



ŌTĀHUHU COLLEGE



Otago College Newsletter

Friday 8th November 2024

Important Notices

Thursday 14 th November	Year 10 English Exam Year 9 Science Exam
Monday 18 th November	Prefect Nominations
Friday 29 th November	Last Day for Year 11, 12 & 13
Saturday 30 th November	Year 13 Graduation



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Exams have started well for both our senior and junior students. Examinations can be a challenging time for students and preparation is the key to achieving their personal best. Our challenge to each of them is to:

- Set high standards for themselves
- Have the discipline to walk away from online distractions when there is work to be done
- Implement daily routines that they can adhere to
- Ask for help if they need it.

We expect all our students to focus on doing the 'simple stuff' really well. When they enter through our gates, there is attention to detail – arriving on time, with the correct uniform, holding doors open for others and greeting their teachers. These expectations set the tone for the College and help enhance the learning environment for all our families.

The recent report on attendance highlighted the importance of attending school regularly. At age 25, young adults who were chronically absent from school earn \$40000 less per year than what other 25 year olds earn. Students who are chronically absent from school earn about the same as the total population at 17 years old. However, over time their income becomes significantly less than the total population. At age 25, young adults who were chronically absent from school earn \$16667 compared to \$59235 for other 25 year olds.

Our Commitments

The Importance of School Attendance

Did you know that skipping school can have a big impact on your child's future earnings? Studies show that students who miss a lot of school may earn significantly less money later in life.

Here's a breakdown:

- **Age 25:** Young adults who missed a lot of school earn about **\$40,000 less per year** than their peers who attended regularly.
- **Over Time:** While they may earn similar to the average 17-year-old, their income falls behind significantly as they get older.

To help your child succeed, please encourage them to attend school regularly. Every day counts! If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school office.



Community News



Food insecurity is a real challenge for many people at this time of year.

The Blues have set a lofty goal of collecting 30,000 non-perishable food items between 4 November and 4 December. They will then provide these food items to three amazing charities who will distribute them to those most in need this Christmas.

Ōtāhuhu College has jumped on board as a HERO school and 23 of our junior students have volunteered to be HEROES this festive period.

We are asking our families and students to please donate any available non-perishable food items to our Junior HERO Collectors. Those tins that have been sat in the back of your cupboards for months untouched...bring them into school!

Drop-off locations will be set up in each area of the school and in the main reception area, as of next week. Examples of non-perishable food items: canned or dried beans, canned vegetables and fruits, nut butters, dried fruits and vegetables, canned fish and poultry, nuts and seeds, grains, jerky, granolas and protein bars, soup, freeze-dried meals and shelf-stable milk and non-dairy milk.

Junior School

YEAR 9 TOP 25

As we reach the mid-point of Term 4, the race is on for our Year 9 students who are all vying for a position to be one of the Top 25 most engaged students this term. The Top 25 will head off to the cinema for a chill day in the final week of term as a reward for all their efforts.

To help support your son or daughter in becoming one of the TOP 25, please ensure they are in full school uniform, attending with the correct equipment and are here on time everyday at 8:35am.

Curriculum News

Year 11 – Banqer High





During Term 1, Year 11 Commerce use the Banqer High program, which is a digital financial education platform. The students really enjoyed this program and one of our students, Colenso King, ranked in the top 1%. Well done, Colenso!



New Zealand Financial Education **Certificate of Excellence**

is proudly presented to
Colenso King

For exceptional performance and ranking among the top 1% globally in Banqer High

Semester 1, 2024
11COM GRN
Otago College

Kendall Flutey
Banqer co-CEO

Simon Brown
Banqer co-CEO



Special Guest — Year 11 French

Last Friday, the Year 11 French class enjoyed a dynamic and authentic visit from a native French speaker, Mme Ségolène de Fontenay. Ségolène originally comes from Metropolitan France, with family in Paris and other regions, and she has worked in a variety of managerial roles in the events, business, and not-for-profit sectors. It was an honour to receive a visit from a French-speaking professional of Ségolène’s calibre, particularly when she proved so willing not only to speak to our students about her own background but also showed such curiosity about their own interests and aspirations. She also graciously partook in our weekly ritual of sharing French food, in this case crêpes cooked by the students (a first!).

As well as contributing to the lesson, Ségolène joined the week’s session of after-school French Club, engaging in an extended one-to-one conversation in French with several students, structured according to the topics they have recently studied. Such opportunities to engage with a fluent speaker who is not their teacher considerably broaden students’ experience of the language, particularly their ability to negotiate unfamiliar contexts in interactive speech.

