



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 1st March 2024

Important Notices

Tuesday 5 th March	Senior Netball Trials 3:00pm – 4:30pm
Wednesday 20 th – 23 rd March	Polyfest
Friday 22 nd March	Teacher Only Day
Monday 25 th March	ID Photos



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

It has been an eventful week, with Polyfest practices in full swing and for many of our senior students finishing their first assessments. For some of our Year 9 and 10 students there is a growing realisation of the higher standards required at Otahuhu College than most schools.

In 2023 Ōtāhuhu College achieved its highest ever UE pass rate. This is important for a number of reasons:

- It is the highest qualification you can gain at secondary school.
- It provides students the opportunity and choice to go onto degree level study.
- Students who gain UE who do not go on to University earn on average \$6000 more per year than those who leave school just with Level 3.

Our Pacific students did significantly better than other Pacific students nationally. This year we are working even harder to ensure further success and greater opportunities and a brighter future for our students and families.

For our students to continue to meet the high academic expectations at Otahuhu College, they must be encouraged to read, ask questions, actively engage in discussions, write and learn to think critically about challenging material. Every mistake our students make, every question they ask, and every time they successfully struggle with a concept, their brain grows a little bit stronger and smarter.

Our Commitments

Each week our students receive an engagement grade based on a 1 to 5 scale. To get a 5, students need to attempt all classwork and homework, and consistently strive to produce work at or above the level expected from this pupil as indicated by past academic results. You can help by encouraging your child to do homework work, and independent study. Encourage your child to always participate in class discussions, by volunteering to ask and answer questions.

Photo ID Cards

ID cards will be available for pre-order!

These cards are pre-paid at Student Services in the Book Shop. Cost for ID cards is \$15.00. (Eftpos or cash, please try to bring the correct amount, thanks)

We recommend buying an ID card for getting student rates for the bus and train etc. It is valid through till March 2025.

Photo ID cards can be used for proof of identity, especially when applying for jobs and drivers licence tests,





opening bank accounts and other discounts for students. The ID card order is placed once the school photos have been taken later this term. The production of ID cards can take a few weeks as they are created elsewhere.

The whanau teachers will be notified when the card is ready to be collected.

Sports News

Netball Academy

Our Year 9 and 10 Netball Academy recently participated in their first pre-season match of the year in a summer league competition at the Auckland Netball Centre. The experience proved to be valuable for all the girls, who not only learned a lot but also had a great deal of fun. The sportsmanship and camaraderie displayed within our teams, and towards the opposition, was fantastic.



Sports Day

It was a pleasure to experience Otago College's inaugural Sports Day on Thursday 22 February. Whereas, in previous years, selected students have been given the opportunity to compete in athletics off site, this year's event was expanded to include the entire school, both students of all year levels and staff. Students rotated between five activities throughout the day: tug of war, netball and touch, volleyball, athletics, and swimming. We were impressed by the upbeat attitude and plenteous participation of the juniors in





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particular. Additionally, it was evident from the cheers and banter at the end of the day that the event had succeeded in fostering some house spirit and rivalry!

Points were awarded for each house and year level at each event. Congratulations to Seddon House for victory and to Massey in second place! We look forward to further competition and memory-worthy experiences between the houses as the year unfolds.





Sports Day Placings:

1st	Seddon
2nd	Massey
3rd	Hobson
4th	Grey





Tag

Our Senior boys Tag team competed in the Southern Zone Qualifying tag tournament last Friday. The team got off to a rocky start but was able to pull it together by the end of the day. We played 3 games in our pool going down to both Manurewa High and One tree hill College. The boys were unlucky to get the job done against Mt Albert who they drew with in the final pool match. This set us up for top 16, where the boys over came a strong Hillary College team to qualify for top 8 against SCC. The team went on to lose this game 4-3 to very spirited SCC. The team played with a lot of excitement and passion but unlucky for our boys they missed out on a top 4 finish which would have seen them qualify for Auckland champs. The team will definitely take the learnings from this tournament and seen as the majority of the team will return next year are hoping to go one further.

On the 23rd February a group of OC girls participated in the Senior South East Zone Tag competition at Ngati Park, Otara. Throughout the competition the girls won 2 of out the 4 pool games with an impressive 7-0 win on the last game making it to the qualifying stages. Our girls would play with determination, hard work and would end up finishing within the top 8 of the South East Tag Tournament. Well Done OC girls! Kia Tamatane.



Health and Wellness Centre

The nurses will start to catch up with all the Year 9 students for a general mini health check. This is part of the school nurse contract in all the health funded schools throughout NZ and happens throughout the year. The nurses ask the students about their health and wellbeing. If you do not want your child to have this Year 9 check just ring and let us know. Likewise, let us know if you want your child's health checked urgently or if your child has health issues you want to discuss privately with the nurses.





All the year 9 students had their hearing checked and next term the Auckland University vision screening team will come and check all the Year 9's eyesight. The optometrists then come back with their van to check, with parents' consent, all the students who failed their vision test. Students can choose their glasses at school, and they are free. We will pass on more information closer to the time.

Health Centre Ph 09 9634081

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

