



ŌTĀHUHU COLLEGE



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 11th April 2025

Important Notices

Friday 11th April

Last day of Term 1

Monday 28th April

Term 2 Begins



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Thank you for your support over the term.

Pushing homework has been a success and our academic results for NCEA are tracking well with a 90% plus pass rate for internals. Thank you for your work on attendance, which is encouraging, as the attendance rate throughout the first term, has been above the national average most days and significantly above schools with similar demographics.

Polyfest was a great success with a large number of our students performing, the highlights being the outstanding success of our Tongan groups and Cook Islanders. It is a huge effort and well done to all those involved.

Also, through our first term this year, our summer sports teams performed well. highlights include our Boys' and Girls' Volleyball teams both finishing third in their tournament, Kilikiti coming second in the effective world cup, Basketball defeating St Kents and our rowers having their first school regatta in 50 years at Head of Harbour.

Work continues on improving the facilities and resources of our College, with an extension of the cover for the outdoor courts happening over the Easter break.

Enjoy the holidays and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 28 April.

Our Commitments

Each week our students receive an engagement grade based on a 1 to 5 scale. To get a 5, students need to attempt all classwork and homework and consistently strive to produce work at or above the level expected from this pupil as indicated by past academic results. You can help by encouraging your child to do homework work, and independent study. Encourage your child to always participate in class discussions, by volunteering to ask and answer questions.

Attendance

At Otahuhu College, we take absenteeism seriously and intervene early to prevent long-term consequences. Students who miss 10-15 days in a term are referred to Attendance Services, while those with 15 or more days absent are reported to Oranga Tamariki. These measures ensure that students and their families get the support they need to prioritize attendance. Let's work together to secure brighter futures for our students.



Community News

POLYFEST RESULTS

Congratulations to all our students for representing their cultures, their families and our school. We hope that we continue to have large numbers for all our groups for 2026. If you've never done Polyfest before, consider taking part next year, you'll love it!

• **SAMOAN SPEECHES, Y10**

2nd place – Tama Florence Autagavaia

• **COOK ISLAND GROUP**

1st place – Division 2

• **TONGAN GROUP**

1st place – Soke

1st place - Lakalala

Samoan Group Polyfest

After weeks of weekday, weekend and midnight practices, Polyfest finally arrived. A call to meet at 5am last Saturday, saw students rapidly arriving wide eyed and ready to get the day started. Stations for hair, make up, pinning sashes were set up for easy flow. Singing and last-minute routine practices took place in several areas of the hall.

The traditional circle gathering before loading on to the bus was both spiritual and uplifting. The last Prayer was led by Y13 Sally Auva'a Vaili, who prayed for calmness and guidance over everyone. One by one the tutors administered their last words of encouragement, which echoed a common theme of 'do your best and have fun'.

The students looked immaculate in their uniform, not a hair out of place and their permanent smiles were stamped for the 20-minute performance. They delivered and executed their set piece flawlessly, they did not disappoint. Although the results were not in our favour this year, the bond and trust our students developed over the weeks outweighed it.

We were fortunate to have our tutors return for another year. We would like to acknowledge and thank fellow ex-students Tui Tuimaseve, Apulu Irah Tuimaseve, Luiz Seetai, Itagia Faavaoga (ex-head girl) and Mina and Ana Emani for lending their talent and for their commitment and dedication to our group. Their expertise in performing arts extended to individual 'elei' printing of all the uniforms – a true labour of love.

This year's leaders were exceptional, from organising spaces during second break and using it as a catch-up session, for those who missed out on practice due to sporting or work commitments. Special mention and fa'afetai lava to Phoenix Mealamu, Nele Luteru, Vanise Fevaaiai Leaana and Sorrenson Muavaa for your outstanding leadership.

Lastly, thank you to the Teacher in Charge Ms Wickman for your ongoing support and dedication to Samoan Group. You have been a cornerstone for this group for many moons and we are truly grateful for you. Thank you to the 'aiuli' (backups) Mrs Stretton, Mrs Tuialii, Miss Toleafoa, Mrs Ellis Smith, Mrs Clarken and Mr Usufono for your ongoing support and behind the scene work you do, that nobody sees. Fa'afetai tele lava.



Sports News

Sports Fees

At Otahuhu College, we provide a wide range of sports opportunities for our students to represent the school. To support this, we have introduced a sports fee this year. The fee will help cover costs for essential equipment, transportation, and uniforms, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience for all athletes.

The sports fee is \$20 and is a one-time annual payment. This means that regardless of how many teams you join, you will only need to pay the fee once per year. All payments should be made directly to the bookroom.

You can also pay online 12-3018-0190563-00

Please put the students name as reference, and put the Particulars as sports

We greatly appreciate your understanding and support in helping us provide the best possible sports experience for our students. The fee will enable us to maintain and improve the resources needed for successful participation in various sports. Thank you for being a part of our sporting community at Otahuhu College!

Basketball 3v3

Our Girls competed in the 3v3 Senior Basketball Qualifying Tournament this year, with their senior girls' team consisting of three Year 9 students and two Year 11 students. The team's primary goal was to gain valuable experience while competing in the Senior Open Grade, a challenging level of play. Despite the age difference and the tough competition, the girls demonstrated resilience and skill throughout the tournament. They managed to secure three wins, showcasing their growth and determination on the court. In the end, the team finished in 11th place, a respectable position that reflects their hard work and commitment. While they did not win the tournament, the girls left with a wealth of experience, having faced skilled opponents and learned from each game.



