



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 15th November 2024

Important Notices

Monday 18 th November	Prefect Nominations
Wednesday 20 th November	Last Day of Classes for Year 12 & 13
Friday 29 th November	Last Day of Classes for Year 11 Year 11 & 12 Prizegiving
Saturday 30 th November	Year 13 Graduation
Friday 6 th December	Last day for 2024



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

NCEA exams are going well, it is great to see nearly 100% attendance for the exams and the effort and hard work being done by students, teachers, and families to prepare for these challenging exams.

Our sports teams continue to do well, with Volleyball playing in the Auckland tournament and chasing a top four sport for the girls and top ten finish for our boys. Friday also sees our Junior 7s team compete, with our rowers competing for the first time against St Peters.

Planning is underway for next year as we aim to build on our successes in 2024. A key change will be around attendance, with the Ministry of Education mandating a much tougher line on students attending every day on time. As we develop our procedures around this, we will keep you informed.

Our Commitments

For our students to be engaged in their own education, 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.

Junior School



Year 10 Leadership Camp

Kupe and his wife, Hine Te Apārangi (a statue that stands on the Wellington waterfront)



“Kia Kupe” was the exhortation on everyone’s lips throughout last week’s Year 10 Leadership camp. A cousin to Ōtāhuhu College’s tried and tested maxim, Kia Tamatane, the phrase “Kia Kupe” recalls the legendary Māori explorer, navigator, and pioneer by the name of Kupe who served as an inspirational role model to our budding Year 10 leaders as they navigated their own way through an ambitious and varied camp programme in the idyllic seaside environment of Mangawhai Heads.

The camp’s coastal setting was indeed closely reminiscent of the heroic exploits of Kupe, who settled in the Hokianga Harbour, another coastal area of the north, after an intrepid voyage from his homeland of Hawaiki. Not only is Kupe credited by many as having been the first to discover our country, but he also delivered service to his people in Hawaiki by fearlessly pursuing a giant sea monster which was disrupting their fishing practices. Thus, the figure of Kupe from te ao Māori embodies precisely the values we sought for our Year 10 leaders to cultivate during camp: exploration of new horizons; resourcefulness and perseverance in pursuit of an aim; and a sense of service to the wider community.

These values were impressively enacted by our Year 10 leaders through a panoply of activities during camp: both outdoor and indoor, both physical and intellectual. On day one, they nurtured whanaungatanga (kinship) among their teams; whereas Kupe’s context for building this kinship among fellow explorers was the rigours of an extended ocean voyage, our students developed trust and loyalty through team challenges such as designing a flag, building structures, and collaborating to win adventurous games. On day two, the teams emulated Kupe’s virtue of auahatanga, creativity and resourcefulness, in constructing rafts and in successfully balancing ten human bodies on a large stand-up paddleboard. Most teams managed to keep both structures afloat, and the students’ spirits were equally buoyant! The second day also saw Kupe’s perseverance inspire the students, as they all braved warm conditions to walk to the summit of the Mangawhai cliffs. On day three, students followed in the footsteps of Kupe the navigator, as they used the sun, natural landmarks, and a physical map to steer themselves through an orienteering course in Mahurangi Regional Park.

As well as the outdoor activities, students extended their social and intellectual leadership through less physical tasks. For instance, our evenings at camp foregrounded collaboration and innovation through activities such as charades, blind drawing, an obstacle challenge, a “categories” trivia quiz, and a talent show. The latter event, in particular, unmasked some showstoppingly brilliant talent among our Year 10 cohort: dancing, singing, acting, and comedy. Most impressively, every single student mustered the courage to stand on stage and participate in their team’s performance — truly a landmark achievement for some. It was an unforgettable evening.

Camp also provided opportunities for students to practise metacognition in considering their own leadership styles. Explicit goal setting, methodical “debriefing” conversations after each activity, and a final reflection enabled them to begin to formulate ideas about what part they like to play as leaders, trialling different approaches across the three days and adapting where necessary. The “compliment cards”, via which every student received specific positive feedback from every member of their team





and from our staff, serve as a souvenir to preserve the memories of camp for years to come. The compliment cards also supply visual proof of the leadership capabilities of every single student involved in this camp.

And, indeed, praise and compliments are due to every student who attended camp. The instructors from Bigfoot Adventures, the catering staff, and the camp owners all commented what a pleasure it was to work with such respectful, mature, and lovely students. They represented Ōtāhuhu College with pride. Deep gratitude is owed also to the four staff who were kind enough to pause their personal lives and embark on camp with us for the three days: Ms Blackman, Mr Tuinukuafe, Ms Avci, and Mr Shaun. These outstanding kaiako immersed their hearts and souls in everything camp had to offer, modelling exemplary leadership to our students.

Kia Kupe, and Kia Tamatane!





ŌTĀHUHU COLLEGE





Sports News

At our Sports Awards Evening, we celebrated the achievements of our students in sports. Below are the winners of our major awards:

Endeavour Award
Sani Lemalu Sue



Best Individual Sporting Performance
Ceasar Bonna-Rawhiti





Pasifika Futures Cup Top Male

Jacob Paul



Pasifika Futures Cup Top Female

Lily-Jean Va'aelua



Sportswomen of the Year

Moana Uiese



Sportsman of the Year and Sports Champion of the Year

Jacob Paul



Boys Football

On Wednesday afternoon we celebrated a groundbreaking football season at ŌC with our boys' prizegiving. There is much to be proud of – we have fielded 3 winter 11-aside squads, entered strong teams in both 5-aside and 7-aside leagues, and competed at a national tournament in New Plymouth for the first time ever.

We kicked off prizegiving with some social football games, then shared food, some speeches and awards. It was wonderful to have so many family members of players present – we are incredibly grateful for your enthusiastic support of your children and their football journey at ŌC.

The event wrapped up with a classy captain's address from Ahyaan Ali, who has exemplified the 'team-first' culture we are trying to nurture. Special thanks also to Ahyaan's family for recognising senior players and coaches with lolly lei. To all players and families – have a restful break, and we look forward to seeing you back, fit and ready to go, for the 2026 season.

Mr Andrews and Mr McKenzie

