



ŌTĀHUHU COLLEGE



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 09th May 2025

Important Notices

Tuesday 3rd Jun – 6th Jun

Samoa Language Week

Monday 12th – 16th May

Book Week

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Thursday was a great day seeing so many families at our Parent Teacher Interviews. For teachers it is a valuable time to strengthen those relationships with the family so that together we can get the best possible outcomes for your children. Education is a partnership of what happens in the classroom and what happens at home. Parents, caregivers, and whānau play an important role in supporting their child's learning and development. The Ministry of Education have a new webspace, which is designed to make it easier for parents, caregivers, and whānau to access clear and up-to-date information on the school curriculum, assessment practices, and ways they can complement their child's learning.

The focus this week has been on engagement in lessons. In class and assembly, we have talked about the importance of answering questions, asking questions, discussing the work and what is being taught in class. It is great to see going around classes that students are getting better and better at this, their written work is also improving, with answers showing greater detail and more thought. This is all really good. An area we do need to work on is continuing these habits on into homework. Doing regular homework is essential for students to succeed at the level they can achieve.

The Supporting highlight of the Week has to be our Premier Netball team drawing with the last year's National Champion, Howick College. Goodluck to all our Sports Teams representing our College this week.

Our Commitments

Our commitment focus for next week is on being supportive. Classrooms where students support and pay attention to each other's thoughts, and feel safe to express their own thoughts, are more productive for learning. Where students support each other effectively, they are able to benefit from learning interactions with their classmates.



Attendance

Researchers at the Education Review Office (ERO) are doing some research about school attendance. They want to hear your thoughts about what makes a difference. Please help by clicking on this survey link: [Parent and Whānau survey](#)

The Cost of Chronic Absenteeism

Did you know that chronically absent students, by the time they are 25 years old, earn an average of \$40,000 less per year than their peers who regularly attended school? Missing school doesn't just affect students' academic progress—it impacts their long-term career opportunities and financial stability.

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.

Ko e fānau 'oku nau nofo mei he akó, ko e ki'i pa'anga si'isi'i pē 'oku nau ma'ú, \$40,000 'o a'u ki he'enau ta'u 25. Koia ai, ma'u ako 'i he 'aho kotoa pē ke ma'u ha kaha'u 'oku lelei.

Ua fa'amaonia i su'esu'ega o tamaiti e le to'a'aga i le a'oga e maua se tupe itiiti e \$40,000 i le tausaga i le taimi e 25 ai tausaga le matua. E fa'aluaia ma fa'atoluina lea seleni pe'a to'aga i le a'oga i le taimi e aulia ai le 25 tausaga. To'aga i le aoga i aso uma mo se lumana'i manuia.



Arts and Culture News

Aotearoa Art fair visit 2025

Last Friday, 2nd May, a group of year 13 pupils visited the Aotearoa art fair at the Viaducts events center. We traveled by train into Auckland central and walked to the fair.

Art of all disciplines and modes was presented, which was a feast for the eyes and intellect. A variety of installations showed pupils how large-scale artworks can have a visual and emotional impact on us. Pupils read about artists, took photographs of artworks and participated in the craft activity that was provided. Not only were pupils exposed to artwork, but they also got to experience the commercial side of the art world. The art world is an economically driven business, and pupils were surprised at the incredibly expensive artworks. Art dealers, artists and art patrons come together at the art fair showing pupils the art world beyond the creative side.

Pupils were complimented on being polite and well-mannered by the organizers. All the art teachers, and the university students, are thanked for their time and assistance with the trip.

The trip was a wonderful experience for me on clean and safe trains and stations with helpful and efficient train employees. The weather was wonderful, and we all had an enjoyable experience. [Ms. Corin]



Community News

Alumni

Careers Department Connects with Alumni at Networking Fono

On Wednesday, our team had the opportunity to attend the Service Providers Networking Fono, a valuable event focused on strengthening partnerships and sharing opportunities to support our students.

A highlight of the day was reconnecting with Audrey Williams, a proud Otahuhu College alumna from the 1990s. Careers staff Chrissy and Anila were delighted to speak with Audrey, who generously shared her reflections on how Otahuhu College helped shape her journey.

“I am never short of being a proud ex-student of Otahuhu College. It helped shape who I am—in my career and in life—as we navigate change, barriers, and the challenges that students face in current spaces.”

Audrey has offered to reconnect with the school to explore how her experiences can support and guide students through some of the obstacles that might prevent them from thriving.

Audrey made the comment “I have a passion to uplift, mentor, and let students know that the world is ready for them. They are valid, they have opportunities, and they can fulfil their dreams. Their current environment or the school they attend should not define who they can become.”

We are grateful to Audrey for her inspiring words and her willingness to give back to the school community. Her story is a reminder of the lifelong connections built at Otahuhu College, and the powerful impact our alumni can have in shaping and mentoring future generation.



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



CAA preparation sessions

NCEA achievement

Reading Writing

Wednesdays &
Thursdays with
Ms Norgate

M5 @ 3-4pm

A calm and quiet space
will be provided for
reading and writing
practice and/or
support



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