



ŌTĀHUHU COLLEGE



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 22nd August 2025

Important Notices

Monday 25 th – Wednesday 27 th August	Basketball Northern Cup
Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th August	UNISS Netball
Friday 29 th – Sunday 31 st August	Rugby League Nationals
Monday 1 st – Friday 5 th September	CAA Assessments



From Our Principal

Malo e lelei

Tongan Language Week was an outstanding success and thank you to all the students, families and staff for a series of great performances. This week our Basketball Girls finished third in the Auckland Championships and our EPRO8 performed strongly in the Auckland finals for the first time. Next week Netball, Football and league will be competing in their respective tournaments.

Thank you for your understanding during the disruption caused by the teachers' strike on Wednesday. Hopefully both parties return to the negotiating table and work on an equitable solution that recognises both the important role teachers play in society and the economic challenges we are facing as a nation.

At Ōtāhuhu College, our 4 Houses are, in many ways, the lifeblood of College. Ask our students, and especially our ex-students, what they value most here, and many will speak of their House before even mentioning College itself. I sometimes wonder whether their loyalty to their House rivals their loyalty to the school as a whole. Each House is built on the foundation of connection and belonging, elements that are essential to the development of any teenager. Our Houses also nurture what we proudly call 'positive competition'. Anyone who has attended House events, whether Haka Waiata, Athletics Day, or the many other competitions, will have witnessed the energy and good-natured rivalry these occasions inspire. The competition is fierce, but it is infused with mutual respect and a shared commitment to excellence. These events are not simply contests; they are celebrations of talent, teamwork, and the vibrant spirit that defines the Ōtāhuhu College community.

All students should be revising for their exams at this time of the year. As a minimum each student should be doing 20 minutes study a day for each subject that they have an exam in at the end of the year.

Our Commitments

For our students to be engaged in their own education, they must be encouraged to read, ask questions, actively engage in discussions, write and learn to think critically about challenging material. Every mistake our students make, every question they ask, and every time they successfully struggle with a concept, their brain grows a little bit stronger and smarter.

Attendance

If your child is absent from school, providing a written note explaining the reason is critical. This simple act helps Otahuhu 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 'ōmai 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.

Study News



Week 7	ENG LIT MAT SPC internals due <i>Level 1 LITERACY & NUMERACY credits attached to these standards</i>
Week 8	CAA week – Reading, Writing & Numeracy <i>Level 1 LITERACY & NUMERACY credits attached to these standards</i>
Week 9	NCEA Derived grade exams

Next week is an important week for the Year 11 cohort. There are a range of internal assessments due:

- MAT Internal will be sat within 2 lessons in class (5 Numeracy credits).
- ENG/LIT Internal due Friday 29th August (5 Literacy credits)
- SPC Internal due Friday 29th August (5 Literacy credits)

Attendance at school next week for all Y11 students is essential in gaining the above credits. They need to be in class completing work to support them in gaining accreditation for their skills and to be prepared for the next level of study.

As you know, to gain an NCEA qualification at any level, students need to achieve a 20-credit co-requisite. Our sessions will directly address the requirements of these exams, ensuring students are well prepared.

Details:

- **When:** Weeknights (1-hour sessions)
- **Focus:** Co-requisite exam preparation only
- **Who:** Any students working towards their NCEA qualification

This evening sessions are designed to complement the great work already happening in schools. Our goal is to support both schools and the wider community by giving students an extra boost of targeted preparation. We believe that when students succeed, that success reflects positively on all of us- students, families, school and the community.



Kip McGrath Pakuranga

267 Pakuranga Road, Pakuranga, Auckland, NZ, 2010

Y11 CAA Preparation

The CAAs are coming in Week 8!

Students should be attending support sessions on offer to them and/or completing literacy tasks in their practice booklets, submitting to their English teachers for feedback and support.

