



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 11 July 2025

Important Notices

Friday 11 th July	School Ball
Monday 14 th July	Start of Term 3
Wednesday 23 rd – Friday 25 th July	School Production



From Our Principal

Welcome back to the start of the third term.

Our Senior Ball will be an outstanding evening and an accurate reflection of our young men and women were. The organising committee how done an excellent job and the night will be one I am sure families and staff will take a lot of pride in.

We have received our Literacy Exam (CAA) results for our Year 10 students and this shows a significant improvement on where we were this time last year. Thanks to all the students for their hard work and our teachers and support staff for their expertise.

On the attendance side of school, Otahuhu College students attended school in Term 2 at a higher rate than the national average. We still have work to do in this area and we are very grateful for all the effort families put in to make sure their children attend every day.

The College roll continues to grow and it is important that families with children in Year 8 Enrol this term. There will be an out of zone ballot in September.

Our Commitments

Our commitment next week is to be on time. We start each school day with a short assembly. A whole school assembly is more than just a gathering; it's a cornerstone for building a strong school community. By bringing the entire school together, we create a shared space for connection, celebration, and information sharing.

These gatherings cultivate a sense of belonging and pride, reinforcing our core values and inspiring students through recognition of their achievements. Furthermore, assemblies provide a crucial platform for effective communication. Important announcements, updates, and school-wide initiatives can be delivered efficiently and transparently.

This open dialogue fosters a sense of shared purpose and keeps everyone informed about the school's direction and goals. By starting each day with a focused assembly, we set a positive and energized tone, creating a foundation for a successful and productive learning environment.



Attendance

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'aluaaina 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.

Curriculum News

Year 11 Focus: Academic Direction & Future Pathways

Over the next three weeks, our Year 11 students will be encouraged to refocus, set clear academic goals, and explore future career pathways. This will include a series of assemblies and career-focused sessions.

Conversations at Home

We encourage whānau to engage in meaningful discussions with their child around:

- What do they enjoy doing?
- Where do their strengths lie?
- How could these strengths align with a career?
- What subjects support entry into that career?

Our Goal

To help students understand the value of their studies, succeed in the Ōtāhuhu College Year 11 Pass criteria, and make informed choices for Year 12 subject selection and future pathways.

Year 11 Pass Criteria at Ōtāhuhu College

To PASS Year 11, students must:

- Achieve **Level 1 Literacy** (5 Reading & 5 Writing credits via CAA or alternate credits)
- Achieve **Level 1 Numeracy** (10 credits)

- Maintain **80% attendance**
- Earn an **Engagement grade of 3** or above
- Participate in at least **one extra-curricular activity**

A student who does not achieve the above will be considered for a re-sit of their Year 11 Programme to be able to meet the expectations of studies in Year 12.

Otago Pasifika Fono

The university of Otago Pasifika fono evening was a success & the team were impressed with our students, hospitality & grateful for our school hall (receiving complement's from parents and families) and that the university is offering 1 guaranteed scholarship:

*"A scholarship of paid flights for a deserving OC Yr 12/Yr 13 student to fly down in the summer holidays to **Hands One – our Otago Uni orientation programme for Yr 12/Yr 13 students**" where students stay on campus for a week and explore student life.*

The university providers were pleased to have its biggest turn out & it was a delight to have our own OC students present, both Y13 & Y12 students, hosting and to help clean up; Moreover, it was great to have David Vailala return illustrating a night of OC success.



Community News

Fishing Club

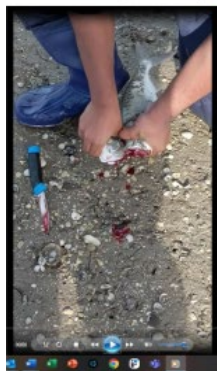
This fishing program is new. Fishing is a powerful tool to learn patience, persistence, and problem-solving. This can manage expectations and coping mechanisms for disappointment. We learnt to read the weather

conditions by studying the local weather patterns, which indicated wind direction, temperature changes, and we started to predict fish activity, but we always had fun.