Our boys competed in the Premier 3v3 Basketball grade this year, where they faced tough competition. Throughout the tournament, they had the opportunity to showcase their skills and prove themselves as one of the top schools in the competition. The team played with great determination, winning some games and losing others, but ultimately finishing 13th in the Premier Grade. Despite the challenging matches, the boys demonstrated resilience and team spirit, pushing themselves to perform at their best. The experience was valuable, as it allowed them to compete at a high level and learn from each game. While they did not place at the top, the tournament provided an opportunity to grow as athletes and bond as a team. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the event, gaining not only experience but also a sense of pride in representing their school. The tournament was a great learning opportunity and has left them motivated to continue improving for future competitions.



The basketball girls also got the chance to participate in Wheelchair basketball, where they got to experience the sport from a different perspective.





Netball Parent Engagement Evening

Earlier this term, we had the pleasure of hosting a Parent Engagement Evening for Netball at Otahuhu College. The event was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, share our vision for the Netball program, and express our deep gratitude to the parents who support their children both on and off the court.

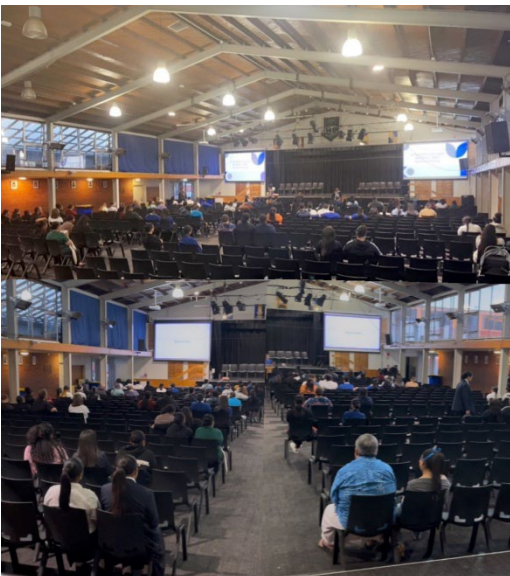
We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and caregivers who attended the evening. Your commitment to supporting your child's passion for Netball plays a vital role in the growth and success of our program. It's your encouragement and involvement that help create an environment where our students can thrive, not only as athletes but also as individuals building life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and resilience.

The vision we have for Netball at Otahuhu College is one of excellence, inclusivity, and personal development. With the ongoing support of our parents, we are excited to continue developing a strong Netball culture, where students are empowered to reach their full potential and experience the joys of playing sport. As we look forward to the season ahead, we are filled with optimism and enthusiasm.

Thank you once again to our wonderful parent community. We truly value your partnership, and we look forward to a fantastic season of Netball ahead!

1st XV Parent Engagement Evening and Chapman Sheild Game

We are thrilled to share the success of our First XV Rugby Parents Engagement Evening held on Tuesday. It was a fantastic opportunity for parents to connect with the team and coaching staff, fostering a strong sense of community and support. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and caregivers who attended and contributed to the evening's success. Your involvement is invaluable to our team!





Our first preseason game against Manurewa for the Chapman Shield was a hard-fought match. Despite a 19-30 loss, the team displayed remarkable skill and determination. The players are positive and motivated, looking forward to an exciting season ahead.

The journey continues with our preseason camp starting this Sunday, where the team will focus on building strength, strategy, and camaraderie. Let's rally behind our First XV as they prepare for a promising season! Go team! 🍌💪

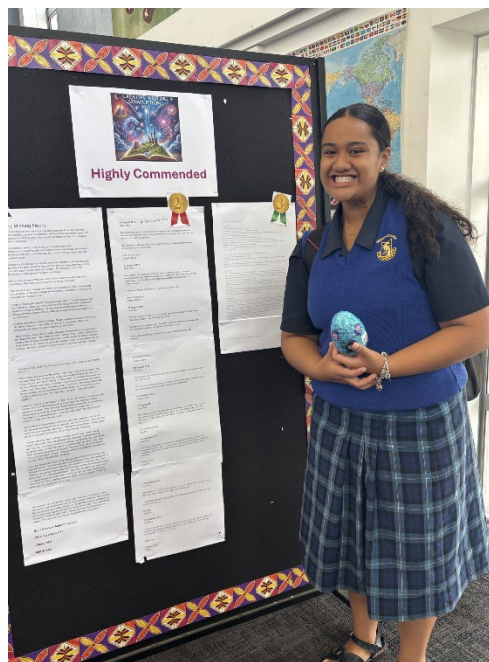
Library News

Congratulations to the Creative Writing Competition Winners:

1st: Nabeela Shabnam



2nd: Llewa Lesatele



3rd: Judge Taufelila



Learning Support News

If you have a child with learning support difficulties or a disability you may want to attend the 'Disability journey into Adulthood' zoom meeting. Information is included below.



THE DISABILITY JOURNEY INTO ADULTHOOD

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW & HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

What do people do with their days ?

Living options & thinking about the future

AN INFORMATIVE ZOOM CONVERSATION ABOUT LEAVING SCHOOL

**10TH JUNE OR 19TH AUGUST OR 21ST OCTOBER
10AM-12PM OR
12TH JUNE OR 28TH AUGUST OR 30TH OCTOBER
6.30-8.30PM**

WINZ, Transport, Guardianship

Transition services & how they work

What kind of funding exists after school?

via Zoom RSVP:
robyn@realworldliving.co.nz

for updates check out our Facebook Disability Journey into Adulthood (NZ)