CAA Support sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whānau time	CAA Numeracy A10 CHN	CAA Numeracy A10 CHN		CAA Numeracy A10 CHN	CAA Numeracy A10 CHN
After school		3-4pm Math study support Next to room A17		3-4pm CAA Reading and Writing M2 & M3 NGT & DNV	

Curriculum News

School Garden

The school garden is showing signs that spring is almost here.

Here is the back of the waharoa, carved by our whakairo students, covered in white puawhanaga, the native clematis.

Beside it are the pink flowers of manuka, along with the white flowers of koromiko/hebe and the red flowers of kōwhai ngutu kākā, or kaka beak.

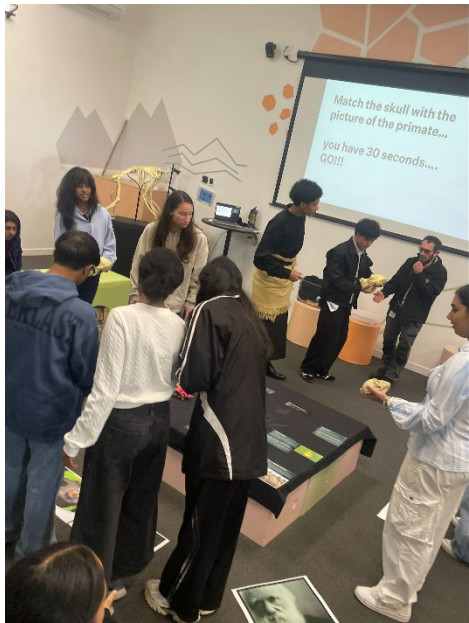
Our thanks to our Local Board for their generous funding which allows our students to learn something of gardening and our native flora in their year 9 and 10 options.



BIO3U Zoo Trip

On Tuesday 24th of August our year 13 Biology students took a trip to the zoo to hear about Human evolution. We are studying Human Evolution as part of our externals. The students had a great time exploring the zoo and seeing all the animals before we went for our talk. During the talk the students got to look at the skeletons of a quadruped and a biped as well as the skulls of our human ancestors. The talk was interactive and will hopefully help our students when it comes to sitting their external exam in November.





Sports News

Junior Boys Football

Beyond good and bad results, the outstanding features of these boys is their commitment to training and to early games on Saturdays, and the patience when they have to be left out of a game because of the big number of players in the team.



Netball Season

Our junior netball teams have had an outstanding season so far, with only the championship round left to play. Both our 9A and 9B teams are currently sitting first in their respective grades and sections, while our 10A team is also holding the top spot in theirs. The energy and determination shown by our juniors has been incredible, and it's clear their hard work in Netball Academy classes is paying off.

With finals and placings for the season just two weeks away, our junior girls are buzzing with excitement. They're determined to make the finals and bring home the win, a well-deserved reward for their hard work and dedication this season.

This year has been a real boost for our junior programme, with several Year 9 and 10 players stepping up to showcase their talent. Some have even earned selection into our Premier team, with a few making their debuts at the upcoming Upper North Island Secondary Schools (UNISS) Tournament in just two weeks. The growth we've seen in our junior players is a promising sign for the future of netball at Otahuhu College.

Our Premier team has faced a challenging season but remain in the fight for a spot in the top four of their grade. In preparation for UNISS, they have attended three netball tournaments, giving them valuable exposure to tougher competition and helping them sharpen their game. This year's focus has been on developing our juniors and providing them with opportunities to experience the Premier environment, a strategy that's already showing positive results.

With UNISS just around the corner, the girls are training hard, both physically and mentally, to ensure they are ready to represent Otahuhu College with pride. The excitement is building, and we can't wait to see them take the court and give it their all.



Health & Wellness Centre

Otago College is proud to be supporting the Cancer Society this Daffodil Day. 1 in 3 New Zealanders will receive a cancer diagnosis.

Your support of our Daffodil Day fundraising will help to fund cancer prevention policy and life-saving cancer research, and to provide support and hope to cancer patients and their whānau from diagnosis through to post-treatment.

How: Use the QR code to donate. A coin for a yellow ribbon. There's a brownie bake sale Fri 29th September