For 2 days we fished at 2 secret locations given by an anonymous tipper 😊, and on the 3rd day, we enjoyed a movie and lunch. All 3 days ended well into the late afternoon and a lot of tired enthusiastic fishermen.



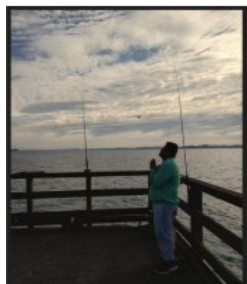
Secret fishing spot



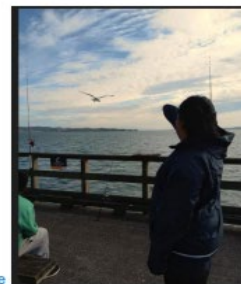
Gutting the fish



First and only catch



Praying for another catch



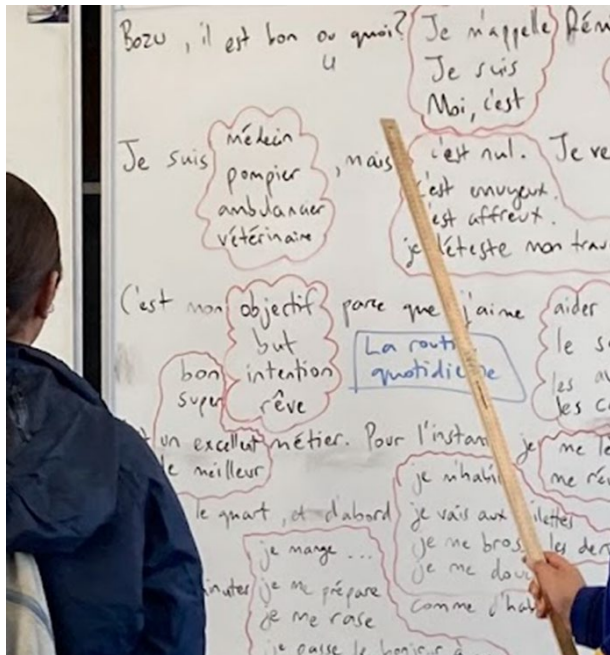
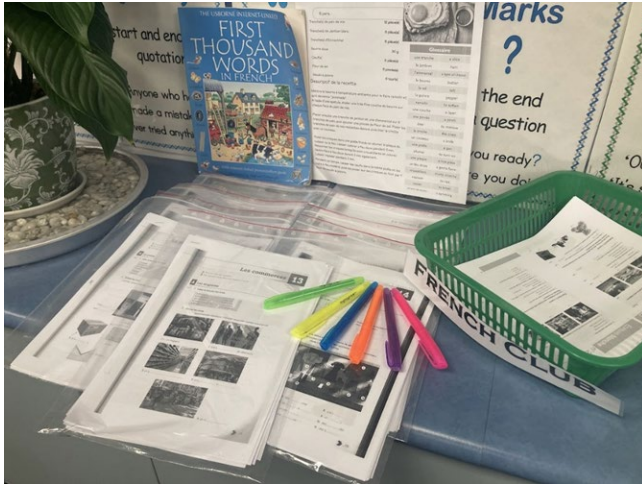
Connecting with nature

Arts and Culture News

French Holiday Programme

In the second week of the holidays, a group of committed Year 11 and Year 12 French Club students gave their time to attend a programme of tutorials to accelerate their preparation for the DELF, an internationally recognised French exam which they will sit in August.

As well as completing a full practice exam, the students showed great stamina in navigating various speaking and writing tasks. On the final day, their reading comprehension skills were put to the test as they had to correctly prepare a recipe for croques madames written entirely in French!



Sports News

Welcome to Term 3! We hope everyone had a relaxing break. Over the holidays, our Premier Netball team took part in an intensive three-day training camp. This term kicks off with the continuation of winter sports, and there's plenty to look forward to.

Netball will be competing at UNISS during Winter Tournament Week, while our basketball teams are working hard to qualify for the Auckland Champs. We'll also be celebrating Winter Sports Photo Day. Term 3 is shaping up to be a busy and exciting one—best of luck to all our athletes and teams for the weeks ahead!

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