



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 11th October 2024

Important Notices

Monday 14 th October	Term 4 begins
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th October	Celebrating Fijian Language Week Niuean Language Week
Thursday 17 th October	Service Awards



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to the start of the fourth term. This term is important for all students at Otago College. For our Year 9 and 10 students they have exams which will determine which classes they are in next year. Our seniors face NCEA externals and the completion of final internals. As a school every staff member will be doing their very best to help lift the academic achievement of our students. There will be many tutorials and workshops available and all students must be at school every day to take advantage of the expert support which is available.

Parents have asked what is required to pass a NCEA subject. In the old days passing a subject meant gaining 50% or more, these days it involves achieving 14 or more credits. To pass a subject, a student must achieve 14 or more credits at Achieved or Merit or Excellence within a single year, with a minimum of three of these credits from externally assessed standards, and three credits coming from internally assessed standards. (Courses comprising standards from Physical Education and Level 3 Visual Arts are exempt from the second requirement.) This highlights the importance of doing well in external exams at the end of the year.

We kindly request your cooperation in ensuring that we are notified of your child's absence from school in advance or immediately upon the day of absence. This information is crucial for our planning and to ensure your child's academic progress. Please either call the school office or send a written note to inform us of your child's absence. Your prompt notification will help us provide the necessary support and accommodations. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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 also available online:

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

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

Students must be wearing 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 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 Otago 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 Matters

Regular attendance means attending school at least 90% 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 Otago College 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 a 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 at 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 carparks 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 appreciate

Exam Preparation

Most students will start exam preparation about six weeks before exams:

Set your goals

In each subject set a specific goal: a mark or class placing or both.

How much work, in what areas of the subject, will be necessary to achieve your goals?





Know the exam format

Examine previous exams. How are they organised? How are instructions and questions worded, what are the sections, and how are marks allocated? Find out if the format of this exam will be the same.

Don't take anything for granted. Check your understanding of the content and format of the exam with someone else in the class, preferably the teacher.

Lunch Menu for Term 4

Week 1

Monday - Butter chicken / Beef stew (rotation)

Tuesday - Teriyaki panko chicken on rice

Wednesday - Chicken burger

Thursday - Mince on mash

Friday - Bacon mac and cheese

Week 2

Monday - Honey soy chicken drumstick with fried noodles

Tuesday - Teriyaki chicken sushi

Wednesday - Cheeseburger

Thursday - Loaded wedges with tomato salsa / Chicken and wedges with tomato salsa (rotation)

Friday - Chicken parmesan pasta

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