Ségolène’s visit marks the fourth and final encounter this year with a special French-speaking guest. Each of these visits, unique in their own right, have helped to animate and enliven the language for our students, layering the learning with humanity and humour. We are very grateful to Ségolène,





as well as to our earlier guests, Baptiste Daumen and Maëlle Dubois, for their contribution to French at Ōtāhuhu College — *merci beaucoup!*



Arts and Culture News

Diwali Spark: Celebrating Togetherness and Traditions

On October 30th 2024, our school came alive with the colours, sounds, and spirit of Diwali as students and teachers from all cultures gathered to celebrate this festival of lights. The day was a true testament to the unity and diversity in our school community, with participants displaying full enthusiasm and respect for Diwali's rich traditions.

The assembly began with a beautiful semi-classical prayer dance, setting a serene and respectful tone as we honoured the festival's spiritual significance. Following this prayerful start, a lively presentation guided us through the day's program, sharing insights into the meaning of Diwali and how it is celebrated





in India, globally, and here in New Zealand, including Auckland and our own Otago College. This thoughtful presentation helped everyone connect with the festival's themes of light, goodness, and togetherness.



Then, the hall buzzed with energy as the fun and lively fashion show kicked off! Students and teachers took to the stage in stunning Indian attire, each outfit a testament to the rich cultural heritage behind it. The audience couldn't get enough of the colours, smiles, and style on display—proving that “fashion speaks louder than words!”



The excitement continued with a spirited saree-tying competition, where both male and female participants, including teachers, wrapped themselves in traditional sarees with flair. Laughter and encouragement filled the hall as everyone enjoyed this fun, hands-on challenge that was a delightful mix of skill, creativity, teamwork, and “saree-ously” good fun that kept everyone entertained!



A highlight of the event was the awe-inspiring Bollywood Showdown Dance Competition performance. Originally held in Term 2, this incredible showcase brought back the magic and energy of Bollywood to the stage, with students delivering breathtaking moves and impressive coordination. It was thrilling to see the students' hard work and passion come alive once again, leaving the audience cheering and inspired.



As the assembly reached its conclusion, students and teachers came together for a final group dance, embodying the spirit of Diwali with their joy and enthusiasm. "When in doubt, dance it out!" was the motto as everyone joined in, creating an unforgettable moment of unity and celebration.



Adding to the festive ambiance was the beautifully decorated hall, transformed by our students with sparkling lights, and colourful decorations that made the setting feel as warm and welcoming as the festival itself.

The celebrations continued on November 1st with a Diwali-themed dress-up day, where students and teachers alike embraced traditional Indian attire. Seeing everyone in vibrant, elegant outfits added to the joyful spirit of the week, making it a truly memorable occasion.



Students and teachers also enjoyed hands-on Henna and diya-painting workshops on Friday, where they explored the artistry of the festival.

This year's Diwali celebrations were a vibrant blend of tradition, culture, and community spirit, highlighting the strength we gain when we come together as one school family. Events like Diwali and the cultural weeks celebrated throughout the year embody our shared values of community and integrity. We look forward to more celebrations that bring us together, honouring our diverse cultures and fostering the unity that makes our school community so special.



Sports News

Waka Ama

Auckland Secondary Schools' Junior Regatta

15 of our ākonga competed at the Auckland Secondary Schools' Junior regatta on Saturday at Ian Shaw Park, entering in all four disciplines. Each event consisted of a heat, semi and final. We managed to make the Champ Finals in each event, bringing home 3 bronze medal placings, along with a silver medal for our girls 6. Our ākonga represented the college well both competitively and in their respectful behavior. A massive mihi to Mr. McAllister for his unrelenting efforts in growing the sport at Ōtāhuhu College, to College Sport for a well organised day, and to Auckland Region Outrigger Canoe Assn for hosting such a great kaupapa. To our ākonga, e poho kererū ana mātou i a koutou, we are very proud of your well-deserved wins. Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe me he maunga teitei.





Netball Notice

Can all students who borrowed a netball uniform for the 2024 netball season please return this by Week 8, 2024. All netball uniforms should be given to Mrs Va'aelua. Please ensure your full name/netball team/whanau class is recorded on a piece of paper and attached to the dress with a staple or paper clip. Mrs Va'aelua will keep a collection box outside her office (located in M Block right next door to M4).