm
Location: OC Library

