



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 28th March 2025

Important Notices

Monday 31 st March	Polyfest Groups All Day Practices
Tuesday 1 st April	Polyfest Fia Fia Performances (1:30pm School Hall) Students dismissed at 12:45pm
Friday 4 th April	Teacher Only Day (school is closed for instruction)
Friday 11 th April	Last Day of Term 1



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Summer tournament week has just been completed, and we are very proud of the effort and commitment demonstrated by our Basketball and Volleyball teams.

For Year 13 students, April is perfect for exploring funding options for University. Research scholarships offered by universities, businesses, and community organizations. Keep a record of their eligibility requirements and deadlines. Begin discussing your financial situation with your family to plan for university expenses. Stay focused on your academic goals, as scholarships often require high grades or community involvement. If you're sitting NCEA assessments mid-year, start preparing now. Reach out to Mr. Finau, the University Navigator, for advice on scholarships and financial aid.

Next week is dominated by Polyfest and the huge effort over this term by students, staff, families and tutors will come to fruition. The dedication and the high levels of performance which have been on display does credit to our whole community.

Our Commitments

Our commitment for next week is to be on time. This means more than just being at school by 8:30am and moving quickly and quietly to class. Good time management is an important aspect of being successful. For our students they need to know when their assignments are due to be handed in.

A good idea is 3 days before the due date for your children to show you their assignments, this way you can check if they have finished, or need to work really hard to get the assignment finished by the due date.

From time to time students may not have finished all the expected work during class time, when this happens in the last period of the day, your child will likely be required to stay behind 5-10 minutes to complete the work to a standard expected at Otago College. If you have any concerns regarding this please contact the Principal.

Attendance

If your child is absent from school, providing a written note explaining the reason is critical. This simple act helps Otago College maintain accurate attendance records and ensures that absences are justified. Whether due to illness or unavoidable family matters, a clear explanation helps us identify patterns and provide the necessary support for students.

Parents and caregivers can email, call, or send a written note with their child. Let's work together to maintain open communication and address any attendance challenges promptly.

Kātaki 'o 'omai ha tohi fekau'aki mo e 'uhinga na'e nofo ai ho'o tamá 'i he akó.

Faamolemole, aumai se tusi e faamalamalama ai pe'a le alu le tamaititi i le_aoga.

Chronic absenteeism has a lifelong impact. Research shows that chronically absent students are far less likely to achieve qualifications and, as adults, earn \$40,000 less annually by age 25. This income gap highlights the importance of addressing absenteeism early.

Community News

Otago College ID Cards

Students who wish to have an ID card need to

- Have had their photo taken on Thursday at school
- Prepay the card \$15 at the book shop/ Student services, cash or Eftpos
- Once they have paid their order will be placed.

The ID cards are made off site and take several weeks after the photos have been taken to be printed. Cards have value to students who need a legal form of identification e.g. for bank services, Hop cards, and driver's license testing. They are also proof for student discounts.

Arts and Culture News



By: Agnes Ta'amai (Year 12)

French Club

Francophiles and francophones from years 9 to 12 have enlivened and dynamised this year's French Club with their curiosity and commitment. Whereas the club was mostly devoted to French film last year, with only a small language component, 2025 has seen a shift to more formalised language instruction. The club is now split into two groups, with rigorous sessions for "experts" three times a week, as well as casual sessions for beginners two times per week.

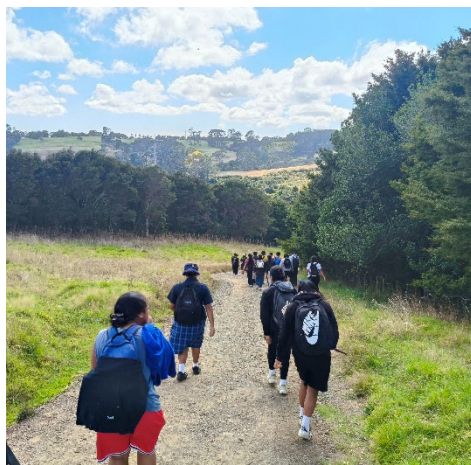
The expert sessions are populated with Year 11 and 12 students who can no longer take French as a subject but wish to continue with the language, as well as a couple of additional seniors who have learnt French in their own time through apps such as Duolingo and now wish to advance their learning in a more formal group setting. Meanwhile, the beginner sessions attract mostly junior students who are curious about the language. Recently, it has been delightful to see Vikeel Prasad (10HB) and Xiao Omido (10MA) volunteer to take a leadership role during the sessions; they instruct the other junior students on topics they have recently learnt themselves, which consolidates their own knowledge in the process. *Très bon travail !*



Sports News

Year 11 PE Tramping Trip from Tuesday

On March 24th, a group of Year 11 students embarked on a PE tramp around Auckland's Totara Park as part of their learning assessment. Our OC students participated in team-building exercises before taking on a 7km hike, tackling a range of challenges along the way. Overall, the students had an enjoyable experience, demonstrating self-management strategies and positive social responsibility.





Huge **Congratulation** to one of our students that was selected as one of the 12 players to represent the Manurewa Eagles American Football Club Manatopu at the National Flag Football Tournament where teams from across New Zealand will compete.



Dante Ikitoelagi

Study News

 **EPro8 Challenge Practice – Get Hands-On & Have Fun!** 

Hey Year 9-10 inventors, builders, and problem-solvers! Want to get a head start on the EPro8 Challenge? Come along to our fun, hands-on practice sessions starting next week!

 **When? Mondays & Tuesdays, 3:00–4:15 PM**

 **Where? STEM Hub (Class L2)**

 **Get creative with the construction kits**

 **Tackle practice challenges**

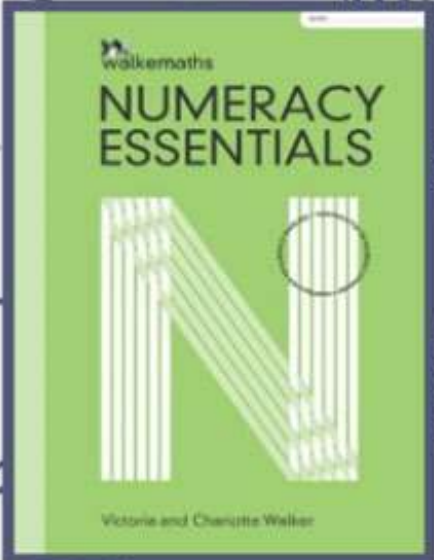
 **Boost your confidence before the Term 2 competition**

Grab some friends, put your engineering skills to the test, and see what you can build! See you there!

YEAR 10 REQUIREMENT

NUMERACY ESSENTIALS BOOK

Compulsory requirement for all Year 10 Students



WHERE TO BUY?

Included in Year 10 Stationery Packs
or
\$10 from The OC BookShop

HELP CENTRE AND HOMEWORK CLUB



ENGLISH

HOMEWORK HELP

**ASSESSMENT
SUPPORT**

**LITERACY SKILLS
PRACTICE**

CAA PREP

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

