



## Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

### Important Notices

Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Teacher Only Day (School is Closed for instruction)
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	School ID Photos
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Scholars Assembly
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Back fields will be closed for grounds maintenance
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday (School Closed)
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> & Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter Monday & Tuesday (School Closed)



## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Polyfest is an amazing event, the largest in the world, with so many young people celebrating and respecting their culture. Thank you to all the families for your hard work, ferrying your children to practises and all the other things you have done. It has been great seeing the groups perform and a special mention of our Phillipino Group who performed for the first ever time and gave such a strong performance on the diversity stage.

On Wednesday we have our scholars assembly where we acknowledge all those students who gained Merit or Excellence endorsed certificates last year. Our academic results are up with the best in Auckland and it is great to see each year increasing numbers of students gaining 50 or more credits at Merit or Excellence level.

## Our Commitments

Our commitment this week is to be respectful. There are simple ways in which we can encourage our children to be respectful. Using more formal language when talking to adults and in particular staff and visitors to Otago College demonstrates respect. Saying 'Yes' instead of 'yeah', making sure we use please and thank you regularly. Holding doors open for others to walk through. Wearing the uniform correctly to and from school. All these demonstrate respectful behaviour.

## 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 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.





## Year 13 Graduation

### **Requirements of Graduation from Ōtāhuhu College**

A graduation student from Ōtāhuhu College must meet the following requirements by 31 October of their Year 13:

- NCEA Level 2
- 5 credits each, in a minimum of four Level 3 subjects
- A minimum engagement score of 2.5 out of five across all subjects for the year.
- Minimum of 70% attendance as measured by half days for the year. (Attendance criteria is based on Ministry of Education definition of Chronically absent being 70% half days)

To be able to Graduate the student must also:

- Submit for all external assessments.
- 100% attendance for both school and NCEA examinations

## Curriculum News

### Year 11

Like many other top schools, we are looking at how changes to NCEA can best benefit our students. Currently 85% of our leavers gain Level 2 or higher.

#### **Course design**

- The purpose of Year 11 is to provide students with the depth of understanding and the skills to successfully cope with Level 2 and 3 in following years.
- Each subject will offer one Level One standard (in exceptional circumstances dispensation may be granted by the Principal to offer more).
- Subjects may offer 1-2 Level 2 standards in Year 11

Creating more time for teaching and reducing the workload for staff and students will allow for a greater depth of understanding and better prepare our students for NCEA at Levels Two and Three.

#### **Passing Year 11 in 2024**

- Literacy and Numeracy
- 80% half day present or more
- Engagement grade average of 3 or more
- Participation in extra curricular activities

#### **Passing with Distinction**

- Literacy and Numeracy
- 90% half day present or more
- Engagement grade average of 4 or more
- Participation in extra curricular activities
- Merit and Excellence Level Pass in all subjects

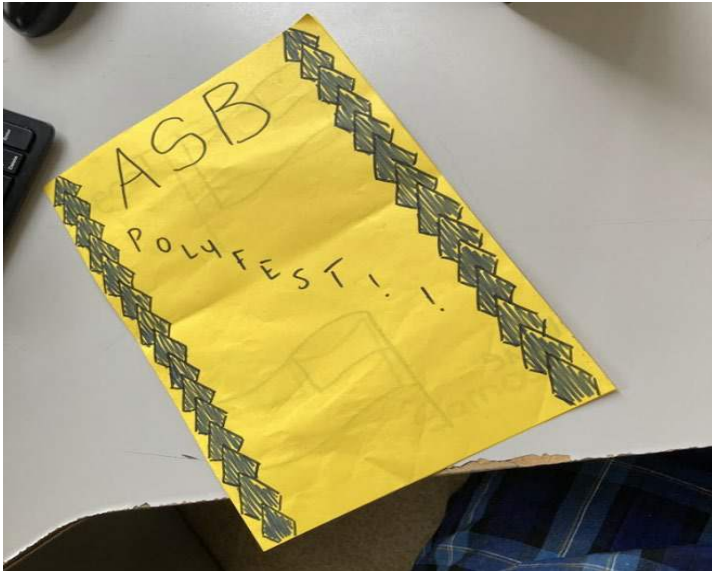
Students who pass will be acknowledged in the Senior Assembly at the end of the year. Feel free to contact Mr Watson if you would like to discuss further.



## House News

During whānau time, Year 9 students have been working on posters to celebrate and promote Polyfest. Some fascinating designs are developing, and many students are conflating both their artistic skills and their cultural knowledge to optimise their creations. The winners of the poster competition will be rewarded with a trip to Tiritiri Matangi Island in term two.

Here are a few draft posters from M1 and M2 which we look forward to seeing in their finished form!





## Arts and Culture News

### POLYFEST DETAILS

Tickets are \$10 at the gate at the Manukau Superbowl, or \$7.50 online at iTicket. Good luck to all our groups performing this week! May the force be with you!

#### **Thursday 21 March**

Filipino group performing at 9.48am

Fijian group performing at 10.36am

#### **Friday 22 March**

Cook Island group performing at 12.15pm

Niuean group performing at 1.30pm

#### **Saturday 23 March**

Tongan group Soke performing at 9.20am

Samoa group performing at 10.10

Tongan group Lakalaka performing at 12.40pm

## Kotuku Unit

### Special Olympics Athletics Outing

Yesterday, 19 March 2024, I went to the Special Olympics Athletics with the Kotuku class. The day was held at Massey Park, Papakura. There were lots of different events like running races, long jump, softball throw, javelin and shotput. I took part in the 50m walk it was fun.

My favourite part of the day was watching the races with my nanna. Nana came to Massey Park for the day, and she took lots of photos to show the class. When the day was over, Miss Klopper bought everyone an ice cream and then we returned to school. I learnt that it is good to have a go and have some fun.





## 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

